



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

August 2021

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Pastor's Reflections

Rooted In Revolutionary Love

"Deep solidarity is rooted in love...So I let your story into my heart, even when it is hard. I let your grief become my grief."

- Valarie Kaur, Civil Rights Activist and Founder of the Revolutionary Love Project

Valarie Kaur's deep brown eyes stare into your soul. And it's not just me. It's me plus nearly 1,000 others in the live online audience for Kaur's keynote address at General Synod 33. Talking with my Conference Minister after the address, we both agreed that – because of Synod's virtual gathering this year – instead of listening to this prophetic spiritual midwife/warrior sitting on a far-away elevated mainstage, we got to listen to her as if she were sitting in our own home, because she was. Valarie sat in her home and stared into our homes through the screen, speaking words of comfort, challenge, passion, and wisdom.

Valarie looked into our souls, and we looked into hers. She invited us into the secret chambers of her heart and challenged us to do the same, opening our hearts to one another – when it is safe to do so. Valarie also gave us permission to guard our hearts as part of the work of justice, especially when we need to preserve our own wellbeing and to heal. We don't have to give our love away when doing so harms us. This is wisdom.

As a church we can make a commitment to do no harm. We seek to do no harm when we engage in the work of justice rooted in revolutionary love, rooted in solidarity, rooted in deep respect for the stories and grief of others. What if this is what it means to be the Church? What if co-creating Beloved Community means taking time to listen and honor the hard, complicated, and messy stories of one another?

The work of justice is more of an art than a science. Valarie modeled for us what it means to do the work of justice rooted in revolutionary love. It's heart work. It's love work. It's birth work. It's warrior work. It's joyful work. It's the work of the Church. Thanks be to God.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Pastoral Care and Support: Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org and (386)478-9012.

Senior Councilor's Report

Steve Coomer, Lead Councilor

Get ready, get set, let's go to the sanctuary on August 1!!! By the time you read this, we will be all of the above. I know, at least for me, this has been a long anticipated event. We will have the protocols in place to return and hopefully be started on our way to resuming to some extent back to some normalcy. Be sure and read the Epistle on July 29 for the updated protocols. Returning to the sanctuary will have been a celebration for many of us. We will see the faces of all of those we have missed for so long. Even though we have met via Zoom, Face Book, and You Tube, it is not the same as being in person and many of us have not seen all of the people we are used to seeing in the sanctuary.

I know that our hybrid team has been working very hard and investigating the best and most economical way for us to continue to produce our live services over the internet for those of us who are not able to attend. This is part of the lessons we have learned from holding our services as we have for the past year plus. It is for those who cannot attend in person worship for whatever reason to still be able to worship with us. We have also gained a number of new members not in our immediate area who want to worship with us. We welcome them and want them to be able to continue to worship with us. This is part of being an inclusive church. Our hybrid experience will also bring some advantages to those in attendance in the sanctuary in that we will be able to have guest speakers, musical presentations, projection of text and music, and probably many more things that we will learn about as we move forward. The above is just some of the lessons we have learned that will enhance our services.

Due to the many sacrifices we have all made during this time and the individual contributions and collective success within our church community to overcome the challenges of the pandemic, we should be hopeful, optimistic and grateful. We should be confident in our future at FCC. Let us unite in peace, respect, and harmony.

- Steve Coomer, Lead Senior Councilor June through September

Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

The pastoral office and other positions of staff leadership exist to build up the congregation as part of the Body of Christ and to equip the saints for the mission of the church. The particular relationship between a pastor and congregants should be tended deliberately, so that the ministries of both pastor and congregation complement each other and further God's grace in the world. As with any relationship, it must be respected and nurtured to grow in healthy and projective ways. For this reason, a Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) exists in a congregation to advise, assist, and promote the growth of this vital relationship.

PCRC meet quarterly and are available throughout the year for support and conversation. We are blessed to have both Pastor Sarah and Pastor Carol serve our congregation. Currently, Pastor Carol's focus is on the following areas:

pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education and Worship Leader coordination.

