



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE PILGRIM COLONY

October 2020

Pastor's Reflections

In celebration of our covenant together as a congregation, I give thanks to God for this ministry we share since I began as the senior pastor of First Congregational on March 1, 2018. Here is a list of the top ten things I love about our church and what it means to be your pastor. The list could go on and on, but we'll stick with these ten for now:

1. There's no such thing as a dumb question. I love that it's okay in our church to question things, even if the questions are new, strange, simple, or complex. Questions are welcome.
2. There's no such thing as a dumb idea. I love that our church welcomes the exploration of ideas, generating new ideas together and seeing where these ideas take us.
3. We value and appreciate the great outdoors. I love that our church sees Creation as an extension of the Holy. Our church treats the Earth with kindness, compassion, and care.
4. We work together to feed the hungry. I love our church's commitment to sharing our resources with people in need. We have a heart for caring for our neighbors in need.
5. We love to learn. I love our church's dedication to lifelong learning. We are blessed by Pastor Carol's leadership and ministry, helping to bring us thoughtful educational experiences every week.
6. We are open to trying new things. I love our congregation's willingness to adopt new ways to Be The Church. From installing our sanctuary Playground, to adapting to worship videos, we are flexible.
7. We are not afraid of difficult conversations. I love our church's engagement with hard topics, like our current study of racism. We've learned it's healthier to express ourselves, respecting each other's stories, opinions, and experiences.
8. We are seekers of the way of justice. I love that at the core of our church is the value of Micah 6:8, "to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God."
9. We are curious about the world. I love the curiosity of our congregation. We express this curiosity in our creativity, as we wonder how to experience God in music, in generosity, in fellowship, in service. God's Spirit shows up in our playful curiosity and keeps us open to the kin-dom of God.
10. We see God in one another. I love how we seek to welcome, include, support and engage everyone, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. The Christ in me sees the Christ in you.

Thank you all for the joy and honor to serve as your senior pastor. I am grateful for all the ways this ministry fills my life every day with things that I love. May God continue to bless us as we journey together in faith.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

Soul Care with Pastor Sarah - Join us on **Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** for a time to check-in and to pray together. Here is the Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/494018938?pwd=a3BrdnNyWXEza0tFMUgwek1CVFpYQT09>
Meeting ID: 494 018 938 Password: 46208

Pastoral Care and Support: Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org and (386)478-9012.



**Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days:
Mondays and Saturdays**

The congregation covenants with Pastor Sarah to provide two days a week for personal rest and family renewal.

On Mondays and Saturdays, Pastor Sarah is not available unless it is a pastoral care emergency.

Thank you for honoring this sacred gift of Sabbath time for our Pastor and her family.

Intern Reflections



Dear Church,
As I find myself in my 3rd and final full year of seminary, I am so grateful to be with you once again. Every day I consider the unique and powerful role church plays in these times, the role it's always played, yet all the more clear now. I feel so incredibly lucky and grateful to be navigating these days alongside you. I'm looking forward to all we get to learn together this year. As always, you can contact me at studentpastor@fcindy.org
Thank you,
Student Pastor Cassidy Hall

As September comes to an end, it seems like the perfect time to reflect on my first month as the Just Peace Intern. I have not only enjoyed meeting with the members of the church, but have appreciated the opportunity to be part of the church community. The interactive dialogue and conversation on Sunday has been very engaging and I always look forward to my time to meet with the group. Members of the church have a variety of interests and I have sincerely enjoyed discussing my internship with the community. It is this interaction that allows me to connect with those similar interests and to hear what people are involved in both through the church and outside in their local communities. In addition, I have connected with Faith in Indiana as well as work on Voter Registration in the Indianapolis area. Throughout this experience I believe that I have been able to develop my



leadership and communication skills, leverage my external ties with the local Indianapolis community, and help to drive engagement in the electoral process. I am excited to continue to learn and grow through this opportunity, and appreciate the ability it has provided to become further engaged within the Indianapolis community.

- Maddy Vaughn, Just Peace Intern
(mvaughn@butler.edu)

The Antiracism Book Buzz continues on October 11 & 25 at 12:30p.m.



Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

The pastoral office and other positions of staff leadership exist to build up the congregation as part of the Body of Christ and to equip the saints for the mission of the church. The particular relationship between a pastor and congregants should be tended deliberately, so that the ministries of both pastor and congregation complement each other and further God’s grace in the world. As with any relationship, it must be respected and nurtured to grow in healthy and projective ways. For this reason, a Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee (PCRC) exists in a congregation to advise, assist, and promote the growth of this vital relationship.

PCRC meet quarterly and are available throughout the year for support and conversation. We are blessed to have both Pastor Sarah and Pastor Carol serve our congregation. Currently, Pastor Carol’s focus is on the following areas: pulpit supply, pastoral care visits, Adult Education and Worship Leader coordination.

