



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

June 2022



Pastor's Reflections

Dear First Congregational,

First Congregational is a place to belong, a place to heal, and a place to love. We believe in the transformative power of authentic and meaningful connections to God and to one another. As followers of Jesus, we join with one another in the movement for justice, peace, and love.

In the face of society's greatest challenges to equal human rights for all, our faith propels us to work for positive change in the world. Our public, progressive Christian witness is needed now more than ever. Thank you for the ways you generously support First Congregational with your time, talents, and financial gifts.

I am thankful for our congregation's historic commitment to share God's love with all, especially those the world seeks to marginalize and shame. May we continue to follow the teachings of Jesus and be a light of hope in the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Pastoral Care and Support: Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org and (386)478-9012.

**WELCOME TO FC INDY
WHERE WE BELIEVE IN:**

LOVE

SCIENCE

VACCINES



Senior Councilor's Report

Judy Fletcher, Lead Councilor (June-September)

When I meditate, I usually follow a theme over a long period of time. For the last two years it has been judgment/ judgmental. The recent, excellent retreat on 'Shame' by the Rev. Lance Mullins along with my book group re-reading Wharton's Age of Innocence pushed me further along these lines. Wharton's book is one judgment after another and an inadvertent treatise on the importance of consumerism. What a confluence!

But the Rev. Lance's story of how a teacher judged him and intentionally tried to shame him into being a person that he clearly wasn't, reminded me of a 6 year old boy I taught in Sunday School around 1975. He was different: very quiet, an introvert. He'd been held back from 1st grade at Crooked Creek but advanced for Sunday School. His mother apologized for his deficits but insisted he continue to be with his same age friends. His father, a veterinarian who would not allow pets at home, was distant and uncomfortable around him.

The other children complained about his being in class with them. He wasn't a 1st grader. For me, he was a puzzle. Sometimes, during Bible lessons, he would come out with sophisticated answers closer to a high school level. He was different, but in a very good way.

I discovered that when I brought Orkney the Scottie to class, he would relax. I had Steve, an introvert, come to help me in class so that he might give me a better perspective on how to reach this child. Steve's response? "Don't worry, he will grow up to be a physics major." Which suddenly made sense. This child was an abstract thinker, not a concrete thinker. By the end of the year, with the help of Orkney, my co-teacher, and Steve, he blossomed and gained more assurance. The other children learned that the 'peculiar' things he said were admired and applauded by adults. They became far more accepting.

How do we change hearts and minds and spread the message of God's love for all of us? How can we improve on being open and affirming? Do we spread our message by being judgmental in return, seeking only like minded people? Can we strive to interact with and not dismiss those whose beliefs are contrary to ours? At what point does judgment become judgmental?

Remember before Covid-19 vaccinations that there were people who refused to wear masks? Now that most of us are vaccinated and boosted, along comes a new strain that is more infectious. Please keep an eye and ear open to news about infection rates. Waxing? Waning? Church policy on mask wearing may change. So look for updates on the Church doors before entering. And use good judgment.

Yours in faith,

Judy Brown Fletcher

Lead Councilor (June - September)

Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart, Chair-Randy Walker (aa289777walker@gmail.com)

PCRC for Pastor Carol: Gloria Boedeker, Betty Schnur, Chair-Bill Gillette (wmgillette@gmail.com)

Congratulations Graduates!

On May 21, both Lianna Campos (MDiv) and Cassidy Hall (MDiv and MTS) graduated from CTS (Christian Theological Seminary). Here's a photo of them on their special day with IKC Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott (who graduated with his DMin).



This Month at FC Indy:

SUNDAYS	10:00 a.m.	Hybrid Adult Education (In-Person and on Zoom)
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, Facebook, Dial In)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, June 5	12:15 p.m.	Playground Playdate!
Sunday, June 5	11:00 a.m.	New Member Sunday!
Tuesday, June 7	All Day	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Wednesday, June 8	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, June 9	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Wednesday, June 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, June 23	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Tuesday, June 21	4:30 p.m.	WISE Team Meeting
Thursday, June 30	11:45 p.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch



To join Zoom meetings, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171



To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign. You can call in and participant as a 'conference call'.



Interested in Walking in the PRIDE Parade with FC Indy?

This year we are walking with St. Peter's UCC (Carmel). We will be handing out postcards and wearing blue shirts. **The parade is at 10 am on 6/11**, but generally lineup is at 9:30 and it can go until around noon. To sign up, please email wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com with your best contact info and intention to walk with FC Indy!

Are you considering membership
at First Congregational UCC?

New Member Sunday is June 5, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME A MEMBER,
EMAIL PASTOR SARAH, PASTORSARAH@FCINDY.ORG

New Member Sunday is June 5th!

Are you interested in becoming a member, curious about the process, or just want more information about membership?

