



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

November 2020

Pastor's Reflections

In honor of our covenant with God and one another, I am sharing with you this Thanksgiving prayer. Feel free to pray these words throughout November knowing that God's love is with us always, even now. This prayer is inspired by the 16th century folk hymn "We Gather Together" in our New Century Hymnal. With each word, I offer you my heartfelt loving care. Know that each one of you is loved and you are not alone.

We zoom together to ask for God's blessing, to live in community in new ways, seeking God's will.

We come now, as siblings confessing the multiple pandemics that harm us: racism, environmental destruction, political corruption, and COVID19. Be with us through technology, forgiving, connecting, sustaining, and calling us to be your Beloved Community in ways that are new.

You draw us away from isolation and despair, You lead us to finding community and care that is there.

All praise to God's Spirit, sustainer and lover, You provide us with grace to say "yes" in these days.

Empower us to give thanks for the hope we encounter.

Grant us wisdom and courage to follow the way of love the rest of our days.

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 and to pray together.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/494018938?pwd=a3BrdnNyWXEza0tFMUgwek1CVFpYQT09>

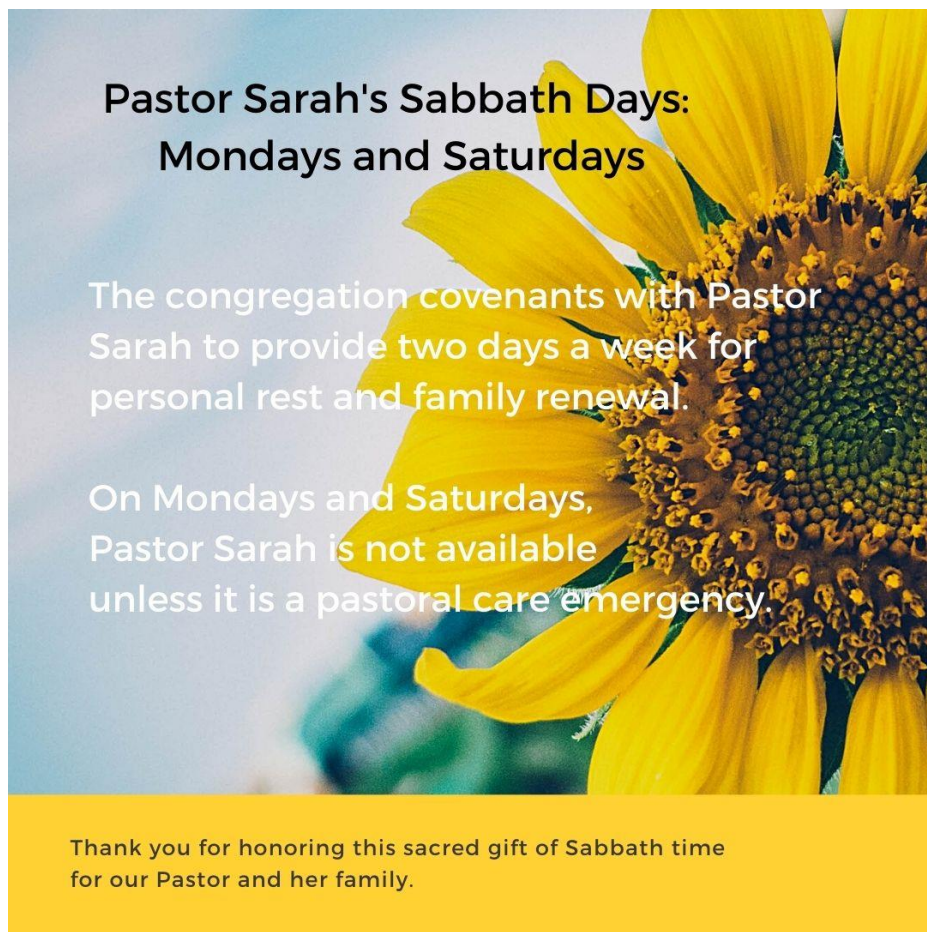
Meeting ID: 494 018 938 Password: 46208

Pastoral Care and Support:

Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org and (386)478-9012.

Pastoral Vacation:

Pastor Sarah will be on vacation from November 25 – December 4. Pastor Carol Sowle will be on call during this time.



Intern Reflections

Dear Church,

Election season is upon us and I recently dropped off my Absentee Ballot at the



local post office. Since I turned 18, voting was a tradition of togetherness in my family, a time of coming together to celebrate the right to vote. This year looks different. A lot of things look different. And as we mourn those moments lost and/or those changes in tradition, I must remind myself of the beauty which remains. The beauty that I was blessed to chat with my mom on the phone

today about how she and my dad filled out their ballots, the beauty that I am a part of a church that discusses this right with joy and determination, the beauty that we do have a voice in change, we do have a voice of hope and love.

