



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## Epistle for the Week of January 20

### Dear Church,

This month we are digging deeper into the values of our Just Peace Covenant. We are highlighting and celebrating our community partners who help us live into our Just Peace Covenant. We are trying our best to “walk the talk.” One of the things I appreciate about First Congregational is our discomfort with a “bumper sticker theology” that lacks any real, actionable follow through.

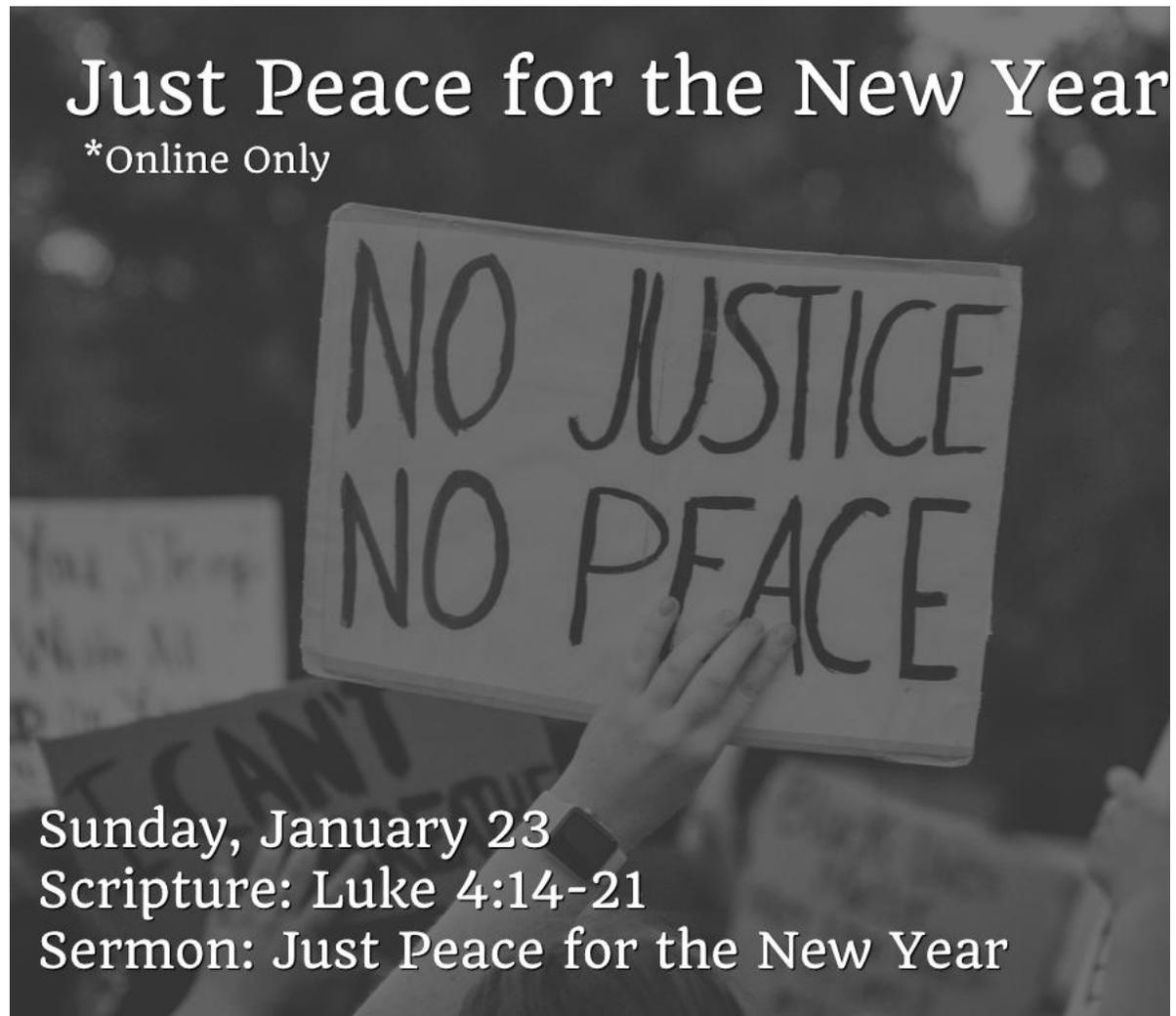
One of the reasons we have organized our Outreach and Service efforts around our Just Peace, Open and Affirming, and WISE Covenants is to help us live out our core values beyond our beliefs. Throughout the year we will spend time exploring the meaning of our Covenants and ways we can apply them to action. This is an effort to be good stewards of our resources as we work together to build a better world, transforming society, and co-creating Beloved Community.

It’s not a perfect process and it can be messy. Yet, there’s something about going deeper and focusing on our core values that feels right. I believe we are answering God’s invitation to grow in our faith and deepen our positive impact on what matters most.

Thank you all for being partners on the journey and bringing your gifts of time,

talent, and treasure to First Congregational. Together we will share God's love through our actions.

**Blessings,**  
Pastor Sarah



**Just Peace for the New Year**  
\*Online Only

**Sunday, January 23**  
**Scripture: Luke 4:14-21**  
**Sermon: Just Peace for the New Year**

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**Annual Meeting Announcement:** In view of the change in Marion County's covid status that has sent us back to worshipping only virtually, **the Annual Meeting on January 30 will be on Zoom at 1:00 PM.** We regret that we cannot meet in person for this important business meeting, but we hope all who are able will join

us virtually to review 2021 and to move First Congregational's ministries forward in 2022.

### ***Church Leadership and Contact Info:***

**Senior Councilors:** Alice Rutherford (Lead), [alice@caloosaspirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirit.net)

Larry Eckel [lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net), and Steve Coomer, [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net)

**Care and Connections:** Wendy Baldwin, [wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com](mailto:wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com)

**Outreach and Service:** Alice Rutherford, [alice@caloosaspirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirit.net)

**Trustees:** Steve Coomer, [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net)

**Witness and Welcome:** Judy Fletcher, [jkbfb@aol.com](mailto:jkbfb@aol.com)

**Worship and Faith:** Aurelia Glennan-March, [ahoftmarch@gmail.com](mailto:ahoftmarch@gmail.com)

**Clerk:** Pat Larracey, [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net)

**Financial Secretary:** Cheryl Dillenback, [dillenback@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dillenback@sbcglobal.net)

**Treasurer:** Jim Lootens, [lootens.jb@gmail.com](mailto:lootens.jb@gmail.com)

## **THIS SUNDAY**

### **Sunday Adult Education, 10:00 AM:**

On Sunday mornings, join us online for a gathering time for faith formation (**Now on Zoom Only**)

### **Coffee Hour Is Back and Online Only!**

Join us immediately following Worship on the Church Zoom.

**ONLINE Worship: Online, and Dial-In Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)**

### **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, Thursday, January 20th:** Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.

**TODAY, Thursday, January 20th:** Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) at 5:00 PM

### **An Update from Outreach And Service:**

Happy New Year to all! Now that we're into a new year, the Outreach & Service Board plans to replicate our 2021 Covenant Outreach based in our UCC Covenants – Just Peace, W.I.S.E. for Mental Health, and Open & Affirming. This month through April we return our focus to our Just Peace covenant as we support our partners at Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana. Contributions to Covenant Outreach over the next four months will be equally divided among these recipients, unless otherwise specified. Please be generous in your gifts to these ministries that clearly reflect First Congregational's values.

In December we donated hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to Exodus Refugee to assist their efforts in settling immigrants into the Indiana winter, especially those who may have come from warmer climates. You can learn more about the work of Exodus Refugee Immigration, along with volunteer opportunities, at [Exodus Refugee Immigration | Building a New Life in Indiana](#).

Also, as mentioned in a previous Epistle, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference is accepting donations and volunteers to assist in recovery efforts in the Kentucky areas devastated by tornadoes last month. Information on how to help can be found on the IKC website, [ikc@ikcucc.org](mailto:ikc@ikcucc.org).

**COMING SOON**

**Sunday, January 30:** Join us at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom for the Annual Meeting!

**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.

**The Blog Here!** What is it? [Check out this updated page](#) where you'll find more info and where your submissions will go! (You can see a list of current entries on the right-hand side). **Want to submit? Email me your piece at [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org)**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

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

Lead Councilor: Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosapirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosapirit.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” is now the “Acts of Kindness Fund”** This fund has been repositioned as the “Acts of Kindness Fund”. Members can now make requests for gifts to be made from the fund to assist others in our church family. This could be to help with ride-share transportation, shovel or plow snow, pay an unexpected expense, etc. While honoring the dignity of the recipient, these gifts are to assist people who might not ask for help. The fund also continues to be available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. All requests for use of this fund will be confidential, and your privacy will be honored and respected. To request funds or gifts, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012.

## GIVING

*We seek to love and to share our joy.*

*We offer care, give thanks and praise, when Christ is present among us all.  
We know the world's a mission field, needing forgiveness, justice and hope.*

**Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant.**

Our current outreach recipients: Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana.



**EXODUS  
REFUGEE**  
*The life ahead.*



**FAITH IN  
INDIANA**

 **Family Promise**

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

### 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** (available after 2PM)

- 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



## This Week at First Congregational:

Thursday, January 20	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 20	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, January 23	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (Zoom)
Sunday, January 23	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Online Worship (YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, January 23	Reminder	Coffee Hour Following Worship (Zoom)
Thursday, January 27	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, January 30	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (Zoom)
Sunday, January 30	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Online Worship (YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, January 30	Reminder	Coffee Hour Following Worship (Zoom)
Sunday, January 30	1:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting (Zoom)

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

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