

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of November 12, 2020

Dear First Congregational,

First Congregational blesses me in so many ways, especially this year when we face so many challenges. I am grateful to be part of the Body of Christ with you all. Together we hold the light of Christ for one another, reminding one another of God's unconditional love for us all. It is with the reassurance of God's love that I share the sad news that my niece, Sydney Griffith, died by suicide at the age of 16. Since her death on Monday, November 2, I have spent time helping my brother Steve (Sydney's father) and the family to make arrangements for the memorial service this Saturday, November 14 in Columbia, Missouri. Here is Sydney's obituary and photo: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/columbia-mo/sydney-griffith-9897045>.

I know that as a WISE Church for mental health, I have the love and support of our congregation. I know there is no shame or stigma here. I am grateful that I do not feel ashamed and can speak openly so that I can begin to heal from the pain of this loss. We wish Sydney had gotten the help she dearly needed. If you or

someone you know needs help, please call the **Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255**. All of us need the reassurance that we are loved and we are not alone.

I am thankful to Pastor Carol for providing pastoral care during my time away, and to our Student Pastor Cassidy for leading worship. Thanks to our wonderful staff members Shannon and Sean for the extra support as we seek to serve our congregation, even during difficult times.

I am also thankful that this weekend our congregation is helping to host the online UCC WISE Conference in partnership with the UCC Mental Health Network and with the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. There's still time to register for this event, which begins Friday evening and ends Saturday afternoon. The keynote is by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe who visited us a couple of years ago to talk about how churches can help prevent suicide and minister to people impacted by suicide. Here is the link to register to the WISE Conference: <https://www.mhn-ucc.org/wise-ikc-fall-webinar-2020/>.

No matter what, I am convinced that God is with us. We do not journey alone. Let's continue to work together to share this light of hope and love with the world.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m. (Zoom)

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.

Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)

Scriptures: Mark 6:30-32; Luke 6:12-13; Luke 5:15-16

Sermon: "The Holiness of Rest" (Student Pastor Cassidy Hall preaching)

Mission of the Month: Faith in Indiana

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship

Outdoor Vespers on Sundays from 4:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Join us for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns. Bring a chair and face mask. We practice our love by keeping distant and wearing

race coverings. *Note: Outdoor vespers will not be held if the temperature is below 50, it is raining, OR the winds are above 20 mph.*

Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

THIS WEEK AT FC (11/12 - 11/18)

Remembering Velma Anderson

Our dear friend Velma Lucile Anderson, died on Friday morning, November 6, after a brief time in hospice. Anyone who has met Velma will have a pocket full of stories and memories. Due to the pandemic, we are unable to honor her with a church funeral and reception like we have done for our other church family members in the past. A Celebration of Life will take place at the Leppert Mortuary in Nora on November 17 at 2:00 pm. It will be limited to family and close friends. Pastor Sarah will be participating in the service and representing FC.

However, you will be able to watch the service. The service will be live streamed on Leppert's website. If you click on the link below, you will find a link at the bottom of the page "JOIN LIVESTREAM" that will take you to the service. This page also includes Velma's obituary. She was certainly a remarkable woman!

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/indianapolis-in/velma-anderson-9892158>

On this page you can also make a donation to Camp Riley and/or First Congregational United Church of Christ memorial fund. You may also share a memory and condolences.

Cards can also be sent to her son Alan at this address:

Alan Anderson
2280 Surface Drive
Greenwood, IN 46143

As we gather at coffee hour this coming Sunday we can take some time to share our memories of Velma.

TODAY!

- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 PM:** Contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more info.
- **Spiritual Support Group from 5:00 - 6:00 PM (Zoom):** This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pat

Larracey at plainandirancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

Food Drive on 11/14, 10AM - noon

So you can prepare in the next week, bring canned goods, as well as hats, scarves, and mittens for the “Mitten Tree”.

After raising almost 400 lbs of food supplies in last month’s drive, we received the following message from the Northside Pantry: *“We are so thankful for your continued support of our Pantry. This last month we served 512 families/2159 individuals. That is up 25% from our normal distribution. We have steadily been increasing since June. First Congregational Church is a blessing to Northside Food Pantry and we really appreciate all you do for the pantry.”*

UCC Congregations for Mental Health – Mental Health Network Fall 2020 Virtual Seminar (hosted by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC): Nov 13-14

For more information and to register, go to: <http://ikcucc.org/events/ucc-congregations-for-mental-health-fall-2020-seminar/>

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>

** Please note that this Zoom link is different from the Zoom links used for other FC events.*

Zoom Vespers on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns.

