



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 THE PILGRIM COLONY

March 2022

HYBRID WORSHIP IS BACK!

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON, SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM
 HYBRID ADULT EDUCATION (IN-PERSON AND ZOOM) 10:00 AM
 NO COFFEE HOUR UNTIL THE COUNTY IS BLUE



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Pastor's Reflections

Dear First Congregational,

The month of March invites us to make time and space for connecting to our church family and God in meaningful ways. This season of Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for the celebration of new life we find in Christ and the sacred story of resurrection.

We hope you will be able to join us this sacred season in whatever way works best for you, in-person or online, as we continue to experiment and explore the new possibilities related to being a hybrid church community. **Thank you all for your graciousness, patience, understanding, and love as we navigate our future together.**

I have a feeling that Lent this year will be especially meaningful because of all that we have been through, and continue to experience. **Please know that you are warmly welcome to join us just as you are and that you are a valued part of our growing and changing community.**

Lenten opportunities:

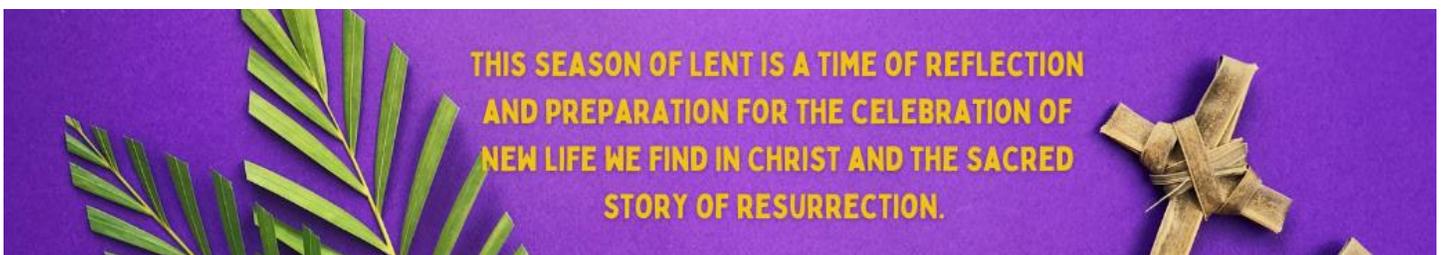
Ash Wednesday 7:00pm worship on church zoom

Adult Education in-person and on zoom (hybrid) Sundays at 10am

"Five Good Enough Tuesdays" Small Group on the church zoom 6:30-7:30pm on Tuesdays: March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5

Thank you so much for your support, prayers, and love.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



Pastoral Care and Support: Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org and (386)478-9012.

Senior Councilor's Report

Larry Eckel, Lead Councilor (February – May)

Barely a month has passed since our congregation convened on Zoom for the 2022 Annual Meeting. Attendance was excellent, participation was vigorous, and the positive spirit that permeated the gathering was palpable. For those who were unable to join us that day but learned the substance of the proceedings by reading the Annual Report, please know that your time and interest are greatly appreciated and essential to the vibrant work of our church.

More recently, the Church Council held its monthly meeting. We were pleased to welcome Janet Selby, who has assumed the role of Clerk; Sandy Wood as our new Member-at-Large; and Judy Fletcher in her role as recently designated Senior Councilor. All four Boards were represented: Wendy Baldwin for Care and Connections; Steve Leatherman for Outreach and Service; Aurelia Glennan-March for Worship and Faith; and Steve Coomer (who is of course also a Senior Councilor) for Trustees. Interestingly, two of the boards - O & S and W & F - are considering adoption of a shared leadership model going forward. As usual there was a good deal of business to discuss, but three highlights of the meeting deserve mention: 1) a guest appearance from Cassidy Hall, who presented exciting details of the next steps in her ordination process; (2) an update from Pastor Sarah on a grant proposal that could provide for future sabbatical funding; and (3) a vote by the Council to return to in-person (hybrid) worship as of Sunday, February 27, so long as the downward trend in Marion County Covid cases continues (and it just went from level orange to yellow!).

