

The Good News

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC

ANGOLA, IN

AUGUST 2019

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ONA Celebration. August 25, 2019.
- Men's Breakfast meets at Mama's Place at 8:00 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of August.

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Past Deb's & Paul's final Sunday

The 19 year ministry of the Rev. Deb Davis with FCUCC came to an official close on Sunday, June 23rd. The morning worship included a ritual of release and blessing for Pastor Deb. John French represented the congregation in expressing thanks and gratitude for Pastor Deb's service, and farewell for her retirement. A reception and lunch followed celebrating the ministry that has been forged under Pastor Deb's leadership



Wing Haven Service - August 18th



We gather at Wing Haven Nature Preserve on 400 North, east of Ramada Inn at 10:15 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs, a dish to share as well as your table service, hats and sun lotion if needed and dress casually. We will provide drinks but meat will not be provided this year, so casseroles dishes with meat included would be appreciated. If you have extra lawn chairs, bring them in case they are needed. There will be signs on the church doors, with directions, for people who might have forgotten. If you play an instrument, bring it with you. This is being coordinated by the deacons, so if you have questions ask them or call the church office.



Rev. John P. Gardner

"If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present... gratefully."

by: Maya Angelou

From the Pastor's Screen

Musing on Transition

Friends,

In August of 2018 I stepped away from Plymouth Church, Fort Wayne, having served as Senior Minister for 20 years. I really didn't know what was in my future. I simply knew that for me, the time was right for a change. It was a step into the unknowns of transition. I was certain of one thing only – having had two long term pastorates (the 20 years in Fort Wayne was preceded by 17 years in Michigan), I wasn't going to have yet a third.

In late April this past spring, our Conference Minister, the Rev. Chad Abbott, alerted me to the possibility of serving in your midst as a "Transitional Pastor." A FaceTime interview with Church Moderator, Rod Lewis, followed, along with an exchange of various emails discussing particulars. One particular was a start up date, which occurred on July 8th. So now we are engaged (for all of 2 ½ weeks!), sharing together in a time of transition.

As I mentioned in my first sermon, while I'm a seasoned pastor, transitional ministry is new for me. In a couple of weeks the I-K Conference is holding a Transitional Ministry Training workshop (Aug. 14-16), which I plan to attend. I'm expecting the workshop to provide some welcome and useful resources to enhance our time together.

On numerous occasions, both when facing professional and personal transition, I've benefited from the work of William Bridges and his book, "Transitions." In his career as a consultant in the field of "transition management", Bridges nursed a lot of people through the tumultuous challenges that naturally accompany change. According to Bridges, transition times are marked by (1) an ending; followed by (2) a period of distress and confusion; leading to (3) a new beginning. They are awkward, confusing times, mixed with swirling emotions, and filled with both peril and opportunity. I have found consolation in Bridge's work, and lots of encouragement. We are always facing transition of one kind or another. The goal is to navigate the shoals of change on our doorsteps with patience and understanding, with hope and trust that a positive outcome awaits. This is my hope – my prayer - for however long we journey together.

Maya Angelou once said, "If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so prayerfully. However, the wisest thing you can do is be present in the present... gratefully." I pray we are so fortunate as we steward the important and vital ministry of FCUCC.

Blessings,

Rev. John P. Gardner

Ongoing Opportunities



No-Book Book Club

This month, we are gathering for breakfast on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday, August 14 and 28. We have no agenda and no book to read! Join us at Bob Evans at 8:00 for breakfast and fun conversation!

WordHouse

WordHouse will meet on Thursday, August 8, from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the downstairs teen lounge.

Soup & Scripture

John P. Gardner, Transitional Pastor, leads a Soup & Scripture session at Cahoots each Tuesday at 12 noon. Join us for a look at the lectionary scriptures for the next Sunday.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast group will meet on 1st and 3rd Tuesday, August 6 and 20. Join us at Mama's Place at 8am.