The courage I see in each of you has inspired me and helped me to continue to see this beauty. And today—every day, my prayer is that we would all take on this time with a determined hope, a fervent love, and a willingness to see beauty. Thank you for helping me see this each and every day. Thank you for helping me know what it means and looks like to BE the church.

Blessed by each of you,

Student Pastor Cassidy Hall

studentpastor@fcindy.org

As the final weeks of my semester comes to an end, I have been able to reflect on the many ways that I have grown through my experience as the Just Peace Intern. I have greatly enjoyed the many conversations and connections that I have been able to make through Vespers, Adult Education, and the Buzz. I have really enjoyed working with the church leadership during the last few months which led to the Just Peace Sunday. I am amazed not only by the



work that is being accomplished through the church but also by the dedication and passion of its church members. Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone who volunteered with Get Out the Vote as part of the collective work that supports Faith in Indiana. I hope that you all have enjoyed the work as much as I have and if you have any questions please reach out to mvaughn@butler.edu. Please stay in touch,
Maddy Vaughn, Just Peace Intern

Book Buzz Continues - what next for racial justice?



There are 2 sessions left in our discussions around "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown - Sundays Nov 8 and Nov 2. All are welcome - we will cover the last chapters of the book in the first session and the second session will be a final review and a discussion about what comes next. It is a critical step to understand the current situation and how we got here, but the value of that awareness is only realized in the changes in behaviors and the actions it pushes us towards. This is a great opportunity to get involved and discuss the variety of ways we can move forward

towards racial justice. We will meet by zoom at the standard church zoom meeting. Watch for more details in the weekly epistles.
Thanks!
Your racial justice task force: Pastor Sarah, Cassidy, Karen, Carol, Alice

Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

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. PCRC meet quarterly and are available throughout the year for support and conversation. We are blessed to have both Pastor Sarah and Pastor Carol serve our congregation. Currently, Pastor Carol's focus is on the following areas: pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education and Worship Leader coordination.

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Randy Walker, Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart
PCRC for Pastor Carol: Bob Cook, Gloria Boedeker, Clark Collier, susana-judith rae

Moderator's Reflections

As temperatures cool and days shorten I'm aware of the coming of the holiday season. In other years I'd now be making plans for a trip to Florida for Thanksgiving with our family there, along with Christmas plans here with our daughter and son-in-law. But we all know how different this year is. To our extreme dismay, we now see coronavirus cases rising dramatically (locally and nationally), with the expectation of public health experts that the worst is yet to come. We must continue wearing a mask, washing our hands, and keeping our distance from others in order to survive this pandemic resurgence.



So holidays this year will not be spent with our kids. The last holiday Jim and I spent without family was the year our son's birth was due on Thanksgiving, so we didn't make plans for anything other than a brief hospital stay. (Our son actually arrived a week later.) It will be a new experience to set our Thanksgiving table for just the two of us. Thank God for Zoom so that we can still have a socially distanced family visit! I suspect that many of us who would normally be away on the holidays will be home this year instead, so it seems appropriate

that we gather as a church family to celebrate our beloved community. **A Zoom gathering for anyone who wishes to join in will be available on Thanksgiving afternoon**, and I hope to virtually share some Thanksgiving pie with many of our faithful.

I also look forward to some enriching video Advent services now in the planning stages. Even as we continue to worship at a distance from one another, we can still come together to celebrate this holy season at our regular Sunday morning worship time. The Worship Design Team is also working on plans for Christmas Eve. Yes, we will have a service (on line), with a possible addition of some time to visit the church grounds that evening. Watch for more information about what to expect for a spiritually uplifting Christmas Eve.

The joy and work of our church goes on, even during challenging times, as it has many times in our history. I encourage us all to be a part of that joy and that work as we continue to confront this most challenging time.

- Alice Rutherford, Moderator

This Month at FC*

SUNDAYS	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class (Zoom)
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, Dial In, Facebook)
SUNDAYS	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour (Zoom - immediately after worship)
SUNDAYS	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers
TUESDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see special Zoom link in Pastor announcements)
TUESDAYS	7:00 p.m.	Vespers (Zoom)
WEDNESDAYS	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesdays (Zoom)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, Nov 1	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday – outside at FC
Tuesday, Nov 3	6AM-6PM	REMEMBER TO VOTE!!!
Wednesday, Nov 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees (Zoom)
Sunday, Nov 8	12:30 p.m.	Book Buzz (Zoom)
Wednesday, Nov 11	5:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team (Zoom)
Thursday, Nov 12	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Saturday, Nov 14	10:00 a.m.	Outdoor Food Drive (FC patio)
Tuesday, Nov 17	1:30 p.m.	Book Circle (Zoom)
Wednesday, Nov 18	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (Zoom)
Thursday, Nov 19	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom)
Saturday, Nov 21	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk
Sunday, Nov 22	12:30 p.m.	Book Buzz (Zoom)

****All activities are through the use of Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, or phone call-in unless otherwise stated.***

To join Zoom meetings, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign. You can call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

Church Council & Comeback Team

On 10/21/20, the Church Council approved the following changes to the current in-person gathering policy:

Effective immediately, the church building is closed to in-person church gatherings until the following parameters are reached, based on guidance from Dr Virginia Cane, Marion County Public Health Director:

A 7-day average of 5% (or less) positivity among unique individuals tested for a two-week period, and new cases per day at 35 or under in Marion County, per the metrics shown on www.coronavirus.in.gov.

