



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of January 6

WE ARE BACK TO ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY

PER OUR COVID POLICY, WHEN THE COUNTY IS RED WE MEET ONLINE ONLY

JOIN US ON OUR FACEBOOK OR YOUTUBE PAGE TO STAY UPDATE

STAY SAFE! SEE YOU ONLINE!

Dear Church,

As the world continues to face challenges that threaten our well-being of human life and the planet, we seek comfort from God. Today I invite you to remember that you are a beloved child of God. God loves you.

We are part of God's family and we can find courage knowing that God's loving Spirit is with us. Together we can work for justice and peace in the world.

We will be the church. We will strive to be a blessing. No matter what, we will find our way forward together.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Church Leadership and Contact Info:

Senior Councilors: Alice Rutherford (Lead), alice@caloosaspirit.net

Larry Eckel lspeckel@comcast.net, and Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net

Care and Connections: Wendy Baldwin, wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com

Outreach and Service: Alice Rutherford, alice@caloosaspirit.net

Trustees: Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net

Witness and Welcome: Judy Fletcher, jkbfaol@aol.com

Worship and Faith: Aurelia Glennan-March, ahoftmarch@gmail.com

Clerk: Pat Larracey, plainandfancy1963@att.net

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Dillenback, dillenback@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: Jim Lootens, lootens.jb@gmail.com

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 AM:

On Sunday mornings, join us online for a gathering time for faith formation (**Now on Zoom Only**)

Coffee Hour Is Back and Online Only!

Join us immediately following Worship on the Church Zoom.

ONLINE Worship: Online, and Dial-In Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)

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, Thursday, January 6, 1pm: Men's Lunch

TODAY, Thursday, January 6, 6pm: Trustees Meeting

TODAY, Thursday, January 6: Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) at 5:00 PM

An Update from Outreach And Service:

Happy New Year to all! Now that we're into a new year, the Outreach & Service Board plans to replicate our 2021 Covenant Outreach based in our UCC Covenants – Just Peace, W.I.S.E. for Mental Health, and Open & Affirming. This month through April we return our focus to our Just Peace covenant as we support our partners at Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana. Contributions to Covenant Outreach over the next four months will be equally divided among these recipients, unless otherwise specified. Please be generous in your gifts to these ministries that clearly reflect First Congregational's values.

In December we donated hats, mittens, scarves, and gloves to Exodus Refugee to assist their efforts in settling immigrants into the Indiana winter, especially those who may have come from warmer climates. You can learn more about the work of

Exodus Refugee Immigration, along with volunteer opportunities, at [Exodus Refugee Immigration | Building a New Life in Indiana](#).

Also, as mentioned in a previous Epistle, the Indiana-Kentucky Conference is accepting donations and volunteers to assist in recovery efforts in the Kentucky areas devastated by tornadoes last month. Information on how to help can be found on the IKC website, ikc@ikcucc.org.

COMING SOON

Thursday, January 13: Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) at 5:00 PM

The Mental Health Team is seeking new members who want to become part of the team. If interested or have questions, contact Sandy Wood csilwood@att.net or 317-225-6206.

The Blog Here! What is it? [Check out this updated page](#) where you'll find more info and where your submissions will go! (You can see a list of current entries on the right-hand side). **Want to submit? Email me your piece at cassidy@fcindy.org**

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

CONNECTION & SUPPORT

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

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

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days: Mondays & Saturdays

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

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastoral Care Associate: Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)
Office Administrator & External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall
(cassidy@fcindy.org)
Lead Councilor: Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspirt.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.
- **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

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. All requests for financial support will be confidential and your privacy will be honored and respected. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

GIVING

*We seek to love and to share our joy.
We offer care, give thanks and praise, when Christ is present among us all.
We know the world's a mission field, needing forgiveness, justice and hope.*

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant.

Our current outreach recipients: Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith In Indiana.



**EXODUS
REFUGEE**
The life ahead.



**FAITH IN
INDIANA**



THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Ways to Connect for Worship

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjAV6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 11am..
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal

- The video will be posted at 11am.

- This is for viewing only. For live interacting and commenting, please use the YouTube option.

DIAL-IN (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



Thursday, January 6	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 6	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Thursday, January 6	6:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Sunday, January 9	9:30 a.m.	Adult Education (Zoom)
Sunday, January 9	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Online Worship (YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, January 9	Reminder	Coffee Hour Following Worship (Zoom)
Wednesday, January 12	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting

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