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Randy Walker, Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart

PCRC for Pastor Carol: Gloria Boedeker, Nathan Howard, Betty Schnur, Bill Gillette

From Your Office Administrator



In July, I celebrated three years serving as your Office Administrator. During this time, I have learned much about church life and church work, and have had the opportunity to further discern my call to ministry.

I've shared with some of you that when I was growing up, I used to say, "I will never marry a pastor." Then I met my spouse.

In seminary, I said, "I will never work in a church as a pastor." I even got ordained, but thought my call was only to ministries outside the walls of the church.

Well, here's what I've learned....Never say "never" to God. The Holy Spirit has been patient with me, gently nudging me until I finally came around. Thanks in large part to the support of this congregation and the mentorship of Pastor Sarah, I have come to the realization that I am also called into pastoral ministry in the local church setting. I am a pastor. I always have been. It just took me a little longer to realize it. And now it is time for me to answer the call.

I have found that when I am open to the leading of the Holy Spirit, my life and my ministry begins to shift and doors open. And so, recently, I was offered and accepted a call as a full-time transitional pastor at St. John's United Church of Christ (Southport). Therefore, my last day at First Congregational will be August 20th.

Thank you, First Congregational for your love and support and for all the ways you have helped me grow and discern my call these past three years. It has been a joy serving with you.

- Shannon

NEW Staff Position: External Communications Manager

I'm delighted to share I am back with the church in a brand new role! I'll be joining you all as a communications manager, helping to assist in having the latest info and news on our website, getting the word out through our social media, and continuing to share our relevance and faith with the community at large. I continue to feel so blessed to be a part of this church community and am so grateful for your love and support on



my journey. If you ever have any questions for me, or just want to say hello, you can always email me at cassidy@fcindy.org

Meet FC's Just Peace Intern



My name is Allison Welz and I am an incoming senior at Butler University. At Butler I am studying Biology and Religion and I am a member of Young Life, Biology Club, and Greek Life. I am originally from Evansville, IN and I am adopted from China. My hope is to attend medical school in the fall of 2022 and do medical missions at some point in my life. I am grateful for this opportunity to learn and grow with you all this next semester.

- Allison

Allison will serve as FC's Just Peace Inter beginning the week of August 30 and ending the week of December 6.

This Month at FC*

SUNDAYS	10:00 a.m.	Patio Psalms and Prayers
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Worship (In Person, YouTube, Facebook, Dial In)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Wednesday, August 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, August 5	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, August 8	1:30 p.m.	Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz (Zoom)
Wednesday, August 11	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Friday, August 13	9:00 a.m.	September Colony Deadline
Thursday, August 19	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, August 22	1:30 p.m.	Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz (Zoom)

**All activities are through the use of Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, or phone call-in unless otherwise stated.*

To join Zoom meetings, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09> Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign. You can call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

Church Council

Comeback Team: Current Building Policy

(Approved by Church Council on 7/28/21)

The building of First Congregational UCC is open for use, including worship in the sanctuary. Mask Wearing will be based on the current standings of Marion County on <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

Marion County "color"	Indoors	Outdoors
Blue, positivity is decreasing	Masks are <u>optional for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
Blue, positivity is increasing	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
Yellow	Masks are <u>required for all</u>	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>
Orange or Red	Use of the building will be revisited	Masks are <u>required for all</u>

Current "color status" will be posted on the patio door, as well as communicated in the weekly e-pistle. Mask wearing is based on the honor system; we will not be checking vaccination status. We ask that people prayerfully consider using practices that keep themselves safe as well as others.

1. When the county is "blue", and the positivity change is decreasing:
Indoors: masks are optional for vaccinated people; masks are required for unvaccinated.
Outdoors: masks are not required.
2. When the county is "blue", and the positivity change is increasing:
Indoors: masks are encouraged for vaccinated people; masks are required for unvaccinated.
Outdoors: masks are not required.
3. When the county is "yellow":
Indoors: masks are required for all.
Outdoors: masks are encouraged for vaccinated people; masks are required for unvaccinated.
4. If the county moves to "orange" or "red":
Indoors: use of the building will be revisited.

Outdoors: masks are required for all.

