

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 30, 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,

What does it mean to choose to be people of blessing? What would it look like to arise each new day with words of blessings on our lips? What would it look like to end the day with blessings whispered into the night? Our faith gifts us with words of blessing to cherish within our own hearts and words of blessing to share.

May these words of blessing by UCC minister Mary Luti be a blessing to you:

*Bless, O God, the unanswerable, the hypothetical, the possible
Bless the silence, the shrug, the hard to say, to "who knows," the "have to wait and see"*

*Bless the markers, the absence of markers, the path, the no path, the indistinct, the clearing
Bless the arriving life, the nothing-normal-about-it new normal, the un-scouted, the future, the
unknown
Bless you in it, the presence, the firm, the knowing, the power, the same love
Bless you in it, the center, the serene, the hidden near, the gleaming, the boundless mercy, the
same love
The same love, here and there
The same love, now and when. Amen.*

----Mary Luti

Emerge: Blessings and Rituals for Unsheltering

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT0>

This Sunday we will wrap up discussion on last month's 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 goggling the title:
<https://www.christiancentury.org/article/critical-essay/ten-myths-white-people-believe-about-racism>

Sunday worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Bread of Compassion."

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

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.
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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.

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=MmlwbDlY1hXNmZhd1A0Vlpkd2tIQ09>

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/kH1PFXo02>

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! 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.

Food Drive for the Northside Pantry - Saturday, August 8, from 10 am – 12 pm

Let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations. We will meet on the outside church patio. Bring dry and canned goods, as well as personal care items (soap, deodorant, etc). You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper for recycling. In future communications, we will let you know of particularly desired items. Per new church policy on in-person gatherings, only 10 people may participate (physically distanced) at a time and masks are REQUIRED. Please contact Wendy Baldwin if you are interested in helping.

Outdoor Vespers Worship, August 11 & 25, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., 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.

From the Comeback I am

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



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@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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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, July 30	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Sunday, August 2	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 2	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, August 2	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Tuesday, August 4	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Tuesday, August 4	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, July 5	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, July 6	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 7	10:00 a.m.	PCRC (Pastor Sarah)
Friday, July 7	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Design Team
Saturday, July 8	10:00 a.m.	Outdoor Food Drive
Sunday, August 9	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 9	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, August 9	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour

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