

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 22, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

As we plan to come together again for **in person worship in the sanctuary for Sunday, August 1**, we are looking forward to being together. We are finalizing details now about what our worship service will be like given our new realities of honoring health and wellbeing during a pandemic that is still present (though much improved, thank God). We will be sharing more information about what to expect for worship in the coming week. Remember, we will still have online worship available at 11am as a livestream on our YouTube and dial in by phone (following worship once it is uploaded from the live recording) even as we return to in-person because we are now a hybrid church.

We appreciate everyone's patience, understanding, compassion, and caring as we have discerned how to best show our love for our neighbors as ourselves. So far, our church has followed health guidelines, being careful and cautious since we are the Body of Christ, called to care for the most vulnerable. Because of our abundance of caution during this global pandemic, thanks to all of you, we have

successfully avoided creating any super spreader events. we have sacrificed much during this time and we pray that as we near the time to gather in person Sunday, that it will be a time of celebration, healing, and joy. There might be other unexpected emotions that surprise us, perhaps grief at all we have lost. No matter what we feel, we know we will be held in God's love. And God's love is good medicine.

Please continue to pray for our congregation as we enter into this time of change and growing in God's love.

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.



THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.

Patio Psalms and Prayers – On Sundays, 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 25: Psalm 8

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

Scripture: John 6:1-15

Sermon: "Feasting on God's Abundant Love"

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 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, or 386-478-9012.

The Outreach & Service - As we eagerly anticipate returning to our sanctuary to worship together, our food collections for Northside Pantry will then return to our pre-pandemic format. Beginning in August, please bring any donations for the Northside Pantry to the narthex, either on Sundays or at any convenient time. Donations will be delivered to the pantry monthly. Thanks to all for supporting this vital ministry during the pandemic. The Outreach & Service Board encourages your continued support to help meet nutritional needs in our larger community.

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. **The next WISE Meeting is Wednesday, July 28th at 5:00 p.m.** If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

Prayers for our Partners in Ministry in Germany - We ask for your prayers for our partners, friends and all those affected by the disaster in Germany. A storm brought a deluge of rain which caused major flooding that destroyed homes, bridges, roads, etc. and left over a 1000 people missing with over 100 already reported dead and the death toll is expected to rise. The Indiana-Kentucky Conference UCC and the Heartland Conference UCC both have partnerships with the Church of Westphalia in Germany. Initial contact with leaders there indicate that the situation is still very unstable. Leaders in the IKC and the national church are working with our disaster partners here and the leaders in Germany to provide any support and relief that would be appropriate.

Office Administrator Vacation - Shannon is on vacation July 19-26.

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:

- Come to the church 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 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

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

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.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

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

Password: 7171

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

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, July 22	1:00 pm.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, July 22	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, July 25	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers
Sunday, July 25	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, July 25	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, July 27	10:00 a.m.	Care & Connections
Wednesday, July 28	5:00 p.m.	WISE Team Meeting
Thursday, July 29	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, August 1	10:00 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, August 1	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (in sanctuary & on FB, YouTube, Dial In)
Sunday, August 1	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

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