

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 19

UPDATE: This Sunday we move back to worship
ON-LINE ONLY at 11am
ORANGE Marion County
(see policy update from the church council below)

Dear First Congregational,

Today I am feeling the need for prayer. Prayers for the people of Haiti. Prayers for the people to Afghanistan. Prayers for all who are in harms way.

Prayers for all who are grieving. Prayers for all who are ill and suffering. Prayers for all the helpers.

Prayers of thanksgiving for the simple gifts of life: the morning dew on the grass, the first bite of a cookie, the warm comfort of a beloved pet on your lap.

Prayers of gratitude for our church family. This Sunday we transition back to worship on-line after three Sundays in-person in the sanctuary. Now that the county is orange, we will not be inside in-person. We pray for yellow and blue again.

Prayers for the children who are starting a new school year. Prayers for all the staff, teachers, and parents. Prayers for protection, for safety, and good health.

Prayers of celebration for our Administrative Assistant Shannon's new call to be a local church pastor. Prayers of thanksgiving for her three years on our staff, as her last day is tomorrow. Prayers of blessing for her time of transition.

Prayers for you. Prayers for me. Prayers for all of our friends and family.

Prayers for all of God's Creation. May we all know we are loved.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Thank You!

What a joy it was to worship with you the Sunday before my final week as your Office Administrator. Thank you for your outpouring of love and well wishes. And thank you for the beautiful gift of the stole. I will always think of you when I wear it.



As I move on into my new role as a pastor, I look forward to our congregations partnering together in the Southeast Association, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, and the wider United Church of Christ.

Blessings to you all,
Rev. Shannon Abbott

COVID Protocols for First Congregational UCC

Approved by Church Council on 7/28/21; amended on 8/11/21

Marion County is currently in ORANGE status, therefore, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed for in-person gatherings based on the current standings of Marion County on <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

Marion County “color”

Blue, positivity is
decreasing

Blue, positivity is
increasing

Yellow

Orange

Red

Indoors

Masks are optional for
vaccinated people,
and required for
unvaccinated

Masks are encouraged for
vaccinated people,
and required for
unvaccinated

Masks are required for all

Building is closed for in-
person gatherings

Building is closed for in-
person gatherings

Outdoors

Masks are not required

Masks are not required

Masks are encouraged for
vaccinated people,
and required for
unvaccinated

Masks are required for all

No church-sponsored
outdoor gatherings

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”: **Orange**

Click [HERE](#) for updated details further explaining FC's Covid protocols.



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: Patio Psalms & Prayers, 9:30 a.m. (on FC Patio)

(Please note the return to 9:30 a.m. while not meeting in person for worship.)

August 22: Psalm 12

Virtual Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)

Scripture: Ephesians 6:10-20

Sermon: "Putting on the Breastplate of Christ"

Virtual Coffee Hour is Back! - While we are not gathering in-person, we will have
"Coffee Hour" on **Zoom** immediately following online worship.

Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz (Zoom) at 1:30 p.m.

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEF>

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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 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 - Thanks to all who continue to bring canned and packaged foods, paper products, and personal hygiene items for the Northside Pantry. The baskets in the narthex are filling up!

August is the last month of our four-month Covenant Outreach dedicated to our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant, supporting the UCC Mental Health Network, The Trevor Project, and The Julian Center. If you haven't already made a contribution to Covenant Outreach since April, now is the time!

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

Faith In Indiana is growing! Our own Faith In Indiana team is moving forward with them into a season being called "Encounter and Renewal". We want to build the 'base' – strengthen our group and grow our power to influence and drive change. There is a kick off meeting for this season on **August 28 from 10 to 2** at the Indiana Interchurch Center at 1100 W 42nd St to which all are invited. In September we will be organizing and holding 'house parties' where interested people can build relationships and discern the changes that we want to be focused on in the coming legislative session. Those dates and locations will be published

in future epistles. If you are interested in the kick off meeting on August 28 or have any questions, please contact the chair - Worth Hartman (worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) or the communication lead - Karen Walker (karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) so we can register as a group. Thank you!

Please click [HERE](#) to view the August 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 LGB+ QIA+ 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

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 2PM)

- 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 and

Password: 7171

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

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, August 19	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, August 19	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, August 22	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, August 22	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, August 22	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, August 22	1:30 p.m.	Blessed Union Virtual Book Buzz (Zoom)
Thursday, August 26	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, August 29	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, August 29	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, August 29	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, August 29	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith (Zoom)