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Randy Walker, Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart

PCRC for Pastor Carol: Bob Cook, Gloria Boedeker, Clark Collier, susana-judith rae

Moderator’s Reflections

Each year October brings us a new season. Yes, autumn officially begins in September, but weather-wise we don’t usually feel the change until October. The crisp air, the colorful leaves, and the shortening days all become more noticeable when our calendars turn to October. I always enjoy the change of the seasons, and I welcome the magic of the autumn light on the trees, the smoky aroma of a campfire, and the taste of fresh apple cider from an



orchard. This year, though, just like the seasons of spring and summer, autumn will have a different feel as I continue to remain at home more than in past years. Cooler days will mean less time to spend outdoors, and the coronavirus isolation will again be felt as winter approaches.

But there's a special day to anticipate that occurs in October – Pastor Appreciation Day. Last year we expressed our appreciation for all that our pastors do for us with presentations of gifts during worship and gathering for cake in our parlor afterward. Clearly, celebrating our pastors in the same way is not an option this year. But it's also clear that our pastors have gone the extra miles with us as we have traveled a bumpy road through this pandemic. So this time calls us like no other to celebrate their presence and their leadership with us. Gifts and cake may be off the table, but we can still find ways to express our appreciation for Pastor Sarah's wonderful weekly sermons, Pastor Carol's attentiveness to our spiritual needs, and Student Pastor Cassidy's leadership of our exploration of our role in racial justice. We can even express our appreciation for our pastors throughout the whole month of October, rather than on a single day. I encourage everyone this month to write a note (email or snail mail), make a phone call, or even send a family video to each of these outstanding pastors to share your gratitude about how each of them has touched your life over the last year. We are blessed to have Pastor Sarah, Pastor Carol, and Student Pastor Cassidy in our midst. Let's shower them with blessings as well.

- Alice Rutherford, Moderator

This Month at FC*

SUNDAYS	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class (Zoom)
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, Dial In, Facebook)
SUNDAYS	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour (Zoom - immediately after worship)
TUESDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see special Zoom link in Pastor announcements)
TUESDAYS	6:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers (FC patio)
WEDNESDAYS	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesdays (Zoom)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health (Zoom)
Thursday, October 1	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 1	7:00 p.m.	Calling Circle (Zoom)
Sunday, October 4	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday (FC patio YouTube, Facebook, Dial In)
Wednesday, October 7	6:00 p.m.	Just Peace Voter Registration Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, October 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Saturday, October 10	10:00 a.m.	Outdoor Food Drive (FC patio)
Saturday, October 10	11:00 a.m.	CROP Walk (outside FC)
Sunday, October 11	12:30 p.m.	Book Buzz (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 14	5:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team (Zoom)
Thursday, October 15	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, October 18	11:00 a.m.	Just Peace Sunday (YouTube, Dial In, Facebook)
Sunday, October 18	12:30 p.m.	Church Check in Buzz
Tuesday, October 20	1:30 p.m.	Book Circle (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 21	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (Zoom)
Thursday, October 22	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch (Zoom)
Saturday, October 24	9:00 a.m.	Mental Health First Aid (Zoom)
Sunday, October 25	12:30 p.m.	Book Buzz (Zoom)
Thursday, October 29	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch

****All activities are through the use of Zoom, Facebook, YouTube, or phone call-in unless otherwise stated.***

To join Zoom meetings, click this link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBtk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>
Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign. You can call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

WORSHIP & FAITH

Elizabeth Price, Chair

Sunday Adult Class, 9:30-10:30 am

Adult Education will continue to meet via Zoom during the month of October and continue to educate ourselves on issues of Racial Justice. This month we will utilize a curriculum from the UCC titled **"Sacred Conversations on Race; The Journey Continues."** This material was produced in 2012, and so is dated in some respects. The statistics, for example, have probably changed in 8 years. But the topics are hauntingly the same as we are currently still facing! We will augment this material with current articles from reliable journalistic sources or, when possible, with a video or TED talk.

We will also devote a Sunday to "Devoted to Generosity" with Wendy Baldwin facilitating. These sessions are actually Bible studies that have proven to be a rich source of reflection and discussion. Stewardship is not just about giving money to our church; it is about how we live our lives, how we care for the planet, and how we love one another. Hope to see you all!

October 4: We have been learning about racial justice issues since July, seeking to learn how to be anti-racist, and better allies to our Black and Brown siblings. Today we will pause and reflect together on this journey thus far. What have we learned? What has challenged us? How have we changed? How are we coping? Perhaps a scripture or a poem has helped to sustain you during this time of pandemic, protests and environmental disasters. Let's share and reflect together.

