

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of June 25, 2020

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,

“C” is for covenant. First Congregational is a covenant people. We are bonded by our trust in one another and our trust in God. Our covenant extends beyond our local congregation into the Southeast Association and the Indiana Kentucky Conference. Together with over 30 other Conferences we make up the United Church of Christ, just under 1,000,000 members and 5,000 congregations. This weekend we will celebrate our covenant and enjoy fellowship through an online, virtual IKC Annual Gathering. I encourage you to make time in your schedule to participate in the events, including a worship service Sunday afternoon at 3:00pm on this YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/YouTubeIKC>. You can download a printable Annual Gathering Worship bulletin here: <https://files.constantcontact.com/8206d75f001/bd71cbd8->

[2ec7-423e-a4ce-bc74aecU/82U.docx](#). Special thanks to our Music Designer Sean Baker who is helping to provide music for the online worship service, so we know it will be excellent.

I want to highlight that our congregation's voice is being heard as part of two resolutions coming before the voting body. The first is a resolution to adopt a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health covenant for the IKC, with Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey serving in an important leadership role to bring this resolution before the collective body. His will be one of the voices speaking on behalf of the resolution, sharing how meaningful it is for our congregation to be WISE for mental health. The other resolution coming before the voting body calls for the IKC to begin the work of becoming an anti-racist Conference. Our church council unanimously voted to add First Congregational as a supporting congregation. You can read the full text of both resolutions here: <http://ikcucc.org/app/uploads/2020/05/IKC-WISE-Resolution-PDF.pdf> and <http://ikcucc.org/app/uploads/2020/05/Resolution-on-Systemic-Racism-in-the-Indiana-Kentucky-Conference-Final.pdf>.

I am grateful that we are in covenant with other followers of Jesus who believe in justice and seek to love like Jesus. I look forward to this new way to Be the Church as the IKC through our virtual gathering. I hope to “see” you there!



The graphic is a vertical schedule for the 2020 Annual Gathering. It features a light blue background with a central graphic of two overlapping circles, one yellow and one green, containing the text 'ANNUAL GATHERING 2020 LIVING GOD'S ECONOMY'. The schedule is organized into horizontal bands of yellow and green, each with an icon and text. The top band includes the IKC logo, the registration deadline 'REGISTER THROUGH JUNE 26 AT NOON', and the URL 'HTTP://IKCUCC.ORG/EVENTS/2020-ANNUAL-GATHERING/'. The subsequent bands list various activities: Agape Love Feast, two Workshop Sessions with their respective options and leaders, a Resolution Discussion, a Business Meeting, a Return to Worship Dialogue, and a final Worship service.

 **REGISTER THROUGH JUNE 26 AT NOON** 
HTTP://IKCUCC.ORG/EVENTS/2020-ANNUAL-GATHERING/

ANNUAL GATHERING 2020 LIVING GOD'S ECONOMY

 **AGAPE LOVE FEAST**
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 7:00-8:30 PM EDT

WORKSHOP SESSION 1
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 9:00-10:15 AM EDT
Option A: Clergy Mental Health Workshop (only for clergy), led by Rev. Megan Snell
Option B: Legal Considerations, Copyright, & the Implementation of Online Worship, led by Heather E. Kimmel

 **WORKSHOP SESSION 2**
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 10:30-11:45 AM EDT
Option A: How to Become a WISE for Mental Health Congregation, led by Rev. Amy Petré Hill
Option B: Spiritual Formation through Online Church, led by Samantha Barrett

 **RESOLUTION ON SYSTEMIC RACISM: DISCUSSION**
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 12:15-1:15 PM EDT
Led by Rev. Izzy Harbin, Lakota Iron Rope, and Rev. John Jackson

 **BUSINESS MEETING**
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2PM-3:30 PM EDT

 **RETURN TO WORSHIP: DIALOGUE**
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 4-5 PM EDT
Led by Jill Olinger, President, IKC Board of Directors & Kent Gilbert, IKC Moderator

 **WORSHIP**
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 3 PM EDT
Free-to-all online worship through IKC YouTube Channel: <https://bit.ly/IKCYouTube>

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT0>

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Rejected and Thirsty Savior."

Scripture: Matthew 10:40-42

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.

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! Women's Lunch Bunch, 11:45 a.m.

All women of the church are invited to get together once a month at **11:30 a.m.** via Zoom for lunch, friendship and fellowship. For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

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

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational is meeting via Zoom. They meet every other Thursday at **1 p.m.** 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

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

- **Women's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, 6/25, 11:45 am**
- **Men's Lunch: Thursday, 6/25, 1:00 pm**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 6/25, 5:00 pm**
- **Coffee Hour: Sunday, 6/28, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursday, 7/2, 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".

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

mountains, 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.



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

quality 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@caloosaspire.net)

VICE MODERATOR, Larry Ecker (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 25	11:45 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
Friday, June 26	2:00 p.m.	1857 Society
Friday – Sunday, June 26 – 28		IKC UCC Annual Gathering

Sunday, June 28	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, June 28	11:00 a.m.	Worship – ONA Sunday (YT, FBL, Dial in)
Sunday, June 28	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
Sunday, June 28	3:00 p.m.	IKC UCC Community Worship (IKC UCC YouTube)
Tuesday, June 30	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Tuesday, June 30	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement <u>above</u> for zoom link)
Wednesday, July 1	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, July 2	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 3	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Sunday, July 5	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 5	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ guest preacher, Rev. Chad Abbott, IKC Conference Minister (YT, FBL, Dial in)
Sunday, July 5	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour

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