Contact Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org

WORSHIP & FAITH

Aurelia Glennan-March, Chair

The Playground Team would like to announce another playdate session on **June 5th after worship from 12:15-12:45pm**. We will have light snacks, song and story time, and then free play. Weather permitting, we will meet outside on the patio. Hope to see you there!



A Message From Worship and Faith:

I suspect that many of us have fond memories of our childhood Sunday School days. For me it was my beloved teacher Mrs. Carlson and the birthday penny jar. Back in the early '80s Jim and I were delighted to find a robust, enriching Sunday School program for our kids here at First Congregational. It was one of the reasons we decided to join. But as we all know, church – including Sunday School – has seen many changes and adaptations over the last 40 years. These days church – including Sunday education programming – competes with soccer games, chores, family outings, and myriad other activities that draw kids and families in other directions. And that was all before the pandemic!

Over the last couple of decades FCC has experienced some significant ups and downs in our attendance, particularly among our younger families with children. Currently, we're delighted to have several families regularly bringing their kids to church – largely the result of our playground innovation. (Kudos to those who envisioned and realized this concept!) As these young children grow and develop, the Worship & Faith Board is committed to offering faith formation experiences and activities commensurate with the families' needs and desires. In addition to our Message for All Ages during worship, we are now hosting monthly "Play Dates" following church (12:15-12:45), for songs, stories, and snacks with the children and parents. So far, in April and May, these have been well-attended. (All are welcome to join in!) After our June Play Date we plan to do some assessment of this programming, and we'll tweak it as needed. We will also be considering offerings for older children, with an eye to the start of the school year in August and September. Watch for more info in coming Epistles for how you can help in setting up a special activity room for children and families.

While “Sunday School” these days looks very different from what many of us experienced in earlier times, we believe that providing religious education is just as important now as it was then. As time goes on, you can expect to hear about other new ideas and concepts designed to engage our children and families appropriately. We welcome any thoughts and suggestions as we travel this new path of faith formation.

–Alice Rutherford, Worship & Faith Board

Adult Education Worship and Faith

Dear Friends, during June the Adult Ed gathering will continue to explore a variety of topics, from various sources. When possible, handouts will be available each Sunday for the upcoming Sunday, so that you can read and reflect before we meet, if you wish. Come join us for lively discussion!

June 5 - Justice Work facilitated by Nancy Dickinson and her daughter Elizabeth.

June 12 - A class on Prayer with our very own Sandy Wood.

June 19- God is Not Done With You Yet from the UCC Daily Devotion. Sue Chapman will facilitate. The reflection is on Genesis 12:4. [A link to the reflection is here.](#)

June 26 - Facing Threats/The Habits of Jesus. This is a reflection from the Visual Faith curriculum that uses images to help spark insight. The reflection scripture is Matthew 8:23-27. [A link to the reflection is here.](#)

Pastor Carol Sowle

Ways to Connect for Worship:

In-Person at 7171 North Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46240



[FACEBOOK](#)

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal)



[YOUTUBE](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wgAvPiUKSkEbjAV6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 10:45am with 15 minutes of gathering music. The service begins at 11am.



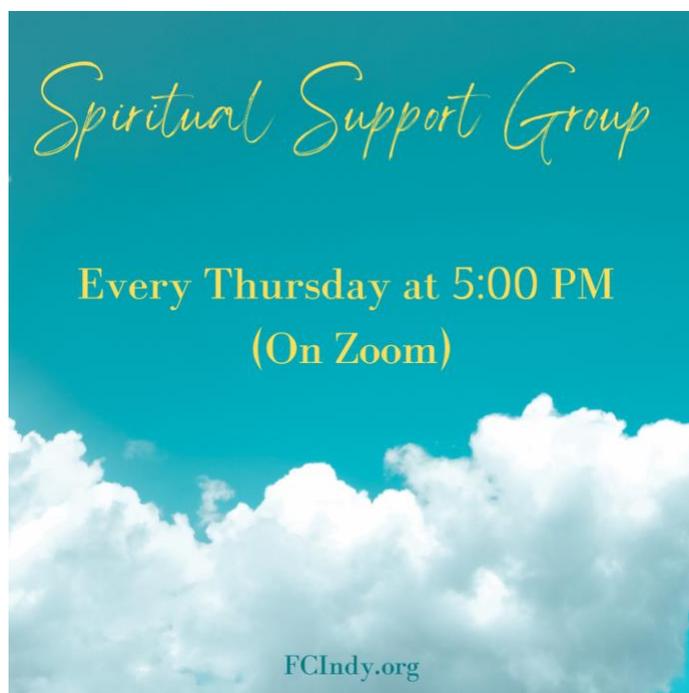
DIAL-IN (available after 1PM)

- **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.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Mental Health Team Outreach and Service Board

Questions? Contact Sandy Wood: csjlwood@att.net



Need a Lift in Your Spirit? Join us Thursdays for Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health at 5:00-6:00PM [on Zoom](#)

This gathering is open to everyone and is an informal time to check-in about how you are doing, get emotional support from church family, and offer prayer for one another as we navigate nurturing positive mental health in these difficult days. We are an open group with confidentiality guidelines. Sessions are on Zoom and led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund.