Reflections:

Meets every 4th Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m., down-stairs in the youth lounge. Bring something inspirational to share as we reflect together.

Church Council Highlights

Church Council met on Sunday, July 21, and the following items were among those discussed/approved/reported:

Missions Report: Lois McEntarfer presented to both the Council and the congregation, ideas, proposals and opportunities for participation in training and education for programs dealing with border and immigration issues on the Mexican border in Arizona.

Christian Education: Jill Noyes proposed a curriculum for Sunday School based on children's lectionary Bible for the coming school year. This will be supplemented by other lessons and craft ideas.

Music: The Music Search Committee continues its search for the director of music position.

Trustees Report: The Trustees have been busy with small and large projects around the church and grounds, including air conditioner repairs and completion of the bell tower work.

Highlights of Council Meeting: Additional substantial donations have been given toward the Scholarship Honoring Rev. Deb Davis for a single mother attending Chicago Theological Seminary. A check in the amount of \$4,000 will be sent out soon.

Reminder: our annual outdoor service at Wing Haven will be held Sunday, August, 18th. Further details will be mailed to the congregation.

Pastor John noted at the Council meeting that FCUCC's ONA Anniversary is August 25th. The church's ONA certificate will be posted. A commemoration with cake is planned.

Pastor John received a letter from Trine University inviting our church to participate in their fair to welcome new students on August 22, 5:00-7:00p.m. He will reserve a table for our church by August 12th. Vicki Harris and Bruce Andres will host the table and hand out freebies and informational materials about our church.

Submitted by Rod Lewis & Vicki Harris.



The next Council meeting will be Sunday, August 11th, following worship.

August Birthdays and Anniversaries



- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 - Ashley Brown | 18 - Benn Jones | 3 - John & Joyce Yoder |
| 7 - Heidi Finley | 19 - Lauralee Macleod | 7 - Bill & Barb Bryan |
| 9 - Thomas Eyrich | 19 - Jim McEntarfer | 10 - Judy Goodrow |
| 10 - Matt Jones | 20 - Judy Goodrow | 11 - Carol Brooks & Jeannie Hetrick |
| 10 - Dawn Mays | 22 - Steve Eyrich | 14 - Rod & JoAnn Lewis |
| 13 - Ariana Mays | 23 - Ann Eyster | 15 - Jim & Lois McEntarfer |
| 13 - Gary VandenElst | 25 - Paul Diller | 16 - Deborah Miller & Gayle Newton |
| 14 - Leonard Johnson | 26 - Jordan French | 21 - Gary & Sally VandenElst |
| 16 - Linda Hankins | 27 - Joe Driver | 24 - David & Lynn Syler |
| 17 - Deborah McClennen | 29 - Carol Brooks | 31 - Raymond & Deborah McHenry |

August Volunteers

We raised a total of \$4,000 for Pastor Deb's Retirement Fund. These funds are going to the Chicago Theological Center for single mothers to use for extra expenses.

Date	Liturgist	Greeters	Children's Sermon
Aug 04	Marty Diller	Bun Mayer and Gayle Newton	Vicki Harris
Aug 11	Jim McEntarfer	Cathy and John French	Michelle Olson
Aug 18	Lois McEntarfer	Wing Haven Potluck	Vicki Harris
Aug 25	Marj Lilley	Bev Gerner and Marge Mueller	Rita Lechleidner

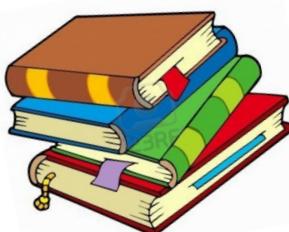
Date	Usher	Refreshments	Counter
Aug 04	Gary VandenElst	Ron & Madeline Smith	Lynn and Jim Simons
Aug 11	Gary VandenElst	Kim Hyland and Teresa Smith	David Syler
Aug 18	Jim Harris	Wing Haven Potluck	Marge Mueller
Aug 25	Gary VandenElst	Bruce & Liz Andres	Gayle Newton

