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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 6, 2020

Through the end of August, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed. Masks are required for limited gatherings occurring outside. (See additional details below.)

**Dear First Congregational,**

I love being a pastor in the United Church of Christ. The UCC is my home. It's a joy to serve as your pastor, to serve as the Southeast Association President, and also serve the national setting of the UCC as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. In these three ways, I experience the full depth and breadth of what it means to be in covenant at the local, regional and national level of the church. This brings me great joy and energizes me.

Recently in a conversation with the national UCC Disaster Ministries team, the leader said to the group, "Now remember, August has two 'u's' in the name. That means pay extra attention, twice as much, to you!" She encouraged us to take the month of August for extra time to care

for our mind, body and spirit. Too often we focus our energies on caring for other people, that our own needs get neglected.

I'd like to encourage each of you to take extra time for "u." Take time in August for doing what brings you joy, what brings you comfort, what brings you relaxation, what brings health and wholeness. I read this article (<https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/mary-schmich/ct-met-schmich-august-20200801-hmupygp75vhopjtmzkpxcgtqae-story.html>) that encourages us to take time in August to write on an index card one thing each day that we are thankful for. I like this idea of creating a practice of gratitude. Maybe you will write on an index card a daily gratitude. Or maybe you will give yourself permission to do that thing that brings you a sense of wonder, delight, and abundant life.

Our Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker, will be taking well deserved vacation this Sunday. Our worship service will celebrate our covenant with the national setting of the UCC and highlight our denomination's national youth ministry. The worship video includes original music by UCC ministers and a sermon by the Rev. Trayce Potter who oversees our youth ministry programs. I am in the video a couple of times as well, a reminder that we are all connected in Christ.

Whatever it is this month of August, find or make time for "u." God loves you!

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

#### **Good News from First Congregational UCC -**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KuMKigsOZhw>

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

**Soul Care with Pastor Sarah** - Join us on **Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00 p.m.** for a time to check-in, reflect on Richard Rohr's weekly meditations, and to pray together.

Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/494018938?pwd=a3BrdnNyWXEza0tFMUgwek1CVFpYQT09>

## worship

### **Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.**

*Class will meet via*

*Zoom:* <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**August 9:** This week we will read an article titled **“White identity in America is ideology, not biology. The history of ‘whiteness proves it.’** by Nell Irvin Painter, author of the book *The History of White People*. A key point is that “The idea of one big white race did not just spring to life full-blown and unchanging, which is what most people assume – and white supremacists rely on.” The article can be found at this link or by goggling the title: <https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/white-identity-america-ideology-not-biology-history-whiteness-proves-it-ncna1232200>

### **Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.**

This Sunday's worship is brought to us by the United Church of Christ National Youth Event. Rev. Trayce Potter is preaching.

### **3 Ways to Connect for Worship**

#### ***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.
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#### ***FACE BOOK***

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](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.

### **Coffee Hour, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**

#### **Zoom**

**link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

## **What's Happening at FC**

### **Mental Health Helpline**

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or **text "TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

### **TODAY! Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 PM**

Our weekly SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS gathers on the church's ZOOM from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EVERY Thursday. Pastor Sarah and Pat Larracey will be leading this wonderful WISE program and is OPEN to all with mental illness and those living with mentally ill loved ones. We look forward to greeting each of you with love.

#### **Zoom**

**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

### **Food Drive for the Northside Pantry - Saturday, August 8, from 10 am – 12 pm**

Let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations. We will meet on the outside church patio. Bring dry and canned goods, as well as personal care items (soap, deodorant, etc). You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper for recycling. In future communications, we will let you know of particularly desired items. Per new church policy on in-person gatherings, only 10 people may participate (physically distanced) at a time and masks are REQUIRED. Please contact Wendy Baldwin if you are interested in helping.

### **Outdoor Vespers Worship - August 11 & 25, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., Memorial Garden**

Join us for an outdoor evening vesper service. Our current plans are to have these every 2 weeks. Our outdoor protocols will apply, so bring your own chair and beverage, and keep 6

feet distant from others. Face masks are required per City of Indianapolis ordinance. It's a time to be in community, while being safe and loving with one another.

### **NEXT Thursday! Men's Lunch - August 13th, 1:00 p.m.**

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1 p.m.** This month, they are meeting **August 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977rwalker@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Book Circle - August 18th, 1:30 p.m.**

We will be finishing the book, "Searching for Sundays," and deciding on our next book. Contact Karen Walker at (317) 319-8950 or [karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for more information.