At that time, the Council will decide reopening measures. If the rate lowers and then increases again, restrictions may be reinstated. Due to time and resources for planning worship content, it may be several weeks

before worship begins in the sanctuary, where 6 ft distancing, face coverings, and no-singing protocols will apply.

The church grounds remain available for in-person gatherings where 6 ft distancing and face coverings are used. The gathering size shall be regulated by the ability to hear one another. Participants are asked to bring their own chairs and beverages, and restrooms are available for emergency use only.

The Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School will be using the playground and classrooms on the Main Floor and basement levels. If you need to be in the building, do not use the south stairwell and avoid being in these hallways. Please wash your hands in the kitchenette or use the sanitizer at the cleaning cart, sign in, and wear a face mask while in the building.

We value the opportunity to be together, but are equally desirous to keep one another healthy by limiting ways to inadvertently shed virus!

WORSHIP & FAITH

Elizabeth Price, Chair

Sunday Adult Class, 9:30-10:30 am

Adult Education will continue to meet **via Zoom** during the month of November, and will continue to educate ourselves on issues of Racial Justice. This month we devote two Sundays to hearing from the Wampanoag Nation, the first native people to greet the Pilgrims.

We will also devote a Sunday to “Devoted to Generosity” with Wendy Baldwin facilitating. These sessions are actually Bible studies that have proven to be a rich source of reflection and discussion. Stewardship is not just about giving money to our church; it is about how we live our lives, how we care for the planet, and how we love one another. Hope to see you all!

November 1: This Sunday we will turn our attention to the Wampanoag Nation of native peoples, one of several native peoples who lived in what is now known as S. E. Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims and Puritans first settled. We will watch an 8 minute video titled “We Are Still Here: 400 years of Wampanoag History,” available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Yzmp383dwjo>. In addition, if time permits, we will reflect on the first 3 pages of this educational resource titled “American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving,” from the National Museum of the American Indian. Note that this resource resides on the UCC Here is the link:

https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Native_American_Perspectives_on_Thanksgiving.pdf

November 8: This week Maddy will facilitate a discussion about the concept of having a growth mindset vs a fixed mindset. The link below provides a brief overview of the concept and some examples:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KUWn_TJTrnU. In conjunction, we will read and discuss the daily devotional about growth mindset available on the United Church of Christ website:

https://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional_growth_mindset.

Lastly, we will discuss how we can develop a growth mindset in our own personal lives, what it means, and how it might change how we live our daily lives.

November 15: Led by Wendy Baldwin, join us to discern and discuss a selected Bible passage, and how it speaks to us about generosity and stewardship.

November 22: In 1970 at the 350th commemoration of the Mayflower landing at Plymouth, a Wampanoag leader named Wamsutta (Frank B.) James was invited to speak at the state dinner. Wamsutta accepted, and wrote a speech explaining how to the native peoples, the Thanksgiving holiday is a day of mourning. The planners asked to review his speech prior to the event, and they determined it was not appropriate. They asked Wamsutta to change it. He refused, and his invitation to speak was withdrawn. We will read and reflect on his speech, found at this link. http://www.uaine.org/suppressed_speech.htm. Time permitting, we will return to our previous resource and look at pages 6-8 from “American Indian Perspectives on Thanksgiving,” from the National Museum of the American Indian, found here: https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Native_American_Perspectives_on_Thanksgiving.pdf

November 29: Poetry as Prophecy – Student Pastor Cassidy hall will be walking us through some poetry (including videos of readings) so that we can discuss the prophetic nature of poetry. You’re encouraged to bring your own poem to share with the group, as we plan to hear from a variety of poets. One thing to keep in mind when selecting a poem: *what makes this poem or this poet feel prophetic?*

3 Ways to Connect for Worship



FACE BOOK

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page i
nternal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal)



YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 10:45am with 15 minutes of gathering music. The service begins at 11am.



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.