August Calendar

- 4 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- 6 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 7 - Church Picnic at Pete & Janis Groth 6:00 p.m.
- 8 - WordHouse 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 11 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Council Meets 11:30 a.m. Community Room
- 13 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 14 - No-Book Club 8:00 a.m. Bob Evans
- Church Picnic at Cecil & Deb Fugate 6:00 p.m.
- 18 - Worship 10:00 a.m. Wing Haven
- 20 - Men's Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Mama's Place
- Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots
- 21 - Church Picnic at Jim & Vicki Harris 6:00 p.m.
- 22 - Reflections 6:30 p.m. Youth Lounge
- 25 - Worship - **ONA Celebration** 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary
- Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
- Celebration of ONA in Fellowship Hall with cake
- 27 - Soup & Scripture 12 noon Cahoots

Adult Book Exchange

A number of people agreed to be part of an adult book exchange. My office, next to the secretary's office, will be open before and after worship, and anytime I happen to be there. Inside the office to the left are two book cases - one marked fiction and the other non-fiction. You may take books or bring books to share. Then either return or pass onto someone else. This is our small effort to recycle and conserve money.



Rita Lechleidner

ONA Anniversary

Members and friends of FCUCC are invited to gather on Sunday, August 25th, to celebrate our 6th anniversary in being an ONA congregation in the United Church of Christ. Join us to remember and re-commit to being "an inclusive and caring Christian community." FCUCC is congregation #1130 to publicly declare itself "open and affirming" of all sexual orientations. A reception will follow with cake and refreshments

Mission Project

We have an opportunity to travel to Sahuarita, Arizona in January for an event called Common Ground on the Border. This event is sponsored by The Church of the Good Shepherd UCC. Several have signed up to go and this should prove to be an educational and emotional experience. In preparation for this trip we will have some educational opportunities for any that are interested to learn more about immigration in the United States and what is currently happening on our southern border. You don't have to be traveling to Arizona to be part of the educational process. The Church of the Good Shepherd has provided many materials and a video which we will be sharing very soon. Please watch for the upcoming dates and times.

Lois McEntarfer, Mission coordinator

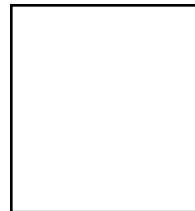
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God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



First Congregational United Church of Christ, as an inclusive and caring Christian community, welcomes into its full life and ministry persons of every race, ethnic background, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, marital status, criminal history and faith background. As we serve those within our church family, the community and the world in the name of Jesus Christ, we celebrate each person's uniqueness and look forward to the gifts they bring to us.



School Supply Project

The deacons, along with the missions group, are asking the congregation to help them in collecting school supplies to be used in several different ways.

1. To be given to local principals and teachers to be used as needed for households who have a hard time supplying them.
2. To fill Church World Service School Bags that will go to refugee camps, and areas in the U.S. where there is great need.
3. To help with Cahoots Back to School Bash which also helps kids who need supplies.

Supplies Needed:

- Three 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages - No loose leaf or filler paper
- One 12 inch ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener
- One large eraser
- Six new unsharpened pencils with erasers
- One box of 24 crayons
- One pair blunt scissors (rounded tip)

These supplies are placed in a cloth bag with handles. Dave and Bonnie are going to a church conference the beginning of September and can take the bags with them. Many other churches will be bringing bags also and from there, the bags will be taken to the main distribution in Maryland. If you would like to help by giving money, that would be great. There is a \$2 fee for each bag to help with the shipping costs to areas in the U.S. and around the world.

We'll be collecting items through the month of August. With school starting soon, there should be some good sales in many different stores. The collection site is located on the bench (pew) by the upstairs women's bathroom. You will see a sign there and a box for your contributions.