

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of June 23, 2021

## Dear First Congregational,

I'm happy to share that we have added a new member to our staff! The church council approved the hiring of Cassidy Hall to manage our external communications, focusing specifically on managing our church website and social media. Please join me in welcoming back to our staff Cassidy in this part-time role.

We know our website is still the "front door" of our church for many and we keep hearing the website is how many first time visitors find us. I am grateful for the support of our lay leaders who helped discern the need for this new position and helped guide the job creation and hiring process. I celebrate that this new staff position is the fruit of many years of dreaming about how the church can strengthen our digital presence and use technology to share our Gospel message of God's love for all of Creation.

I am grateful to work with Cassidy in this new way for this new season of ministry. Thanks to all of you for being open to new ways of exploring how we can best use

technology as we seek to be the Church and invite more people to join us in fulfilling our mission.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

**FC Covid Protocols:**

As of June 1, the building is open for in-person gatherings. Recommended areas to use are the Parlor, the Library, and the Mayflower Room. Protocols to be followed: Sign-in sheet, social distancing and wearing of masks.

**The target date for in-person worship in the sanctuary is August 1**, contingent upon directives or changes in health and safety guidelines stipulated by Marion County or the State. Protocols to be observed will be determined closer to August 1.



**Are you ready to get back to  
the people and activities you love?**

Your vaccination brings us one day closer  
to controlling the pandemic and  
reopening Church.

**Get your vaccine ASAP!**

Register at [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 211.

**THIS SUNDAY**

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

**Patio Psalms and Prayers** – On Sundays in June, grab your lawn chair and join

us on the patio for an outdoor gathering time for faith formation. We will gather at 9:30, open with a welcome, read and reflect on a Psalm, share joys and concerns, and then close with prayer and the Lord's Prayer. We will wrap up by 10:15. Please join us for this time of reflection and connection.

**June 27: Psalm 4**

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

**Scripture:** Psalm 130

**Sermon:** "Waiting and Watching"

### **Coffee Hour via Zoom at 12:00PM**

### **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!**

- **Women's Lunch at 11:30 a.m.** - For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com).
- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information, please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081.
- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**Covenant Outreach** - Making the shift this year from Mission of the Month to Covenant Outreach has had its challenges, especially in the middle of a pandemic! In a nutshell, we are supporting many of the same organizations and ministries that

used to fall under IVIM, but we are spreading out the support over a four-month period. Also, we are endeavoring to support those organizations and ministries as they align with our three UCC covenants – Just Peace, W.I.S.E. for Mental Health, and Open and Affirming. During each four-month period, contributions (made either online or by check sent to the church) will be equally divided among the orgs/ministries highlighted during that period (see the Colony for specific info). However, if anyone chooses to make an extra donation to any of those highlighted recipients, you can simply specify that in your donation. The Outreach & Service Board greatly appreciates the generosity – and grace – of all FC members, especially through these transitional times.

**The Mental Health Team** is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206.

## COMING SOON

### **Food Drive & Fellowship! 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month – July 3, 10-noon**

Our food donations to the Northside Pantry are helping to fight hunger needs, and the Pantry is very grateful that we are doing this – in 2021 we have already contributed almost 2000 lbs of food and supplies! Since we anticipate that in-person worship will start again in August, this will probably be our last food drive event. Thank you to all who have been participating!

**WISE Mental Health Team August Book Buzz** - We are helping to sponsor the Book Buzzes for **August 8 and 22** with Pastor Sarah and her new book: BLESSED UNION, breaking the silence about mental illness and marriage. Books will be free as a part of our grant from the Center for Congregations.

If you would like a book, here are some opportunities for you to receive your copy:

- You can pick up a book at the next Food Drive July 3rd from 10-noon. Sandy Wood will be there passing out books.
- Come to the church at another time and pick up a book.
- If you cannot come to the church, you can request a book from Sandy [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206 and she will make sure you get a book.

When you pick up your book from the lectern at the garden entrance please sign your name on the yellow pad beside the books. It isn't required, but the WISE

mental health team are curious who is interested in the book and will likely participate in one or both of the after worship Buzzes Aug 8 and Aug 22 at 12:30 p.m. EDT. You don't have to have read the book to participate in the Buzzes.

Please click [HERE](#) to view the June 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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

### Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days: Mondays & Saturdays

The congregation covenant with Pastor Sarah to provide 2 days per week for personal rest and family renewal. On Mondays and Saturdays, Pastor Sarah is not available unless it is a pastoral emergency. Thank you for honoring this sacred gift of Sabbath time for our Pastor and her family.

### Additional Church Support Contacts

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

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

External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall ([cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org))

Lead Councilor: Steve Coomer ([s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net))

(Senior Councilors: Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel, Alice Rutherford)

### Mental Health Support:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Information HelpLine** provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264)

and [www.nami.org](http://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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

**Members in Need Fund** - The Members in Need Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012.

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## **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](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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

and Password. If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID a

Password: 7171

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

## **Weekly Calendar**

<b>Thursday, June 24</b>	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Women's Lunch Bunch</b>
<b>Thursday, June 24</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, June 24</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers</b>
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, June 27</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>
<b>Wednesday, June 30</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Calling Circle</b>
<b>Thursday, July 1</b>	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Spiritual Support Group</b>
<b>Thursday, July 1</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>PCRC (Pastor Carol)</b>
<b>Fri July 2 – Mon 7/11</b>	<b>-----</b>	<b>Pastor Sarah Vacation</b>
<b>Saturday, July 3</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Food Drive (outside FC)</b>
<b>Sunday, July 4</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b>
<b>Sunday, July 4</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Worship with Pastor Carol preaching (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b>
<b>Sunday, July 4</b>	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>

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