

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 15, 2021

## Dear First Congregational,

Greetings from virtual General Synod where we are exploring our theme, “Rooted in love”! This week we gather as the UCC from across the country, along with international friends and special guests. I invite you to hold the UCC in prayer as we gather to worship, fellowship, and discern God’s calling for us as a national movement for God’s liberating love in the world. Specifically, please pray for the Indiana-Kentucky Conference staff and delegates who are working hard to represent and serve our IK Conference and congregations. Many important resolutions are before them (click here to review the resolutions, including the resolution calling for the ban on conversion therapy:

<https://www.generalsynod.org/proposed-resolutions/>), and the outcomes will impact the church for generations to come.

We will also be voting to renew Rev. Traci Blackmon’s call to serve a second three year term as Associate General Minister of the UCC. Rev. Blackmon was with us three summers ago for my installation on June 10, 2018, preaching the sermon

based on Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." What a three years it has been together building beloved community! May God continue to bless us together on our journey of faith.

You are invited to join us for the closing worship this Sunday July 18 at 6pm online. Check the General Synod website to learn more about how to access worship: <https://www.generalsynod.org/>.

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.



## **THIS SUNDAY**

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

**Patio Psalms and Prayers** – On Sundays, 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.

## **July 15: Psalm 7**

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

**Scripture:** Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**Sermon:** "The Discipleship of Napping"

### **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!**

- **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.

**August Colony Submissions due TOMORROW, July 16th** - Please email Shannon your August Colony submissions by tomorrow morning to make sure they are included in the upcoming newsletter.

**The Outreach & Service** - As we eagerly anticipate returning to our sanctuary to worship together, our food collections for Northside Pantry will then return to our pre-pandemic format. Beginning in August, please bring any donations for the Northside Pantry to the narthex, either on Sundays or at any convenient time. Donations will be delivered to the pantry monthly. Thanks to all for supporting this vital ministry during the pandemic. The Outreach & Service Board encourages your

continued support to help meet nutritional needs in our target community.

**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.

**Office Administrator Vacation** - Shannon is on vacation July 19-26.

## COMING SOON

**Men's Lunch - Thursday, July 22 at 1:00 p.m.** - For more information, please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081.

**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:

- Come to the church 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 July 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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followed: Sign-in sheet, social distancing and wearing of masks.

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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

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### Weekly Calendar

|                          |                   |  |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>Thursday, July 15</b> | <b>5:00 pm.</b>   | <b>Spiritual Support Group</b>               |
| <b>Sunday, July 18</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers</b>            |
| <b>Sunday, July 18</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b> |
| <b>Sunday, July 18</b>   | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>                      |
| <b>July 19 - 26</b>      | <b>-----</b>      | <b>Office Admin Vacation</b>                 |
| <b>Thursday, July 22</b> | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Men's Lunch</b>                           |
| <b>Thursday, July 22</b> | <b>5:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Spiritual Support Group</b>               |
| <b>Sunday, July 25</b>   | <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>Patio Psalms &amp; Prayers (FC patio)</b> |
| <b>Sunday, July 25</b>   | <b>11:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)</b> |
| <b>Sunday, July 25</b>   | <b>12:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Zoom Coffee Hour</b>                      |

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