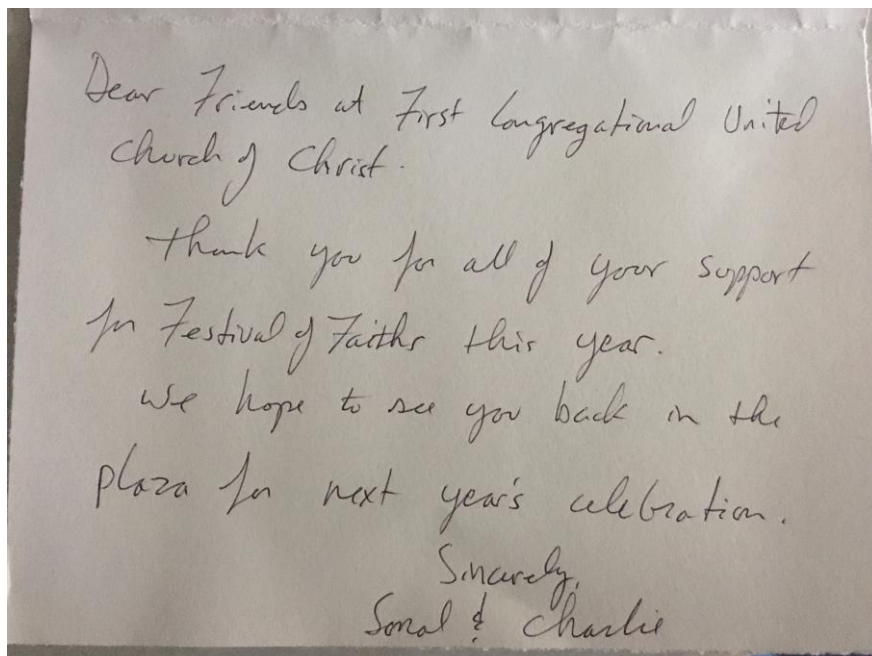


In-Person Worship Outside (weather permitting)

Sundays, November 1st & 15th

Nov 1: Please bring your own communion elements.
(Image from <https://fpcdallas.org/>)

Festival of Faiths: Letter of Thanks



OUTREACH & SERVICE

Ann Leatherman, Chair

Mission of the Month (MOM): Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically.

In such a time as this, the need for the Christmas Fund is more urgent than ever. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Mitten Tree” Combines with Food Drives

This year our “Mitten Tree” collection will continue but will combine with the monthly Food Pantry Drives. We will collect winter hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves for both children and adults for Exodus Refugee. Bring your winter items to the Food Drives (Nov. 14 and Dec. 12) or drop them off at church during the week and deposit them in the specially designated containers. Exodus has greatly appreciated our support in this way in the past and looks forward to our help this year. The deadline will be December 13.

CROP Walk & FC Indy

Thank you to all who have generously given to help those with hunger insecurity! The CROP Walk works to raise money to “end hunger one step at a time”, and we held a symbolic walk at the church on 10/10. This year, Second Helpings will receive 25% of all Walk funds raised, while the remaining funds provide aid to our brothers and sisters in other areas of the US as well as worldwide. We have raised over \$2200, and it’s not too late to give - Send a check made out to the church and designated for CROP, or go online to <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/Team/View/139286/First-Congregational-UCC>. Questions? Contact George Meier.

WISE Mental Health Team



The FC WISE Mental Health Team seeks new members interested in promoting mental health, removing stigma of mental illness and working for justice for those affected by mental illness. We meet monthly (currently via Zoom) the second Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. (Next meeting is October 14th). Come join our active and caring team trying to live out God's call to love one another through our commitment to those experiencing mental health challenges, their families and friends.

For more information contact co-chairs, Pat Larracey, [317-625-6801](tel:317-625-6801)-plainandfancy1963@att.net and Sandy Wood, 317-225-6206- csjlwood@att.net.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE IKC
UCC CONGREGATIONS FOR
MENTAL HEALTH
FALL 2020 WEBINAR
November 13-14, 2020

UCC Congregations for Mental Health – Fall 2020 Seminar

Mental health conditions are common everywhere, including in our churches. People are dealing with a variety of mental health and substance use challenges every day. Due to stigma, many people may be reluctant to either seek professional help or to speak about it with their pastor or other members of their church. But we want to create a place of belonging, where

all people...including those with mental health challenges...are welcome, no matter where they are on life's journey.

