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# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 2

## Church Gathering Update:

Reminder: We are back to worship ON-LINE ONLY at 11:00 AM.

We will continue in-person Outdoor Patio, Psalms, and Prayers, Sundays at 9:30 AM.

Marion County Status: ORANGE  
(see policy update from the church council below)



Welcome to our Just Peace  
Intern, Allison Welz!

Blessings for a semester of  
learning, growth, and peace.

First Congregational partners with others to share the love of Jesus. What does that look like in today's world? One example is the good work of Exodus here in Indianapolis helping to support refugees from Afghanistan. See below for links to help and give.

Another example of local partners we work with to help fulfill our mission is Faith in Indiana. Look for invitations to small gatherings (outdoors or online) to learn more about how you can help be the change you want to see. More details below.

Sometimes it does feel like there's nothing we can do in the face of the world's injustices. Yet, together, we are powerful and together we can bring about positive change and transformation.

Thanks be to God we have faith that calls us to take action, making Jesus' teachings come alive.

Peace,  
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund  
[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)

### COVID Protocols for First Congregational UCC

Approved by Church Council on 7/28/21; amended on 8/11/21

Marion County is currently in ORANGE status, therefore, the building of First Congregational UCC is closed for in-person gatherings based on the current standings of Marion County on <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>.

Marion County "color"	Indoors	Outdoors
Blue, positivity is decreasing	Masks are <u>optional for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
Blue, positivity is increasing	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
Yellow	Masks are <u>required for all</u>	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>
Orange	Building is <u>closed</u> for in-	Masks are <u>required for</u>

Current “color status” will be posted on the patio door, as well as communicated in the weekly e-pistle. Mask wearing is based on the honor system; we will not be checking vaccination status. We ask that people prayerfully consider using practices that keep themselves safe as well as others.

**Current Marion County “color status”:** **Orange**

Click [HERE](#) for updated details further explaining FC's Covid protocols.



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](http://ourshot.in.gov) or call 211.

## THIS SUNDAY

**Sunday Adult Education: Patio Psalms & Prayers, 9:30 a.m. (on FC Patio)**

(Please note the return to 9:30 a.m. while not meeting in person for worship.)

**September 5: Psalm 14**

**Virtual Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 35:4-7a

**Sermon:** How Will We Be Saved?

**Virtual Coffee Hour is Back!** - While we are not gathering in-person, we will have “Coffee Hour” on [Zoom](#) immediately following online worship.

**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/>

### **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.

**TONIGHT, Thursday September 2nd: 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.

**TODAY, Thursday September 2nd: Men's Lunch at 1:00 p.m.** For more information contact Randy Walker at 317-796-2081

### **Invitation to new faith formation opportunities!**

As a hybrid church it's important for us to offer faith formation activities in a variety of ways. One such avenue is the ongoing Patio Psalms and Prayers meeting on the church's patio each Sunday morning at 9:30. This group is studying and discussing the psalms and offering personal joys and prayer concerns in an in-person format. In support of our hybrid church vision, the Worship & Faith Board is offering an online-only faith formation opportunity for anyone wishing to participate. Over the next few months we'll gather on the church's Zoom link for a "sermon talkback" every other Sunday at 5:00-6:00 PM. Pastor Sarah's sermons are usually stimulating and thought-provoking, so this will be an opportunity for some interactive reflection on what she has offered to us in worship. **Tune in as you feel comfortable on any or all Sundays – September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21.** Another online opportunity is being offered by the UCC – the 6-month series "Reason to Have Hope". This course was developed as a resource to support the recently adopted General Synod resolution defining racism as a public health issue. The discussion group will meet **every other Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 PM, beginning on September 14 and ending on March 15.** Learn more and register at [CHHSM Discussion Group to Delve into 'Reason to Have Hope' Course - CHHSM.](#)

## **Ways to help the Afghan Crisis**

**A Local Partner Looking for Refugee Support:** As the war in Afghanistan ends, Exodus Refugee is expecting to assist in settling some Afghani refugees here in the Indianapolis area. Donations are greatly appreciated and a list of needs can be found at [In-kind Support | Exodus Refugee.](#) Families are arriving

