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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of June 3, 2021

## Dear First Congregational,

During my message last Sunday, we looked at historic creeds of the church for Trinity Sunday including the Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, and the UCC Statement of Faith. As part of the benediction, I shared the United Church of Canada's "A New Creed." Several of you commented and asked for a copy of the United Church of Canada's "A New Creed." Here it is for your reflection:

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

we trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

*A New Creed is a brief and well-loved affirmation of faith used widely in our worship (1968; rev. 1980, 1995).*

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](http://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 (beginning with Psalm 1 on June 6), 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.

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

**Scripture:** Mark 3: 20-35

**Sermon:** "By Whose Power" (Pastor Carol Sowle preaching)

### **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!

- **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.

### **Food Drive & Fellowship! 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month – June 5, 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 over 1600 lbs of food and supplies! And our greatest gift – the ability to spend a few minutes of in-person fellowship with those that are there!

### **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.

**Pastor Sarah Vacation** - While Pastor Sarah is away on vacation June 4 – 11, Pastor Carol may be reached for Pastoral Care needs at (317) 496-9732 or [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

**Technical Difficulties Resolved** - I am happy to report that my church email is up and running again. Please resume emailing me at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org). - Shannon Abbott, Office Admin.

**Covenant Outreach** continues through August in support of our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant. Kudos to our Mental Health Team for their efforts in advocating for mental health in both our church family and in our wider community! Check out the ministries of the Julian Center (shelter and support for victims of domestic violence), the Trevor Project (mental and emotional help for LGBTQ youth and young adults), and the UCC Mental Health Network. Generous contributions from our congregation are greatly appreciated to support these ministries. Please donate either online or with a check sent to the church designated "Covenant Outreach".

**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.

## COMING SOON

### **Fun at First! BYO Picnic & Games – POSTPONED UNTIL THE FALL**

In the June Colony, Care & Connections scheduled a "Fun at First!" event for Sunday, June 13, 5-7; it was a BYO picnic & games event. We have decided to postpone this event until later this summer or fall.

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

While Pastor Sarah is away on vacation June 4 – 11, Pastor Carol may be reached for Pastoral Care needs at (317) 496-9732 or [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

After June 11th, 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:**

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.

## 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>

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### Weekly Calendar

Thursday, June 3	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 3	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group

<b>Saturday, June 5</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Food Drive &amp; Fellowship (outside FC)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 6</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 8</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Vespers (outside &amp; Zoom)</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 9</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Trustees</b>
<b>Thursday, June 10</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 13</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>

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