Everyone is welcome to attend: church members, lay leaders, clergy, seminary students, mental health professionals. This is an opportunity to:

- learn about mental health
- explore how our faith communities can support those among us with mental health challenges
- attend practical workshops
- receive resources

Friday, November 13, 2020 (6:00 – 8:00 pm Eastern Time)

- Welcome
- Keynote Address
- Becoming a WISE Congregation for Mental Health: the 10 Steps

Saturday, November 14, 2020 (10 am – 4:30 PM Eastern Time)

- Workshops on:
 - ❖ Mental Health 101
 - ❖ Depression/Anxiety/Grief in the time of Covid
 - ❖ Trauma Informed Congregations
 - ❖ Starting a Mental Health Spiritual Support Group
 - ❖ Addiction/Opioid Crisis
 - ❖ Suicide: Prevention, Intervention, Postvention
 - ❖ Clergy Mental Health
- Panel Discussion: Ableism – The Intersection of Mental Health with Racism/LGBTQIA+/Disabilities
- The Basics: How one church started a Mental Health Ministry and voted to become a WISE Congregation
- Breakout Room discussion
- Closing Worship

Registration Fee: \$25 (limited number of scholarships available)

To Register, Go to: <http://ikcucc.org/events/ucc-congregations-for-mental-health-fall-2020-seminar/>

Contact Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey to have registration link forwarded or answer any of your questions.

Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health Conditions or Challenges, and Wellness: Thursdays from 5:00-6:00PM on Zoom

This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning their well-being. We have covenanted with:

- care givers of loved ones who have mental illness, i.e. dementia and Alzheimer's
- chaplains seeking to renew their wellness
- burned out and overwhelmed medical folk
- fears of parents, grandparents, and teachers about school and college
- those with trauma, grief, up and down moods, disorders, stigma, emotional issues

We are an open group with confidentiality guidelines. Sessions are on Zoom and are led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, co-chair of the church's WISE Team. Please feel free to call or email either of us if you have questions: Pastor Sarah: pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012. Dr. Pat: plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey

Contact me at 317-625-6801, or email: plainandfancy1963@att.net, or attend a session anytime to discover for yourself.

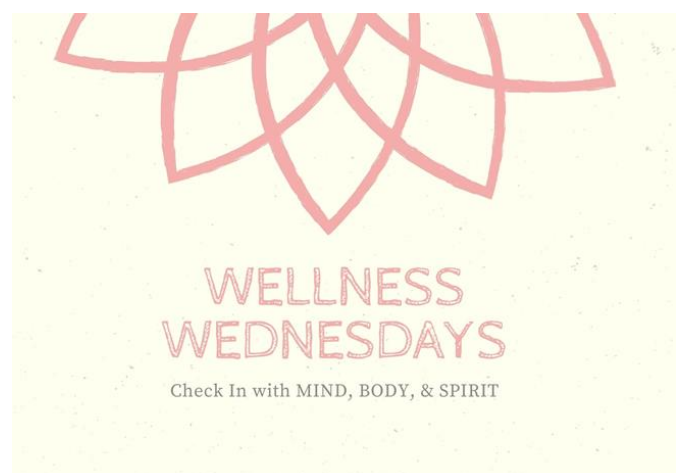
Dealing with Stress

Everyone has daily stresses which can seem more upsetting during the stress of this pandemic. I find I am more affected by small issues than prior to this crisis. As a mental health professional I know I need to deal with these stresses rather than allow them to build up if I am to maintain my overall health. One thing that has helped me recently has been Shannon Abbott's **Wellness Wednesday Zoom sessions at 10:30 a.m.** I access them through the church's Zoom link which is published in the weekly e-pistle, monthly Colony, weekly Wellness Wednesday email, and is also available on Facebook.

If I am free at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, I can click the Zoom link and connect to Shannon and others also accessing the session. I can turn off my camera for privacy if I wish and still be a part of the group. A week ago when I had to take my computer in for service (stress) at the time of the Wellness Wednesday, I accessed the recorded session. The recordings are posted on the church website and facebook page. The 1st Wednesday of every month the session is 5-10 minutes long and subsequent Wednesdays the length is 30 minutes. I come away from the sessions more relaxed and more at peace, a definite plus during a stressful time! I encourage you to give it a try either on Wednesdays or when it fits into your schedule. Doing so can boost mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness.

Wellness Wednesdays in November

- ❖ **November 4:** No Live Zoom - See our website or facebook page for a video.
- ❖ **November 11:** Nurturing Mental Wellness
- ❖ **November 18:** Nurturing Physical Wellness
- ❖ **November 25:** Nurturing Spiritual Wellness



Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

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- Sandy Wood

CARE & CONNECTIONS

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Thanksgiving Day Zoom Gathering – Thursday, 11/26, 3-4 pm

Celebrate Thanksgiving with our church family when so many of us are unable to be with others. We'll meet on Zoom, share our favorite stories and traditions, and even try some activities. We hope you can be there, either on screen or on the phone!



(Image: kindrickhome.net)

Food Drive & Fellowship! Second Saturday – November 14, 10-noon

Let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations to the Northside Pantry, who is very grateful that we are doing this! You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper to recycle. You can also bring any unwanted 2021 calendars and notepads that you may be receiving in the mail; we are collecting these for Exodus Refugee, as well as hats, mittens, and scarves that we are collecting for the next month. And our greatest gift – the ability to spend a few minutes of in-person fellowship with those that are there, while maintaining safe distance protocols.