**Church World Service:** Church World Service, another agency working in partnership with the U.S. government to resettle refugees, has welcomed more than 7,000 Afghan Special Immigrant Visa recipients and their families since 2009, according to its website. CWS has issued an [emergency appeal](#) to support Afghans now arriving in the U.S., asking for \$700,000 in financial support to offer transportation, food and other emergency support and up to \$450,000 in in-kind housing support. Monetary donations can be made [online](#) or mailed to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 (designated to Protect Our Afghan Allies). Those interested in sponsoring a family arriving in their community or providing in-kind support — including landlords able to rent housing to new arrivals — can [fill out a form online](#) or email [refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org](mailto:refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org). CWS has also compiled sample messages urging lawmakers to protect Afghans seeking safety [on its website](#) that can be shared on social media or sent to lawmakers. More info here: <https://pres-outlook.org/2021/08/how-to-help-afghans-arriving-in-the-us-after-fleeing-the-taliban/>

## COMING SOON

### Buzz about Hybrid Worship

**Sunday, September 12, 1:00 PM on Zoom!** Come and share your thoughts about your experience with hybrid worship so far, and learn more about what's coming!

**Outreach & Service** - Covenant Outreach shifts this month to support of organizations reflecting our Open & Affirming covenant. Please see the September Colony for information about Indiana Youth Group, Trinity Haven, and Damien Center, and consider a generous contribution to Covenant Outreach over the next four months.

**This year's annual AIDS Walk is scheduled for Sunday, September 19.** The walk has recently been determined to be held virtually, so we encourage anyone who wishes to make a donation to do so through their website, [Indiana AIDS Walk 2021 - The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis](#) ([indianaaidsfund.org](http://indianaaidsfund.org)). Reflecting our Open & Affirming covenant, First Congregational has supported this important ministry in the past. Even as we remain distanced it's possible to provide support again this year.

### Faith In Indiana – Meetings Start Next Week!

It's time to begin a new season with Faith in Indiana – a season of "Encounter and Renewal". Faith In Indiana is about organizing, and organizing is about building, wielding, and sharing power – the power that comes from combining



our stories and our passions for a better community. Working together we can fulfill our commitment towards that better future.

Below are 4 choices for joining in that conversation – we will share the combined results with FII in October, along with the other congregations involved. This will help direct all of our actions next year.

Please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950, [Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)) with your choice of which event you will attend. More details will be sent after the choices are made.

Options:

- **Saturday, Sept 11 at 4:00 at Worth & Angie Hartman's** 6027 Maple Forge Circle 46254 (outside)
- **Sunday, Sept 19 at 5:00 at Randy & Karen Walker's** 9033 Buckeye Court, 46260 (outside)
- **Sunday, Sept 26 at 1:00 at church (outside) hosted by Steve Leatherman**
- **Monday, September 27, 7:00 PM ZOOM Meeting hosted by Alice Rutherford.**

If you have any questions, please contact the chair - Worth Hartman ([worthgrover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worthgrover@sbcglobal.net)) or the communication lead - Karen Walker ([karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com))

**The Mental Health Team** is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. **The next meeting is September 22nd at 5PM.** If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood@ [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) or 317-225-6206.

**Calling all writers and poets!** One thing I love about this church is the incredible talent we have in the pews (that's you!) Beginning this week, I'll be collecting poems and short reflections (up to 250 words) on the topic of nature. Have you fallen in love with a tree, met a squirrel you've been wondering about, or was stopped in your tracks by a hummingbird? Write about it and submit here: <https://forms.gle/FaJZPMPMmJsyzWf6> **Submit by October 1st.** Questions? Email me at [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org)

**Circle IV Book Meeting** Join us **September 21st at 1:30** outdoors on the church patio (weather permitting—otherwise Zoom) reading the first 61 pages of *Remember* by Lisa Genova. Questions? Contact Linda Lupton [lklupton@aol.com](mailto:lklupton@aol.com)

**Please click [HERE](#) to view the September Colony with more information and events happening this month!**

**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 & 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.

**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** (available after 2PM)

- 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>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

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.



Thursday, September 2	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 2	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 5	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, September 5	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 5	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 8	7:00 p.m.	Trustees (Zoom)
Thursday, September 9	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 12	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, September 12	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 12	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, September 12	1:00 p.m.	All-Church Buzz (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (Zoom)

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