October 11: This Sunday we will take a look at the history of Voting Rights Suppression and how it continues today. We will read the UCC Sacred Conversations piece on Voting Rights at: <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/SCOR-and-Voting-Rights-2012-Fall.pdf> We will watch a 9 minute video about Stacey Abrams and her work on ending voter suppression: https://youtu.be/Pp_1kKrmIh0

For a historical perspective, I recommend this article from National Geographic titled "Voter suppression has haunted America since it was founded" available at this link: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/reference/united-states-history/voter-suppression-haunted-united-states-since-founded/> or this one from the Guardian titled "Voter suppression carries slavery's three-fifths clause into the present" at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jan/31/voter-suppression-african-american-james-madison-slavery>. Finally, I recommend the movie "Suppressed 2020: The Fight to Vote," available on YouTube at: <https://youtu.be/9rynnRBQwrU>.

October 18: Wendy Baldwin presents "Devoted to Generosity"

October 25: This week we will look at the intersection of racial and environmental justice. We will read and reflect on the UCC Sacred Conversations piece on the environment found at: <http://uccfiles.com/pdf/SCOR-and-the-Environment-2012-Fall.pdf>.

We will also watch a 15 minute Ted Talk titled "Climate Change is a Social Justice Issue," by Adriana Laurent from the University of British Columbia. Her focus is not just on Canada but globally, beginning with her hometown in Honduras. <https://youtu.be/NRmHp0VC4K4>.

To learn more about the intersection between racial and environmental justice, read about the "father of environmental justice" in "Robert Bullard: 'Environmental justice isn't just slang, it's real'" at <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/dec/20/robert-bullard-interview-environmental-justice-civil-rights-movement>.

3 Ways to Connect for Worship



FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal



YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wgAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live Premiere will broadcast at 11am Sunday morning. There will be a countdown before. We highly recommend using the mobile app for more convenience as it will refresh.
- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch live.



DIAL-IN

- **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.

In-Person Outside Worship (weather permitting): Sunday, October 4th

Bring your own communion elements.



Just Peace: Voter Outreach

Located on the website of the First Congregational United Church of Christ the Statement of Mission reads, “We are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world [...] responding to God’s call for compassion, justice, and care of the earth, we equip and empower each other to make a difference in our lives and in the world.” One of the many aspects of faith organizations that I have always valued is the sense of community. There is such a strong connection within faith communities that is hard to find elsewhere. Through this community, we have an opportunity now to empower others in our society to ensure their voice is heard at the polls this November in the upcoming election.

There is strength in numbers, and by working in conjunction with other organizations such as

Faith in Indiana, we have an opportunity to create positive change. As the Faith in Indiana website states, "We register new voters, remind voters to go to the polls, and educate people about how they can vote to promote justice and equity. We focus on people who are often ignored by campaigns and political parties: women, people of color, immigrants, and young people" (Faith in Indiana). There is no better time to respond to God's call for compassion, justice, and care of the earth, than now.

On Thursday evenings Faith in Indiana and Act in Indiana have an opportunity for you to call and connect with voters in the Indianapolis area. Every Tuesday in October from 6-7 pm Act in Indiana will have training sessions to learn how to phone bank. Following training, you will have the opportunity to sign up to call voters in the area and remind them of the upcoming election every Thursday from 6-9 pm. Here is the website to find out more and to sign up: <http://actindiana.org/voter/>.

On **October 7th from 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm** Maddy Vaughn, the Just Peace Intern, will be hosting a virtual meeting to discuss the importance of voter registration; why it is imperative to make your voice heard; and to ensure other people in our community have access to the same right.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign.

On **October 15th from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**, anyone who is able to phone bank will all join with Act in Indiana and phone bank as a group. Let's help Act in Indiana reach 53,000 voters! If you have any questions, feel free to email our Just Peace Intern, Maddy Vaughn at: mvaughn@butler.edu.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Ann Leatherman, Chair

CROP Walk & FC Indy

This is the 51st year for the CROP Walk in Indianapolis, and FC Indy has participated in each one. The CROP Walk works to raise money to "end hunger one step at a time", and the challenge has increased this year with the effects of the pandemic. This year's CROP Walk is 'virtual', with churches deciding individually how they would like to participate. Here is the plan for our church:

- On Saturday, 10/10, we will have a symbolic CROP walk around the church's neighborhood. It will begin at 11 am, and last about a half hour; we will keep distanced and wear masks. This is also during our monthly food drive, so you can bring some canned food to drop off before going on the walk. OR take a symbolic walk on your own, praying for those who are hungry.
- People coming to the food drive can bring checks, made out to the church and designated for CROP, and deposit them in our offering plate. Or you can mail checks to the church.
- You can also make online donations directly to our CROP "team" at <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/indianapolisin/Team/View/139286/First-Congregational-UCC>. If you would like to be part of the virtual "team", register at this site.

This is truly a tangible way to help those with food insecurity issues. This year, Second Helpings will receive 25% of all Walk funds raised. Other funds provide aid to our brothers and sisters in other areas of the US as well as worldwide. Questions? Contact George Meier.

WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Mental Health Team



The FC WISE Mental Health Team seeks new members interested in promoting mental health, removing stigma of mental illness and working for justice for those affected by mental illness. We meet monthly (currently via Zoom) the second Wednesday of each month from 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. (Next meeting is October 14th). Come join our active and caring team trying to live out God's call to love one another through our commitment to those experiencing mental health challenges, their families and friends.

For more information contact co-chairs, Pat Larracey, [317-625-6801](tel:317-625-6801)-plainandfancy1963@att.net and Sandy Wood, 317-225-6206- csjlwood@att.net.

Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health Conditions or Challenges, and Wellness: Thursdays from 5:00-6:00PM on Zoom

One in four of us are affected by mental health for ourselves or loved ones or family and friends. It is the leading disease in the US at 18.7%. You do not have to be alone with your struggles or journey. This group is an important addition to formal mental health treatment. We have many resources to share with you. We offer a listening ear in supporting you and your self-esteem. Wellness is a conscious and deliberate process that allows all of us to be aware of choices for a more satisfying lifestyle.

This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning their well-being. We have covenanted with:

- care givers of loved ones who have mental illness, i.e. dementia and Alzheimer's
- chaplains seeking to renew their wellness
- burned out and overwhelmed medical folk
- fears of parents, grandparents, and teachers about school and college
- those with trauma, grief, up and down moods, disorders, stigma, emotional issues

We are an open group with confidentiality guidelines. Sessions are on Zoom and are led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, co-chair of the church's WISE Team. Please feel free to call or email either of us if you have questions: Pastor Sarah: pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012. Dr. Pat: plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign.

Thank you,

Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey

Contact me at 317-625-6801, or email: plainandfancy1963@att.net, or attend a session anytime to discover for yourself.

Rescheduled Mental Health First Aid Training- Virtual

The March 28th Mental Health First Aid all day training which was cancelled by the pandemic has been rescheduled virtually for **Saturday October 24, 2020** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our workshop leaders from National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) have developed a virtual training. It will consist of 2 hours pre-workshop study followed by the Oct 24th training. The training will be offered via Zoom from NAMI's account and will have appropriate breaks throughout the day.

To register send an email to bhaynes@nami.org and indicate you are registering for the FC Virtual Mental Health workshop. After registration, you will be sent instructions and training materials for the workshop. You will not need to pay at the time of registration- the church will be billed.

After registration, please send an email to Sandy at csjlwood@att.net or Pat at plainandfancy1963@att.net so we know you are signed up for the class. **The class must have 10 students or it will be cancelled. The top number of students in the class is 20. Deadline for registration is October 16th.** We hope you can attend this wonderful educational opportunity!



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

On average, there are
123
SUICIDES A DAY.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2016,
630,000
people died from
DRUG OVERDOSE.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nearly **1 in 5** U.S.
adults lives with a
MENTAL ILLNESS.

*National Institute of Mental Health via the
National Survey on Drug Use and Health
and the Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration*

Why Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid teaches you **how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders**. This 8-hour training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to appropriate care.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- Employers
- Police officers
- Hospital staff
- First responders
- Faith leaders
- Community members
- Caring individuals

WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illness.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect the person with help.
- **NEW:** How to administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose.

The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:

- **Assess** for risk of suicide or harm
- **Listen** nonjudgmentally
- **Give** reassurance and information
- **Encourage** appropriate professional help
- **Encourage** self-help and other support strategies

More than 1 million trained!

TO FIND A COURSE OR CONTACT AN INSTRUCTOR IN YOUR AREA, VISIT
www.MentalHealthFirstAid.org OR EMAIL Info@MentalHealthFirstAid.org.

WANT TO TAKE THE COURSE?

Where: Via Zoom with the First Congregational Church

When: Saturday October 24th from 9 AM to 4 PM

Register Here: Email bhaynes@namiindiana.org



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID®

Wellness Wednesdays

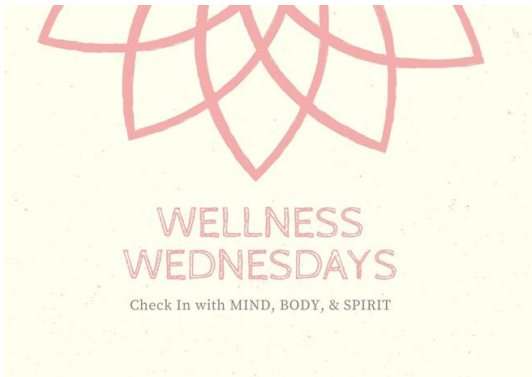
Wellness Wednesdays are weekly opportunities for our community to come together and practice bringing wellness to our minds, our bodies, and our spirits through simple practices that we can use on our own throughout the week. All practices are offered in a chair.

October 7: No Live Zoom - See our website or facebook page for a Guided Relaxation video.

October 14: Nurturing Mental Wellness

October 21: Nurturing Physical Wellness

October 28: Nurturing Spiritual Wellness



All sessions (except the first week of the month) are on Zoom, and are recorded in order to share them on the church website and facebook pages. You may choose to have your camera on or off during the recording.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign.