### **From the Comeback Team**

We have been enjoying the small outdoor in-person events at church – so great to visit and see people! There are various protocols to follow, and to make it easier to remember, we are using the mantra of "Bring your own germs, keep them to yourself, and take them home with you". Hence the recommendations to bring your own chairs, bring your own beverage and/or food, wear face masks, limit going inside the building, and definitely maintain 6 ft distances. To be on the safe side, we also want to keep track of who attended each event.

During this pandemic, each one of us has personal thoughts about what is, and isn't, safe. However, when the event is a "church event", we need to be in covenant with one another - We are now REQUIRING face masks to be worn at church events. If you are not wearing one, and someone asks you to put one on, please hear this request with love. But better yet, please don't let others feel uncomfortable by not wearing a mask in their presence.

### **Protocols for outdoor gatherings:**

1. Must be scheduled with Pastor Sarah, Shannon Abbott (Admin), and Wendy Baldwin (Bldg Mgr); groups may use any area of the church grounds (such as the patio, parking lot, Memorial Garden) where surface contact is minimized (not the playground for now)
2. Before the gathering, the group leader will receive the protocols to be observed, and make sure attendees are aware of these; the group leader is responsible that the protocols are followed
3. After the gathering, the group leader must send info about who attended to Pastor Sarah and Wendy Baldwin, for contact tracking purposes
4. Limit of 10 people at a time
5. A distance of 6 feet shall be observed between people of different households; no physical contact shall occur
6. Face masks are required

7. People who do not feel well should not attend
8. People should bring their own beverage/water bottle (do not use the church drinking fountains, water, ice, etc)
9. People should bring their own chair
10. Church restrooms should only be used for emergencies, and one will be required to sanitize after its use

### **Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC: Anti-Racism Task Force**

At our Annual Gathering in June, we passed an Anti-Racism resolution that calls us to address systemic and structural racism within the Indiana-Kentucky Conference through a newly formed Justice and Witness Ministry Task Force. As such, we are sending you an introductory letter providing you with all the necessary information to begin energizing folks in your church and association regarding the work ahead.

Our first task is to populate this new Task Force. According to the passed resolution, we need at least one member (lay or clergy) from each association. If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for the task force, we would welcome these submissions. This initial team will have a limited size, and some team members will be asked to lead smaller groups with a particular focus. If desiring to submit your name or another's, please have them contact:

Izzy Harbin  
574-903-7099  
[pastorizzy@firstuccelkhart.org](mailto:pastorizzy@firstuccelkhart.org)

Once we have populated the task force, we will organize the work before us. To give you a snapshot of what is to come, here are some of our key priorities:

- Studying and understanding the institutional structures within our associations and local churches that still promote, consciously or unconsciously, systemic racism
- Develop a conference-wide action plan designed to address issues of racism in our churches, in our associations, and in association and conference committees
- Present action plan to full Board of Directors prior to the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the IKC to be voted on and, if passed, implemented by the Board
- Provide intentional spaces at our 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting to include workshops and round table discussions, including evening activities on understanding and seeing racism in our communities
- Strongly urge all associations to require anti-racism training for all authorized ministers

While not explicit in the resolution, it is our hope that the Justice and Witness Ministries Task

Force will become a key part of the structure of the IKC with an ongoing focus of addressing all areas of inequality and injustice within our conference, associations, and their respective committees.

For those interested in justice work, this is a beginning. The formation of this Task Force has the potential to change the face of the IKC for the better; to strengthen our individual churches; and to make inclusivity of all a reality, not just a catch phrase. We are blessed to have historically black churches and clergy within our conference, and it is time that we acknowledge their contributions to the United Church of Christ, their contributions to the health and vitality of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference, and their gifts in making us all more Christ-like.

Please take time to share this letter with any and all members of your congregation or association who you think might be interested in participating in our future work together.

