



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of May 6, 2021

## Dear First Congregational,

Last week we heard from the Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm in our adult education class about our Christian calling to love our neighbors by working to end hunger. I am grateful to be part of First Congregational's longstanding commitment to support Bread for the World as we work towards a just world for all. This Sunday we lift up this important ministry of our church and respond to God's invitation to put our love into action.

The poet Aaron R. Arlington won first prize in 2018 for this World Food Day Poetry Contest, helping to promote awareness and action to end global hunger. Here is a portion of his poem, "Hunger Pains":

"Hunger Pains" by Aaron R. Arlington

Speaking of our nation, it's strange to me  
That in this land of plenty there's still people on the streets without food to eat

we pay millions of dollars for entertainment but that's another topic  
People who are out here starving, we need to stop it  
We have money for wars  
We should be at war with not feeding the poor, this is something we shouldn't  
ignore  
Family's walking around with their stomach's growling and sore  
We as the people owe it to each other to do more  
So let's depend on each other and help one another  
To stop world hunger the world is going to need each other  
So my challenge to you and my challenge to me  
Do something small or large independently  
Together Everyone Achieves More If we can unite as a team – world hunger can  
be no more  
That sounds like a plan that's worth it to me

(Aaron R. Arlington: [www.aaronRpoems.com](http://www.aaronRpoems.com))

Special thanks to our church's Bread for the Word Team for helping us end world  
hunger!

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah



**Are you ready to get back to  
the people and activities you love?**

Your vaccination brings us one day closer  
to controlling the pandemic and  
reopening Church.

**Get your vaccine ASAP!**

Register at [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 211.

## **THIS SUNDAY**

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

Adult Education will continue to meet via Zoom. Join us for lively discussions and thoughtful reflections. In May we will talk about Bread for the body, Health for the mind, and Love for the community. We will have two opportunities to share slices of our own faith formation by sharing some vignettes of our own stories. Come, join us!

**May 9:** Mother's Day – How has being a mother shaped your own faith? Or for those of us who have not been mothers, how has your own mother shaped your faith?

### **Bread for the World Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)**

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17

**Sermon:** "Love in Action"

### **Coffee Hour via Zoom at 12:00PM**

## **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.

### **Church Council Covid Protocol Update**

On 5/5, the Church Council approved the following revision to our policy for gathering outdoors:

The church grounds are available for in-person gatherings where social distancing is maintained between households. Face masks are optional for those who are fully vaccinated, but are required for those who are not fully vaccinated. Participants are asked to bring their own chairs and beverages, and restrooms are available for emergency use only.

### **TODAY!**

- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information, please contact Dick Clough at (317) 872-3910.
- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.
- **Faith In Indiana at 7:00 p.m.** - Please join Faith In Indiana and members of ours and other congregations who have met with political leaders this spring for a debrief from these sessions and next steps. To register, please go to:  
<https://faithindiana.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJwscuGprDgrHN2AdcbNBfJkp>

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After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions please contact Worth Hartman or Karen Walker.

**Virtual Mental Health First Aid Training – May 15 (Deadline for Registration, May 7th)** - Mental Health First Aid is a nationally recognized early intervention public education program. It teaches adults how to recognize signs/symptoms of potential mental health challenges, how to listen nonjudgmentally, to give reassurance to someone who may be experiencing a mental health challenge and to refer that person to appropriate professional services.

Thanks to a grant, the cost of the training has been reduced from \$50 to \$25 per person. In addition, several scholarships are available to make your cost zero. If you are interested in this training, use the following link to register for the class: [https://secure.lglforms.com/form\\_engine/s/bOAM\\_odBAx0wnS9ji7GU\\_w](https://secure.lglforms.com/form_engine/s/bOAM_odBAx0wnS9ji7GU_w)

**Ten participants are required for the workshop to be held, so please register as soon as possible if you are interested.**

**\*\*We have only 1 registration left to make sure the class is held, so if you are waiting to register or thinking about registering, now is the time to do so. The deadline for registration is TOMORROW, May 7<sup>th</sup>.**

Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the workshop, how to pay, or scholarships.

This is an exciting learning opportunity for our congregation and I hope to “see” several of you at this virtual workshop.

- Sandy Wood ([csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or call/text 317-225-6206)

**Vespers (Outdoor/Zoom) on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns. When weather conditions allow, Vespers will be outdoors at the church at 7 pm. Please bring a lawn chair and wear a mask. We will also try to connect to Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We will NOT meet outdoors if the temperature is below 50 degrees, it's raining, or winds are greater than 20 mph; you can join us on Zoom.

**A Gift for Cassidy Hall**

The Church Council has approved (former Student Pastor) Cassidy Hall's Support Team's recommendation for a financial gift — a scholarship for her last semester at CTS - **A GIFT FOR CASSIDY !** She will not have time for another internship or job, thus no income as she completes this counseling training.

Send your donations to the church marked "A Gift for Cassidy". We will award this to Cassidy later in May to allow you time to send your gift for the gift which has been ours through her ministry with First Congregational.

If you have questions, please direct them to Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, chair of Cassidy's Support Team. We plan to "stick with her" through her training and preparation for ordination in the United Church of Christ. Thank you for your support and gift for the future of this maturing UCC pastor.

### **Outreach & Service**

Through May we are supporting the UCC 5-for-5 special offering Strengthen the Church. Please donate generously to this opportunity to support expansion and growth of UCC local congregations. All individual contributions will be added to our budgeted contribution, so let's be a leader in this financial support for our denomination's commitment to the emerging needs of local communities.

This month our Covenant Outreach shifts to support for our W.I.S.E for Mental Health covenant, so please support our efforts in advocacy and financial support for mental health in our community. Please see the May Colony and upcoming newsletters for specific information about our focused organizations over the next several months.

As you write your Bread for the World letters (or emails) this week, remember to report these to Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org)) or to the team member who invited you to participate. If you have questions, contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com). Thank you for your participation. Every letter counts.

## **COMING SOON**

**May 16<sup>th</sup>- Mental Health Sunday Buzz & Christ on the Psych Ward Books** - We are fortunate to have a guest preacher, David Finnegan-Hosey, at our virtual Mental Health Sunday this year who has also agreed to do a Buzz after Worship. During our Buzz he will be discussing his 2018 book "Christ on the Psych

ward published by Church Publishing. Though you do not have to have read this book to attend and benefit from his talk, there is a cart containing the books and a sign-up for pick-up in the hallway by the garden door. If you wish to have a book delivered to you, and there are books available, please let Sandy Wood know ([csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206).

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

### **Additional Church Support Contacts**

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

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

Lead Councilor: Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

(Senior Councilors: Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel, Alice Rutherford)

### **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)

**Members in Need Fund** - The Members in Need 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](mailto: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](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 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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

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**

<b>Thursday, May 6</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch (private Zoom)</b>
<b>Thursday, May 6</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Bread for the World Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, May 9</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 11</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Care &amp; Connections</b>
<b>Tuesday, May 11</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Vespers (outside &amp; Zoom)</b>
<b>Wednesday, May 12</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Council</b>
<b>Thursday, May 13</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>

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