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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of November 19, 2020

## Dear First Congregational,

One of the greatest gifts of this congregation is our commitment to lifelong learning, growth, and development. This continuing process of spiritual evolution is rooted in our faith tradition. Progressive Christianity embraces change. We celebrate God's presence in us, through us, and around us in all of Creation. As we change and as the world changes, our experiences and understanding of God changes with us.

I rejoice in the opportunity to share our values of justice, liberation, love and peace with younger generations through our internship programs. Our partnership with Butler University's Center for Faith and Vocation is now in its second year and continues strong through our Just Peace Internship program. This week we say "thank you" to our fall 2020 Just Peace Intern, Maddy Vaughn. This semester she has led the way for voter justice, leading our efforts to get out the vote in this historic election. Maddy has strengthened our relationship with Faith In Indiana, and she has encouraged us to embrace a "Growth Mindset." Join me in wishing

ivaddy well as she completes her senior year at Butler and prepares for law school next fall. Thank you Maddy and God's blessings be with you!

We will be welcoming a new Just Peace Intern for the spring, and I am excited to continue this important ministry (more details to come). While we may be a smaller size congregation, we can have a mighty big impact on the lives we touch. For this, I give you and God thanks.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## **THIS SUNDAY**

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

**November 22:** In 1970 at the 350<sup>th</sup> 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 He refused, and his invitation to speak was withdrawn.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](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](https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/Native_American_Perspectives_on_Thanksgiving.pdf)

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

**Scripture:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Sermon:** "Giving to God"

**Mission of the Month:** Faith in Indiana

### **Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship, followed by Book Buzz at 12:30 p.m.**

Book Buzz - last one on November 22!

We have had a wonderful, meaningful journey with "I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made For Whiteness" by Austin Channing Brown. This Sunday we will look back at how this book has impacted each of us. We will also be discussing what the next steps should be for our church community on this journey towards

racial justice - what can we do together that will help us move forward - ourselves, each other, our community and the bigger systems. There are many paths we can follow, including more education, advocacy, partnering, and other actions. Bring you ideas!

While there are many many noteworthy quotes in this book, I think this one is worth repeating in preparation for our discussion on Sunday: "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."

As an indicator of some progress (thanks for sharing Susanna-Judith!) - note this article: "Sen. Greg Taylor Is First Black Leader of Legislative Caucus in State History,":

<https://www.wfyi.org/news/articles/sen-greg-taylor-is-first-black-leader-of-legislative-caucus-in-state-history>

A lot to think about! All are welcome to the discussion.

Thanks! From the racial justice task force:

Pastor Sarah, Carol, Alice, Cassidy, Karen

### **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 face 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 (11/19 - 11/25)**

### **TODAY!**

- **Women's Lunch at 11:45 AM:** Contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com) for more information.
- **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 [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net), or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

### **December Colony Submission Deadline**

If you have not already done so, please email your submissions to Shannon at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org) right away. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the December Colony will be sent out early next week.

### **Neighborhood Walk – Sat, 11/21, 11 am**

Meet in the church parking lot for our monthly walk in the neighborhood. We will wear masks, and keep distant, while walking and catching up with each other. The walk will last about a half hour. Dress appropriately, but we will cancel if it is raining.

**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.*

### **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](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)

### **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 25th** join us as we nurture our **spiritual wellness** through a celebration of autumn, its gifts and lessons. We will celebrate this season of gratitude through *scripture, storytelling, prayer, meditation, and movement*. This Zoom will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

### **Thanksgiving Zoom Gathering – Thurs, 11/26, 3 pm**

we'll gather together with our church family on our Zoom link to share Thanksgiving fellowship, fun, and friendship.

### **Mission of the Month for November: Faith In Indiana**

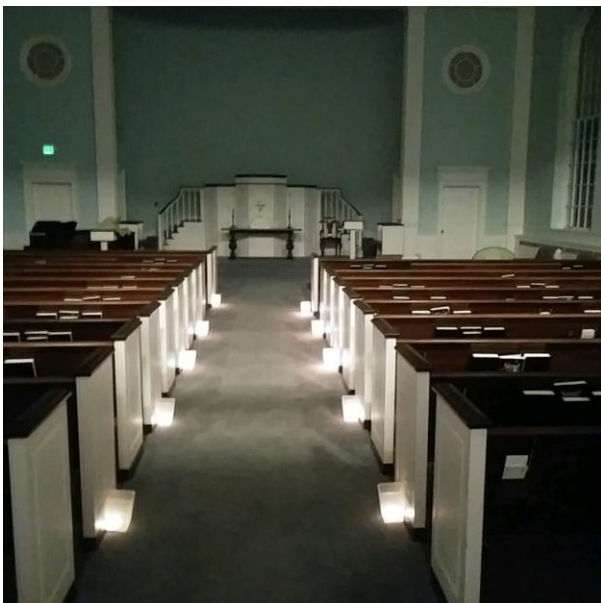
The November Mission of the Month is the Indianapolis based community action organization Faith in Indiana. Faith in Indiana helps churches to more actively address local social needs. In Indianapolis, the current action agenda includes addressing the issues of gun violence, mass incarceration, immigrant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

### **Advent**

After so many months of pandemic mitigation, it's hard to believe that Advent is almost upon us! November 29 marks the first Sunday of Advent this year, and our worship that day and in coming weeks will honor this holy season. Each Advent Sunday service will include a candle-lighting segment, so we suggest worshippers have a candle handy for lighting at home. Scripture readings will include time-honored familiar passages from Isaiah and the Gospels, and familiar hymns and carols will lift our spirits throughout the season. There's even something special for our children, so we hope all families and households – large and small – will gather each Advent Sunday morning on YouTube as our beloved faith community. Even in these dark days we can fill our lives with music and light!



### **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.



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**

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto: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.

### **Upcoming Vacation:**

Our Office Admin, Shannon, will be on vacation Nov 26 - Nov 30.

Pastor Sarah will be on vacation Nov 26 - Nov 29.

### **Additional Church Support Contacts**

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspirt.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirt.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@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](http://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](http://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](http://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](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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

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 19	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, Nov 19	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Friday, Nov 20	10:00 a.m.	PCRC (Pastor Sarah)
Saturday, Nov 21	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (at 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.	Book Buzz
Sunday, Nov 22	3:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Sunday, Nov 22	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers
Tuesday, Nov 24	1:30 p.m.	Book Circle
Tuesday, Nov 24	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care w/ Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, Nov 24	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Nov 25	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Thursday, Nov 26	3:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Day Zoom Gathering
Thursday, Nov 26	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support
Sunday, Nov 29	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Nov 29	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Nov 29	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Nov 29	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers

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