

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 8, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

As you know, First Congregational is part of a national movement of God's liberating love, a denomination called the United Church of Christ. Every two years we call everyone to gather to pray, worship, fellowship, and conduct the business of our national church. The theme for this General Synod is "Rooted in Love" from Psalm 1:3. This gathering will be taking place July 11-18 and will be 100% virtual. The good news is that everyone is welcome to attend as a guest/visitor and will have access to 50 workshops, keynotes, the virtual exhibit hall, special celebrations, and more. Here is the link to register as a guest and to learn more about General Synod: <https://www.generalsynod.org/>.

The best part of General Synod for me personally, apart from feeling like a BIG family reunion, is the worship. This year, all three special worship services will be open to the public and **free online experiences**. You don't want to miss it! Opening worship will be Sunday, July 11 at 5pm with Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson preaching, midweek worship will be Wednesday, July 14 at 8pm with

Rev. Michéle Higgins preaching and closing worship will be Sunday, July 18 at 6pm with Dr. Benjamin Chavis preaching (here's the story about the preachers: <https://www.generalsynod.org/worship-service-leaders/>). To learn how to access the worship services, go to the General Synod webpage: <https://www.generalsynod.org/>.

I am grateful to be part of First Congregational and to serve on the national staff of the United Church of Christ. I am heavily involved in General Synod this year and hope you will be able to join us for our first ever virtual General Synod. Plans are already underway for us in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference to host General Synod 34 here in Indianapolis summer of 2023. What a gift it is to be part of the UCC, rooted in love.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



FC Covid Protocols:

As of June 1, the building is open for in-person gatherings. Recommended areas to use are the Parlor, the Library, and the Mayflower Room. Protocols to be followed: Sign-in sheet, social distancing and wearing of masks.

The target date for in-person worship in the sanctuary is August 1, contingent upon directives or changes in health and safety guidelines stipulated by Marion

County of the State. Protocols to be observed will be determined closer to August 1.



**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.

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, 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.

July 11: Psalm 6

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

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Sermon: "Yoga with David"

Lianna Campos is preaching next Sunday, July 11th.

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.

TODAY!

- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information, please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081.
- **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.

The Outreach & Service Board encourages all boards, teams, and committees to complete the Mental Health Team's survey this month or next. The information provided will be beneficial to the team in developing further ministry programming to fulfill our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant.

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.

COMING SOON

WISE Mental Health Team August Book Buzz - We are helping to sponsor the Book Buzzes for **August 8 and 22** with Pastor Sarah and her new book: BLESSED UNION, breaking the silence about mental illness and marriage. Books will be free as a part of our grant from the Center for Congregations. If you would like a book, here are some opportunities for you to receive your copy:

- You can pick up a book at the next Food Drive July 3rd from 10-noon. Sandy Wood will be there passing out books.
- Come to the church at another time and pick up a book.
- If you cannot come to the church, you can request a book from Sandy csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206 and she will make sure you get a book.

When you pick up your book from the lectern at the garden entrance please sign your name on the yellow pad beside the books. It isn't required, but the WISE Mental Health Team are curious who is interested in the book and will likely participate in one or both of the after worship Buzzes Aug 8 and Aug 22 at 12:30 p.m. EDT. You don't have to have read the book to participate in the Buzzes.

Please click [HERE](#) to view the July 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)

External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall (cassidy@fcindy.org)

Lead Councilor: Steve Coomer (s.coomer@sbcglobal.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.

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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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlY1BoaEFVUTo9>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

and Password. If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID a

Password: 7171

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, July 8	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, July 8	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, July 11	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers
Sunday, July 11	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship w/ Lianna Campos preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, July 11	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
July 12 – July 18	-----	UCC General Synod
Wednesday, July 14	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, July 15	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, July 18	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, July 18	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)

Sunday, July 18	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
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***All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.**