Enthusiastically,  
Rev. Izzy Harbin  
Treasurer, IKC Board  
Pastor, First Congregational Church UCC, Elkhart, IN

Rev. Chad R. Abbott  
Conference Minister  
Indiana-Kentucky Conference, UCC



#### **Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC**

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

#### **Support Your Local IN-KY Conference Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**

The staff of the IKC continue to work tirelessly to support local churches as we all discern best practices and how to get through this time together. Please remember to support the work they

do and the many ministries they support through your **UCWM**  
**Giving** at: <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>

### **Eviction Ministry Donations**

The Eviction Ministry is a new ministry of the SouthEast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. The purpose of this ministry is to offer assistance to those who do not qualify for other state or local assistance programs and without such assistance would be evicted from their homes. Please consider making a donation. **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

Thank you for your generosity!  
- Shannon Abbott, Eviction Ministry Team

### **Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance**

Undocumented people are facing challenges during this pandemic. There are groups trying to help them, specifically young people who have D.A.C.A. Four organizations are cooperating in this effort, but it is being administered by IYUA, the Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance. Email or call if you want to donate or volunteer. The email is [undocuhoosierfund@gmail.com](mailto:undocuhoosierfund@gmail.com) and the phone number is 317-205-6424.

### **Feeding Families**

Gleaner's and Second Helpings are two of the food banks currently offering food to children who usually get their meals from school.

Donate to **Gleaner's** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Donate to **Second Helpings** by clicking on the link [here](#).

### **Staying Connected**

**FC Facebook page** (click [here](#))

**"First Congregational Indy Fellowship"** group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

### **Pastoral Care**

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. Pastor Sarah may be reached



at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### **Additional Church Support Contacts**

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirit.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

### **THREE Ways to Worship on Sunday morning at 11AM:**

#### ***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
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### **Weekly Calendar**

<b>Thursday, August 6</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
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<b>Friday, August 7</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>PCRC (Pastor Sarah)</b>
<b>Friday, August 7</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Design Team</b>
<b>Saturday, August 8</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Food Drive</b>
<b>Sunday, August 9</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 11</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Design Team</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 11</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soul Care with Pastor Sarah</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 11</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Outdoor Vespers Service</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 12</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>W.I.S.E. Mental Health Team</b>
<b>Thursday, August 13</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, August 13</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
<b>Friday, August 14</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Design Team</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship (YouTube, FB, &amp; Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Faith</b>

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

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 13, 2020

Through the end of August, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed. Masks are required for limited gatherings occurring outside. (See additional details below.)

**Dear First Congregational,**

As a WISE church for mental health, we seek to support the mental health of members of the congregation. During these challenging times, many of us are feeling additional stress, anxiety, disorientation, uncertainty, and hopelessness. Before the pandemic, one out of five people lived with a mental health challenge. Now numbers are closer to two out of five people are experiencing chronic levels of anxiety and depression. The good news is that we are equipped and prepared to meet these growing needs from a position of spiritual support.

The key to being WISE for mental health is to be open to giving and getting support. I pray for our hearts to be open to allow God's Spirit to bring us together in a deeper way. Even though

we are physically apart, we can still find ways to grow closer together. This will be key to our spiritual health and flourishing.

I encourage you to reach out with a phone call this week to the person who shared a pew with you at church, or sat in the pew in front of you or the pew behind you. A simple phone call can really brighten a person's day, lifting our moods and our spirits. Reaching out to one another makes us all stronger.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

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### **Worship**

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**August 16:** Wendy Baldwin presents "**Devoted to Generosity**"

#### **Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.**

Pastor Sarah is preaching on "Take Heart."

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

#### **3 Ways to Connect for Worship**

##### ***YOUTUBE***

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### **Family Promise: Apartment Furnishings & Housewares Needed**

As part of our Just Peace Ministries, FCC is participating in a drive to help furnish 1 of 10 apts for the homeless. These are leased by Family Promise through a new grant they received. A list of needed items will be shared via a link to signup genius, where you can sign up online for what you can donate. You can also email or call me, and I will sign you up on the webpage. We do not have the link yet, but will have it by next week. Used items in good condition from your home or from Goodwill are welcome, as well as new items. More info will be available in next week's Epistle.

**The first in-person date to deliver donations at church is Sat., Aug. 15th, 9:30 to noon.** Wendy Baldwin will be onsite. More info to come. Please contact Janet Selby with any questions (317 873-9539; [janet.selby@gmail.com](mailto:janet.selby@gmail.com)). Thank you so much!

### **NEXT Thursday! Men's Lunch - August 20th, 1:00 p.m.**

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1 p.m.** Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977rwalker@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Book Circle - August 18th, 1:30 p.m.**

We will be finishing the book, "Searching for Sundays," and deciding on our next book. Contact Karen Walker at (317) 319-8950 or [karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for more information.

