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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 26

Church Gathering Update:

Reminder: We are back to worship ON-LINE ONLY at 11:00 AM.

We will continue in-person Outdoor Patio, Psalms, and Prayers, Sundays at 9:30 AM.

Marion County Status: ORANGE
(see policy update from the church council below)

Dear First Congregational,

This week we are delighted to welcome Cassidy Hall into an expanded staff role as our new church office Administrative Assistant, in addition to her role as our External Communications Manager. Please join me in welcoming Cassidy into this important role. She brings a love for the church and a creative and caring spirit to us. Special thanks to our Personnel Committee, Senior Councilors, and Church Council for your support of this process. Cassidy can be reached at the email address: Cassidy@fcindy.org.

We will continue with our online worship this Sunday at 11am as Marion County

Thank you all for your patience, understanding, and grace as we navigate our Christian calling to be good stewards of our public health, safety, and well-being during the ongoing pandemic. We hold the world in prayer.

Peace,
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
www.fcindy.org

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”	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	Building is <u>closed</u> for in-person gatherings	Masks are <u>required for all</u>
Red	Building is <u>closed</u> for in-person gatherings	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 29: Psalm 13 (6 verses)

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

Scripture: James 1:17-27

Sermon: "Pura Vida"

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

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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09)

[pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09](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.

well being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

TONIGHT, Zoom Meeting on Reducing Gun Violence with Faith in Indiana, Thursday, August 26, 7pm

The city is promising more money for stopping gun violence - this is exciting news! Faith in Indiana and other groups have been pushing for this, but there is a lot of work ahead. While long term improvement projects are critical, there is also a proven strategy to help redeem those at high risk and reduce the violence more quickly - without waiting for policy and law changes. Learn about this strategy and efforts the city is launching from those involved in a zoom meeting sponsored by Church Women United, including participants from city organizations. Here is the meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85350254545?pwd=dGJDbmYvWUxyQWVnODd6bWFLdzZvQT09>, By phone: 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 853 5025 4545, Passcode: 010931 Any questions, please contact Karen Walker 317-319-8950.

Thursday September 2nd: Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m. For more information contact Randy Walker at 317-796-2081

COMING SOON

Outreach & Service - This year's annual AIDS Walk is scheduled for **Sunday, September 19**. The walk has recently been determined to be held virtually, so we encourage anyone who wishes to make a donation to do so through their website, [Indiana AIDS Walk 2021 - The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis \(indianaaidsfund.org\)](http://IndianaAIDSWalk2021-TheHealthFoundationofGreaterIndianapolis.org). Reflecting our Open & Affirming covenant, First Congregational has supported this important ministry in the past. Even as we remain distanced it's possible to provide support again this year.

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!

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of

Wood@ csjlwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

Calling all writers and poets! One thing I love about this church is the incredible talent we have in the pews (that's you!) Beginning this week, I'll be collecting poems and short reflections (up to 250 words) on the topic of nature. Have you fallen in love with a tree, met a squirrel you've been wondering about, or was stopped in your tracks by a hummingbird? Write about it and submit here: <https://forms.gle/FaJZPMPMmJsyzWf6> Submit by October 1st. Questions? Email me at cassidy@fcindy.org

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 & 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)

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

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

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.

This Week at First Congregational:

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)
Thursday, September 2	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 2	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 5	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, September 5	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 5	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)

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