Possible suggestion at this time, the following will be observed for our worship services, and other use of the building:

1. Singing will be limited, with reduced hymns and verses. We encourage people to wear masks while singing, or to hum if unmasked.
5. Bulletins and offering plates will be available on a special table in the Narthex, as opposed to being distributed.
6. When in enclosed areas, we encourage reducing the amount of time spent with people (ie shorter worship services). We encourage use of our outdoor space, for activities such as greeting and conversation, refreshments, etc.
7. Attendees will be asked to indicate their comfort levels with proximity to others by placing a sticker on their name tag; these can be updated at any time –
 - a. Green: hugs and being close are welcome
 - b. Yellow: no hugs, please, and keep some distance
 - c. Red: I'm glad to see you, but please keep some distance
8. Restrooms are available for use.



**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.

WORSHIP & FAITH

Aurelia Glennan-March, Chair

Next Meeting: July 29 at 12:30PM (Zoom)

Adult Ed for June

Greetings! **In August, let's meet on the patio from 10:00 to 10:45 for "Patio Psalms and Prayers."** It has been very pleasant meeting outside in the cool of the morning, and our reflections on Psalms 1-8 have been lively and insightful. August will be an exciting time of transitioning back to in person worship in our sanctuary. Let our time on the patio help prepare us for this next chapter. Come join in! Here are the Sundays and the Psalms:

Aug 1 - Psalm 9 (20 verses)

Aug 8 - Psalm 10 (18 verses)

Aug 15 - Psalm 11 (9 verses)

Aug 22 - Psalm 12 (8 verses)

Aug 29 - Psalm 13 (6 verses)

4 Ways to Connect for Worship- Sundays at 11AM

1. IN PERSON

We are back in the sanctuary on **August 1st**



2. FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal



3. YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 10:45am with 15 minutes of gathering music. The service begins at 11am.



4. DIAL-IN (available after 1PM)

- **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.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Alice Rutherford, Chair

Next Meeting: August 15 at 1PM (Zoom)

When this Colony arrives in email boxes at the end of this month, we'll be just days away from finally gathering in person regularly for worship and other church activities. As we make that transition our food collections for Northside Pantry will transition back to the narthex baskets. The Outreach & Service Board greatly appreciates the work of Care & Connections in hosting the monthly food drives during the pandemic to keep this ministry afloat, and we look forward to again overseeing this vital opportunity for outreach to our local community. We ask First Congregational members and friends to continue your generous support by bringing canned and packaged goods, along with personal hygiene items, on Sundays and other gathering times. The baskets in the narthex will be waiting expectantly for all contributions. Watch for more specifics in the coming weeks and months.

August is the last month of our Covenant Outreach dedicated to our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant. If you haven't already done so, please donate to Covenant Outreach (either online or by check to the church) to support The Julian Center, The Trevor Project, and the UCC Mental Health Network. Contributions to Covenant Outreach will be divided equally among these three ministries. Contributions to any specific ministry or organization are also welcome.

If you serve on a board, team, or committee, please remember to complete the Mental Health Team's survey this month. The team is hoping to compile the results in September to use in determining next steps for nurturing and promoting mental health within our church and in our larger community.

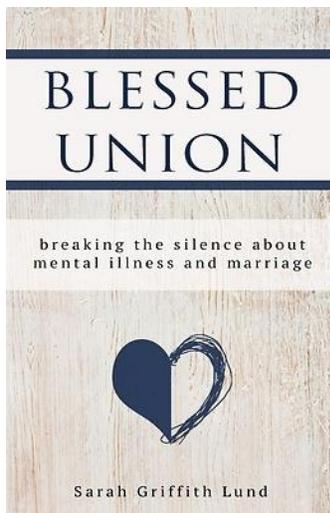
Don't forget to read Pastor Sarah's newest book, *Blessed Union*, and mark your calendars for discussions about the book on Sundays, August 8 and August 22, at 1:30-2:30 PM on Zoom. As we transition to being a hybrid church we continue to find opportunities to gather virtually, and these discussions lend themselves well to the virtual format.

