

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 29, 2021

**WELCOME BACK TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP
THIS SUNDAY!**

Dear First Congregational,

God has blessed our congregation with gifted staff members over the years and I am thankful for the church's care and support for our hard working and talented staff. Last night I shared with the church council the news that our Administrative Assistant, Shannon Abbott, will be leaving her role at First Congregational in order to answer a call to serve as a local church pastor. Her last day with us will be Friday, August 20. Please see Shannon's own message of farewell below.

I give God thanks for Shannon and the many ways she shared her time and talents

with us over the past three years. Let us wish her well on her journey and pray for both her and the new congregation she will be ministering with as they begin their new journey together.

I am working with our Personnel Committee about our next steps for filling this important role. Feel free to be in touch with me if you know of anyone who would be a good fit.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

From the 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

FC Covid Protocols:

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 optional for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Masks are not required

Blue, positivity is increasing

Masks are encouraged for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Masks are not required

Yellow

Masks are required for all

Masks are encouraged for vaccinated people, and required for unvaccinated

Orange or Red

Use of the building will be revisited

Masks are required for all

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.

Current Marion County “color status”: Yellow



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 – 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.

August 1: Psalm 9

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

Scripture: John 6:24-35

Sermon: "We are One"

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!

- **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 - As we eagerly anticipate returning to our sanctuary to worship together, our food collections for Northside Pantry will then return to our pre-pandemic format. Beginning in August, please bring any donations for the Northside Pantry to the narthex, either on Sundays or at any convenient time. Donations will be delivered to the pantry monthly. Thanks to all for supporting this vital ministry during the pandemic. The Outreach & Service Board encourages your continued support to help meet nutritional needs in our larger community.

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. **There will be no WISE meeting in August. The next meeting is September 22nd at 5PM.** If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

COMING SOON

WISE Mental Health Team August Virtual Book Buzz (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.

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

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.

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.

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 (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.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

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

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

Weekly Calendar

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|----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Thursday, July 29 | 5:00 p.m. | Spiritual Support Group |
| Sunday, August 1 | 10:00 a.m. | Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio) |
| Sunday, August 1 | 11:00 a.m. | Sunday Communion Worship (in sanctuary, YouTube, FB, Dial In) |
| Wednesday, August 4 | 7:00 p.m. | Trustees |
| Thursday, August 5 | 1:00 p.m. | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, August 5 | 5:00 p.m. | Spiritual Support Group |
| Sunday, August 8 | 10:00 a.m. | Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio) |
| Sunday, August 8 | 11:00 a.m. | Sunday Worship (in sanctuary & on FB, YouTube, Dial In) |
| Sunday, August 8 | 1:00 p.m. | Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz |

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