

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 12, 2021

## Dear First Congregational,

I want to offer special words of thanks to Pastor Carol for her suburb leadership of last Sunday's worship service, including her inspired sermon. Because our child was sent home from school Friday with COVID19 symptoms, and we were awaiting test results, out of an abundance of caution in consultation with our senior councilors, I stayed home Sunday. Not only did our church adapt quickly, we did so with compassion, grace, and excellence. I am so grateful to this faith community, our members, our leaders, and staff. The good news is that on Tuesday we learned the test was negative for COVID19. I look forward to being back together in the sanctuary with you this coming Sunday and with our online community as well.

This Sunday we will be joined by our Indiana-Kentucky Conference Minister, the Rev. Chad Abbott as well as Rev. Shannon Abbott. This will be a time to hear Chad's reflections about the UCC General Synod and the role of our IKC delegates, as well as updates from the IKC. We will take time to honor, thank, and

celebrate Shannon for her three years of ministry with us as our Administrative Assistant. Her last day is Friday, August 20, and then she begins her new role as a full-time local church pastor in south Indianapolis at St. John's UCC in Southport where she begins August 30.

Please see the update in today's Epistle about our policies for how we will Be The Church during these times of public health concerns and safety. Included is guidance about when we will transition back to online worship in order to keep people safe. We will include updates about plans in the weekly Epistle.

Thank you to everyone for your patience, your caring, your sacrifices and your faithfulness as we seek to share the love of Jesus with each other, our neighbors, and all of Creation.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

### COVID Protocols for First Congregational UCC

Approved by Church Council on 7/28/21; amended on 8/11/21

The building of First Congregational UCC is open for use, including worship in the sanctuary. Mask Wearing will be based on the current standings of Marion County on <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

#### Marion County "color"

Blue, positivity is decreasing

Blue, positivity is increasing

Yellow

Orange

Red

#### Indoors

Masks are optional for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Masks are encouraged for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Masks are required for all

Building is closed for in-person gatherings

Building is closed for in-

#### Outdoors

Masks are not required

Masks are not required

Masks are encouraged for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Masks are required for all

No church-sponsored

person gatherings

outdoor gatherings

Current "color status" will be posted on the patio door, as well as communicated in the weekly e-pistle. Mask wearing is based on the honor system; we will not be checking vaccination status. We ask that people prayerfully consider using practices that keep themselves safe as well as others.

**Current Marion County "color status": Yellow**

Click [HERE](#) for updated details further explaining FC's Covid protocols.



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, 10:00 a.m.**

**Patio Psalms and Prayers – Let's meet on the patio from 10:00 to 10:45 for "Patio Psalms and Prayers."** August is an exciting time of transitioning back to in person worship in our sanctuary. Let our time on the patio help prepare us for this next chapter.

**August 8: Psalm 11**

**Sunday Worship, 11AM (Sanctuary, YouTube, FaceBook, 1PM Dial In)**

**Scripture:** 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

**Sermon:** "The Gift of Discernment"

## **I n a n k Y o u f o r Y o u r S u p p o r t o f F i r s t C o n g r e g a t i o n a l U C C**

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!**

- **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.

**The Outreach & Service** - Thanks to all who continue to bring canned and packaged foods, paper products, and personal hygiene items for the Northside Pantry. The baskets in the narthex are filling up! August is the last month of our four-month Covenant Outreach dedicated to our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant, supporting the UCC Mental Health Network, The Trevor Project, and The Julian Center. If you haven't already made a contribution to Covenant Outreach since April, now is the time!

**The Mental Health Team** is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. **There will be no WISE meeting in August. The next meeting is September 22nd at 5PM.** If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206.

## **COMING SOON**

**Next Thursday, August 19th - Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information contact Randy Walker at 317-796-2081.

**Sunday, August 22nd at 1:30 p.m. - Blessed Union virtual BOOK BUZZ (Zoom)**

Please click [HERE](#) to view the August 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))

External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall ([cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org))

Lead Councilor: Steve Coomer ([s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](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.

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

### 4 Ways to Connect for Worship

#### ***IN PERSON***

We are back in the sanctuary in person on Sunday mornings. Masks are required.

#### ***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*** (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

<b>Thursday, August 12</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 15</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 15</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (in sanctuary, YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Thursday, August 19</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, August 19</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 22</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 22</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (in sanctuary &amp; on FB, YouTube, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 22</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz (Zoom)</b>