As I write this brief report toward the end of February, Black History Month, I am reminded of the following words preached by Martin Luther King, Jr. in a sermon some 65 years ago: "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?" Anyone familiar with our church realizes this is a question repeatedly asked - and thoughtfully answered - by the caring, dedicated members of our staff and congregation. May we all continue to be mindful of our Christian commitment to improving the welfare of others during these challenging times.

Yours in gratitude,

Larry Eckel
Lead Councilor (February-May)

Celebrating our New Leadership

(Approved January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting)

Senior Councilor:	Larry Eckel	Financial Secretary:	Sue Chapman
Senior Councilor:	Steve Coomer	Treasurer:	Jim Lootens
Senior Councilor:	Judy Fletcher	Clerk:	Janet Selby
		Member-at-large:	Sandy Wood

Board of Trustees

Wendy Baldwin
Bill Gillette
Steve Coomer
Judy Fletcher

Board of Worship & Faith

Aurelia Glennan-March
Cristy James
Alice Rutherford

Board of Care & Connections

Wendy Baldwin
Karen Walker
Sue Chapman
Carol Sowle

Board of Witness & Welcome – proposed suspension for 2022

Board of Outreach & Service

Nancy Dickinson
Worth Hartman
Steve Leatherman

Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart, Chair-Randy Walker (aa28977walker@gmail.com)

PCRC for Pastor Carol: Gloria Boedeker, Betty Schnur, Chair-Bill Gillette (wmgillette@gmail.com)

Coming This Month!

Member of FC Indy and Member in Discernment Cassidy Hall's Ecclesiastical Council! Save the Date: Sunday March 27th at 1:00 p.m. on the Church Zoom. Come listen to more about Cassidy's journey, ask here questions, and vote on her ordination status!

To learn more about her journey and call to ministry you can email her for her ordination paper at cassidy@fcindy.org. You can also email if you have any questions for Cassidy about here EC (Ecclesiastical Council) or the process of ordination).

To join The Zoom meeting, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBtk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 **Password:** 7171



**CASSIDY
HALL'S
ECCLESIASTICAL
COUNCIL**

**SUNDAY,
MARCH 27,
2022.**

**1 PM EST
ON ZOOM!**

If you want a copy of her ordination paper, email: cassidy@fcindy.org

FCINDY.ORG

A brief excerpt from Cassidy's ordination paper:

Throughout my life I've been drawn to unanswerable questions. The mysteries of life seize me like Saturday morning cartoons used to captivate me. I am in awe of the tension questions of faith—the ways in which doubt can point to our faith, how death can be another form of new life, and the many times we find ourselves in wonder as we gaze at life around us. Jesus's ministry centered on these mind-boggling tension-holders. He drew us into the space of wonder by shaking things up through metaphor and storytelling: "You are the salt of the earth" (Matthew 5:13), "I am the vine; you are the branches" (John 15:5), "The last will be first, and the first last" (Matthew 20:16), "No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment" (Mark 2:21), "all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

This Month at FC Indy:

SUNDAYS	10:00 a.m.	Hybrid Adult Education (In-Person and on Zoom)
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, Facebook, Dial In)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Tuesday, March 1	ALL DAY	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Wednesday, March 2	7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship (Zoom)
Thursday, March 3	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, March 6	1:00 p.m.	Buzz: Gun Violence Reduction (Zoom)
Tuesdays, March 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah on Zoom
Wednesday, March 9	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Saturday, March 12	12 Noon	DPRMT Storage
Tuesday, March 15	4:30 p.m.	WISE Team Meeting
Thursday, March 16	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Thursday, March 17	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, March 24	11:45 p.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch (In-Person)
Sunday, March 27	1:00 p.m.	Cassidy Hall's Ecclesiastical Council (Zoom)



To join Zoom meetings, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171



To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign, and the Password 7171, followed by the # sign. You can call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

WORSHIP & FAITH

Aurelia Glennan-March, Chair

Looking Forward to Lent

The Worship & Faith Board is excited to share the Lenten series this year, “*Good Enough*.” The series stems from the work of Kate Bowler, PhD, a professor at Duke University, an author, a podcast host, an “incurable optimist,” and someone whose work several of us on the board are fans of.

