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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 20, 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 brings you comfort on these difficult days? Where are you finding peace? While the weather is nice, I've enjoyed spending time outside. Simply waking around in the sunshine renews my spirit.

As we journey on this unknown path, know that God is with us. Even now. God is here. May God's love and peace bless you.

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 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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

August 23: This week we will read an interview with Michelle Alexander from "The New Yorker" titled "**Ten Years After 'The New Jim Crow.'**"

There is a place on the page to listen to the actual interview, which is 13 minutes long.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-new-yorker-interview/ten-years-after-the-new-jim-crow>

Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah is preaching on "Wellness for a Time of Deep Chaos"

Scripture: Psalm 42

2 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.

DIAL-IN - available by 2:00 p.m. on Sundays

- 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.

NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Your WISE Mental Health Team Invites You to....

A WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Buzz,

We invite you to come and share how you are doing during this pandemic.

- What have you found helpful or not so helpful?
- How are you feeling?
- What mental health issues might you have or have questions about?

Let's share in love together! Let's communicate together in the presence of a loving God and all-encompassing Spirit. We will use the Guidelines found printed in the August Colony newsletter and the Guidelines we use in our every Thursday Spiritual Support Group.

Since stress not only lives in the mind, but also in the body, we will also have the opportunity to share in a brief mindful movement practice with Shannon Abbott as a sample of some additional opportunities from your WISE Mental Health Team beginning in September.

Note: This will NOT be a session about opening the church or not.

COME, Sunday, August 30, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m, after coffee on ZOOM.

<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! Men's Lunch - August 20th, 1:00 p.m.

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1 p.m.** Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more 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.

Family Promise: Apartment Furnishings & Housewares Needed

As part of our Just Peace Ministries, FCC is participating in a drive to help furnish apartments for the homeless; we are partnered with Carmel UMC and All Soul's UU to supply 1 apartment. These are leased by Family Promise through a new grant they received. You can sign up online for the needed items, or simply donate funds and we will do the shopping! The link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEA822A0FAC52-apartment>. You can also email or call me, and I will sign you up on the webpage. Used items in good condition from your home or from Goodwill are welcome, as well as new items. You can contact me with any questions - Janet Selby, 317 873 9539, janet.selby@gmail.com

- Donations may be made in person at the church, rear entrance, between 9:30 - noon on **Saturday, Aug. 22nd and 29th**. Wendy Baldwin will be onsite.
- For monetary donations, simply mail a check to the church (specify Family Promise apts on memo line), and we will do the shopping.
- Online donations are also welcome! The deadline is **Sept. 15th** – earlier is preferred, as some leases will start Sept. 1st. Thank you so much!

Book Buzz! - Book pick up at church on Saturday, August 22, 10 to noon

During 6 sessions starting on September 13, we will be discussing themes from the book "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown. Watch this space for more information about the discussions.

The church has obtained several copies of the book. If you are interested, you can pick up the book for no charge at church between 10 and 12 on this Saturday to use for the fall. If you can't come then or would like the book delivered to your home, please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com. We will be collecting the books at the end of the fall to pass them forward within the IKC conference so others can use them. There are also audible copies available through the library if you prefer.

Let us know if you have any questions - - Pastor Sarah, Cassidy, Alice, Carol, and Karen

Outdoor Vespers Worship - August 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 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.

IKC News

Join us in celebrating 30 Years of Kirchengemeinschaft (full Partnership), September 11-12, 2020.

The Heartland and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences of the UCC partner with the Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany every year to host a discussion forum. Typically we host

each other, taking it in turns to visit one another's countries. This year, on the 30th anniversary of this partnership, we will have our first ever online forum and you're invited!

- **The Theme:** Church Goes Public - Church Remains Public
- **Featuring Keynote Speakers:** Rev. Traci Blackmon and Rev. John Dorhauer of the UCC and German partners Dr. Frederike van Oorschot (Center of the Evangelical Studies Community in Heidelberg), and Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Chair of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Westphalia.

Registration Deadline is TODAY, August 20, 2020.

You can register here: <https://bit.ly/UCCForum2020>.

View the English language event document here for more details: <https://bit.ly/Forum2020English>.

COST: Free! Do consider taking advantage of this opportunity to attend this event at no cost, when we travel as a group attendance is quite limited.

Justice and Witness Ministry Task Force

In response to our historic resolution at Annual Gathering to root out racism in our Conference, we are looking for people (at least one from each association) to populate our Justice and Witness Ministry Anti-Racism Task Force.

We are accepting interested applicants through this Sunday, August 23.

If you are interested in joining the anti-racism task force, contact Rev. Izzy Harbin, pastorizzy@firstuccelkhart.org.

You can read more about the make-up of this task force here: <https://conta.cc/33qo4EB>.



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/>

The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry

The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry started last year as a number of our churches came together to support a family that was about to be taken to eviction court. Many of our congregations receive requests for assistance for housing, but the requests exceed what resources we have available as individual congregations. The idea behind the Eviction Ministry is that together we have enough to assist families who are facing eviction.

The eviction moratorium for Indiana expired last Friday, August 14. The rental assistance program set up by the city of Indianapolis is already overwhelmed and had to stop accepting applications. Thousands of our neighbors could soon find themselves without a home as COVID cases rise and our economy continues to be under strain.

Ways you can help:

- **Financial Support** - We welcome any financial support you can offer to this ministry so that together we can make a greater impact on the well-being of our neighbors. 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
- **Join our Team** - We welcome new members who want to join our team so that we can continue to grow and expand this ministry.
- **Legal resources** - If you have legal experience with the eviction process, we would love to talk with you to gain better insight into the legal process of eviction in Indiana.

- Rev. Shannon Abbott (shannon@fcindy.org)
Pastor Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan (pastorsarahzucc@gmail.com)
Walter Ziebell (wziebell@gmail.com)

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@caloosaspirit.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

2 Ways to Worship on Sundays:

YOUTUBE, 11:00 a.m. on Sundays

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjAV6Zpw>

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, August 20	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Saturday, August 22	9:30 a.m.	Family Promise Donation Drop Off at FC
Saturday, August 22	10:00 a.m.	Book Pick Up for Sept Book Buzz
Sunday, August 23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 23	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, Dial In)
Sunday, August 23	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)
Tuesday, August 25	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Tuesday, August 25	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, August 25	7:00 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers Service
Wednesday, August 26	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, August 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, August 27	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health

Friday, August 28	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Sunday, August 30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 30	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, Dial In)
Sunday, August 30	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)
Sunday, August 30	12:30 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Buzz

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