### **Outdoor Vespers Worship - August 25, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., Memorial Garden**

Join us for an outdoor evening vesper service. Our current plans are to have these every 2 weeks. Our outdoor protocols will apply, so bring your own chair and beverage, and keep 6 feet distant from others. Face masks are required per City of Indianapolis ordinance. It's a time to be in community, while being safe and loving with one another.

### **Book Buzz! - Mark your calendars!**

Starting on Sunday **September 13th at 12:30** - we will be launching a virtual lunch / discussion group, led by Pastor Sarah, focused on antiracism. We will be using the first part of the book, ***I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown** to frame our discussion (with additional discussions planned for the 2nd and 4th Sundays through November). See the epistle next week for more information on picking up a copy of the book (on temporary loan) at no charge -

or let us know if you would like us to deliver it to you. For more information - please contact Karen Walker. Looking forward to meaningful conversations! - Pastor Sarah, Cassidy, Alice, Carol, and Karen.

### **From the Comeback Team**

We have been enjoying the small outdoor in-person events at church – so great to visit and see people! There are various protocols to follow, and to make it easier to remember, we are using the mantra of “Bring your own germs, keep them to yourself, and take them home with you”. Hence the recommendations to bring your own chairs, bring your own beverage and/or food, wear face masks, limit going inside the building, and definitely maintain 6 ft distances. To be on the safe side, we also want to keep track of who attended each event.

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### **The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry**

The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry started last year as a number of our churches came together to support a family that was about to be taken to eviction court. Many of us had been touched by the keynote address at General Synod last summer by Matthew Desmond, author of *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, in which he explained the complicated and unjust housing practices that force so many families out of their homes. Many of our congregations receive requests for assistance for housing, but the requests exceed what resources we have available as individual congregations. The idea behind the Eviction Ministry is that together we have enough to assist families who are facing eviction.

#### **Eviction Crisis**

Throughout this pandemic, with stay-at-home orders enacted, for many of us, our homes have been those places where we have sought shelter and safety. As the economic devastation of this pandemic became evident, eviction moratoriums were put in place to protect families who were not able to keep up with their rent. The eviction moratorium for Indiana is set to expire Friday, August 14. A \$15+ million rental assistance program set up by the city of Indianapolis had to close their application process after receiving over 10,000 applications in just three days. Thousands of our neighbors could soon find themselves without a home as COVID cases rise and our economy continues to be under strain.

#### **Let's Work Together**

When people turn to our churches for assistance, they have often exhausted all other

options. Though our funds are limited, there are resources available that you can turn to when you receive rental assistance requests. We would welcome any financial support your congregation could offer to this ministry so that together we can make a greater impact on the well-being of our neighbors. We would also welcome new members who want to join our team so that we can continue to grow and expand this ministry. If there are folks in your congregation who have legal experience with the eviction process, we would love to talk with them to gain better insight into the legal process of eviction in Indiana. Included in this email is more information about the process our team has put in place. If you have any questions or would be interested in joining our team, please, do not hesitate to reach out.

- Rev. Shannon Abbott, Pastor Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan, Walter Ziebell

This article includes information about other organizations that are providing rental assistance and legal assistance to tenants facing

eviction: <https://www.wrtv.com/news/coronavirus/protections-for-renters-ending-next-week>.

Rental Assistance Program Overwhelmed: <https://www.indystar.com/story/news/local/marion-county/2020/07/16/indianapolis-rental-assistance-program-flooded-applications/5451691002/>

### **Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC: Justice and Witness Ministry Task Force**

At our Annual Gathering in June, we passed an Anti-Racism resolution that calls us to address systemic and structural racism within the Indiana-Kentucky Conference through a newly formed Justice and Witness Ministry Task Force. As such, we are sending you an introductory letter providing you with all the necessary information to begin energizing folks in your church and association regarding the work ahead.

Our first task is to populate this new Task Force. According to the passed resolution, we need at least one member (lay or clergy) from each association. If you or someone you know is interested in being considered for the task force, we would welcome these submissions. This initial team will have a limited size, and some team members will be asked to lead smaller groups with a particular focus. If desiring to submit your name or another's, please have them contact: Izzy Harbin

574-903-7099

[pastorizzy@firstucclkhart.org](mailto:pastorizzy@firstucclkhart.org)





### **Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC**

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

### **Support Your Local IN-KY Conference Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)**

The staff of the IKC continue to work tirelessly to support local churches as we all discern best practices and how to get through this time together. Please remember to support the work they do and the many ministries they support through your **OCWM**

**Giving** at: <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>

### **Eviction Ministry Donations**

The Eviction Ministry is a new ministry of the SouthEast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. The purpose of this ministry is to offer assistance to those who do not qualify for other state or local assistance programs and without such assistance would be evicted from their homes. Please consider making a donation. **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

Thank you for your generosity!