Have you ever felt like you weren’t good enough? You weren’t skinny enough? You weren’t successful enough? Productive enough? Faithful enough? _____[you fill in the blank]_____ enough? It’s not uncommon to find ourselves in the situation where we strive for perfection or compare ourselves unfavorably to others, and then end up feeling bad when we cannot meet these unattainable goals. We feel like it’s some internal character flaw when we aren’t able to “make it happen.” To lift ourselves up by our bootstraps, to “just do it,” to eat those veggies and not that delicious-looking muffin, to run farther, to work harder.

In fact, this type of thinking is so much a part of our consciousness that we *sometimes think that God requires this perfection* of us, and we end up continually falling short.

Through the “Good Enough” series this Lent, we hope to share the message that often our lives are imperfect. We pray that together we can find some relief for our frustrations and embrace the imperfections of both life and faith. The good news is that God loves us deeply and is present to us powerfully, even, *and especially*, in the midst of the imperfect and down-right challenging moments of life.

Our series will begin on March 2nd on the Church Zoom with an Ash Wednesday service. Hopefully we will be back in-person for our hybrid worship on the Sundays in Lent, as we will be sharing some fun skits, insightful readings, beautiful music, and even an opportunity to get involved with our “message for all ages” as we share stories and grow our “Good Enough” faith!

–Cristy James

LENTEN OVERVIEW

ASH WEDNESDAY
7PM (ZOOM)

GOOD ENOUGH TUESDAYS
W/ PASTOR SARAH
6:30-7:30PM (ZOOM)
MAR 8-APR 5

HYBRID ADULT ED
(IN-PERSON OR ON ZOOM)
SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM

GOOD ENOUGH TUSEDAYS: A Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah!

Want to give up perfectionism for Lent? Join Pastor Sarah on the Church Zoom for five sessions of group discussion of what a "good enough" life looks like for us. We will explore topics inspired by the book *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. Books are available to be picked up at the church. There's no required pre-reading and sessions are open to all. Beginning March 8th!

Questions? Email cassidy@fcindy.org



Adult Education Worship and Faith

In Adult Ed during Lent, we will read and reflect on a devotion from the just released book *Good Enough; 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. To learn more about the book, go to KateBowler.com and while there, download the free "[Good Enough Lent Reflection Guide](#)." The guide is designed to be a journal, with scripture references, reflection questions, a place to write, and a lovely prayer of blessing for each of the 40ish devotions.

Handouts for each week's devotion will be available for you to download via a link in each week's epistle. For those of you who like to read ahead, here are the selections:

Lent 1 3/6 | "Ordinary lives can be holy."
Mediocrity for the Win (161) Psalm 19

Lent 2 3/13 | "So much is out of our control."
The In-Between (210) Luke 9: 21-27; Psalm 131: 1-3

Lent 3 3/20 | "Lots of things can be medicine."
Too Few Sparrows (215) Matthew 26: 17-29

Lent 4 3/27 | "We often believe we are the problem."
To My Body (156) 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18

Lent 5 4/3 | "We are fragile."

The Reality-Show Gospel (195) Psalm 62

Lent 6/Palm Sunday | "You are a group project."

When Words Fail (200) Luke 19: 28-42

Come and join in with lively and thoughtful sharing as we journey through Lent together.

Pastor Carol Sowle

Ways to Connect for Worship:

In-Person at 7171 North Pennsylvania Street Indianapolis, IN 46240



[FACEBOOK](#)

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



[YOUTUBE](#)

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

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 10:45am with 15 minutes of gathering music. The service begins at 11am.



DIAL-IN (available after 1PM)

- **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.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

Mental Health Team Outreach and Service Board

Did you know Pastor Sarah has written a new book about youth and mental health? It will be published in late April. To get in on the ground floor the WISE Mental Health Team is pre-ordering 10 copies of her book to make available to interested church members in April. Stay tuned for details on how to get a book.



