

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 14, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

While we continue to pray for our nation since the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, we also continue to do our work to better understand what drives the harmful behaviors of people seeking to terrorize others. We continue to live with uncertainty of the future of our nation in terms of maintaining peace. As a Just Peace Church, we are committed to peace with justice and during this time we pray for peace. We also do the work of justice and for us, that includes the work of racial justice.

Last Sunday, United Church of Christ minister and Senior Pastor Otis Moss III, of Trinity UCC in Chicago, preached a powerful sermon reflecting on the history that led to the January 6 attack. Here is a link to the sermonic message, "Chickens Coming Home to Roost." I invite us to listen carefully and prayerfully. View link here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UT3J8026vA>.

How is God calling us to respond to these times with peace and justice? How is

God calling us to witness to and share God's love?

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

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

January 17: Part 2 of "If It Weren't for the Women: Women's Leadership in Social Justice."

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

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-18

Sermon: "Held in God's Hands"

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship

Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church by mailing a check to the church or through online donations at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

THIS WEEK AT FC

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

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.

TODAY!

- **Men's Lunch, 1:00 p.m.** - Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.
- **Spiritual Support Group, 5:00 p.m.** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pat Larracey

at planning@fcindy.org, or 317-625-0801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

Annual Reports Due TOMORROW

If you haven't already turned in your Annual Report, please email it to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org by tomorrow.

Monthly Neighborhood Walk – Saturday, 1/16, 11:00AM

On Saturday, 1/16, we'll meet at FC 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. Contact Wendy Baldwin at wendy.baldwin@rci.com or (317) 319-0806 for more information.

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

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

Soul Care with Pastor Sarah via Zoom- Join us after Zoom Vespers on **Tuesdays at 7:30p.m.** Simply stick around after vespers for a time to check-in and to pray together.

Wellness Wednesday, January 20th at 10:30 a.m. (Zoom)

On Wednesday, January 20th, you are invited to participate in nurturing wellness through entering the Heart of Winter. This zoom meeting will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

Did you miss last Sunday's Buzz on Outreach & Advocacy?

Click [HERE](#) to view the power point presentation.

Serving on a Board in 2021

Would you be willing to serve on one of our boards in 2021? Most of the ministries of our church are planned and managed by our 5 boards. This is a great way to get involved, and make a difference in people's lives. For the time being, board meetings are being held virtually via Zoom. We currently have openings on the following boards:

- **Board of Trustees:** This board is primarily responsible for the assets of the church.

- Board of witness & welcome: This board is primarily responsible for delivering our message to those outside the church family.
- Board of Worship & Faith: This board is primarily responsible for our worship and faith development programs.

We are also seeking to fill the Vice Moderator position. This position assists the Moderator, and is in line for being Moderator in 2022.

If you have an interest in participating, or would like more information, please contact Wendy Baldwin by 1/17.

COMING UP

NEW – Game Night, Friday, January 22, 7 pm

Looking for some fun time? Join us on Zoom to play some games together and share some fellowship with one another. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

Annual Meeting, January 31st (Reports Due by TOMORROW)

I hope everyone remembers that the Annual Meeting is on Sunday, January 31, at 1:00PM on Zoom. And I also hope everyone remembers how IMPORTANT this meeting is. We'll catch up on how we've "been the church" in 2020 (and yes, we've actually done a lot!), along with how we'll "be the church" in 2021. Please add your voice to our decision-making as we step into this new year as a vibrant community of faith. (Shannon needs to have all board and team reports by tomorrow.)

- Alice Rutherford, Moderator

Racial Justice Team - Time to start our new book (or watch the movie)

We have chosen the Young Adult novel "**The Hate You Give**" by **Angie Smith** as our next book. The book is available widely at the library. It has also been made into a movie, available at Amazon Prime and other outlets. We will have one discussion about it in a **buzz on February 7**. As a movie reviewer for Time Magazine said "The best way to understand what other people's lives are like is to listen, and to see."

For you who are fans of study/discussion guides, check out this one produced by Kansas State University at this link:

<https://krex.k-state.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/2097/39158/guide-2018.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

It is very thorough, including classroom recommendations, and includes chapter summaries at the end.

Thank you, the Racial Justice Team: Pastor Sarah, Carol, Cassidy, Alice, Karen

Please click [HERE](#) to view the January 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.

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@caloosaspirt.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (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.
- **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.the11ev01rProject.org

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

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 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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, Jan 14	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Jan 14	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, Jan 16	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (at FC)
Sunday, Jan 17	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Jan 17	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Jan 17	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Jan 19	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, Jan 19	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, Jan 20	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Thursday, Jan 21	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, Jan 24	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Jan 24	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Jan 24	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

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