- Shannon Abbott, Eviction Ministry Team

### **Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance**

Undocumented people are facing challenges during this pandemic. There are groups trying to help them, specifically young people who have D.A.C.A. Four organizations are cooperating in this effort, but it is being administered by IYUA, the Indiana Undocumented Youth Alliance.

Email or call if you want to donate or volunteer. The email is [undocuhoosierfund@gmail.com](mailto:undocuhoosierfund@gmail.com) and the phone number is 317-205-6424.

### **Feeding Families**

Gleaner's and Second Helpings are two of the food banks currently offering food to children who usually get their meals from school.

Donate to **Gleaner's** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Donate to **Second Helpings** by clicking on the link [here](#).

### **Staying Connected**

**FC Facebook page** (click [here](#))

**"First Congregational Indy Fellowship"** group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

### **Pastoral Care**

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### **Additional Church Support Contacts**

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspirt.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirt.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

### **THREE Ways to Worship on Sunday morning at 11AM:**

#### ***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.
- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch live.

#### ***FACE BOOK***

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](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.

### **Weekly Calendar**

<b>Thursday, August 13</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
<b>Friday, August 14</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Design Team</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 16</b>	<b>12:45 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship &amp; Faith</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 18</b>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Book Circle</b>
<b>Tuesday, August 18</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soul Care with Pastor Sarah</b>
<b>Wednesday, August 19</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Witness &amp; Welcome</b>
<b>Thursday, August 20</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch (Memorial Garden)</b>
<b>Thursday, August 20</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
<b>Sunday, August 23</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, August 23</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship (YouTube, FB, &amp; Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 23</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)</b>

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

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 20, 2020

Through the end of August, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed. Masks are required for limited gatherings occurring outside. (See additional details below.)

**Dear First Congregational,**

What brings you comfort on these difficult days? Where are you finding peace? While the weather is nice, I've enjoyed spending time outside. Simply waking around in the sunshine renews my spirit.

As we journey on this unknown path, know that God is with us. Even now. God is here. May God's love and peace bless you.

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

**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>

### **Worship**

#### **Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.**

*Class will meet via*

*Zoom:* <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**August 23:** This week we will read an interview with Michelle Alexander from "The New Yorker" titled "**Ten Years After 'The New Jim Crow.'**"

There is a place on the page to listen to the actual interview, which is 13 minutes long.

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/the-new-yorker-interview/ten-years-after-the-new-jim-crow>

#### **Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.**

Pastor Sarah is preaching on "Wellness for a Time of Deep Chaos"

Scripture: Psalm 42

#### **2 Ways to Connect for Worship**

##### **YOUTUBE**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch live.

**DIAL-IN - available by 2:00 p.m. on Sundays**

- 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.

**Coffee Hour, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**

**Zoom**

**link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

**NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Your WISE Mental Health Team Invites You to....**

**A WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) Buzz,**

We invite you to come and share how you are doing during this pandemic.

- What have you found helpful or not so helpful?
- How are you feeling?
- What mental health issues might you have or have questions about?

Let's share in love together! Let's communicate together in the presence of a loving God and all-encompassing Spirit. We will use the Guidelines found printed in the August Colony newsletter and the Guidelines we use in our every Thursday Spiritual Support Group.

Since stress not only lives in the mind, but also in the body, we will also have the opportunity to share in a brief mindful movement practice with Shannon Abbott as a sample of some additional opportunities from your WISE Mental Health Team beginning in September.

Note: This will NOT be a session about opening the church or not.

COME, Sunday, August 30, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m, after coffee on ZOOM.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

**What's Happening at FC**

### **Mental Health Helpline**

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or text **"TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

### **TODAY! Men's Lunch - August 20th, 1:00 p.m.**

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1 p.m.** Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977rwalker@gmail.com) for more information.

### **TODAY! Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 PM**

Our weekly SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS gathers on the church's ZOOM from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EVERY Thursday. Pastor Sarah and Pat Larracey will be leading this wonderful WISE program and is OPEN to all with mental illness and those living with mentally ill loved ones. We look forward to greeting each of you with love.