- WISE Mental Health Team & Rev. Shannon Abbott

CARE & CONNECTIONS

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Outdoor Vesper Service – Tuesdays, 6:30-7 pm, in the Patio Courtyard

In October, join us weekly in our new location in the patio courtyard for a quiet time to be together, ponder scripture, and share our joys and concerns. Bring a chair and face mask as we spend some precious time with one another, and practice our love by keeping distant and wearing face coverings. With declining daylight and cooler weather, this will be the last month for the outdoor vesper service. Note: if the weather is threatening, the event will be cancelled, since we cannot run into the building to take cover.

Family Promise Apartment Supplies – Thank You!

Your gifts in August and September allowed us to help furnish an apartment for the homeless. We were partnered with Carmel UMC and All Soul's UU to supply 1 apartment that is being leased by Family Promise through a new grant they received. We provided rugs and various kitchen supplies through in-kind donations and funds raised to cover the cost. Thank you for your generosity to this Just Peace mission!

Food Drive & Fellowship! Second Saturday – October 10, 10-noon:

Let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations to the Northside Pantry, who is very grateful that we are doing this! You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper to recycle. NEW! Please bring any unwanted 2021 calendars and notepads that you may be receiving in the mail; we are collecting these for Exodus Refugee. And our greatest gift – the ability to spend a few minutes of in-person fellowship with those that are there, while maintaining safe distance protocols.

Since the Northside Pantry is pre-packaging much of what is given to those in need, their preferred donation items are:

Vegetables: Green Beans, corn, diced tomatoes, peas
Fruit: Pineapple chunks, Mandarin oranges,
Applesauce



Macaroni & Cheese
Canned Tuna or chicken
Spaghetti, Elbow macaroni, Egg noodles, Rice
Peanut butter
Strawberry or grape jelly
Pancake mix
Oils
Toilet paper
Kleenex
Please note – regular size cans and jars are preferred.

TRUSTEES

Steve Coomer & Randy Walker, Co-Chairs

Financial Update
When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results through August 31, 2020.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary			
1/1/2020 through 8/31/2020 Using 2020 Budget 1			
Category	1/1/2020 Actual	- Budget	8/31/2020 Difference
INCOME	155,490	157,526	-2,036
M. Unrestricted Contributions	155,490	157,526	-2,036
M.01 Pledged Offerings	132,158	108,799	23,359
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	8,005	13,400	-5,396
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	15,327	15,327	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	10,000	-10,000
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	10,000	-10,000
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.07. Transfer from Youth Fund	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
EXPENSES	165,334	172,029	6,696
A. Pastoral Leadership	79,651	82,016	2,365
B. Worship & Faith	22,668	27,927	5,259
C. Care & Connections	188	280	92
D. Witness & Welcome	350	718	368
E. Outreach & Service	11,726	11,040	-686
F. Trustees	195	72	-123
G. Administration & Operations	13,620	13,993	373
H. House & Grounds	32,770	31,460	-1,310
I. Miscellaneous	4,165	4,524	359
Net Difference:	-9,844	-14,503	4,659

Highlights - Year to date:

- **Income** of \$155,500 was \$2,000 below budget - but the budget assumed we would draw \$20,000 from the Foundation, which we have not needed. Adjusted for this, income exceeded budget by \$18,000. Pledges are \$23,400 above our budget so far - Hooray!!
- **Expenses** of \$165,300 were \$6,700 below budget. The savings were primarily pandemic-related:
 - Pastoral leadership - lower professional expense and auto reimbursement for Pastor Sarah
 - Worship and Faith - two months without a choir director; lower expenses for substitute organist and supply pastor
 - Education - lower child care expenses

- **Cash** at 8/31 was very strong - \$41,900 in checking and \$23,400 in money market savings. This reflects both our strong pledge receipts and our \$34,400 Payroll Protection Plan funding.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer

lootens.jb@gmail.com

Climate Change is HERE

We've been hearing for years that climate change is coming and that we need to prepare for it. While most climate change experts have strongly endorsed that view, a few have not. They and their allies have held up any progress in coping with it. This summer it has become painfully clear that climate change isn't just *coming*, it's **HERE**. Evidence is in record forest fires on the West coast, record numbers of hurricanes, melting of glaciers, increases in sea levels, drought in the Midwest, global increases in temperature and others. The Earth and its inhabitants are in trouble, with worse events coming!



Man's contributions of releasing toxic chemicals into our air and water, cutting down our forests and ignoring greenhouse gases are probably not the entire cause of climate change, but have certainly added greatly. The time for debate is over; it's time to bend every effort to reduce the existing damage to our earth home and to try to reduce further escalation. Every preventive action that we take matters. We can recycle, use less energy in cooling and heating our homes, use our cars less, use energy efficient ones, use fewer chemicals on our lawns and fields, plant and maintain trees, and elect officials who understand climate change and will work to reduce our country's damaging practices. It's time to begin a national effort to use renewable energy promptly and to support worldwide efforts, but we can also do our part working locally. The time to act is **NOW**.

