

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 9, 2020

Through the end of July, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed. However, gatherings of 10 or less may occur outside (not in the building). Masks are required per City of Indianapolis mandate. (See additional details below.)

Dear First Congregational,

Recently in conversation with one of our members I heard our church described as being a justice loving congregation. I love this description! This is one of the reasons I feel called to serve in ministry with you all. This congregation is not afraid or intimidated by the long, hard road of doing the work of justice. To change oppressive structures and systems takes time, sometimes generations! We see this now with our renewed efforts for racial justice. “How long, O God?” is the cry of the prophets.

I am thankful for leaders of First Congregational who are committed to this journey for justice. This is an important year for us. We are being shaped by the world around us. As followers of

Jesus we are invited to respond to the suffering of the world with hearts of love and compassion. While the world is changing us, let us also change the world. Together, we can build a more just world for all.

May God continue to guide us and to sustain us on the journey.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUj0>

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Carol will preach on "The Extravagant Sower."

Scripture: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

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.

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Music in Worship

Some time back it became apparent to us that hiring a new Choir Director upon Julie Houston's June retirement needed to be put on indefinite hold. At this time we still have no clear vision for a return to worship in our sanctuary, and even if that were to happen in the next few months our choir would not be part of that worship experience, per guidance from health experts. However, in the past few months Julie has been filling a necessary role in our recordings of hymns and other vocal music for our prerecorded worship services, so we definitely saw a need to recruit someone to fill that role going forward. For the past couple of years or so Meagan Johnson was renting space at FC for music/mind/body enhancement, but that arrangement came to an end with the coronavirus shut-down. Meagan has a long history as a professional musician, and she will now be singing with us to continue our creations of recorded vocal music. We fully welcome her participation. The music you hear this Sunday will include Meagan's soprano voice, so enjoy the sounds of FC's "reconstructed" New Creation Ensemble! When the time comes we'll definitely keep everyone apprised of our Choir Director recruitment, but for right now we're happy to have Meagan's voice leading us as we sing at home. - Alice Rutherford, Moderator

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.

NEW! Evening Vesper Service, Tues, 7/14, 7-7:30 pm, Memorial Garden

Join us for an outdoor evening vesper service. Our current plans are to have these every 2 weeks. Our outdoor protocols will apply, so bring your own chair and beverage, and keep 6 feet distant from others. Face masks are required per City of Indianapolis ordinance. It's a

time to be in community, while being safe and loving with one another.

What's Happening at FC

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 PM

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational is meeting via Zoom. They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. This month, they are meeting July 9th & 23rd. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977walker@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

- **Men's Lunch: 1:00 pm**
- **Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health: Thursdays at 5:00 pm**
- **Coffee Hour: Sundays at 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**

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".

TODAY! Panel Discussion on "John Lewis: Good Trouble" - Virtual Cinema and Panel Discussion

Using interviews and rare archival footage, JOHN LEWIS: GOOD TROUBLE chronicles Lewis' 60-plus years of social activism and legislative action on civil rights, voting rights, gun control, health-care reform and immigration.

Immediately following the feature, there will be a 16-minute pre-recorded discussion between Representative Lewis and Oprah Winfrey, filmed last month and being made available exclusively for virtual cinema and in-theater engagements of the film.

Additionally, on **July 9**, [join us for a panel discussion](#) presented by the Freedom Rides Museum of Montgomery, Alabama, featuring Freedom Riders Dr. Bernard Lafayette and Dr. Rip Patton in conversation with director Dawn Porter. In partnership with the Capri Theatre. **7:30pm EST / 4:30pm PST.**

<https://watch.eventive.org/johnlewis/play/5efa372ef8ae35005c81e98b>

PCRC Meeting Next Sunday, July 19th, 1PM

The pastoral office and other positions of staff leadership exist to build up the congregation as part of the Body of Christ and to equip the saints for the mission of the church. The particular relationship between a pastor and congregants should be tended deliberately, so that the ministries of both pastor and congregation complement each other and further God's grace in the world. As with any relationship, it must be respected and nurtured to grow in healthy and projective ways. For this reason, a Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) exists in a congregation to advise, assist, and promote the growth of this vital relationship. PCRCs meet quarterly and are available throughout the year for support and conversation.

Currently, Pastor Carol's focus is on the following areas: pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education, and Worship Leader coordination. Pastor Carol's PCRC will meet via Zoom on Sunday, July 19 at 1 PM in a closed session. If FC members want to contact us (susanna-judith rae, Bob Cook, Clark Collins, and Gloria Boedeker) before the meeting, please do so.

From the Comeback Team

How wonderful that we are beginning to have opportunities to be with one another, with small in-person events outdoors! The Church Council approved this recommendation in their June meeting, with the conditions that various protocols are followed.

To make it easier to remember, the protocols are based on the thought "Bring your own germs, keep them to yourself, and take them home with you". Hence the recommendations to bring your own chairs, bring your own beverage and/or food, wear face masks, limit going inside the building, and definitely maintain 6 ft distances. To be on the safe side, we also want to keep track of who attended each event.

During this pandemic, each one of us has personal thoughts about what is, and isn't, safe. However, when the event is a "church event", we need to be in covenant with one another and use the church's safety protocols. As we continue to explore ways to be the church and have fellowship, your cooperation is needed for us to be able to move forward, and most importantly, be safe, while we are "being church".

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 required
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.



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/>

July Mission of the Month: Underneath It All

This mission provides underwear and school uniforms for children in IHN/Family Promise Aftercare. The Aftercare Program of Family Promise helps homeless families who get housing remain housed. Our donations to Underneath It All help ease their school budgets each fall by providing a uniform for each school aged child in the Aftercare Program. Make checks out to First Congregational United Church of Christ with Underneath It All in the memo line or donate online at <http://fcindy.org/online-giving/> (Please designate "MOM: Underneath It All" in your online giving). Thanks so much for your generosity with this ministry in the past and in this unprecedented year. For questions or help with this ministry, please contact me csjlwood@att.net 317-863-8238 (home) or 317-225-6206 (cell).

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. While Pastor Sarah is on vacation from July 3 – 13, Pastor Carol may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

Beginning on July 14th, Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Office Administrator Vacation

Our Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott, is on vacation through July 13.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspire.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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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.

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, July 9	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch
Thursday, July 9	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 10	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Sunday, July 12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 12	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching
Sunday, July 12	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Tuesday, July 14	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Tuesday, July 14	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement <u>above</u> for zoom link)
Tuesday, July 14	7:00 p.m.	Vespers Worship (outside)
Thursday, July 16	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 17	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Saturday, July 18	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (outside)
Sunday, July 19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, July 19	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Sunday, July 19	1:00 p.m.	PCRC (Pastor Carol)

*All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.