

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



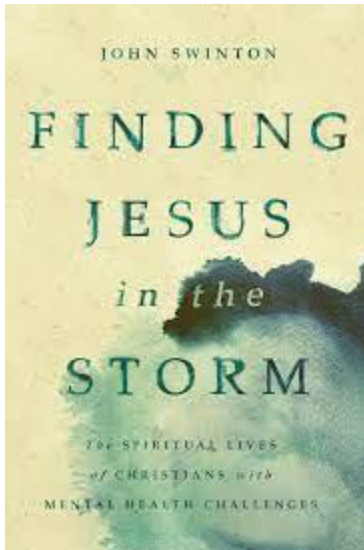
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of May 27, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

Join me this afternoon online at 3:30pm for a rich conversation with international theologian, author, scholar and professor Rev. Dr. John Swinton. This free webinar is hosted by the national setting of the United Church of Christ and is open to everyone. We will be discussing his new book, *Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians with Mental Health Challenges* (<https://www.eerdmans.com/Products/7372/finding-jesus-in-the-storm.aspx>). We will also talk about disabilities, mental health, and racial justice.



Here is the link to register for today's webinar: https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZWQQi-oTRUuV9gCW7rARMA

Blessings on this beautiful, last Thursday of May! May your mental health flourish, nurtured by the love of God.

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 or call 211.

THIS SUNDAY

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

Adult Education will continue to meet via Zoom.

May 30 - Personal Stories Remembering Our Loved Ones. Memorial Day and weekend is a time when many of us turn our thoughts to departed loved ones. Worth Hartman will facilitate our time together as we share remembrances.

NEW! Next Sunday - Patio Psalms and Prayers – On Sundays in June, grab your lawn chair and join us on the patio for an outdoor gathering time for faith formation. We will gather at 9:30, open with a welcome, read and reflect on a Psalm (beginning with Psalm 1 on June 6), share joys and concerns, and then close with prayer and the Lord's Prayer. We will wrap up by 10:15. Please join us for this time of reflection and connection.

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

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Sermon: "Beloved of God, Beloved of One Another, Beloved of Self"

COFFEE HOUR VIA ZOOM AT 12:00PM

Fun at First: Take Flight! from 3:30- 5 pm

Looking for some in-person fun and community? Join us to hear and see Mark Booth of Take Flight! for his intriguing and interesting demonstration of various birds of prey! Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School will also be joining us for this extra special event. We'll be outdoors at our church building, while observing our current outdoor safety protocols of distancing and mask wearing. Please bring your own chair, if possible. We'll start gathering at 3:30, and Mark will begin his presentation at 4:00. All ages welcome, and bring a friend! Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

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!

- **Women's Lunch Bunch at 11:30 a.m.** - For more information, please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com.
- **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, or 386-478-9012.

Faith In Indiana - TODAY at 7PM

We're convening online for Faith in Indiana's Statewide Leaders Assembly TODAY at 7pm to celebrate hard won victories and strategize our next moves. Will you join us? Click [HERE](#) to register.

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.

Technical Difficulties - My church email has not been sending or receiving messages since last Thursday afternoon. My apologies if I have not responded to your messages or if I did not receive an announcement request. I am working with technical experts on getting this issue resolved. In the meantime, you can reach me at shannonfcindy@gmail.com. - Shannon Abbott, Office Admin.

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

Strengthen the Church Offering - Last chance this month to contribute to the UCC special offering "Strengthen the Church"! Let's do our part to assist this denominational ministry to strengthen and expand local UCC congregations. Donate online, accompanied by an explanatory note to Financial Secretary Cheryl Dillenback, or by check sent to the church designated "Strengthen the Church."

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.

COMING SOON

IKC UCC Virtual 2021 Annual Gathering: June 3, 2021 - June 5, 2021

Click [HERE](#) to Register.

Welcome to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Virtual Annual Gathering 2021! Our theme this year is "From Sackcloth to Joy" as we name the hardship of this past year, but also the joy of moving towards a new beginning. We will be blessed by storytelling, worship, an engaging keynote experience with the Rev. Dr. Gregory Ellison II, and look towards our future as a Conference that will not only host the next in person General Synod in 2023, but is beginning to imagine a new vision for where God is leading us.

Per our new Constitution and Bylaws passing in 2019, you will notice that we will not have a business meeting this year and so your registration will be streamlined not as a delegate or guest, but to everyone identifying as a guest to the gathering. It is out of an abundance of caution that we will have this gathering virtually as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to present some current risk and we seek to continue loving our neighbor by mitigating the spread of the virus further. With great anticipation, however, we look forward to a gathering in 2022 with hope that we can actually be together in person. All that said, we welcome you to the Indiana-Kentucky Conference 2021 Annual Gathering as we step from sackcloth and into the joy of God. May you experience the God of joy in our time together.

Pastor Sarah Vacation - While Pastor Sarah is away on vacation June 4 – 11, Pastor Carol may be reached for Pastoral Care needs at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com. Pastor Carol will also be preaching next Sunday, June 6th.

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.

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)

Office Administrator: Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Lead Councilor: Larry Eckel (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.
- **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

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 or cell (386) 478-9012.

FC Covid Protocols:

On 5/12, 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. Restrooms are available for use; people should be masked and socially distant while in the building.

The church building is still 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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

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Password: 7171

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, May 27	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch
Thursday, May 27	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, May 30	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 30	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, May 30	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, May 30	3:00 p.m.	Fun at First: Take Flight (outside at FC)
Tuesday, June 1	7:00 p.m.	Vespers (outside & Zoom)
Wednesday, June 2	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, June 3	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 3	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, June 5	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (outside at FC)
Sunday, June 6	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, June 6	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship w/ Pastor Carol preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, June 6	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

*All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.