

First Congregational United Church of Christ

CROSSROADS

Summer 2017



fcclw.org

Where Life
and Faith Meet
in Community



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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All My Days

Summer Sermon Series
Starting June 11th



The tradition of using a string of beads or rope knots is an ancient tradition as well as being a ritual action shared by many faith traditions around the globe. The common connection is the ability to give structure to personal prayer devotion. It offers a way to remind and revisit various areas of focus and concern. Repeated rituals can be powerful as they help shape our habits. This summer, you are invited to pray “All My Days” and to make a habit of prayer wherever you are. Each Sunday in worship we will focus on one of the steps of the prayer beads but you are encouraged to pray these categories all summer long. We are looking forward to learning, praying and experiencing God together over the next several weeks. At the end of the summer you will have your own set of beads to remind you of the many aspects of prayer we will explore. Come and bring a friend!

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BEER AND HYMNS

The fourth and final Beer & Hymns of the season is on Friday evening June 9th, beginning at 6:30 PM. We will gather for great food prepared by our hosts at Aioli, a selection of beer and wine, and some great hymn singing accompanied by talented local musicians. This is one you will not want to miss!



PRACTICING FAITH, MERCY AND JUSTICE IN COMMUNITY

CHURCH NIGHT OUT

Join us for these opportunities to hang out with your church family. These are also great times to invite your friends who are looking for great community.

June 9th Beer and Hymns: Southern Gospel Edition at Aiolis Restaurant 6:30 PM.

July 7th Potluck and Movie:

The Queen of Katwe
Dinner at 6:00,
Movie at 6:45
A charming movie about a young chess player in Uganda - it is appropriate for older elementary school children through adults. Bring what you're best at making (or purchasing) to share.



August 18th Beach and Picnic

Stay tuned for time and location as we celebrate the waning days of Summer.



You can follow us on Instagram at FirstChurchLakeWorth



and LIKE us on Facebook at FCCLW

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

1,985 years ago, give or take a few years, scripture tells us a remarkable event took place. Followers of Jesus, bewildered by his departure but still committed to his mission, were gathered together when, all of the sudden the Holy Spirit entered their midst. They began preaching in languages that everyone could understand, proclaiming the power of the resurrection of Christ. Soon after, they began practicing the faith they proclaimed, becoming known throughout the world for the care they took of one another. This event, has come to be known as Pentecost, the birth of the church.

So happy birthday church! I know we feel a little old and tired. And to be frank, we often show our age. The world has changed a lot in the past 2,000 years. And yes, it's tempting to just color or hair, lay on an extra coat of makeup and pretend we are something that we just are not.

Maybe this year we focus on being ourselves and enjoying the birthday gifts we have been given: a place to find support on our spiritual journey and to practice our faith together and the power together to make a difference in the world.

Happy birthday church! May the Spirit blow in new ways once again.

You can join us for the party in worship at **10:30 on June 4th.**

Peace,



Pastor Jason





JUSTICE MINISTRY UPDATE

We had a great year for justice at First Congregational United Church of Christ! We gathered 104 strong at the Nehemiah Action in April. Along with 2,400 other people of faith from all over Palm Beach County, we asked our county commissioners to support our efforts to curtail youth arrests, provide support for an id system for undocumented immigrants, and provide support to help end homelessness in Palm Beach County. Only five of seven commissioners chose to participate, and only two of those commissioners gave their unqualified support to everything we asked. However, a good conversation was had and our officials know that we are not going away until justice is carried out!



Did you know that First Congregational United Church of Christ offers online giving? You can set up deductions from your checking account or use a credit or debit card to support the ministry of our church. You can sign up on our secure website, fcclw.org/giving.

At the Justice Ministry Celebration held in May, our church was awarded the Micah 6:8 award for turning out the largest percentage of our average worship attendance to the Nehemiah Action. Our Justice Ministry Network Members also invested over \$5,100 in PEACE Justice ministry!

Thank you First Congregational United Church of Christ, for doing justice in Palm Beach County. And special thanks to our Justice Ministry Team Members, Johanna Castillo, Nancy Lydon and Debbie Copeland.



**JOIN US FOR DINNER
EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT
SERVING: 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM
FOOD, FELLOWSHIP, FUN!**



GOD'S CHILD PROFILE - ALLAN HERBST

Allan Herbst is a 'God Child' who became part of the First Congregational United Church of Christ in 2014. He is not a 'pew sitter'. His sensitive musical talent has been heard on the piano and the organ.

Allan is from Paulding, Ohio, population 2500. He is a father of three and a grandfather of four. His keen ability to be one of the 'best listeners ever' came as a teacher, College Administrator, Counselor or the Director of Administration at Capitol University in Columbus, Ohio. "Every job presented an opportunity to meet interesting people."

Studying the piano at age 5, from age 14, Allan began playing both the piano and the organ regularly for church. His first loves in music are classical, sacred and secular. When Allan plays, you tune him in and not out.



God in nature and Allan are at one. He wants to feel part of the cosmos. Kayaking on Lake Michigan, hiking in Colorado are always calling his name. He is in a relationship with the essence of God's 'environmental décor.'

Traveling to such places as Australia and Thailand, Allan met God's world family and has eaten around the world. After eating from the "forest floor" in Australia the chain establishments are not his choice.

Special people always have special friends, Allan's special friend is Winston. Winston is a rescued, 14 year old wired-haired terrier. He has provided unconditional love, companionship and has been a blessing from God.

Allan Herbst is a friend to everyone he meets. He walks, talks with God and plays His music for First Congregational. We are glad Allan is a part our our faith community!