- Alice Rutherford, Outreach & Service Board Chair

Mental Health Team

- **WISE Mental Health Team August Virtual Book Buzzes ([on Zoom](#))**

We are helping 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.**



If you would like a book, here are some opportunities for you to receive your copy:

- Come to the church and pick up a book-they are free.
- If you cannot come to the church, you can request a book from Sandy csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206 and she will get you a book.

For the **Aug 8th Buzz** we will read the 1st 4 chapters. For the **Aug 22nd Buzz** we will read the remaining 5 chapters.

When you pick up your book from the lectern at the garden entrance please sign your name on the yellow pad. 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 virtual Buzzes Aug 8th and Aug 22nd at 1:30 p.m. EDT to 2:30 EDT. **You don't have to have read the book to participate in the Buzzes. The link for all our FC meetings is the same one to use for the Book Buzzes.** Hope you can come join the conversation

- **WISE Survey:** The FC WISE Mental Health Team is excited about the survey we have sent to church boards to distribute to their teams and committees. We look forward to getting feedback from the boards, committees, and teams concerning how we can partner with you and what you would like us to do to help fulfill our covenant to be Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged for mental health. Digital survey is **due Sept 1st** to Sandy Wood at csjlwood@att.net. The team looks forward to your feedback. If you have questions, contact Sandy at the email listed above or call her at 317-225-6206. Thanks.

- **Need a Lift in Your Spirit? Join us every Thursdays for Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health at 5:00-6:00PM [on Zoom](#)**

This gathering is open to everyone and is an informal time to check-in about how you are doing, get emotional support from church family, and offer prayer for one another as we navigate nurturing positive mental health in these difficult days.

We are an open group with confidentiality guidelines. Sessions are on Zoom and led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, co-chair of the church's WISE Team. Please feel free to call or email either of us if you have questions: Pastor Sarah: pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

CARE & CONNECTIONS

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Happy Birthday in August!

Marion Harcourt
Angie Hartman

Judy Kaufman
Carol Slocum



If you're having a birthday in August, and you are not on this list, please contact Wendy Baldwin, so we can add you to our master list for the future!

Food Drive & Fellowship - Thanks for Participating!



This past year, we continued our ministry to help the hungry even though we were not worshipping in person. In the past year at our monthly food drives, we collected and contributed over 2 TONS of food and supplies to the Northside Pantry! Also, what a joy it was to be able to see each other, and have short visits on the outside patio in all kinds of weather. With in-person worship scheduled to begin in August, we will no longer have monthly food drives.

Thank you to all who helped and participated!

TRUSTEES

Steve Coomer, Chair

Contributions Gratefully Welcomed

In July, the Trustees approved funding for 2 projects that we are moving forward with. One of the projects is to purchase equipment and consultation to enable us to have hybrid worship where we can worship in person and also have online worship for those unable to attend; new equipment will also enable us to do projection in the sanctuary to enhance our worship experience; cost about \$10K-\$12K. The other project is to repair the paving in the Memorial Garden walled area – due to growth of tree roots, the brick and paving stones are dangerously uneven and need to be leveled; cost is \$9000.

Funds are available in our various restricted accounts, but these expenses will greatly reduce what is available for other work in the future. If you would like to contribute to these projects, please indicate **“Hybrid Worship”** or **“Memorial Garden”** on your gifts. Thank you for your generosity!

Green Team

Reports on the condition of our environment are becoming more and more dire. Daily we hear reports of floods, wildfires, droughts and wind storms. Some of the wildfires on our west coast are out of control and reportedly the worst since measurements began. As I write this, we are having an air quality advisory due to those fires thousands of miles away. The water levels of some reservoirs

are at historic lows. In other areas droughts are so severe that the usual desirable crops can't be grown. Almost daily we hear of windstorms raging through southern and eastern US states.



We're not taking the threats to our environment seriously enough. We need to be addressing the above problems to the extent that we can. But instead, our officials in Washington argue about what, if anything, to do. The inaction is partly our fault for not putting pressure on those who could deal with the situation. We're running

out of time, as shown by the recent increase in the earth's average temperature of over 2 degrees Fahrenheit. We need to get to work, doing what we can in our lives, and making our wishes known to our officials.