#### **Zoom**

**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

### **Family Promise: Apartment Furnishings & Housewares Needed**

As part of our Just Peace Ministries, FCC is participating in a drive to help furnish apartments for the homeless; we are partnered with Carmel UMC and All Soul's UU to supply 1 apartment. These are leased by Family Promise through a new grant they received. You can sign up online for the needed items, or simply donate funds and we will do the shopping! The link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEA822A0FAC52-apartment>. You can also email or call me, and I will sign you up on the webpage. Used items in good condition from your home or from Goodwill are welcome, as well as new items. You can contact me with any questions - Janet Selby, 317 873 9539, [janet.selby@gmail.com](mailto:janet.selby@gmail.com)

- Donations may be made in person at the church, rear entrance, between 9:30 - noon on **Saturday, Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**. Wendy Baldwin will be onsite.
- For monetary donations, simply mail a check to the church (specify Family Promise apts on memo line), and we will do the shopping.
- Online donations are also welcome! The deadline is **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** – earlier is preferred, as some leases will start Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you so much!

### **Book Buzz! - Book pick up at church on Saturday, August 22, 10 to noon**

During 6 sessions starting on September 13, we will be discussing themes from the book "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown. Watch this space for more information about the discussions.

The church has obtained several copies of the book. If you are interested, you can pick up the book for no charge at church between 10 and 12 on this Saturday to use for the fall. If you can't come then or would like the book delivered to your home, please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or [karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com). We will be collecting the books at the end of the fall to pass them forward within the IKC conference so others can use them. There are also audible copies available through the library if you prefer.

Let us know if you have any questions - - Pastor Sarah, Cassidy, Alice, Carol, and Karen

### **Outdoor Vespers Worship - August 25, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m., Memorial Garden**

Join us for an outdoor evening vesper service. Our current plans are to have these every 2 weeks. Our outdoor protocols will apply, so bring your own chair and beverage, and keep 6 feet distant from others. Face masks are required per City of Indianapolis ordinance. It's a time to be in community, while being safe and loving with one another.

### **From the Comeback Team**

We have been enjoying the small outdoor in-person events at church – so great to visit and see people! There are various protocols to follow, and to make it easier to remember, we are using the mantra of "Bring your own germs, keep them to yourself, and take them home with you". Hence the recommendations to bring your own chairs, bring your own beverage and/or food, wear face masks, limit going inside the building, and definitely maintain 6 ft distances. To be on the safe side, we also want to keep track of who attended each event.

During this pandemic, each one of us has personal thoughts about what is, and isn't, safe. However, when the event is a "church event", we need to be in covenant with one another - We are now REQUIRING face masks to be worn at church events. If you are not wearing one, and someone asks you to put one on, please hear this request with love. But better yet, please don't let others feel uncomfortable by not wearing a mask in their presence.

### **IKC News**

### **Join us in celebrating 30 Years of Kirchengemeinschaft (full Partnership), September 11-12, 2020.**

The Heartland and Indiana-Kentucky Conferences of the UCC partner with the Evangelical Church of Westphalia in Germany every year to host a discussion forum. Typically we host



each other, taking it in turns to visit one another's countries. This year, on the 30th anniversary of this partnership, we will have our first ever online forum and you're invited!

- **The Theme:** Church Goes Public - Church Remains Public
- **Featuring Keynote Speakers:** Rev. Traci Blackmon and Rev. John Dorhauer of the UCC and German partners Dr. Frederike van Oorschot (Center of the Evangelical Studies Community in Heidelberg), and Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Chair of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Westphalia.

**Registration Deadline is TODAY, August 20, 2020.**

**You can register here:** <https://bit.ly/UCCForum2020>.

View the English language event document here for more details: <https://bit.ly/Forum2020English>.

**COST: Free!** Do consider taking advantage of this opportunity to attend this event at no cost, when we travel as a group attendance is quite limited.

### **Justice and Witness Ministry Task Force**

In response to our historic resolution at Annual Gathering to root out racism in our Conference, we are looking for people (at least one from each association) to populate our Justice and Witness Ministry Anti-Racism Task Force.

**We are accepting interested applicants through this Sunday, August 23.**

If you are interested in joining the anti-racism task force, contact Rev. Izzy Harbin, [pastorizzy@firstuccelkhart.org](mailto:pastorizzy@firstuccelkhart.org).

You can read more about the make-up of this task force here: <https://conta.cc/33qp4EB>.