Wellness Wednesdays: 10:30AM (Zoom)

On Wednesday, November 18th join us as we nurture our physical wellness through mindful movements. This Zoom will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

Mission of the Month for November: Faith In Indiana

The November Mission of the Month is the Indianapolis based community action organization Faith in Indiana. Faith in Indiana helps churches to more actively address local social needs. In Indianapolis, the current action agenda includes addressing the issues of gun violence, mass incarceration, immigrant justice,

economic dignity, healthcare, and voting rights. Faith in Indiana provides an opportunity to work with other churches and have a greater voice and impact than if we acted alone. Faith in Indiana acts in the spirit of our Church's historical mission to join with others in faith to address the needs of others in our local community.

For more information, go to: <https://faithinindiana.org/what-we-do/>. To contribute to this effort, write a check to First Congregational, and designate Faith in IN in the Memo line, or go to <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>.

COMING UP

Devoted to Generosity - Annual Campaign to Fund our Ministries for 2021

We are currently in the midst of our Annual Campaign for 2021. Even during a pandemic, First Congregational continues its mission to transform lives through so many important ministries. Will you show your support by mailing in your pledge card and Time & Talent by November 30, 2020? Questions, or need the materials, contact Wendy Baldwin.

December Colony Submission Deadline - NEXT WEEK

Please email your submissions to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org **no later than Thursday, November 19th**. Earlier submissions are greatly appreciated due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom) - Thursday, 11/19 at 11:30 a.m.

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.

Book Buzz - last one on Sunday, November 22!

We had another impactful discussion this Sunday - recognizing that progress doesn't always feel like progress when there is still so much racism happening and figuring out how to keep hopeful as the movement continues. There is no book buzz this Sunday - the next one is November 22, where we will share how this book has impacted or challenged us and what our potential next steps could be as a church community.

Austin Channing Brown's challenge includes these words from page 171 in *I'm Still Here*: *"Reconciliation is not about white feelings. It's about diverting power and attention to the oppressed, toward the powerless. It's not enough to dabble at*

diversity and inclusion while leaving the existing authority structure in place. Reconciliation demands more."

A lot to think about! All are welcome to the discussion
Thanks! From the racial justice task force:
Pastor Sarah, Carol, Alice, Cassidy, Karen

Book Circle (Zoom) - Tues, 11/24 (NEW DATE) at 1:30PM

We continue our discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. For the meeting in November we will finish the book. For more information please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

Please click [HERE](#) to view the November Colony with more information and events happening this month!

CONNECTION & SUPPORT

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 away through 11/15, Pastor Carol may be reached at (317)496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

After 11/15, Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days: Mondays & Saturdays

The congregation covenant with Pastor Sarah to provide 2 days per week for personal rest and family renewal. On Mondays and Saturdays, Pastor Sarah is not available unless it is a pastoral emergency. Thank you for honoring this sacred gift of Sabbath time for our Pastor and her family.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspire.net)

vice moderator, Larry Ecker (lspecker@comcast.net)

Mental Health Support:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text "TalkWithUs" to 66746.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Information HelpLine provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and www.nami.org.
- **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

FC Covid Protocols:

Effective immediately, the church building is closed to in-person church gatherings until the following parameters are reached, based on guidance from Dr Virginia Caine, 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.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

3 Ways to Connect for Worship

YOUTUBE

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

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 10:45am with 15 minutes of gathering music. The service begins at 11am..
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal

- The video will be posted at 11am.
- This is for viewing only. For live interacting and commenting, please use the YouTube option.

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.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlY1BoaEFVUTo9>

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.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, Nov 12	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Nov 12	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Fri-Sat, Nov 13-14		Mental Health Network Fall 2020 Virtual Seminar
Saturday, Nov 14	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive
Sunday, Nov 15	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Nov 15	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Nov 15	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Nov 15	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers
Tuesday, Nov 17	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care w/ Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, Nov 17	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Nov 18	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Thursday, Nov 19	11:45 p.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom)

Thursday, Nov 19	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, Nov 21	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (FC)
Sunday, Nov 22	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Nov 22	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Nov 22	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Nov 22	12:30 p.m.	Zoom Book Buzz
Sunday, Nov 22	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers

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