Bill Gillette for the Green Team

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through June 30, 2021.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary

1/1/2021 through 6/30/2021 Using 2021 Budget

1

Category	1/1/2021 Actual	- Budget	6/30/2021 Difference
INCOME	102,953	126,236	-23,283
M. Unrestricted Contributions	102,953	126,236	-23,283
M.01 Pledged Offerings	87,552	90,602	-3,050
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	2,236	5,068	-2,832
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-21,284	-21,284	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	17,400	-17,400
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	0	0
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.07. Transfer from Youth Fund	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
M.09 PPP Loan Forgiveness	34,450	34,450	0
EXPENSES	124,757	128,534	3,777
A. Pastoral Leadership	61,789	62,515	726
B. Worship & Faith	16,507	16,280	-226
C. Care & Connections	149	83	-67
D. Witness & Welcome	0	245	245
E. Outreach & Service	9,100	8,695	-405
F. Trustees	0	65	65
G. Administration & Operations	11,098	12,504	1,406
H. House & Grounds	22,669	24,051	1,382
I. Miscellaneous	3,444	4,095	651
Net Difference:	-21,803	-2,298	-19,506

Highlights:

- **Income** for the first six months was \$124,800 – \$23,300 below budget. However, we had anticipated \$17,400 in income from a draw from the FCC Foundation which we did not need. Adjusting for timing of the Foundation draw, income was \$5,900 below our 2021 budget, with shortfalls in both pledges and non-pledge income.
- **Expenses** of \$124,800 were \$3,800 below budget, with savings in several areas.
- **Cash** was strong at over \$61,000. This reflects \$34,700 of 2021 funding from the federal Payroll Protection Program. These funds allow us to continue to pay our employees and musicians throughout 2021 as if we were operating fully in person. The funds will also reduce the amount we will need to draw from the FCC Foundation to balance the 2021 budget.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com

COMMUNITY

Listening to Those who Grieve

"... Please, I beg you, be patient as you listen to me." (Acts 26:3 *The Inclusive Bible*).

The worldwide number of [COVID-19 deaths](#) recently topped four million, including over 600,000 in the US. Do these statistics comprise loved ones whom you grieve? And how might we support the many now in grief, whether the deaths are due to COVID or to another cause?

Following the January 21 death of Bob, Earl's dear friend and next-door neighbor of over 30 years, i have wondered if my attempts to support Earl are on target. After reviewing the writings of psychologist Haim Ginott, author of the 1965 bestseller *Between Parent and Child*, i conclude they likely are. Why? Because i've found Ginott's communication basics in dealing with children are also effective with persons of all ages.

Sadly, we may tend to avoid talking with people who mourn, perhaps because we fear saying the wrong thing. Fortunately, we can apply Ginott's suggestions as we offer support. Here's how Ginott put it: "A child should not be deprived of his right to grieve and to mourn. He should be free to feel sorrow in the loss of someone loved" (Ginott, *Between Parent and Child*, p. 171).

Ginott gave excellent guidelines and examples: "The first step in helping children face their loss is to allow them to express fully their fears, fantasies, and feelings. [..., including to] "put into words some of the feelings that a child is bound to have, but may find difficult to express" (Ginott, p. 172).

For instance, Ginott suggested these responses to a child whose beloved grandmother died:

"You miss grandma."

"You miss her a lot."

"You loved her so much."

“And she loved you.”
“You wish she were with us.”
“You wish she were still alive.”
“It is hard to believe that she died.”
“It is hard to believe that she is no longer with us.”
“You remember her so well” (Ginott, p. 172).

Perhaps readers wonder why Ginott advised such a long list of variations about missing grandma. Ginott explained:

“Such statements convey to the child his parent’s interest in his feelings and thoughts and encourage him to share his fears [...]. He may want to know whether dying hurts, whether the dead ever come back, whether he and his parents will ever die. The answers should be brief and truthful: when one dies the body feels no pain at all; a dead person never returns; it is natural to die when one is very old” (Ginott, p. 172).

