

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of May 20, 2021

**Dear First Congregational,**

First, thank you to the Mental Health Team for hosting our Mental Health Sunday with our guest preacher, author and minister Rev. David Finnegan-Hosey. The conversations and theological reflections empower us to live into our WISE covenant as we journey together in faith. David invites you to stay in touch with him and follow his mental health ministry by reaching him through his website: <https://davidfinneganhosey.com/>.

To view and share our Mental Health Sunday worship service, go to this YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ZwaWop8HI64>. Take time this month of May to honor your mental health and support the mental health of others.

Second, I look forward to our Pentecost Sunday worship service this Sunday and our fellowship time following worship on our church zoom. We will be celebrating our four-way covenant with Rev. Dr. David Mellott (Christian Theological Seminary,

Southeast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, David, and First Congregational) and welcoming new members into the First Congregational community of faith. I hope as many of you as possible can join us for these special covenantal moments in the life of our church.

Thanks be to God for the gift of a growing faith community, alive with the Pentecostal Spirit of God.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



**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](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 211.

## **THIS SUNDAY**

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

Adult Education will continue to meet **via Zoom**. Join us for lively discussions and thoughtful reflections. In May we will talk about Bread for the body, Health for the mind, and Love for the community. We will have two opportunities to share slices of our own faith formation by sharing some vignettes of our own stories. Come, join us!

**May 25: Beloved, Love!** Led by Wendy Baldwin, we reflect on a selected scripture and how it speaks to us about becoming and sustaining the beloved community.

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

**Scripture:** Acts 2:1-21

**Sermon:** "Being the Church in Transition"

**Coffee Hour via Zoom at 12:00PM** with Four-Way Covenant and New Member Reception

### **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!**

- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information, please contact Dick Clough at (317) 872-3910 or Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081.
- **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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

### **Vespers (Outdoor/Zoom) on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns. When weather conditions allow, Vespers will be outdoors at the church at 7 pm. Please bring a lawn chair and wear a mask. We will also try to connect to

zoom for those unable to attend in person. we will NOT meet outdoors if the temperature is below 50 degrees, it's raining, or winds are greater than 20 mph; you can join us on Zoom.

**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](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206.

### **A Gift for Cassidy Hall**

The Church Council has approved (former Student Pastor) Cassidy Hall's Support Team's recommendation for a financial gift — a scholarship for her last semester at CTS - **A GIFT FOR CASSIDY !** She will not have time for another internship or job, thus no income as she completes this counseling training.

Send your donations to the church marked "A Gift for Cassidy". We will award this to Cassidy later in May to allow you time to send your gift for the gift which has been ours through her ministry with First Congregational.

If you have questions, please direct them to Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, chair of Cassidy's Support Team. We plan to "stick with her" through her training and preparation for ordination in the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your support and gift for the future of this maturing UCC pastor.

### **Outreach & Service**

Please remember to contribute to the UCC 5-for-5 special offering, Strengthen the Church, before the end of May. This offering supports expansion and growth of UCC local congregations as the UCC seeks to respond to the emerging needs of local communities. Donate online, accompanied by an explanatory note to Financial Secretary Cheryl Dillenback, or by check sent to the church designated "Strengthen the Church".

From May through August, Covenant Outreach is supporting The Trevor Project which provides mental and emotional support for LGBTQ+ youth (highlighted in the May Colony), the Julian Center for survivors of domestic and sexual violence (highlighted in the June Colony), and the UCC Mental Health Network. Donations to "Covenant Outreach" between now and the end of August can be made online or by check sent to the church, and will be divided equally among these three organizations. Please support these ministries as they align with our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant.

## **Bread for the World Advocacy**

We wanted to share an example of the work Bread for the World is doing locally. Two years ago, partnering with other local food networks, Bread Indiana organized a town hall which Senator Todd Young participated in discussing food initiatives - in front of over 350 people.. This spring, Senator Mike Braun participated in a panel discussion on zoom, listening to experts and discussing hunger related initiatives. It has been very impactful to get their focused attention on this issue.

If you would like to view the webinar with Senator Mike Braun from April, here is a youtube link:

<https://youtu.be/Gy6lfjf2KE4>

If you have intended to write to your senators and representatives about ending child hunger and haven't yet done so, now is the time. Here is the link to the Sample

Letter: [https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=401&s\\_subsrc=website-offering-of-letters-microsite](https://secure.bread.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=401&s_subsrc=website-offering-of-letters-microsite) Personalization makes your letters and emails even more valuable. After you've sent them, please report your participation to Shannon at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org).

Thank you for your passion and letters, and for taking part in this important effort.  
Bread for the World team

## **COMING SOON**

### **Fun at First! – Sunday, May 30, 3:30- 5 pm**

Looking for some in-person fun and community? Join us to hear and see Mark Booth of Take Flight! for his intriguing and interesting demonstration of various birds of prey! Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School will also be joining us for this extra special event. We'll be outdoors at our church building, while observing our current outdoor safety protocols of distancing and mask wearing. Please bring your own chair, if possible. We'll start gathering at 3:30, and Mark will begin his presentation at 4:00. All ages welcome, and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

### **IKC UCC Virtual 2021 Annual Gathering: June 3, 2021 - June 5, 2021**

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

welcome to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference virtual Annual Gathering 2021! Our theme this year is "From Sackcloth to Joy" as we name the hardship of this past year, but also the joy of moving towards a new beginning. We will be blessed by storytelling, worship, an engaging keynote experience with the Rev. Dr. Gregory Ellison II, and look towards our future as a Conference that will not only host the next in person General Synod in 2023, but is beginning to imagine a new vision for where God is leading us.

Per our new Constitution and Bylaws passing in 2019, you will notice that we will not have a business meeting this year and so your registration will be streamlined not as a delegate or guest, but to everyone identifying as a guest to the gathering. It is out of an abundance of caution that we will have this gathering virtually as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present some current risk and we seek to continue loving our neighbor by mitigating the spread of the virus further. With great anticipation, however, we look forward to a gathering in 2022 with hope that we can actually be together in person. All that said, we welcome you to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference 2021 Annual Gathering as we step from sackcloth and into the joy of God. May you experience the God of joy in our time together.

**Please click [HERE](#) to view the May 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**

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

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

Lead Councilor: Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.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](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)

**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 [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012.

### **FC Covid Protocols:**

On 5/12, the Church Council approved the following revision to our policy for gathering outdoors:

The church grounds are available for in-person gatherings where social distancing is maintained between households. Face masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated, but are required for those who are not fully vaccinated. Participants are asked to bring their own chairs and beverages. Restrooms are available for use; people should be masked and socially distant while in the building.

The church building is still 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.ill.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ill.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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

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

Thursday, May 20	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 20	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, May 23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 23	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, May 23	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, May 25	7:00 p.m.	Vespers (outside & Zoom)
Wednesday, May 26	5:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team
Thursday, May 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch
Thursday, May 27	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, May 30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 30	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, May 30	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, May 30	3:30 p.m.	Fun at First

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