### **Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC**

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

### **The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry**

The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry started last year as a number of our churches came together to support a family that was about to be taken to eviction court. Many of our congregations receive requests for assistance for housing, but the requests exceed what resources we have available as individual congregations. The idea behind the Eviction Ministry is that together we have enough to assist families who are facing eviction.

The eviction moratorium for Indiana expired last Friday, August 14. The rental assistance program set up by the city of Indianapolis is already overwhelmed and had to stop accepting applications. Thousands of our neighbors could soon find themselves without a home as COVID cases rise and our economy continues to be under strain.

#### **Ways you can help:**

- **Financial Support** - We welcome any financial support you can offer to this ministry so that together we can make a greater impact on the well-being of our neighbors. 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)

### **Staying Connected**

**FC Facebook page** (click [here](#))

**"First Congregational Indy Fellowship"** group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

#### **Pastoral Care**

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

#### **Additional Church Support Contacts**

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirit.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

### **2 Ways to Worship on Sundays:**

#### ***YOUTUBE, 11:00 a.m. on Sundays***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.
- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch live.

#### ***DIAL-IN - available by 2:00 p.m. on Sundays***

- 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.

## Weekly Calendar

Thursday, August 20	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Saturday, August 22	9:30 a.m.	Family Promise Donation Drop Off at FC
Saturday, August 22	10:00 a.m.	Book Pick Up for Sept Book Buzz
Sunday, August 23	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, August 23	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, Dial In)
Sunday, August 23	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)
Tuesday, August 25	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Tuesday, August 25	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, August 25	7:00 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers Service
Wednesday, August 26	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, August 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, August 27	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health

<b>Friday, August 28</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Design Team</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship (YouTube, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>WISE Mental Health Buzz</b>

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

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 27, 2020

**The building of First Congregational UCC is currently closed for group gatherings. Masks are required for gatherings occurring outside.**

**Dear First Congregational,**

True to our heritage, we are people of covenant. This means that we lean into our collective interests rather than self-interest. We lean into what is best for all and not just for a few. I believe this approach is what makes our community faithful and strong for the future. In order to help guide our life together, at our church council meeting last night we approved an updated version of our church's group/meeting covenant. This covenant has served us well for the past few years and so the council voted to officially adopt this updated version to guide us in our life together. You will notice a new section to help us honor our covenant during times when we gather online. I give thanks for this important work of the church council and pray that together we may continue to live into our covenants.

**Updated Group/Meeting Covenant approved by the Church Council on August 26, 2020:**

**In covenant with my fellow group members, I:**

- listen attentively with an intention of understanding and with an open mind;
- speak only when another has finished sharing;
- speak from my own thoughts and needs without blame or shame toward others;
- limit my participation so that others may also share;
- ask for clarification when I need it;
- recognize my right to pass when I am not ready to share;
- recognize that others have different opinions from mine, and that no single opinion is correct.

In online gatherings, I:

- observe the guidelines above;
- remain "muted" when others are speaking;
- remain focused on the discussion at hand without distractions.

Blessings

Pastor Sarah

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

**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>

## Worship

**Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m.**

*Class will meet via*

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**August 30:** This week we will read an article from NPR titled, **“Jesus Was Divisive: A Black Pastor’s Message To White Christians.”** The pastor is the Rev. Lenny Duncan, author of *Dear Church: A Love Letter From a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the*

US. The article can be found at this link or by googling the title:

<https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2020/06/12/699611293/jesus-was-divisive-a-black-pastor-s-message-to-white-christians>

### **Sunday Worship, 11:00 a.m.**

Pastor Sarah is preaching on "The Power of the Good"

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

### **3 Ways to Connect for Worship**

#### ***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.
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#### ***FACE BOOK***

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- The video will be posted at 11am.
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#### ***DIAL-IN***

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- Landline is preferred for clarity.
- If calling with a smart phone, setting your cellular setting to Wi-Fi calling will be clearer.

### **Coffee Hour, 11:45 a.m. (or immediately after worship)**

#### **Zoom**

**link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

**TODAY! AUGUST 30, 12:30-1:30 p.m. - Church Check In Buzz**

We invite you to come and share how you are doing during this pandemic.

- What have you found helpful or not so helpful?
- How are you feeling?
- What mental health issues might you have or have questions about?

Let's share in love together! Let's communicate together in the presence of a loving God and all-encompassing Spirit.