PLARN MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

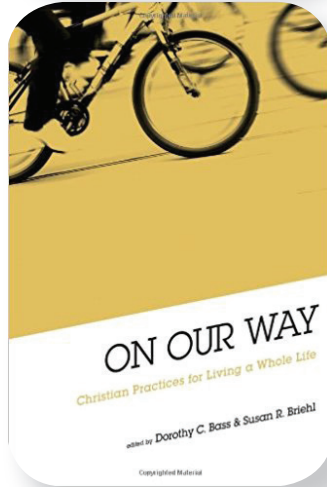
The Plastic Bag Sleeping Mats for the Homeless Team sincerely thanks you for all your kind generosity in donating plastic bags. Keep donating---we go through them quickly! There are currently four mats in progress with two of them being close to completion. Our team is a large and enthusiastic group of people who truly are passionate about making these mats and helping those who need them. We have met in a large group once, we have been working individually, and we plan another large group luncheon/workday soon!



THE GREAT ONLINE GROUP EXPERIMENT

We have heard from many that you enjoy participating in small groups, but with the demands of work, family, and other aspects of life keep you from participating on a regular basis. In an effort to explore ways of being together in new ways we are going to experiment with an mini online group this summer. On Thursday evenings July 20th, July 27th, and August 3rd, we will “meet” online from 8:30 - 9:30 PM and provide other ways to communicate with one another online.

We will be engaging material from the book and film series, “On Our Way: Christian Practices for Living a Whole Life.” Stay tuned to our website and email newsletter for more information and instructions.



RENOVATIONS UNDER WAY!



The Redecorating Team has been working on simple upgrades to the ladies’ bathroom at the back of the kitchen. Wallpaper has been removed, painting has begun, and a small bookshelf has been donated to keep ladies’ items off the floor.

Ladies, stop by and see our progress!

ENNEAGRAM SALON

Beginning in June, we will gather monthly for teaching and conversation regarding the Enneagram, the system of nine different ways of looking at the world. Many of us have been introduced to the Enneagram in the 12-week group, “The Enneagram Journey.” Whether you have participated in that group or not, you are welcome to join us.

We will watch some video teaching by Enneagram practitioners and then engage in conversation. We will meet from 6:30 - 8:30 in the parlor. Please bring finger food to share. The topics will be subject to change based on interests.



JUNE 21ST

“The Enneagram of Authenticity in Personal and System Relationships” with Michael Gelb

JULY 12TH

“The Enneagram and God Talk” Father Richard Rohr

AUGUST 16TH

“Transforming Your Inner Critic Patterns With the Enneagram” Lynda Roberts and Michael Naylor



Sunday School will be taking a summer break the months of June, July and August. During this time we welcome our children into Intergenerational worship with us.

If your child would like to assist in worship by greeting, lighting the candles or reading scripture please talk to Cathy Austen who coordinates our volunteers. You can look forward to additional opportunities for participation in the service along with the rest of the congregation.

MAY: MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

May was designated Mental Health Awareness Month over 50 years ago to raise awareness about good mental health for everyone and to break the stigma for those coping with mental illness. Mental illnesses are common and treatable. In fact, one in four people will suffer from some form of mental illness in any given year, but many people have symptoms that are misunderstood and go undiagnosed in early stages. Many avoid seeking help because they are not sure where to get help and they fear discrimination and stigma.



The Renewal Book Club chose *Blessed Are the Crazy* by Sarah Griffith Lund as their book of the month, because it is a memoir by a Disciples of Christ minister on her experience living with mental illness in her family. The monthly meeting held on the second Tuesday in the parlor was open to all who wished to discuss this important topic.

On Sunday, May 21, we had a mental health resources display in our Fellowship Hall during the Coffee Hour. Carol Lewis, a FL. Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist, who has been providing counseling at our church and at Faith United Methodist Church in

Boynton Beach, will had materials from the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Mental Health America, and the Community Christian Counseling Center.



For the past thirty-five years, our church has been one of fourteen host churches for the Samaritan Counseling Centers of South Florida with its administrative office in Fort Lauderdale. This spring we changed our counseling relationship from the Center in Fort Lauderdale to the the Community Christian Counseling Center, a Samaritan Center affiliate in North Palm Beach. This will provide more opportunities to work cooperatively to serve those in need in our congregation and community.

In addition, we also our fortunate to have Rev. Dr. John Button in our congregation. Dr. Button is a therapist in private practice. You can find him online at <http://westpalmtherapy.com/>.

First Congregational United Church of Christ is in the process of becoming a WISE congregation, a designation within the United Church of Christ for a local church that is “Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged for Mental Health.”

*There are so many who so richly add to our experience of community.
Here are just a few recent examples. Thank you to...*

Vickie Grimes for her artistic technical gifts which have been enriching our worship on Sundays and for leading the PLARN and Restroom renovation projects.

Our Sunday School Volunteers who have stepped up to keep the Sunday School Program running during the season. **Nancy Lydon, Patricia Bellonci, Patricia Brother, Janet Lisle, Debbie Copeland** and **Trish Fairbanks.**

Heidi Dacunha and Meredith Button, for leading our Children's Choir.

Lynne Serratore, for leading our Chime Choir.

Our office volunteers: **Pat Gregg, Jolynn Spangler, Gary Sitler, Allan Herbst and Marilyn Stone.**

Barbara Derryberry, Brenda Chappel and our dedicated **Community Dinner crew.**

Harvey Littlefield for his work, paid and volunteer, caring for our campus and running our sound system.

Mary Ellen Bryner, Gary Sitler and Janet Lisle, for their work on the church finances.

Our trustees, for their work in the stewardship of our campus and resources.