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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 28, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

This Sunday at our Annual Meeting we will lift up for reflection and celebration all the ways we have come together creatively to Be The Church, fulfilling our mission and ministries during 2020. I consider this to be holy. It is holy and sacred to seek out faith, hope, and love during times of chaos, crisis, and despair. With God's help, throughout 2020, First Congregational found ways to love each other, to love our neighbors as ourselves. Praise be to God. Thanks be to God!

I hope you will join us this Sunday for our 12:30pm virtual pitch-in lunch, then our Annual Meeting. We will be making important decisions about 2021 that will shape our leadership and our budget. Your voice matters and your vote counts. I encourage you to take time to prepare by reading the 2020 Annual Report emailed to the congregation on Friday and included in a link here in the Epistle.

As we prepare to welcome a new Moderator, I want to once again thank our outgoing moderator, Alice Rutherford. True to our covenant, we need one another

and in 2020 we needed the gifts, skills, dedication, passion, and hard work of leading our church that Alice so generously provided to us. On behalf of all of us, thank you Alice! Well done, good and faithful servant of Christ.

May God bless us as we transition into a new season of leadership and life together, guided by God's Spirit of Love.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m. (Zoom)

January 31: Part 3 of "If It Weren't for the Women: Women's Leadership in Social Justice."

Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)

Scripture: Psalm 111

Sermon: "God's Covenant of Compassion, Justice, and Love"

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship

Annual Meeting! This Sunday at 1:00 on Zoom! Lunch at 12:30 on

Zoom! Come one, come all! Everyone is welcome! Everyone is I-M-P-O-R-T-A-N-T! See you there!

- Alice Rutherford, Moderator

P.S. ***Please read the 2020 Annual Report prior to our meeting!***

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!

- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m.** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pat Larracey at plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.
- **Women's Lunch (Zoom) at 11:30 a.m.** - Please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com for more information.
- **Men's Lunch (Zoom) at 1:00 p.m.** - Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.

Zoom Vespers on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us on Zoom for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns.

Soul Care with Pastor Sarah via Zoom- Join us after Zoom Vespers on **Tuesdays at 7:30p.m.** Simply stick around after vespers for a time to check-in and to pray together.

Trustees Meeting (Zoom) - Wednesday, Feb 3 at 7:00 p.m.

COMING UP

Racial Justice Team - Book/Movie Discussion February 7

We have chosen the Young Adult novel "**The Hate You Give**" by **Angie Smith** as our next book. The book is available widely at the library. It has also been made into a movie. We will have one discussion about it in a **buzz on February 7**. It is a powerful depiction of multiple perspectives of black lives in the current world. As quoted in the book: "What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?"

Thank you, the Racial Justice Team: Pastor Sarah, Carol, Cassidy, Alice, Karen

Please click [HERE](#) to view the January 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

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspirt.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

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

FC Emergency Fund - The FC Emergency 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 pastorsaran@TCindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

FC Covid Protocols:

Effective immediately, the church building is closed to in-person church gatherings until the following parameters are reached, based on guidance from Dr Virginia Caine, Marion County Public Health Director:

A 7-day average of 5% (or less) positivity among unique individuals tested for a two-week period, and new cases per day at 35 or under in Marion County, per the metrics shown on www.coronavirus.in.gov.

At that time, the Council will decide reopening measures.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

3 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

- 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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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, Jan 28	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch
Thursday, Jan 28	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Jan 28	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, Jan 31	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Jan 31	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Jan 31	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Jan 31	12:30 p.m.	Zoom Lunch & Annual Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, Feb 2	7;30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, Feb 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, Feb 4	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, Feb 6	10:00 a.m.	Board Retreat
Sunday, Feb 7	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Feb 7	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Feb 7	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Feb 7	12:30 p.m.	T.H.U.G. Book Buzz

***All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.**