On May 22nd, Mental Health Sunday, we will have a Buzz with Sarah after worship to discuss the book. Stay tuned for more details about the Buzz. Hope you can read the book and join us for the Buzz.

Questions? Contact Sandy Wood: csjlwood@att.net

Need a Lift in Your Spirit? Join us Thursdays for Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health at 5:00-6:00PM [on Zoom](#)



This gathering is open to everyone and is an informal time to check-in about how you are doing, get emotional support from church family, and offer prayer for one another as we navigate nurturing positive mental health in these difficult days. We are an open group with confidentiality guidelines. Sessions are on Zoom and led by Pastor Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund.

Please feel free to call or email us if you have questions: Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012. (Image by Etsy artist, GraceEmbodied)

CARE & CONNECTIONS BOARD

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Happy Birthday in March!

Gloria Boedeker	Nancy Dickinson
Glenn Evans	Ginny Gillette
Judy Hamm	Wendy Harrison
Susan Larson	Roxanne Vaden-Hamm



If you're having a birthday in March, and you are not on this list, please contact Wendy Baldwin, so we can add you to our master list for the future!

Address Directory Update

In March, we will be updating and producing our Address Directory, which will be available in print and electronically. If you have had a change in name, address, phone number, or email address in the past year, please contact Wendy Baldwin at wbaldwinindy@gmail.com by March 18. Also, if you are new to our church family, and would like to be in our Address Directory, we would love to have your contact info!

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

TRUSTEES

Chair, Steve Coomer

New Partnership with the IKC's Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team – The Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) of the IN-KY Conference works to assist with relief from natural disasters, along with a variety of other tasks. As part of their ministry, they put together work camps, including one that will be held this March in western KY to help with communities devastated by tornadoes in December 2021.

Over the years, they have accumulated a lot of materials and supplies for their work, and needed a place to store them. Recently, our Trustees have agreed to accommodate the DPRMT's storage needs in our building. They will be using the room at the bottom of the north stairwell by the Mayflower Room, as well as the northwest corner of the kitchen. These are areas that our church has not been using for any particular purpose, so we are glad to put them to meaningful use.

The move-in date is set for Saturday, March 12, about noontime. Help from anyone who can assist with moving materials into the church building will be greatly appreciated! Please contact Wendy Baldwin, if you are able to help out, or if you would like to connect with the work of the DPRMT – they are always looking for more helpers!

Questions or comments for Trustees, contact current Chair, Steve Coomer, 317-255-9328, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net



Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

Here are the financial results for January 2022:

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary - Last month 1/1/2022 through 1/31/2022 Using 2022 Budget

2

Category	Actual	January 2022 Budget	Difference
INCOME	19,475	25,239	-5,765
M. Unrestricted Contributions	19,475	25,239	-5,765
M.01 Pledged Offerings	315	917	-602
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	9,888	15,051	-5,163
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	9,272	9,272	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	0	0
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
EXPENSES	25,187	25,987	800
A. Pastoral Leadership	10,475	10,697	221
B. Worship & Faith	2,241	2,695	453
C. Care & Connections	0	25	25
E. Outreach & Service	1,375	1,375	0
F. Trustees	0	12	12
G. Administration & Operations	3,606	2,455	-1,152
H. House & Grounds	7,022	8,140	1,118
I. Miscellaneous	467	589	123
Net Difference:	-5,712	-748	-4,965

Highlights:

- **Income** of \$19,500 was \$5,800 below budget.
- **Expenses** of \$25,200 were \$800 above budget due to higher than budgeted administrative expenses.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com

Green Team: Our Legacy to Earth



We are frequently reminded that the earth is being trashed. From polluted air to fouled oceans to trashed lands, we can't help being dismayed and wondering if the earth is on its way to becoming uninhabitable. We need reminders that our individual efforts, collectively magnified, do matter. We make a difference when we continue to make the efforts needed to purchase thoughtfully, to conserve, and to recycle. By way of contrast to what's happening

globally, we can be proud of the way that our church property is being maintained. Thanks to our property manager and her crew, First Congregational is always a pleasure to see, and we drive past it whenever possible in order to see the present and to remember the past.