- Bill Gillette for the Green Team
(Photo Credit: NASA Climate Change)

COMMUNITY

What Do We Know?

"I know whom I have believed, and I'm convinced that Jesus Christ is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that final Day" (2Timothy 1:12, The Inclusive Bible).

During these uncertain and challenging COVID-19 global pandemic days, have you, perhaps as i have, found yourself repeating—mantralike—words such as, "i don't know, i don't know, i don't know..."?

Throughout such confusing, ambiguous times, we would do well to remember a story about Anna, the young daughter of Roberta, a former member of FC's choir. Years after Roberta married, moved across town, and began attending her new husband's church, she and i reconnected. How? We discovered we were members of two groups that meant much to each of us. Off and on, i ran into Roberta, sometimes with her adorable Anna, particularly at Mental Health America get-togethers.

When Anna was about 3, Roberta told me that Anna had learned to sing, with gusto, "Jesus Loves Me." However, she said that Anna referred to the hymn by a name other than the one all-aged children and adults have long used. Anna called it "This I Know," the words that follow the beloved hymn's first three words.

Does it surprise you that "Jesus Loves Me" was written by another Anna? (i wonder if young Anna, currently in the fourth grade, realizes that she shares the first name of the composer of "Jesus Loves Me.") In UCC's *New Century Hymnal*, the song's historical note states the basics of how the earlier Anna (1827–1915) composed this favorite hymn of many: "Anna B. Warner collaborated with her sister, Susan, on several novels. In one, *Say and Seal*, this hymn was sung to comfort a sick child" (*New Century Hymnal*, #327).

i found intriguing that Roberta's daughter seemed to know, at three years old, the importance of three significant words that the rest of us have likely neglected, an idea that matters most, especially during trying times like now. Let's consider ***This I know*** and list what we know. Each of us may know different truths and promises from God that we can hold onto.

Here are some truths that i know:

- God and Jesus love me, and i love them.
- God is love.
- In my walk with God, i know, without a doubt, that both God and Jesus are trustworthy.
- Life is an opportunity to love, forgive, have faith, be courageous, and grow spiritually.
- i believe we are spirits who are now living a material existence on Earth.
- Powerful emotions we can experience on Earth include compassion, empathy, generosity, honesty, mercy, grace, and kindness.
- Isaiah tells us that God's ways and thoughts are higher than our human ways and thoughts. Whenever we think otherwise, we do not understand.
- Romans reminds us that all things work together for good for those who love God...

Now that at least 200,000 people of the US have died from COVID-19, it's surely time to reinforce we know Jesus loves us, we love Jesus, and children belong to Him. Moreover, i know that one of the most powerful musical selections i've experienced at a funeral was an unusual presentation of the hymn Anna calls "This I Know." What was so powerful about the musical presentation? My friend Charlie had requested that "Jesus Loves Me" be played on the piano; we listened silently, mesmerized, at the simplicity that appealed to the little kid in each of us.

And, finally, after i had written much of this piece, Shannon Abbott's September 23's Wednesday Wellness Tip arrived in my email. Maybe engaging in her tip is an effective way to end this column: "*Find a caring, calming word or phrase to say to yourself when you are feeling low.*" Perhaps you can guess what the first two possible phrases i thought of were: "This I know" and "Jesus Loves me." What calming word or phrase comes to your mind?

- susanna-judith rae



Dr. Robert Saler will moderate a discussion of the roles that white people, particularly white people of faith, are called to play in the struggle against white supremacy. We will be discussing CTS student Kerry Connelly's book, *Good White Racist? Confronting Your Role in Racial Injustice*, and we will also hear contributions by fellow CTS students Cassidy Hall and Mason Mennenga. The event will stream live on the CTS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ctsindy>) and be recorded for those who wish to watch later. No registration required!

Meridian Hills School

We're back at school and are excited to be teaching and learning again. This is a very busy time for us--so I'm sharing an article I found about being positive. I thought it was timely for 2020.

Penguin Problems

By Jory John Random House, 2016

The complaining penguin in this book reminds me so much of a kid I know. Born into the family of a friend of mine, he has walked around with a black cloud hanging over his head since he could toddle. He is gloomy, convinced that the world is out to get him, and nothing is right in his world.

You and your kids will laugh at the penguin, who can complain about anything: It's way too early. My beak is cold. It's too bright out here. The ocean smells too salty today. He has so many problems and nobody even cares - probably they have just learned to tune him out, as in the case of the glass-empty boy I know.

Along comes the walrus, who gives him all the positive ideas in the world and asks him to think about it. Penguin does, initially. (Maybe that walrus has a point. I do love the mountains. And the ocean. Maybe things will work out, after all.)

