

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 1, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

During this time as we prepare to transition into the **sanctuary for Sunday morning worship on Sunday, August 1st for 11am**, please keep the church staff and leadership in your prayers. While we are delighted to be able to gather again in-person for Sunday morning worship, there are still many details to be worked out to ensure safety and wellbeing for all. We are also working to livestream the Sunday morning services to YouTube so that our members and friends who cannot be in person will still be able to worship with us.

Over the past year, we've added new members who live outside of our geographic area and we have regular participants who live outside of the state of Indiana. This is our new reality. God is growing the Body of Christ beyond geographic limitations! Praise God! This is the time to be thoughtful about how to keep the doors open as a church using technology and in-person. This is called being a "hybrid church." We are still learning a lot and I think it is exciting.

May God's wisdom and love guide us as we seek to be faithful to our mission, creating a community to belong, to heal and to love. Hold this unfolding journey in your prayers. I'm looking forward to seeing what God will do!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

FC Covid Protocols:

As of June 1, the building is open for in-person gatherings. Recommended areas to use are the Parlor, the Library, and the Mayflower Room. Protocols to be followed: Sign-in sheet, social distancing and wearing of masks.

The target date for in-person worship in the sanctuary is August 1, contingent upon directives or changes in health and safety guidelines stipulated by Marion County or the State. Protocols to be observed will be determined closer to August 1.



**Are you ready to get back to
the people and activities you love?**

Your vaccination brings us one day closer
to controlling the pandemic and
reopening Church.

Get your vaccine ASAP!

Register at ourshot.in.gov or call 211.

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.

Patio Psalms and Prayers – On Sundays in June, grab your lawn chair and join us on the patio for an outdoor gathering time for faith formation. We will gather at 9:30, open with a welcome, read and reflect on a Psalm, share joys and concerns, and then close with prayer and the Lord's Prayer. We will wrap up by 10:15. Please join us for this time of reflection and connection.

July 4: Psalm 5

Communion Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)

Scripture:

Sermon:

Pastor Carol is preaching this Sunday, July 4th.

Lianna Campos is preaching next Sunday, July 11th.

Coffee Hour via Zoom at 12:00PM

Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church by mailing a check to the church or through online donations at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

THIS WEEK AT FC

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UxRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID and Password.

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

TODAY!

- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.
- **PCRC (Pastor Carol at 6:30 p.m. (Zoom))**

Food Drive & Fellowship! 1st Saturday of the Month – July 3, 10-noon

Our food donations to the Northside Pantry are helping to fight hunger needs, and the Pantry is very grateful that we are doing this – in 2021 we have already

contributed almost 2000 lbs of food and supplies! Since we anticipate that in-person worship will start again in August, this will probably be our last food drive event. Thank you to all who have been participating!

The Outreach & Service Board encourages all boards, teams, and committees to complete the Mental Health Team's survey this month or next. The information provided will be beneficial to the team in developing further ministry programming to fulfill our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant.

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

COMING SOON

WISE Mental Health Team August Book Buzz - We are helping to sponsor the Book Buzzes for **August 8 and 22** with Pastor Sarah and her new book: BLESSED UNION, breaking the silence about mental illness and marriage. Books will be free as a part of our grant from the Center for Congregations. If you would like a book, here are some opportunities for you to receive your copy:

- You can pick up a book at the next Food Drive July 3rd from 10-noon. Sandy Wood will be there passing out books.
- Come to the church at another time and pick up a book.
- If you cannot come to the church, you can request a book from Sandy csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206 and she will make sure you get a book.

When you pick up your book from the lectern at the garden entrance please sign your name on the yellow pad beside the books. It isn't required, but the WISE Mental Health Team are curious who is interested in the book and will likely participate in one or both of the after worship Buzzes Aug 8 and Aug 22 at 12:30 p.m. EDT. You don't have to have read the book to participate in the Buzzes.

Please click [HERE](#) to view the July Colony with more information and events happening this month!

CONNECTION & SUPPORT

FC Facebook page (click [here](#))

“First Congregational Indy Fellowship” group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days: Mondays & Saturdays

The congregation covenant with Pastor Sarah to provide 2 days per week for personal rest and family renewal. On Mondays and Saturdays, Pastor Sarah is not available unless it is a pastoral emergency. Thank you for honoring this sacred gift of Sabbath time for our Pastor and her family.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastoral Care Associate: Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator: Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall (cassidy@fcindy.org)

Lead Councilor: Steve Coomer (s.coomer@sbcglobal.net)

(Senior Councilors: Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel, Alice Rutherford)

Mental Health Support:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Information HelpLine provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and www.nami.org.
- **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

Members in Need Fund - The Members in Need Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by

email pastorsaran@TCindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

3 Ways to Connect for Worship

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 11am..
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal

- The video will be posted at 11am.
- This is for viewing only. For live interacting and commenting, please use the YouTube option.

DIAL-IN

- Dial **317-204-3862**
- Landline is preferred for clarity.
- If calling with a smart phone, setting your cellular setting to Wi-Fi calling will be clearer.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

and Password. If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID and

Password: 7171

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

Weekly Calendar

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|--------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Thursday, July 1 | 5:00 p.m. | Spiritual Support Group |
| Thursday, July 1 | 6:30 p.m. | PCRC (Pastor Carol) |
| Saturday, July 3 | 10:00 a.m. | Food Drive (outside FC) |
| Sunday, July 4 | 9:30 a.m. | Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio) |
| Sunday, July 4 | 11:00 a.m. | Sunday Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In) |
| Sunday, July 4 | 12:00 p.m. | Zoom Coffee Hour |
| Wednesday, July 7 | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees |
| Thursday, July 8 | 1:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, July 8 | 5:00 p.m. | Spiritual Support Group |
| Sunday, July 11 | 9:30 a.m. | Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio) |
| Sunday, July 11 | 11:00 a.m. | Sunday Worship w/ Lianna Campos preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In) |
| Sunday, July 11 | 12:00 p.m. | Zoom Coffee Hour |

***All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.**