Vesper Gatherings – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays, 4:30-5 pm, in the Patio Courtyard & Tuesdays, 7-7:30 pm on Zoom

With lessening daylight and colder weather, we are exploring ways to continue the fellowship we have shared the past few months. As long as the weather allows, on Sundays at 4:30, join us in the patio courtyard for a quiet time to ponder scripture, and share our joys and concerns. Bring a chair and face mask as we spend some precious time with one another in person. On Tuesdays, we will meet at 7 pm for a half hour on Zoom, to be together virtually.

NEW – Monthly Walks – 3rd Saturday of the month, 11 am

Join us each month for a half hour walk in the beautiful neighborhood around the church. On Saturday, 11/21, we'll meet at 11 am and head off for a walk

and a time to catch up with one another. Please wear a mask, and dress appropriately for the weather.

TRUSTEES

Steve Coomer & Randy Walker, Co-Chairs

Financial Update
When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through September 30, 2020.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary
1/1/2020 through 9/30/2020 Using 2020 Budget 1

Category	1/1/2020 Actual	- Budget	9/30/2020 Difference
INCOME	167,213	174,404	-7,191
M. Unrestricted Contributions	167,213	174,404	-7,191
M.01 Pledged Offerings	143,227	124,002	19,225
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	8,659	15,075	-6,416
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	15,327	15,327	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	10,000	-10,000
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	10,000	-10,000
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.07. Transfer from Youth Fund	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
EXPENSES	184,282	191,777	7,495
A. Pastoral Leadership	89,503	92,237	2,734
B. Worship & Faith	26,669	31,418	4,749
C. Care & Connections	188	315	127
D. Witness & Welcome	350	814	464
E. Outreach & Service	13,107	12,430	-677
F. Trustees	195	164	-31
G. Administration & Operations	15,086	15,742	657
H. House & Grounds	34,448	33,619	-829
I. Miscellaneous	4,736	5,039	303
Net Difference:	-17,069	-17,373	304

Highlights - Year to date:

- **Income** of \$167,200 was \$7,200 below budget - but the budget assumed we would have drawn \$20,000 from the Foundation, which we have not needed. Adjusting for this, income exceeded budget by \$12,800 thanks to strong pledge receipts.
- **Expenses** of \$184,300 were \$7,500 below budget. Most of the savings comes from Worship and Faith, attributable to the virtual-only services - no choir director since June, other music savings, no child care.
- **Cash** remained strong at September 30, with \$35,600 in checking and \$23,400 in the Fidelity money market account. This is attributable to our strong pledge receipts and the \$34,400 in PPP funds we received in May.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com

Annual Campaign for 2021

It is that time of the year when our church seeks to identify funding and resources for our ministries and programs in 2021. Through the course of 2020, we have had regular opportunities to explore being Devoted to Generosity. In early November, you will receive packets containing information, pledge cards, and Time & Talent cards to prayerfully consider how you will participate in 2021 to provide for the ministry of First Congregational United Church of Christ. We ask that you respond in November to this invitation. We are so thankful for your generosity in 2020, even in the midst of a pandemic! We pray for continued support in 2021 as we navigate how to Be the Church in new and different times. May God bless us as we journey together.

- Wendy Baldwin



Green Power

Would you like to help the environment? A good way is to use solar, wind, or water sources to generate the electricity that powers our homes. In Indianapolis we can tell our electric company, the Indianapolis Power and Light Company (IPL), to provide us power (electricity) from such sources. The “green power” that IPL provides to its customers is generated at wind farms in Indiana or surrounding states. IPL purchases this power using renewable energy credits, the cost of which its consumers pay. Consumers can elect to purchase 25, 50, or 100% of their power as this green power.



The additional cost to get “green” electricity is minimal. For example, the cost of 100% green power to our house in September was just an additional \$2.11. The more we customers can support the environment by reducing the current burning of coal that pollutes our air, ground, and water, the

better. Duke Energy services areas surrounding Marion County and may have a similar program. IPL may be reached at 317-261-8222.

- Bill Gillette for the Green Team

COMMUNITY

Caregiver to the Caregiver

"Serve one another in works of love [...]" (Galatians 4:13, The Inclusive Bible).

Mom, No need to stay overnight in the hospital. Not during these coronavirus days....

i'll barrel down the Interstate from Chicago, put on a mask, and drive you on to the hospital. And, after the surgeries, i'll zoom you back home the very same day.

Not to worry... For those 24 hours after surgery, i'll watch over you.



(Image: safespaceradio.com)

Here, Mom. To decrease swelling, put this bag of frozen blueberries on your incisions.

In 20 minutes, i'll be back to return the berries to the freezer.

No, Mom, your surgical wounds aren't bleeding.

That purplish blood is just blueberry stain!

