

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 23, 2020

Through the end of August, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed. Masks are required for limited gatherings occurring outside. (See additional details below.)

Dear First Congregational,

I wonder what the children growing up today will think decades into the future as they look back on 2020. What will be remembered about these days? Will they remember our kindness, generosity, and compassion? Will they remember fear, dread, and chaos? What we do know is that 2020 is changing and shaping all of us, no matter our age.

How has 2020 changed and shaped you? We may not know for a long time how 2020 has impacted us. And this not knowing is hard. It has not, is not, and will not be easy.

And yet, as followers of Jesus in 2020, we continue to seek out the ways of peace, justice, and

love. Maybe that's what children will remember, too. I hope that future generations will look back on 2020 and say of us, "They followed the way of Jesus. They loved like Jesus."

Peace,
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.

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>

Worship

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUj0>

July 26: We will read and reflect together on myths 6-10 from this article from The Christian Century, December 27, 2018 titled "Ten Myths White People Believe About Racism" by Caroline B. Helsel. The article can be found at the link below, or by googling the title: <https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/ten-myths-white-people-believe-about-racism>

Caroline B. Helsel wrote the book [Anxious to Talk About It; Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism](#), which we used in Adult Ed last May-Sept.

This will be a safe place to share our thoughts, concerns and stories. We will also think about what we can do work for racial justice.

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Mind of God."

Scripture: Romans 8:26-39

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

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- The video will be posted at 11am.
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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

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 - 7//23, 11:30AM - All women of the church are invited to get together once a month via Zoom for lunch, friendship and fellowship. This month, they meet on July 23rd. For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

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.

TODAY! Men's Lunch - 7/23, 1:00PM - They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. Location is always To Be Determined. If you are interested in joining this lunch group, 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>

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

UCC Online National Youth Event (THIS WEEKEND)!

It's not too late to register for the National Youth Event! This year NYE is offering service projects, workshops, and worship all online...and it's free! Our own Pastor Sarah Lund is leading a workshop on "Mental Health/Illness and Our Christian Faith."

Click this link for more information on NYE and to register: <http://www.uccpages.org/nye2020/>

Updates From the Comeback Team

We have been enjoying the small outdoor in-person events at church – so great to visit and see people! There are various protocols to follow, and to make it easier to remember, we are using the mantra of “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 - We are now REQUIRING face masks to be worn at church events. If you are not wearing one, and someone asks you to put one on, please hear this request with love. But better yet, please don't let others feel uncomfortable by not wearing a mask in their presence.

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

SE Association Meeting - Sunday, August 2, 3PM

We will be voting to welcome a new church into the SE Association and voting on a resolution to require anti-racism training for authorized ministers.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82975117370?pwd=MmlwbDILY1hXNmZHd1A0Vlpkd2tIQT09>

Meeting ID: 829 7511 7370

Password: 332916

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,82975117370#,,,,0#,,332916# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,82975117370#,,,,0#,,332916# US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82975117370?pwd=MmlwbDILY1hXNmZHd1A0Vlpkd2tIQT09>



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. Pastor Sarah may be reached 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@caloosapirit.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, July 23	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, July 23	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, July 23	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 24	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Sunday, July 26	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 26	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, July 26	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Tuesday, July 28	9:00 a.m.	Foundation
Tuesday, July 28	11:00 a.m.	Come Back Team
Tuesday, July 28	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement above for zoom link)
Tuesday, July 28	7:00 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers Service
Thursday, July 30	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 31	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Sunday, August 2	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class

Sunday, August 2	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, August 2	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Sunday, August 2	3:00 p.m.	Southeast Association Meeting (IKC Zoom link)

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