

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of June 11, 2020

As of June 20 through the end of July, First Congregational UCC is closed to all in-person gatherings of more than 10 people at one time. However, gatherings of 10 or less may occur outside, and not in the building. (See additional details below.)

Dear First Congregational,

Inspired by God's call for racial justice and our congregation's historic commitment to equality, justice, and peace, last night the church council voted unanimously to sign onto a resolution calling for the creation of a new IKC Justice and Witness Ministries Task Force. The new task force would develop a conference-wide action plan designed to address racism. The resolution is authored by our sister church, First Congregational, UCC of Elkhart, Indiana, and will be presented to voting delegates at the IKC Annual Meeting June 27. You can read the full resolution [here](#).

I give thanks for the prophetic voice of the people of First Congregational for speaking up for

our faith values. We are called to make anti-racism disciples beginning with ourselves. I am grateful to God to be on the journey with you.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Soul Care with Pastor Sarah - Join us on **Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** for a time to check-in, reflect on Richard Rohr's weekly meditations, and to pray together.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/494018938?pwd=a3BrdnNyWXEza0tFMUgwek1CVFpYQT09>

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency Fund seeks to support your housing, food, and medical needs if you find yourselves unemployed or underemployed. You can send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website. To request funds for you or your family, please contact me by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

Worship

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVU>
T0

June 14: Wendy Baldwin presents "**Devoted to Generosity**"

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Unashamed of Hope."

Scripture: Romans 5:1-8

3 Ways to Connect for Worship

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live Premiere will broadcast at 11am Sunday morning. There will be a countdown before. We highly recommend using the mobile app for more convenience as it will refresh.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch 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

- 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.

THIS SUNDAY! Coffee Buzz + New member Reception + Honoring Julie Houston 12:30 p.m.

Grab your lunch and coffee, tea, or a beverage of your choice, and join us on Zoom for our June Buzz Q&A. Our focus will again be on how we are navigating through the coronavirus crisis as a community of faith. The Comeback Team will share our deliberations, along with some of the guidance we regularly receive from the national UCC and the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. We also want to hear thoughts, questions, and concerns from everyone as well, so please plan to join in with video, audio, or just a phone.

During this Buzz we will also be accepting new members into our church, and honoring Julie Houston for her years of service at FC. Julie retires at the end of this month, so please take this opportunity to wish her well, and to greet new members of our faith community.

Zoom

link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

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



What's Happening at FC: Support While Physical Distancing

Mental Health Helpline

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or text **"TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

TODAY! Men's Lunch, 1:00 p.m. (Zoom)

Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for information.

TODAY! Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 PM (Zoom)

Our weekly SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS gathers on the church's ZOOM from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EVERY Thursday. Pastor Sarah and Pat Larracey will be leading this wonderful WISE program and is OPEN to all with mental illness and those living with mentally ill loved ones. We look forward to greeting each of you with love.

Zoom

Link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Social Support Gatherings through Zoom

- **Men's Lunch: Thursday, 6/11, 1:00 p.m.**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 6/11, 5:00 pm**
- **"Coffee Buzz" Q&A: Sunday, 6/14, 12:30 pm**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 6/16, 5:00 pm**

Zoom

Link: <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.
All Zoom gatherings are now monitored to 'admit' attendees, to help prevent "Zomb-bombing".

Protocols for outdoor gatherings:

1. Must be scheduled with Pastor Sarah, Shannon Abbott (Admin), and Wendy Baldwin (Bldg Mgr); groups may use any area of the church grounds (such as the patio, parking lot, Memorial Garden) where surface contact is minimized (not the playground for now)
2. Before the gathering, the group leader will receive the protocols to be observed, and make sure attendees are aware of these; the group leader is responsible that the protocols are followed
3. After the gathering, the group leader must send info about who attended to Pastor Sarah and Wendy Baldwin, for contact tracking purposes
4. Limit of 10 people at a time
5. A distance of 6 feet shall be observed between people of different households; no physical contact shall occur
6. Face masks are encouraged
7. People who do not feel well should not attend
8. People should bring their own beverage/water bottle (do not use the church drinking fountains, water, ice, etc)
9. People should bring their own chair
10. Church restrooms should only be used for emergencies, and one will be required to sanitize after its use
11. If entering the building, people are required to sanitize their hands, and disinfect any surfaces where there is contact of more than 3 minutes; use of face masks are highly encouraged.

Food Drive for the Northside Pantry

1. When: Sat, 6/20, from 10 am – 2 pm, and then every other Saturday (7/4, 7/18, 8/1)
2. Where: the outside church patio
3. What: dry and canned goods, as well as personal care items (soap, deodorant, etc)
4. You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper for recycling.

Let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations. In future communications, we will let you know of particularly desired items. You can also spend a few minutes at the Food Drive to share in fellowship with those there, while maintaining safe distance protocols.

A Letter to the United Church of Christ from the UCC Mental Health Network



The UCC Mental Health Network Board of Directors desires to add its voice to those who in pain and despair are seeking to express their outrage about the murder of George Floyd and the deaths of so many other people of color who have suffered and died because of the violence born of the systemic racism that has pervaded our country for centuries. We join with the many groups and organizations which decry these violent acts, and we commit to working for a seismic shift in our national consciousness that will bring determined actions toward dismantling racism.

We seek to speak and not be silent, as the deep wound in the whole body politic is being made visible throughout our country. The deep roots of the wound of systemic racism are exposed for all to witness at this time. No one is spared. Who cannot recognize it? Only those who turn their backs, harden their hearts and have no empathy. It is the wound that has been festering for centuries and has tentacles that have strangled the metaphoric and actual airways of people of color.

We agree with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) along with the numerous doctors and public health professional organizations that have declared racism to be a public health crisis. NAMI has published a statement saying, "The effect of racism and racial trauma on mental health is real and cannot be ignored. The disparity in access to mental health care in communities of color cannot be ignored. The inequality and lack of cultural competency in mental health treatment cannot be ignored."

In addition, the UCC Mental Health Network aligns ourselves with our thirtieth UCC General Synod in its resolution, "Dismantling Discriminatory Systems of Mass Incarceration in the United States." It "identifies mass incarceration as a critical human and civil rights issue in the U.S. because of its disparate impact on and disenfranchisement of people of color, youth, people with mental illness, and people with limited economic and other resources." The reality is that at least 1/3 of all persons who are in jail have mental health conditions. We raise the call to require police officers to be trained about how to interact with people who have mental health issues. When ignorance about mental illness combines with racism it creates a double

injustice.

Such pain and agony cry out for healing. Such healing is needed, and we need to clearly acknowledge the crushing effects of racism. Such reality has been lived by people of color for generations. Now is the time to acknowledge that reality, to repent for its tenacious grip on us all, and collectively act our way into a new way of being. As we have heard, and now must embody, “there is no peace without justice.”

In a recent panel on anti-racism, a participant asked the question, “What is the difference between a moment and a movement?” A panel member replied, “It is a movement when there is sacrifice.” There are no simple, quick solutions. No band-aid can heal a deep infection. We must listen to those in pain, pay attention to their cries, bring our deepest compassion to supporting those who are hurting and work to find lasting solutions that address the systemic problem causing the pain. We call for a change in police culture where officers are called out and disciplined proportionately for any act of abuse or misuse of power. We must also stand up and speak out against any who continue to oppress people of color and refute those who deny or refuse to acknowledge the real and present issue of racism.

We, *the **Board of Directors** of the UCC MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK*, commit to joining our voices and actions with others who are determined to never “go back to how it has been.” The old is passing away and is crumbling, and the new creation may be dawning and yet to be born. We, as the board of directors of the UCC Mental Health Network, pledge to keep before us at all times the urgent work of dismantling racism as we seek to fulfill our mission which is to reduce stigma and promote the welcome, inclusion, support, and engagement of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and the families in the life, leadership, and work of congregations. We welcome your voice, your insights, and your commitment as we move toward healing and hope.

Blessings,

Rev. Alan Johnson, *Chair*

Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe, *Vice-Chair*

Robin Kempster, *Parish Nurse, UCC MHN Secretary*

Hannah Campbell Gustafson, *MDiv, MSW, UCC MHN Treasurer*

Rev. Amy Petré Hill, *Member-at-large*

J. Gilbert Martinez, *MDiv, Member-at-large*

Rev. Jack Abel

Bishop Allyson Abrams, *DMin*

Dr. Vicki K. Harvey

Rev. Dr. Marty Kuchma

Rev. Lisa LeSueur
Rev. Kirk Moore
Rev. Megan Snell
Rev. Shernell J. Edney Stilley
Rev. Dr. Jan Remer-Osborn



Registration is open for our Virtual Annual Gathering 2020

Registration fees this year are \$50 and are for all events.

- **Friday, June 26th** - Agape Love Feast Gathering: 7pm-8:30pm Eastern
- **Saturday, June 27th** - *Educational Workshops*: 9am-10:15am Eastern & 10:30am-11:45am Eastern & *Conference Business Meeting*: 2pm-3:30pm Eastern
- **Sunday, June 28th** - **Conference Wide Virtual Worship**: 3pm Eastern

[Register Here](#)

Proposed WISE Resolution

This year we will vote on the resolution submitted to the Conference Board of Directors in February by the WISE Mental Health Team of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference. You can read the resolution by clicking the button.

[Read the WISE Resolution](#)



Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

June Mission of the Month: Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light

HIPL is an interfaith organization dedicated to advocating for sustainable living and changes to protect God's creation of life on this earth, both human and others. Its mission is to educate congregations on sustainable living practices that will reduce our carbon footprint, and promote the use of renewable energy resources. The organization is funded primarily from contributions from its member congregations and additional support is always needed to continue the work of improving the care for creation advocated by almost all major religious teachings. Please send a check to the church with MOM: HIPL in the memo line, or donate online at: <http://fcindy.org/online-giving/> (Please designate MOM: HIPL in your online giving).

Support Your Local IN-KY Conference Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

The staff of the IKC continue to work tirelessly to support local churches as we all discern best practices and how to get through this time together. Please remember to support the work they do and the many ministries they support through your **OCWM**

Giving at: <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>

Eviction Ministry Donations

The Eviction Ministry is a new ministry of the SouthEast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. The purpose of this ministry is to offer assistance to those who do not qualify for other state or local assistance programs and without such assistance would be evicted from their homes. Please consider making a donation. **Checks can be made out to: Southeast Association of the IKC UCC.** Please include in the **memo line: "Eviction Ministry."**

Donations can be mailed to the treasurer at:

SE Association Eviction Ministry

Attn: Margie Potter

726 Coach Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

Thank you for your generosity!

- Shannon Abbott, Eviction Ministry Team

Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance

Undocumented people are facing challenges during this pandemic. There are groups trying to help them, specifically young people who have D.A.C.A. Four organizations are cooperating in this effort, but it is being administered by IYUA, the Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance.

Email or call if you want to donate or volunteer. The email

is undocuhoosiertund@gmail.com and the phone number is 317-205-6424.

Feeding Families

Gleaner's and Second Helpings are two of the food banks currently offering food to children who usually get their meals from school.

Donate to **Gleaner's** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Donate to **Second Helpings** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Staying Connected

FC Facebook page (click [here](#))

"First Congregational Indy Fellowship" group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

Pastoral Care

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. You can contact Pastor Sarah for pastoral care needs at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspirit.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

THREE Ways to Worship on Sunday morning at 11AM:

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjAV6Zpw>

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, June 11	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 11	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Sunday, June 14	12:30 p.m.	Coffee Buzz Q&A + New Member Reception & Honoring of Julie Houston
Tuesday, June 16	1:30 p.m.	Book Circle
Tuesday, June 16	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement <u>above</u> for zoom link)
Wednesday, June 17	7:00 p.m.	Witness & Welcome
Thursday, June 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Sunday, June 21	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 21	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, June 21	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour