



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 13

WE ARE BACK TO ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY

PER OUR COVID POLICY, WHEN THE COUNTY IS RED WE MEET ONLINE ONLY

JOIN US ON OUR FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE PAGE TO STAY UPDATE

STAY SAFE! SEE YOU ONLINE!

Dear Church,

I am deeply grateful that First Congregational is a teaching, mentoring, and calling church. We have a history of partnering with members of the church and students to shape leaders for the church and the world.

This week we welcome our new Just Peace Intern from Butler University, Spenser Churchill. Spenser will be helping us live into our Just Peace covenant now through the end of April. Please join me in welcoming Spenser!

We are also blessed to be in covenant with members of the congregation seeking to be ordained into Christian ministry in the United Church of Christ (Members in

Discernment). To further support their development, we welcome them to share their gifts of preaching. This Sunday we will welcome as our preacher Cassidy Hall. Cassidy graduated from Christian Theological Seminary this past December and is working to complete her process for ordination. Join me in praying for Cassidy and offering support on her ongoing journey of faith.


Thank you for being a church that supports people on their vocational journeys! May God bless us as we share our love.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday at First Congregational

*Online Only

Sunday, January 16
Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5
Sermon: Tending the Inner Sanctuary



Reminder:

Annual Meeting

Sunday January 30,

1:00 p.m.

Reports Due January 16
to cassidy@fcindy.org

Annual Meeting Reports Due Sunday January 16th! Please submit your reports to Cassidy by Sunday, January 16th: cassidy@fcindy.org

Annual Meeting Announcement: In view of the change in Marion County's covid status that has sent us back to worshipping only virtually, **the Annual Meeting on January 30 will be on Zoom at 1:00 PM.** We regret that we cannot meet in person for this important business meeting, but we hope all who are able will join us virtually to review 2021 and to move First Congregational's ministries forward in 2022.

Church Leadership and Contact Info:

Senior Councilors: Alice Rutherford (Lead), alice@caloosaspirit.net

Larry Eckel lspeckel@comcast.net, and Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net

Care and Connections: Wendy Baldwin, wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com

Outreach and Service: Alice Rutherford, alice@caloosaspirit.net

Trustees: Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net

Witness and Welcome: Judy Fletcher, jkbfaol@aol.com

Worship and Faith: Aurelia Glennan-March, ahoftmarch@gmail.com

Clerk: Pat Larracey, plainandfancy1963@att.net

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Dillenback, dillenback@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Jim Lootens, lootens.jb@gmail.com

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 10:00 AM:

On Sunday mornings, join us online for a gathering time for faith formation (**Now on Zoom Only**)

January 16: This Sunday, the Adult Ed gathering will honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by listening to a portion of his speech titled "The Other America," delivered at Stanford University in 1967. The entire speech is about 48 minutes long, and touches upon many themes. We will listen to about 15 minutes of the beginning of the speech, in which King paints a picture of two Americas, and will skip to his hopeful concluding words. His speech still resonates today. Sadly, even after 50+ years since he delivered this speech, we still have so much work to do.

[Click here for 2 PDF files](#) that contain a transcript of the portions of the speech we will be listening to. [The full speech is available on YouTube here.](#)

[The full transcript is available here.](#)

Coffee Hour Is Back and Online Only!

Join us immediately following Worship on the Church Zoom.

ONLINE Worship: Online, and Dial-In Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)

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, Thursday, January 13: Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) at 5:00 PM

An Update from Outreach And Service:

Happy New Year to all! Now that we're into a new year, the Outreach & Service Board plans to replicate our 2021 Covenant Outreach based in our UCC Covenants – Just Peace, W.I.S.E. for Mental Health, and Open & Affirming. This month through April we return our focus to our Just Peace covenant as we support our partners at Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana. Contributions to Covenant Outreach over the next four months will be equally divided among these recipients, unless otherwise specified. Please be generous in your gifts to these ministries that clearly reflect First Congregational's values.

In December we donated hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to Exodus Refugee to assist their efforts in settling immigrants into the Indiana winter, especially those who may have come from warmer climates. You can learn more about the work of Exodus Refugee Immigration, along with volunteer opportunities, at [Exodus Refugee Immigration | Building a New Life in Indiana](#).

Also, as mentioned in a previous Epistle, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference is accepting donations and volunteers to assist in recovery efforts in the Kentucky areas devastated by tornadoes last month. Information on how to help can be found on the IKC website, ikc@ikcucc.org.

COMING SOON

Thursday, January 13: Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) at 5:00 PM

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood csilwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

The Blog Here! What is it? Check out this updated page where you'll find more info and where your submissions will go! (You can see a list of current entries on the right-hand side). **Want to submit? Email me your piece at cassidy@fcindy.org**

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 covenants 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: Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspirit.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. All requests for financial support will be confidential and your privacy will be honored and respected. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

GIVING

We seek to love and to share our joy.

We offer care, give thanks and praise, when Christ is present among us all.

We know the world's a mission field, needing forgiveness, justice and hope.

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant.

Our current outreach recipients: Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana.



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.



**FAITH IN
INDIANA**



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



Thursday, January 13	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, January 16	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (Zoom)
Sunday, January 16	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Online Worship (YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, January 16	Reminder	Coffee Hour Following Worship (Zoom)

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.
Indianapolis, IN 46240

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