–Bill Gillette for the Green Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Faith & Action Spring Conference
POVERTY & MENTAL HEALTH
Examining Connections
With Schroeder Stribling, President and CEO of Mental Health America
Wednesday, March 9, 2022, 9 AM-3 PM at CTS

Join faith leaders, lay leaders, activists, and groups from Central Indiana's nonprofit sector to "Push Back Poverty" at the **Faith & Action Project's seventh annual spring conference on March 9**. This year's event highlights a key factor in generational poverty: mental health. We will seek to destigmatize mental health through candid and informative conversations and equip congregations, organizations, and individuals to come alongside those who fight twin battles against poverty and poor mental health.

Plan to join us March 9 for a day of conversation, edification, and inspiration as local and national poverty fighters address questions such as:

- How can faith communities respond more effectively to mental health challenges?
- How can nonprofit and faith organizations partner with established initiatives to address poverty and mental health?
- How do we recognize and respond to trauma?
- What are the ways we can increase accessibility and scale up effective solutions? **Register here!**
-

On March 12th, First Congregational UCC in Atlanta GA will help Andrew Young Celebrate his 90th birthday. They are doing a card shower for him as a part of the celebration.

If you would like to help him celebrate this milestone in his life, please send a birthday greeting to him by way of the church at:

First Congregational UCC
105 Courtland St. NE
Atlanta GA 30303

The FC Indy Blog is here, “Pew Reflections”: Please email your submissions to Cassidy (cassidy@fcindy.org) anytime to be shared on the blog. Questions about what the blog is or how it functions? Check out <http://fcindy.org/blog/newblog/>

RECENT POSTS:

[Freewheeling by Linda Lupton](#)

[Love Rather than Be Loved, by susanna-judith rae](#)

[Crawling in with Hope, by susanna-judith rae](#)

[A Daily Meditation/Prayer, by Janet S.](#)

[God Works in Mysterious Ways, by Alice Rutherford](#)

[We Are All Creative, by Cassidy Hall](#)

Women’s Lunch Bunch: The Women's Lunch Bunch will meet in-person on **Thursday, March 24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** For any questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Men’s Lunch: This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at 1:00pm.

This month, March 3, 17, and 31st.

Questions? Contact Bill Gillette wmgillette@gmail.com

Acts of Kindness Fund - Members can make requests for use of this fund to assist themselves or others in our church family who might not ask for help. These gifts can help support financial needs, as well as help with ride-share transportation, shovel or plow snow, pay an unexpected expense, etc. Honoring the dignity of the recipient, all requests for use of this fund will be confidential, and privacy will be respected. To request funds or gifts, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.



MARCH 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer	2 7p – Ash Wednesday Worship Service (Zoom)	3 1pm Men's Lunch 5p – Spiritual Support Group	4	5 10a-12pm – Food Drive and Fellowship!
6 10am – Hybrid Adult Ed 11a – Hybrid Worship No Coffee Hour Until County is Blue 1:00pm – Buzz on Gun Violence Reduction (Zoom)	7	8 6:30p – Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)	9 7p – Trustees	10 5p – Spiritual Support Group	11	12
13 10am – Hybrid Adult Ed 11a – Hybrid Worship No Coffee Hour Until County is Blue	14	15 4:30p – WISE Team Meeting 6:30p – Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)	16 7p – Church Council	17 1p – Men's Lunch 5p – Spiritual Support Group St. Patrick's Day!	18 April 2022 COLONY SUBMISSIONS DUE!	19
20 10am – Hybrid Adult Ed 11a – Hybrid Worship No Coffee Hour Until County is Blue Spring Equinox	21	22 6:30p – Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)	23	24 11:30 Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom) 5p – Spiritual Support Group	25	26
27 10am – Hybrid Adult Ed 11a – Hybrid Worship No Coffee Hour Until County is Blue 1p – (Zoom) Cassidy's Ecclesiastical Council	28	29 6:30p – Lenten Study with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)	30	31 1p – Men's Lunch 5p – Spiritual Support Group		

**First Congregational UCC
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Address Service Requested