Please feel free to call or email us if you have questions: Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

THE JULIAN CENTER, MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT OUTREACH

FCC's current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our WISE covenant and mental health services. One of our current outreach recipients, chosen by our Outreach and Service Board, is the Julian Center.

The Julian Center empowers survivors of domestic and sexual violence and creates a community where every individual is safe and respected, proud to be the largest organization of its kind in Indiana.

Since 1975, The Julian Center has assisted more than 66,350 people and educated over 365,750 others on the causes and effects of domestic and sexual violence and its impact on our community.

The Julian Center touches the lives of over **6,000 Hoosier survivors** each year and every day assists hundreds of individuals and families in their quest to live a life free of violence and empower them to recover and build a life for themselves and their families absent of abuse.

The Julian Center campus is located at 2011 N. Meridian Street in Indianapolis. To learn more about their supportive services and the many programs the Julian Center offers call 317-920-9320 or visit their website: juliancenter.org

The O&S Board encourages your extra financial support for vital mental health services. The Julian Center says: "Thank you for believing in us, our mission, and in the survivors we serve."

CARE & CONNECTIONS BOARD

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Happy Birthday in June!

Larry Eckel

Steve Sachs



If you're having a birthday in June, and you are not on this list, please contact Wendy Baldwin, so we can add you to our master list for the future!

Address Directory Update

The updated Address Directory is currently available in print and electronically. If you would like a PDF version sent to you, please contact Cassidy Hall at cassidy@fcindy.org.

WANTED: Greeters and Refreshment Hosts

Isn't it wonderful to have a welcoming greeting as you come to worship on Sunday? If you would like to help with being a "greeter", please contact Wendy Baldwin.

And how wonderful to be able to share and catch up with one another after worship. And even nicer with some refreshments. If you are willing to host a Sunday of providing coffee and refreshments, a sign-up sheet is in the Narthex, along with instructions. Questions? Ask Wendy Baldwin.

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

TRUSTEES

Chair, Steve Coomer

Questions or comments for Trustees, contact current Chair, Steve Coomer, 317-255-9328, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through April 30, 2022.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary 1/1/2022 through 4/30/2022 Using 2022 Budget

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Category	1/1/2022 Actual	- Budget	4/30/2022 Difference
INCOME	82,565	96,096	-13,531
M. Unrestricted Contributions	82,565	96,096	-13,531
M.01 Pledged Offerings	2,325	3,262	-937
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	60,778	63,562	-2,784
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	9,272	9,272	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	10,000	10,000	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	10,000	-10,000
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
EXPENSES	96,601	97,994	1,393
A. Pastoral Leadership	42,511	43,035	524
B. Worship & Faith	9,148	11,387	2,239
C. Care & Connections	63	100	37
E. Outreach & Service	5,619	6,390	771
F. Trustees	0	48	48
G. Administration & Operations	16,008	13,336	-2,672
H. House & Grounds	20,796	21,342	546
I. Miscellaneous	2,457	2,357	-100
Net Difference:	-14,036	-1,899	-12,138

Highlights:

- **Income** of \$82,600 was \$13,600 below budget. However, we had budgeted a need for \$20,000 in funds from the FCC Foundation but we only needed \$10,000. Adjusting for this, income was \$3,600 short of our budget.
- **Expenses** of \$96,600 were \$1,400 below budget. Savings in Worship and Faith (mostly lower music expenses) and Outreach and Service (timing-related) were partially offset by higher-than-budget Administrative Operations expenses.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer, lootens.jb@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The FC Indy Blog is here, "Pew Reflections": Please email your submissions to Cassidy (cassidy@fcindy.org) anytime to be shared on the blog. Questions about what the blog is or how it functions? Check out <http://fcindy.org/blog/newblog/>

Women's Lunch Bunch: All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship. This month we will meet on **Thursday, June 30 at 11:45 a.m.** For any questions or for more information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com

Men's Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at 1:00pm.

This month, June 9th and June 23rd at 1:00PM

Questions? Contact Bill Gillette wmgillette@gmail.com

Acts of Kindness Fund - Members can make requests for use of this fund to assist themselves or others in our church family who might not ask for help. These gifts can help support financial needs, as well as help with ride-share transportation, shovel or plow snow, pay an unexpected expense, etc. Honoring the dignity of the recipient, all requests for use of this fund will be confidential, and privacy will be respected. To request funds or gifts, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.