We get all primed up for a happy ending, then the last page shows us Penguin wandering off again. (My beak is cold. It gets dark way too early.)

After a hearty laugh, I contemplate the truth of the matter: We don't change. Humans are born with a wired-in temperament that shows itself in the newborn nursery.

Babies either sleep placidly and wake pleasantly to be fed and changed, or flinch with every sound and light, actively protesting against everything in their environments as affronts to their dignity. And those same kids, studied years later, still show similar characteristics and approaches to the world.

Temperament is a given, and no more easily changed than the color of their eyes or shape of their noses. Tempting as it may be for parents to believe that they can somehow remake the little person in their midst, it is just plain futile, as well as frustrating to parents and hurtful to the child.

The key thing is for parents to become open to knowing and accepting their children's unique temperaments, and to learn how to live with and support their distinctive ways of living in the world.

Granted, this is more easily done when you are blessed with a child with a sunny disposition, who greets each new experience with zest, rather than one who is every bit as gloomy as Eeyore, hanging back and expecting that the balloon will pop.

But healthy growth depends on being accepted for who we are, even as others may tease about our tendency to see that half-empty glass. Such teasing can indicate recognition of the child's basic self, even while showing that this stance is not that of everyone. And what of Walrus, with his lengthy exhortations to see all the great things around?

If I had an Eeyore-type kid, I'm sure I wouldn't be able to help myself from doing the same thing. And after all, it did cause Penguin to complain a little less loudly, for a while. I call that appropriate widening of the child's perspective and that is, after all, our job as parents. So rejoice in who you got, and help all children see that people approach the world in their own unique ways.

Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC (IKC UCC)

A Pastoral Letter on the Grand Jury Outcome for Breonna Taylor

Dear Friends,

I write to you today in response to the recent grand jury outcome in the Breonna Taylor case, a key reality within the region of several of our congregations within downtown Louisville. I write out of the awareness of the collective grief that this particular outcome has brought. I join with the many voices of our conference, Kentuckiana Association churches, and the Louisville community to express my disappointment that justice was not reached in this case. I join with you in grieving a life lost, in grieving justice denied, and grieving that our criminal justice system has once again demonstrated its deep need of repair. But, we do not grieve as those who do not have hope.

I heard a recent story of the late John Lewis. The story was told that when the civil rights movement was happening that people like Martin Luther King Jr. and John Lewis decided that while they needed to respond to the issues in front of them, they also had to think strategically of the long term vision. Lewis said the movement had to move into its work "as if" the vision of justice that they were seeking was already realized. They went into dozens of protests and demonstrations with this framework of living "as if" the world they sought was already in place. They lived and moved "as if" lunch counters and water fountains were equal for all. And so, I ask us what would justice look like in our country if it were realized? What would it look like if it were realized for Breonna Taylor? There is no doubt in my mind that this particular case has demonstrated to me the need for our efforts to include working for long-term solutions to our broken systems. These broken systems built upon the privilege of white skin will not be fully addressed or repaired in one letter, in one prayer, in one synod or conference resolution, or only in our newly formed anti-racism task force. The work to repair and move us towards God's shalom will mean a living "as if." As a people that requires deep and long-term commitment from our churches, our conference board and staff, and our wider church. We are a part of a movement within Christianity that has a voice that can speak to these matters and we must do so. We must do so together and with our siblings from other denominations within our faith. That is, in fact, the power of this moment—that we have God and we have each other in this long and hard work and that our collective voices matter. You have my commitment and the commitment of our staff to work alongside of you.

This news is fresh. I am still soaking it in and I most certainly don't have all the answers for what steps will be taken next to address our systems of injustice. However, I do believe in the power of pausing to pray, pausing to gather strength, pausing to examine and listen for the places where there is an opening for us to play a role in this work. This is not a pause and plea for prayer that ends in nothing being done, yet again. It is a call to prayer in action, a prayer to live "as if." I will be spending the next several days in prayer and reflection and conversation with members of our conference and our denomination to see what God might be saying among us. I invite you to join with me in this time of prayer that propels us towards action in the way of God's justice and God's shalom. Expect to hear more from your conference staff, from the new anti-racism task force, and from our clergy and churches on what is needed in the days that are ahead. Until a way is made clear, we turn to prayer for the family of Breonna Taylor, for the city of Louisville, and for our congregations on the frontlines.

May God bless each of you as we do this important work together.

Loving and Serving Like Jesus Together,
Rev. Chad R. Abbott
Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference



We, the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network, invite you to SAVE THE DATE for our FIRST online WISE Conference, sponsored and hosted by the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

The conference will be via ZOOM on **Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14**. It will include a panel discussion during Saturday's lunch hour that will address intersectionality - mental health with the queer community, mental health with disabilities, and mental health with People of Color.

Registration link and more details will be available in the coming weeks.