Meals of yummy tomato basil soup, along with memories of Basil and Sybil Towers, Manuel, Polly, and the Major. Hooray for PBS's *Fawlty Towers*.

Mom, i'm back from Kroger with the Progresso butternut squash soup. Surprise. See the large reddish pink rose surrounded by lots of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet-colored flowers? Plus, lots of greenery all around?

Remember when, as a kid, i taught you who Roy G. Biv was? You were so impressed.

And recall all my Magic-Marker drawings of rainbows and rainbow-like birds? Perhaps you called the birds painted buntings; i called them rainbow birds.

Sorry, Mom, starting in five minutes, i have another Zoom meeting on my laptop.

Rest easy. The meeting ends in an hour.

Time for some of that scrumptious butternut squash soup.

Here, Earl, i fixed you a sandwich, a glass of milk, and some coleslaw.

Thanks, Earl. i'm really glad to see you, too. Yes, it was way too long between visits.

Here, Mom, I'll cut carrot slices to add to your soup. Just what the doctor ordered.

i know you'll want an avocado on that gluten-free bread. You do love avocados!

OK, Earl, let's practice one more time. My mom had surgery and needs a restful,

good night's sleep. Can you sit here in your favorite chair? Thank you for cooperating.

You can talk to Mom tomorrow—when she's in less pain.

Monday night, Tuesday, and Wednesday flew by. How can it be Thursday already?

Sorry, Mom, about 4:30 this afternoon, i have to hustle back home. Wish i could stay longer.

How does a son say "good-bye" to his ailing mom after her surgeries during Covid days?

Surely, with sadness. Let's say "good-bye" now, complete with virtual hugs. Then, when my Zoom meeting is over about 4:30, and while you're in your Writing Center Zoom appointment, i'll stand here in the hallway and wave good-bye ...

Love you, Mom. 'Bye!

With Thanks to my son Mike,
-susanna-judith rae

Meridian Hills School

We've been busy making memories at Meridian Hills and this timely article from "Your Growing Child" summed up memory making in 2020.

In these stressful pandemic times, with opportunity for contemplation, our minds often drift to recollections of pleasanter times. Consider occasions when you have truly enjoyed being with your children, family and friends.

Picture the setting - where were you? Was it cozy times together at home, or adventures outdoors? Perhaps it was a vacation somewhere, with time for you all to connect? Was it something you decided would be fun for the family to enjoy, or an idea from one of your children?

Let your mind drift as you enjoy these reminiscences. Try to be there again in your memory. Can you hear the laughter and see your kids' faces? Can you feel your own pleasure in sharing this time together?

In fact, it would be fun to ask your kids for their own favorite memories first. I know many parents have been concerned about the effects of Covid and the pandemic on their growing children, and it may be too soon for this conversation, but sometime down the road, why not bring up the question of what they remember from this time. You might be surprised to learn that they have happy memories of how you all spent so very much time together, perhaps baking and cooking more, or with opportunities for games and creative ways to help others.

They, of course, didn't have some of the same adult anxieties that you parents have for keeping everyone safe and functioning in work and school - to say nothing of running a household while isolated - and can focus on the family fun. But keep this in mind, to lessen your own anxieties: there have probably been happy memories stored in these dark times.

Consider also that in many cases, you don't realize you are making memories. You just knew you were having fun, or sharing something new, or supporting your kids to learn a new skill. Memory-making is not something you add to a

parenting to-do list for Monday, like make dental appointments, buy new running shoes, or clean out the toy shelves.

With no direct effort from you, your children's brains are storing away their times with you so they can pull them out for savoring later in their lives. Sure, there's some less than great stuff being stored away as well, like being scared by the neighbor's dog or having to wear big sister's hand-me-down-jeans, but if we concentrate on the pleasant routines and extra special happenings, the unpleasant will be far outweighed by the happy memories.

Happy memories are pleasurable, and they are also ways we keep our relationships and continue our influence, long after our children grow up.

- Christine Wise, MHCNS Director

What will the pandemic do to congregations?

By Dennis C. Sasso

These months of quarantine and social distance have challenged congregations and faith communities to find new ways of giving meaning to religious life and experience. Religion in quarantine, observed from our sofas and living rooms, has necessitated that we engage more intentionally, more honestly. The solitude of virtual religiosity makes us yearn for community, but also elicits a more thoughtful encounter with the core values and ideals of our faith traditions.

The philosopher Alfred North Whitehead said that religion is what “a man [sic] does with his solitariness.” How is religion doing in your solitariness?

Our religious traditions are preeminently communal. Synagogue and ecclesia are both Greek terms that mean “gathering” or “assembly.” What happens to that sense of community during quarantine?

Social distancing has forced businesses and other organizations, and especially religious congregations, to rethink and retool. Accustomed to coming together in assembly, we have learned to promote a sense of community from our separate living, dining and family rooms, from our patios and back yards. This outreach has been of immeasurable value, particularly to those who are unable to be together physically.