We’ll all use different words as we “sit with” grieving loved ones, whether in person, on Zoom, or via a telephone. Here are examples of what seems to appeal to Earl as I’ve listened to his sadness about Bob:

“You miss Bob ever so much.”
“You miss seeing Bob next door and on our doorstep.”
“Frequently you wish Bob were still alive.”
“You often said Bob was the world’s best neighbor.”
“It seems unbelievable that he died.”
“You have so many, many memories of Bob.”
“Bob was such a good neighbor and friend.”

Alas, many of us were brought up hearing platitudes when loved ones died when, instead, we needed and desired caring, listening, compassion, and understanding. Thus, we all might need plenty of practice in talking about death with people of all ages.

Dear God, please help us listen well to all who mourn deaths of loved ones; may we all be gentle with ourselves and with those who grieve. Amen.

- susanna-judith rae

IKC UCC Southeast Association Eviction Ministry Update

Recently we received another utility support request. It was smaller than the last, but we are not certain we will be able to continue offering utility support long term in addition to eviction relief without the support of our area churches. However, *together* we can not only keep people in their homes, but also make sure that these homes are adequately cooled, heated, and have water. These are basic human needs.

How can YOUR CHURCH help?

- Does your church have funds set aside to help with emergency needs in your community? If you do, **we are gathering a resource list**, so we will have churches to contact when we receive calls for utility assistance.
- If your church does not currently have such a fund, will you consider creating an emergency fund, so **you can be a part of a network of churches** we can call on to help support families in our communities?

How can YOU help?

- Join our Team - We welcome new members who want to join our team.
- Legal resources - If you have legal experience with the eviction process, we would love to talk with you to gain better insight into the legal process.
- Checks can be made out to:
Southeast Association of the IKC UCC. (Please include in the memo line: "Eviction Ministry")
Donations can be mailed to the treasurer at:
SE Association Eviction Ministry
Attn: Margie Potter
726 Coach Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227

Thank you for your support,

- Rev. Shannon Abbott (shannon@fcindy.org), Pastor Sarah Friche-Mouri Hannigan (pastorsarahzucc@gmail.com), Walter Ziebell (wziebell@gmail.com)

Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ (IKC UCC): Vision for the Conference



Conference Minister Rev. Chad Abbott recalled the words of the prophet Isaiah in this year's State of the Conference address: "We hear in the prophet Isaiah, God says to the people, 'I am about to do a new thing. Do you not perceive it?'"

What followed was a vision for the future of the Conference. A vision that includes learnings from this past year's pandemic influence and

the unprecedented ways so many of our churches engaged ministry and mission. Read the full State of the Conference Address at: [7dc5a107-f2ee-4d8d-9fc7-dada83f175d6.pdf \(constantcontact.com\)](https://www.constantcontact.com/7dc5a107-f2ee-4d8d-9fc7-dada83f175d6.pdf)



IKC WISE Team and team recognized at General Synod 33

The IKC was officially recognized as the third UCC Conference to become a WISE for Mental Health Conference. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the members of our IKC WISE Team. Through their efforts we have not only become a WISE Conference, but because

to the discernment and commitments we've made in this realm, we've called two staff members, Rev. Dr. Merlyn Lawrence and Sheronda Lucas, to support our churches and clergy to have good mental health.

IKC Women's Retreat: Sept 17-19



Estrogen Excitement and Empowerment

A Retreat For Every Woman

Friday September 17 – Sunday, September 19

Deadline to Register is September 10th

Cost: One night is \$75, Two nights is \$100

Click the link below for details and the registration form:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/8206d75f001/a5d10db5-6bf9-4c62-82dd-f4c2ef036773.pdf>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September Colony Submission Deadline: Please email your submissions to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org no later than **Friday, August 13th**. Shannon's last day as FC's Office Administrator is Friday, August 20th, and she has agreed to do all she can to finish the September Colony by her last day. This is possible if you will please send your submissions by the deadline.

Women's Lunch Bunch: We're taking August off, and will resume in person in September. For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Men's Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1:00pm**. This month, they meet on **August 5th & 19th**. For more information, please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081.

Women's Book Circle is taking a break for the summer. For more information please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

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.