Southeast Association of the IKCUCC

Ordination Invitation

On behalf of the Southeast Association, we at Metanoia: Church of Transformation are pleased to announce that our pastor, Terry Daniel, will be ordained and installed at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 18, 2020.

Please join us (via Zoom) for this joyous occasion, the next step in our growth as a congregation and in the growth of the Southeast Association of the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ.

- Mark Lynch

President, Metanoia: Church of Transformation

Ps: The zoom link will be provided closer to the date

Eviction Ministry Update

During Covid-19, there has been a halt in evictions, because homelessness increases the health risks of families during a pandemic. This halt in evictions will not last forever; however, it does give us the opportunity to prepare for the needs of Central Indiana families in the coming months. As we prepare for 2021, we need your support. **Here are a few ways you can help:**

- **Financial Support** - Checks can be made out to: Southeast Association of the IKC UCC. Please include in the memo line: "Eviction Ministry." Donations can be mailed to the treasurer at:
SE Association Eviction Ministry
Attn: Margie Potter
726 Coach Rd.
Indianapolis, IN 46227
- **Join our Team** - We welcome new members who want to join our team so that we can continue to grow and expand this ministry.
- **Legal resources** - If you have legal experience with the eviction process, we would love to talk with you to gain better insight into the legal process of eviction in Indiana.

- Rev. Shannon Abbott (shannon@fcindy.org), Pastor Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan (pastorsarahzucc@gmail.com), Walter Ziebell (wziebell@gmail.com)

Letter from the United Church of Christ Executive Officers

We, the Elected Officers of the United Church of Christ, write to affirm our support for the churches, leaders, and clergy of the Indiana Kentucky Conference as you call for justice for Breanna Taylor.

We understand and we share the collective grief, anger, frustration and deep disappointment you feel because of the apparent unwillingness and inability of the justice system to respond fully to the tragic and cruel death of Breanna Taylor. When the law is said to have been fully and correctly applied and justice still is not available, we know that laws must change. That will and can only happen when enough people rise up and demonstrate a capacity and a will to call for that change. It is a matter of faith for us as disciples of the risen Christ that we join with the oppressed whom the law does not fairly and fully represent and ally with them in their cries for justice.

We appreciate the clarity of your calls for justice. We stand in solidarity with you and with the Kentucky Council of Churches as you seek to find new pathways to full justice for Breonna Taylor. We pledge our own support to this effort, knowing that wherever racism continues to affect unjust outcomes, we all suffer and none of us can rest.

We thank you for your ongoing work for justice. You remain in our thoughts and prayers. We stand ready to support your efforts in ways that you find meaningful and helpful.

May the arc of history continue its unerring bent towards justice, a bending that no enemy of God's shalom can long delay. Let your justice roll down like waters, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. And may the Holy Spirit of the living God and the risen Christ sustain you in what remains the work of the faithful: building a just world for all.

Sincerely,
John C. Dorhauer
Karen Georgia Thompson
Traci Blackmon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Colony Submission Deadline: Please email your submissions to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org by **Thursday, October 22nd**.

Women's Lunch Bunch: All women of the church are invited to get together once a month at **11:30am.** via Zoom for lunch, friendship and fellowship. This month, they meet on **October 22nd**. For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Men's Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1:00pm.** This month, they are meeting **October 1st & 15th**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.

Book Circle: We continue our discussion of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston. For the meeting in October we will read through chapter 10. We are currently meeting on zoom - the third Tuesday of each month (**October 20th**) from **1:30 - 3:30pm.** For more information please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency Fund seeks to support your housing, food, and medical needs if you find yourselves unemployed or underemployed. You can send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website. To request funds for you or your family, please contact me by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

MAKE YOUR VOTING ACTION PLAN

FIVE MINUTES FOR FOUR YEARS

CHECK YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION

Each state has different rules for voter registration.

Visit the Our Faith Our Vote Action Center at

<https://p2a.co/zv3KyiE> to make sure you're registered to vote.

FIGURE OUT HOW YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE

MAIL-IN BALLOTS

- If you can, request a mail-in ballot. Each state has different deadlines for this so take five minutes to check it now: <https://www.usa.gov/election-office>
- Find out when early voting starts in your state!

IN PERSON VOTING

If you're going to vote in person find your polling place here:

<https://www.vote.org/polling-place-locator/>.

- Make a safety plan with a mask, gloves, sanitizer and other protection.
- Check on the location of your polling place.
- Decide when you're going to vote.

BE PREPARED TO PROTECT THE ELECTION

Save the Election Protection Hotline in your phone or write it down so if you encounter problems with voting you are ready.

- 866-OUR-VOTE ((866) 687-8683)
- State by State Election Protection Contacts:
<https://866ourvote.org/state/>

GET OTHERS INVOLVED

Share why voting is important to you and ask those in your life to make their own voting plan.

**WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
FOR MORE RESOURCES VISIT:**

<https://www.ucc.org/ourfaithourvote>

