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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 23

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)

BE A BLESSING PRACTICE PEACE.
LEAD WITH LOVE.
BE JOYFUL. PRAY OFTEN. BE KIND. GIVE THANKS.
DO GOOD. HAVE COURAGE. WORK FOR JUSTICE.
BE THE LIGHT. ENCOURAGE OTHERS.  UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear First Congregational,

husband Lance are members of First Congregational and it was a joy to participate in this historic occasion on behalf of the church. I am particularly thankful for the creative and supportive ways First Congregational has partnered with CTS over the years, from being the church family of Presidents to mentoring seminary interns, to financially supporting student scholarships to collaborating with seminary leaders to reimagine theological education. We also proudly count many CTS graduates among our members, past and present.

What a gift to be in a city with such a strong center for theological education! Professor Willie James Jennings provided the address at the installation and his words affirm our own commitment to the Gospel's teachings. Professor Jennings said that at the heart of discipleship is belonging. He said that among all the issues that divide us, it's the Gospel that can bring us together into community and create a sense of true belonging. This is what I wish for us. May we continue to minister to each other and the world as we seek to be a place to belong, to heal, and to love.

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

www.fcindy.org



Installation prayer and blessing of President David Mellott

TODAY'S ACTION ALERT: A Message From *Faith in Indiana*

On Monday, horrific videos surfaced showing US border agents on horseback abusing and intimidating Haitian refugees seeking asylum in the United States.

Let's make one thing very clear: None of this is ok, regardless of who is in the White House. My faith tradition teaches; "You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself,

seeking refuge and asylum within our borders, we turn away from Gld.

TODAY, Thursday, September 23 at 1 pm ET we will stand in solidarity with members of our sister project in Haiti, hear their accounts of the current conditions, and learn what Members of Congress are doing right now to get the Biden Administration to change course, stop deportations and adopt a humanitarian approach. [Will you join us? RSVP here](#)

Rosie Bryant

Faith in Indiana Lead Organizer, Marion County

First Congregational United Church of Christ

THIS Saturday, September 25th, 10am-12pm

Bring your food
donations for
Northside Pantry AND
household donations
for Exodus (including
calendars) to the
church patio between
10:00am and 12:00pm



FCIndy.org

Outreach & Service: This Saturday Morning, September 25th, 10AM-12NOON
(More info below)

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</u> for <u>vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
Blue, positivity is increasing	Masks are <u>encouraged</u> for <u>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</u> for <u>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.)

September 26: Psalm 17

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

Scripture: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

Sermon: Lead with Love

Virtual Coffee Hour - 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=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZZIYIB0aEFVUT09)

[pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZZIYIB0aEFVUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZZIYIB0aEFVUT09)

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.

Outreach & Service: This Saturday Morning, September 25th

Bring your food donations for Northside Pantry AND household donations for Exodus to the church patio between 10:00am and 12:00pm. We are again collecting calendars for Exodus clients as well. Please bring your extra calendars to the Food Pantry/Exodus Refugee donation collection on Sept. 25 and continue to save them for future drives this fall. Needs for Exodus can be found at [In-kind Support](#) | [Exodus Refugee](#). These collections will benefit our local community in feeding the hungry and in settling incoming refugees. And it's always fun to greet one another in person!

Another opportunity to assist in welcoming Afghan refugees can be found at [Team Rubicon](#) | [Afghan Resettlement \(teamrubiconusa.org\)](#). Here you can find a list of immediate needs of refugees already at Indiana's Camp Atterbury, along with an Amazon Wishlist for quick provision of needed items.

Sermon Reflections, Sunday, September 26th at 5:00pm

Join in an online opportunity this Sunday at 5:00 PM on Zoom to reflect on Pastor Sarah's sermon. All are welcome!

Faith In Indiana – Join the meetings! Faith In Indiana - meetings have started - ok, they are really "house parties"! The first was held at the Hartman's on Saturday and the sharing of stories and concerns and passions was impactful for all who attended. There is still time to sign up for a future one. Please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950, Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) with your choice of which event you will attend. More details will be sent after the choices are made.

Options remaining:

- **Sunday, Sept 26 at 1:00** at church (outside) hosted by Steve Leatherman
- **Monday, Sept 27 at 7:00** on zoom hosted by Alice Rutherford

If you have any questions, please contact the chair - Worth Hartman (worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) or the communication lead - Karen Walker (karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)

Invitation to new faith formation opportunities:

As a hybrid church it's important for us to offer faith formation activities in a variety of ways. One such avenue is the ongoing Patio Psalms and Prayers meeting on the church's patio each Sunday morning at 9:30. This group is studying and discussing the psalms and offering personal joys and prayer concerns in an in-person format. In support of our hybrid church vision, the Worship & Faith Board is offering an online-only faith formation opportunity for anyone wishing to participate. Over the next few months we'll gather on the

this will be an opportunity for some interactive reflection on what she has offered to us in worship. **Tune in as you feel comfortable on any or all Sundays – September 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21.** Another online opportunity is being offered by the UCC – the 6-month series “Reason to Have Hope”. This course was developed as a resource to support the recently adopted General Synod resolution defining racism as a public health issue. The discussion group will meet **every other Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 PM, beginning on September 14 and ending on March 15.** Learn more and register at [CHHSM Discussion Group to Delve into ‘Reason to Have Hope’ Course - CHHSM.](#)

Women's Lunch Bunch, Thursday September 30 - 11:45 a.m. NOW ON ZOOM! Join us for Women's lunch this Thursday on Zoom for fellowship and fun.

Men's Lunch, Thursday September 30 - 1:00 p.m. Join the Men's lunch Thursday, September 30th at 1:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Randy at aa28977rwalker@gmail.com

COMING SOON

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.

SUBMIT Your Writing to Share with the Church! 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

Mark Your Calendars for Buzzes!

On **October 3 we'll hear from Allison Welz, our new Just Peace Intern**, about her experiences in Myanmar. She has much to share to educate and inspire us. On **October 10 we'll hear from Kelsey Kennedy, Host Homes Program Coordinator for Trinity Haven**, one of our Covenant Outreach ministries from September through December. Please plan to attend both of these opportunities (on Zoom) to learn and serve.

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)
- **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.

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>

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Thursday, September 23	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 26	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, September 26	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 26	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, September 26	1:00 p.m.	Faith in Indiana Meeting (FC Patio), hosted by Steve Leatherman
Sunday, September 26	5:00 p.m.	Sermon Reflections (Zoom)
Monday, September 27	7:00 p.m.	Faith in Indiana Meeting, hosted by Alice Rutherford (on Zoom)
Thursday, September 30	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom)
Thursday, September 30	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 30	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, October 3	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, October 3	11:00 a.m.	World Communion Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, October 3	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, October 3	12:30 p.m.	All-Church Buzz with Just Peace Intern, Allison Welz (Zoom)

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
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