Since stress not only lives in the mind, but also in the body, we will also have the opportunity to share in a brief mindful movement practice with Shannon Abbott as a sample of some additional opportunities from your WISE Mental Health Team beginning in September.

COME, Sunday, August 30, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m, after coffee on ZOOM.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmfWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

### What's Happening at FC

#### Mental Health Helpline

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or **text "TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

#### TODAY! Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays from 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Our weekly SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP FOR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS gathers on the church's ZOOM from 5:00 to 6:00 pm EVERY Thursday. Pastor Sarah and Pat Larracey will be leading this wonderful WISE program and is OPEN to all with mental illness and those living with mentally ill loved ones. We look forward to greeting each of you with love.

#### Zoom

**Link:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmfWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**To dial in by phone:** +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

#### Family Promise: Apartment Furnishings & Housewares Needed

As part of our Just Peace Ministries, FCC is participating in a drive to help furnish apartments for the homeless; we are partnered with Carmel UMC and All Soul's UU to supply 1 apartment.



- Sign up online for the needed items, or simply donate funds and we will do the shopping! The link is: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4CAEA822A0FAC52-apartment>.
- Donations may be made in person at the church, rear entrance, between 9:30 - noon on **Saturday, Aug. 29th**. Wendy Baldwin will be onsite.
- For monetary donations, simply mail a check to the church (specify Family Promise apts on memo line), and we will do the shopping.
- Online donations are also welcome! The deadline is **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** – earlier is preferred, as some leases will start Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you so much!

Questions? Contact Sandy Wood or Wendy Baldwin.

### Book Buzz is getting closer! Starting Sept 13th



Hope everyone is ready for a series of meaningful conversations about racism and white supremacy as they have evolved in this time. We will be following and picking topics from the book "I'm Still Here" by Austin Channing Brown. If you would like a copy to use throughout this fall, contact Karen Walker or Carol Sowle (Karen: 317-319-8950)

or [karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)) or Carol Sowle (317-496-9732 or [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)).

The discussions will follow our buzz format - after worship, grab your lunch and settle in for a casual and open zoom discussion that will expand on topics brought up in the book and in worship and provide an opportunity to share questions and learnings.

The book, with the subtitle "Black Dignity in a World Made For Whiteness", follows the author's life and raises many questions. The author says "I offer this story in hopes that we will embody a community eager to name whiteness, celebrate Blackness, and, in a world still governed by systems of racial oppression, begin to see that there's another way."

Thanks! - Pastor Sarah, Karen, Alice, Carol, Cassidy



### **Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC**

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

### **The Southeast Association Eviction Ministry Update**

This week, during Governor Holcomb's coronavirus update, he mentioned that the number one call they are receiving at 211 is with regard to eviction assistance. He also discussed new opportunities for landlords and tenants to work on out-of-court agreements regarding evictions. The hope is that a neutral mediator will be able to get them to work out options for repayment. This keeps families out of the court system and will hopefully prevent tenants from receiving an eviction mark on their record.

#### **Ways you can help:**

- **Financial Support** - We welcome any financial support you can offer to this ministry so that together we can make a greater impact on the well-being of our neighbors. 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](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org)), Pastor Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan ([pastorsarahzucc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsarahzucc@gmail.com)), Walter Ziebell ([wziebell@gmail.com](mailto:wziebell@gmail.com))

### Staying Connected

**FC Facebook page** (click [here](#))

**“First Congregational Indy Fellowship”** group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

### Pastoral Care

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator, Shannon ([shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org))

Moderator, Alice Rutherford ([alice@caloosaspirt.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirt.net))

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net))

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

### 3 Ways to Connect for Worship

#### ***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- 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.
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.
- If using a laptop, you will need to refresh your browser after 11am to click to watch live.

#### ***FACE BOOK***

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page\\_internal](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.

### **Weekly Calendar**

<b>Thursday, August 27</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, Dial In, FaceBook)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)</b>
<b>Sunday, August 30</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Church Check In Buzz</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 1</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Design Team</b>
<b>Tuesday, September 1</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Soul Care with Pastor Sarah</b>
<b>Wednesday, Sept 2</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Wellness Wednesday</b>
<b>Wednesday, Sept 2</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Trustees</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept 3</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, Sept 3</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health</b>
<b>Friday, Sept 4</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Worship Design Team</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept 6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept 6</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, Dial In, FaceBook) – Communion Sunday</b>
<b>Sunday, Sept 6</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Coffee Hour (immediately after worship)</b>

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