How will these experiences serve us once the pandemic is over? Will the increased interest and participation in services and programs through Zoom and Livestream result in the revitalization or weakening of congregational/organizational life once we are able to return to previous social patterns?

Will the comfort of experiencing services from your own private space lead to increased expectations of privatized and customized religion? Even as we call on Amazon to deliver our orders to our front door, will we expect the church, synagogue, mosque or temple to deliver services and programs to our living rooms? Religion, a click away!

Though we cannot foresee the future of congregational life or the contours of post-quarantine religion, we can all, clergy and congregants, help to shape its form, define its ingredients, incorporate and adapt what worked during quarantine into ongoing practices that will honor our faith and give positive expression to our religious values. During the last seven months, we have succeeded at being places of worship without walls that yearn for your return. We bring the congregation to you, but we can't wait until you can bring yourself to the congregation.

The story is told of a youth who wanted to become a blacksmith. He apprenticed to a master blacksmith and perfected all the skills and techniques of the trade: how to hold the tongs, lift the sledge, smite the anvil, and blow the fire with the bellows. Upon completing training, he was chosen to work at the smithery of the royal palace. But the youth's delight soon came to an end when he realized that he knew all the skills, but had failed to learn how to kindle the spark.

After this interim period of Zoom and Livestream, may we remember not just how to turn on the computer, but how to kindle the spark and nurture the passion to keep faith and congregations bright and alive. •

- Sasso is senior rabbi at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck.

IKC UCC Southeast Association Eviction Ministry

As we give thanks during this season of gratitude, we are grateful that due to the pandemic there has been a halt in evictions, because homelessness increases the health risks of families. This brief reprieve gives us the opportunity to prepare for the needs of Central Indiana families in the coming months. As we prepare for 2021, we need your support.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Financial Support** - 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)



**YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE,
DON'T GIVE IT UP!**



If you haven't already, VOTE!

Remember to vote on or before November 3rd! And while you're at it, remind others to do the same!

For more resources go to: <https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Colony Submission Deadline: Please email your submissions to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org by **Thursday, November 19th**.

Women's Lunch Bunch: All women of the church are invited to get together once a month at **11:30am**. via Zoom for lunch, friendship and fellowship. This month, they meet on **November 19th**. For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Men's Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1:00pm**. This month, due to Thanksgiving, they are meeting only on **November 12th**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.

Book Circle: We continue our discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. For the meeting in November we will finish the book. We are currently meeting on zoom - the third Tuesday of each month (**November 17th**) from **1:30 - 3:30pm**. For more information please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency Fund seeks to support your housing, food, and medical needs if you find yourselves unemployed or underemployed. You can send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website. To request funds for you or your family, please contact me by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.



ACTION CALENDAR: NEW WAYS NOVEMBER 2020

SUNDAY

1 Make a list of new things you want to do this month

8 Find out something new about someone you care about

15 Go outside and do something playful - walk, run, explore, relax

22 Find a new way to tell someone you appreciate them

29 Discover your artistic side. Design your own Christmas cards!

MONDAY

2 Respond to a difficult situation in a different way

9 Plan a new activity or idea you want to try out this week

16 Look at life through someone else's eyes and see their perspective

23 Set aside a regular time to pursue an activity you love

30 Look for reasons to be hopeful, even in difficult times

TUESDAY

3 Get outside and observe the changes in nature around you

10 When you feel you can't do something, add the word "yet"

17 Try a new way to practice self-care and be kind to yourself

24 Share with a friend something helpful you learned recently

WEDNESDAY

4 Sign up to join a new course, activity or online community

11 Be curious. Learn about a new topic or an inspiring idea

18 Connect with someone from a different generation

25 Use one of your strengths in a new or creative way

THURSDAY

5 Change your normal routine today and notice how you feel

12 Overcome a frustration by trying out a new approach

19 Broaden your perspective: read a different paper, magazine or site

26 Tune in to a different radio station or TV channel

FRIDAY

6 Give yourself a boost. Try a new way of being physically active

13 Choose a different route and see what you notice on the way

20 Make a meal using a recipe or ingredient you've not tried before

27 Enjoy new music today. Play, sing, dance or listen

SATURDAY

7 Be creative. Cook, draw, write, paint, make or inspire

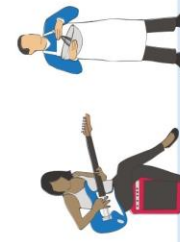
14 Find a new way to help or support a cause you care about

21 Learn a new skill from a friend or share one of yours with them

28 Join a friend doing their hobby and find out why they love it



"You never know what you can do until you try" ~ C. S. Lewis



ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

Learn more about this month's theme at www.actionforhappiness.org/new-ways-november

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind