

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of June 18, 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,

How is God inviting us to be the hands and feet of Jesus today? In this historic time of pandemic and racial justice uprising where we are witnessing “public lynchings and state sanctioned violence against black bodies,” we are invited to mark the official end of slavery in the U.S. and recognize the rich history and heritage of African-Americans. First Congregational is invited to join with the wider church for tomorrow’s national United Church of Christ “June Tenth Freedom Day.” This online event is free and open to all members and friends of the United Church of Christ. Friday from noon to 1:30pm, we will engage in a time of remembrance, education, celebration and calls to action. To learn more about the event, click on this

page: https://www.ucc.org/news_juneteenth_observances_invite_entire_ucc_to_recall_slavery_s_end_commit_to_action_06102020

I believe that we can be the hands, feet and voice of Jesus today by working together to end racism. This event tomorrow kicks off a four year campaign within the UCC racial justice ministries. Join me and register here:

https://www.ucc.org/ucc_church_wide_event_juneteenth_2020

May God guide us in the ways of justice and love.



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/84830474505?pwd=Ny9oeE84a0lpcTUrWHU2dUhFVUZZQT09>

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and

medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

Worship

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUk0>

June 21: focus on **Matthew 10:24-39**, "**When do you need courage from God?**"

Click [HERE](#) for a printable guide.

Some reflection questions we will explore together are:

1. *What is the opposite of fear?*
2. *If you were afraid and someone told you to stop being afraid, would that work? Why or why not?*
3. *How effective are people when they are afraid?*
4. *How does it make you feel to know you might be rejected because of your faith?*
5. *When we are committed to Jesus Christ, how might rejection help strengthen faith?*

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Don't Be Afraid."

Scripture: Matthew 10:24-39

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/?ret=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.

Coffee Hour, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)

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! 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>

This Saturday! 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.

THIS SUNDAY! PRIDE Festival: Sunday, June 21, 2:00 – 9:00 p.m.

First Congregational will have a one minute video in this year's PRIDE festival, which will be a virtual event held on SUNDAY, JUNE 21 from 2:00 to 9:00 pm. Note that this is a new day than previously advertised.

To watch Virtual Pride, google: [IndyPride.org/Live](https://www.indypride.org/live)

Even though you might be asked to click a box for tickets, this is not necessary; however, you can make a donation to PRIDE through that link.

We will also make the video available through our [facebook](#) page and [website](#).

Social Support Gatherings through Zoom

- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 6/18, 5:00 pm**
- **Coffee Hour: Sunday, 6/21, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 6/25, 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".

Notes to First Responders

Hey, folks, don't forget Chuck the Monkey's (Pat's friend who gave the Message for All ages on Sunday) invitation to draw a picture or write a note of thanks to our dedicated first responders! We want to express our appreciation for all they have done to help us through the pandemic. Take a picture of your creation and email it to Sean Baker at sbaker@seanbaker.com. We will make a video to share online with our local first responders. You can also mail your creation directly to the church and it will also be shared. Let's all chip in to this effort to share our love with our local heroes! Please share by Monday, June 22.

NEW!!! 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.

UCC Webinar: Protest during a Pandemic - Wednesday, June 24, 1:00 PM

Instead of becoming suppressed by the pandemic, the spirit of justice has arisen with fierce determination and become embodied in countless ways. This webinar will reflect upon how protest has manifested itself during this time and the lessons that can be learned for communities of faith dedicated to answering the unrelenting call of justice. Three panelists will share what they have learned: Sophia Benrud from the Black Visions Collective in Minneapolis, Lindsay Harper from Arm-in-Arm in Atlanta, and Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick from the University of San Diego.

Register by clicking [HERE](#).



Attend IKC Annual Gathering Sunday Worship for Free!

On Sunday, June 28, we'll have a live-streamed worship service that is open to ALL people, even if you have not registered for IKC Virtual Annual Gathering 2020. Details about how to participate in worship are forthcoming.

FC's own Sean Baker will be a part of the Annual Gathering Worship Team!

Even though Sunday worship is free and open to all, there's a lot of great stuff happening on Friday and Saturday. Learn more and register for the IKC 2020 Virtual Annual Gathering by clicking the button below! This year [Annual Gathering registration](#) is only \$50 and the entire event is being held virtually through online platforms in order to safeguard our community's health.

Register for IKC Annual Gathering 2020 by clicking [HERE](#).

Share Your Music With Us

On Friday evening at our virtual Annual Gathering, we'll have a virtual Love Feast during which we'll come together in a meaningful way to celebrate our community.

To make it even more meaningful, we'd like to feature your musical talents! If you have, or would like to create, video or audio recordings of your congregation's musical gifts, we'd love to share them with the Conference. All music video or audio recordings (perhaps a virtual choir performance or a special acoustic solo, or whatever kind of musical creation you like to make) should be sent to Rev. Janna Meyers at rev.janna.meyers@gmail.com.

Thanks for sharing your musical talents with us!



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 undocuhoosierfund@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@caloosaspirt.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>

- 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.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, June 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Saturday, June 20	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC – outside)
Sunday, June 21	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Sunday, June 21	2:00 p.m.	PRIDE Celebration
Tuesday, June 23	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Tuesday, June 23	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement <u>above</u> for zoom link)
Thursday, June 25	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, June 25	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 25	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, June 26	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Sunday, June 28	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 28	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In) – ONA Sunday
Sunday, June 28	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Sunday, June 28	3:00 p.m.	IN-KY Conference Annual Community

		Worship
--	--	---------

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