

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 7, 2020

## Dear First Congregational,

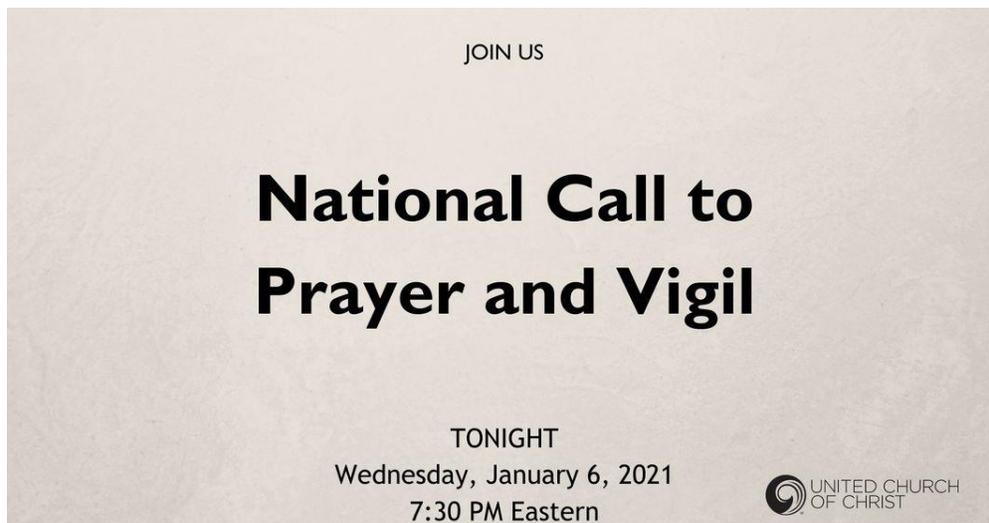
If you decorated your home for Christmas, maybe like me, you are not quite ready to take the decorations down. During my restful vacation at home in-between Christmas and the New Year, I enjoyed meditating early in the morning while it was still dark and quiet, with my cup of coffee and the soft glow of the Christmas tree. Even though our Christmas tree has been up since the day after Thanksgiving, we are thinking of keeping it up until Lent. That sounds ridiculous, doesn't it? Yet, from what I'm hearing from others, I'm not alone in the feeling of wanting a little extra light and a little extra sparkle in my life. Whatever innocent and playful ways we can find to bring more joy and light into our days in 2021, let's agree to do it. Let your light shine!

This Sunday we will enjoy "Epiphany Sunday, Part Two" because we need a little more light to see us through this transition from all that was 2020 and into all that will be 2021. We will enjoy a guest appearance from First Congregational's friend, UCC minister and author Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, who visited with us in May of

2016 to share about her book *The Lifesaving Church*. Rev. Dr. Keele will share in our worship video an original story for all ages that she wrote just for this season in our lives. I'm excited to share this hopeful story with you all.

I look forward to a rich time together on Sunday morning with adult education led by our Student Pastor Cassidy Hall, our worship special guest and music, followed by fellowship, new member reception, and our exciting buzz discussion about our outreach and service opportunities. I celebrate the light I see shining in each one of you and how when we work together, God's love shine bright for the world to see.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



If you missed last night's prayer vigil, you can still keep vigil and watch the live stream on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/uxmSPkuWu9o>

## **THIS SUNDAY**

### **Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m. (Zoom)**

**January 10:** We will have the pleasure of Cassidy Hall leading us on another exploration of some facet of Black Theology.

### **Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)**

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Sermon:** "When Wandering, Walking Will Do"

## **COFFEE HOUR VIA ZOOM, IMMEDIATELY AFTER WORSHIP**

**Outreach & Service Buzz, 12:30 p.m. (Zoom)** - Don't forget to come to the Buzz this Sunday at 12:30 on Zoom! This will be an opportunity to hear about a new direction for the Outreach & Service Board, as well as to offer input into how First Congregational carries out its commitment to outreach and service to the community. Everyone's participation is welcome and valuable, so we hope to see you on Zoom after grabbing some lunch on Sunday. We'll also be welcoming new members into our faith community as we begin the meeting, so please be there to share in this exciting aspect of virtual church.

## **Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC**

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church 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!**

- **Men's Lunch, 1:00 p.m.** - Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977rwalker@gmail.com) for more information.
- **Spiritual Support Group, 5:30 p.m.** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pat Larracey at [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net), or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

## **Zoom Vespers on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Join us on Zoom for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns.

**Soul Care with Pastor Sarah via Zoom-** Join us after Zoom Vespers on **Tuesdays at 7:30p.m.** Simply stick around after vespers for a time to check-in and to pray together.

**Wellness Wednesday, January 13th at 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)**

On Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, you are invited to participate in nurturing wellness through a lesson from the Gospel of Winter with an introduction to body prayer. This zoom meeting will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

**WISE Mental Health Team Meeting, January 13th at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - For more information contact co-chairs, Pat Larracey or Sandy Wood (Pat: 317-625-6801 or [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net), Sandy: 317-225-6206 or [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net)).

**Church Council Meeting, January 13th at 7:00 p.m.** - Contact Moderator Alice Rutherford for more information.

**Serving on a Board in 2021**

Would you be willing to serve on one of our boards in 2021? Most of the ministries of our church are planned and managed by our 5 boards. This is a great way to get involved, and make a difference in people's lives. For the time being, board meetings are being held virtually via Zoom.

- Board of Care & Connections: This board is primarily responsible for the "internal" connections of our church family.
- Board of Outreach & Service: This board is primarily responsible for the "external" mission work of our church.
- Board of Trustees: This board is primarily responsible for the assets of the church.
- Board of Witness & Welcome: This board is primarily responsible for delivering our message to those outside the church family.
- Board of Worship & Faith: This board is primarily responsible for our worship and faith development programs.

We are also seeking to fill the Vice Moderator position. This position assists the Moderator, and is in line for being Moderator in 2022.

If you have an interest in participating, or would like more information, please

contact Wendy Baldwin by 1/15.

## COMING UP

### **Annual Meeting, January 31st (Reports Due: January 15th)**

“The Annual Meeting shall be held on the last Sunday of January...to receive the yearly reports of Officers, Standing Boards, and Teams; to elect officers and all other elected positions; to transact business; and to adopt plans for the coming year.” There you have it, folks – straight from our Constitution and Bylaws. This year the “last Sunday of January” is January 31, so that’s when our Annual Meeting (**very important**) will take place – on Zoom, of course. Feel free to join the Zoom room at 12:30 with lunch for some social time; the meeting will begin at 1:00. (Please remember that board and team reports are due to Shannon Abbott (shannon@fcindy.org) by January 15.)

- Alice Rutherford, Moderator

### **Monthly Neighborhood Walk – Saturday, 1/16, 11:00AM**

On Saturday, 1/16, we’ll meet at FC at 11 am and head off for a walk and a time to catch up with one another. Please wear a mask, and dress appropriately for the weather. Contact Wendy Baldwin at [wendy.baldwin@rci.com](mailto:wendy.baldwin@rci.com) or (317) 319-0806 for more information.

### **Racial Justice Team - Starting the new year with another book!**

Many people suggested another book study and we have chosen one. It is the Young Adult novel "**The Hate You Give**" by **Angie Smith** (I was not familiar with THUG as that acronym). It is available widely at the library. Please read this book in January and we will have one discussion about it in a **buzz on February 7**.

This New York Times best selling book, Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, involves the police shooting of an unarmed black teen. The book covers topics of race, interracial dating, political activism, grief, friendship, wealth disparity, police brutality, addiction, and the media's depiction of African Americans. According to the reviewer for The Guardian, this book "says more about the contemporary black experience in America than any book I have read for years, whether fiction or non-fiction". It is a fairly long book, but rather quick to read. There is some swearing, additional violence, sexual situations, and drug use in the book, but it's not gratuitous.

One of the themes is using your voice for change - and not staying quiet anymore - how can we apply that to our own circumstances today?

And for you who are fans of study/discussion guides, check out this one produced by Kansas State University at this link:

<https://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2097/39158/guide-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

It is very thorough, including classroom recommendations, and includes chapter summaries at the end.

Thank you,

the Racial Justice Team: Pastor Sarah, Carol, Cassidy, Alice, Karen

**Please click [HERE](#) to view the January 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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy).

### **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**

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspire.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspire.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

### **Mental Health Support:**

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text “TalkWithUs” to

00 / 40.

- **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](http://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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

### **FC Covid Protocols:**

Effective immediately, the church building is closed to in-person church gatherings until the following parameters are reached, based on guidance from Dr Virginia Caine, Marion County Public Health Director:

*A 7-day average of 5% (or less) positivity among unique individuals tested for a two-week period, and new cases per day at 35 or under in Marion County, per the metrics shown on [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov).*

At that time, the Council will decide reopening measures.

## **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](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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

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.

### **Weekly Calendar**

<b>Thursday, Jan 7</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, Jan 7</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 10</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 10</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 10</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour w/ Welcome of New Members</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 10</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Outreach &amp; Service Buzz</b>
<b>Tuesday, Jan 12</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Vespers</b>
<b>Tuesday, Jan 12</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Soul Care with Pastor Sarah</b>
<b>Wednesday, Jan 13</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Wellness Wednesday</b>
<b>Wednesday, Jan 13</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>WISE Mental Health Team</b>
<b>Wednesday, Jan 13</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Thursday, Jan 14</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Saturday, Jan 16</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Neighborhood Walk (at FC)</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 17</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 17</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, Jan 17</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>

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