



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
THE PILGRIM COLONY

April 2022

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SCHEDULE

APRIL 10
(PALM SUNDAY)

APRIL 14
(MAUNDY THURSDAY)

APRIL 17
(EASTER SUNDAY)

11AM HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE

7PM ZOOM WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

11AM HYBRID WORSHIP SERVICE

FCINDY.ORG

A Note on Giving to the First Congregational Special Easter offering for Ukraine:
Please be sure to note **“Ukraine Relief Fund”** on your check in the memo line. All donations will be deposited into the United Church of Christ International Disasters fund designated for “Ukraine Relief.”

Pastor's Reflections

Dear First Congregational,

This year marks my 4th anniversary serving as the senior pastor of First Congregational! Our time together has been filled with joy, challenges, growth, learning, changes, healing, hope, and more. Most of all, this time with you in ministry is one of blessing and I hope you all feel the same. Included in our call agreement is the mutual gift of a three month sabbatical upon my fifth year of ministry. I am tentatively planning my sabbatical for July, August, and September of 2023.

The church council has blessed the preparation of a sabbatical renewal grant application to provide funding to the church for our sabbatical activities. I am inviting members and friends of the congregation to participate in feedback for the sabbatical grant application. There will be two open session to discuss the sabbatical proposal and I encourage you to join us. Your input is important. The first one will be Sunday, April 3 at 1:00pm on the church zoom. The second one will be Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30pm on the church zoom.

This is our opportunity as a church to dream together about this time of renewal. My sabbatical theme is "Joy to the World" and I plan to focus on themes of (1) heaven and nature sing, (2) repeat the sounding joy, and (3) the wonders of God's love. While I am experiencing renewal based on these themes, the key question for our church is what will your renewal time look like? In addition to having a sabbatical pastor for three months, how else will you engage this theme of "Joy to the World"?

The application is due April 27, so please attend one of our feedback sessions or share your thoughts with me or one of our senior councilors. Thank you in advance for your support of this time of sabbatical for rest and renewal.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

**A sabbatical proposal discussion
with Pastor Sarah:**
Sunday, April 3 at 1:00pm (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 12 at 6:30pm (Zoom)

JOY TO THE WORLD
heaven and nature sing, repeat the sounding joy,
the wonders of God's love

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)

Reactivating the FCC Security Committee

Some two and a half years ago, just prior to the onset of the pandemic, a brief discussion took place in our congregation about forming a new committee to deal with matters of church security. Several of us were interested in this issue, and we met briefly to consider various concerns that ought to be addressed. We decided “security” really ought to incorporate emergencies and threats of all kinds, including tornadoes, floods, and other severe weather events; fires; power failures; medical emergencies; bomb threats; unwanted visitor or active shooter situations (God forbid), and more. While we did map out some basic guidelines, the body of our work was placed on hold until now.

Currently, Bill Gillette, Chris Shank, and I comprise the membership of the Security Committee. We are eager to have two or three other church members join us in this enterprise! We are fortunate to have received detailed procedural instructions not only from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Homeland Security, but also locally from Dennis Norris, Head of Security at Second Presbyterian Church, and the Reverend Greg Denk, Disaster Coordinator for the Indiana-Kentucky UCC Conference. Really, much of the preparatory work has already been done for us. Mainly we need to assess the specific needs of our church; review the excellent materials and guidelines we have collected; establish our goals; and effectively communicate the procedures to follow in the event of each potential emergency.

While no one likes to think of having to respond to urgent circumstances such as those enumerated above, being equipped with the knowledge of how best to handle them will help to reduce anxiety and mitigate – if not completely prevent – any unhappy outcomes. Please feel free to contact one of us on the committee if you have thoughts, questions, or suggestions to offer, and do consider joining the committee as we move forward in this important endeavor on behalf of the church we all love.

Yours in faith,

Larry Eckel
Lead Councilor (February-May)

Pastoral Congregation Relations Committee

PCRC for Pastor Sarah: Lianna Campos, Nancy Dickinson, Chuck Kiphart, Chair-Randy Walker (aa28977rwalker@gmail.com)

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

Celebrating Cassidy Hall's Ecclesiastical Council

A Message from Cassidy: Here's a photo some who were able to support me at my Ecclesiastical council on Sunday March 27th where I was approved to now be "ordained pending call"!!! The support of each of you has been so meaningful. It was a meeting of feeling so affirmed and so humbled by the ways others see God's call in my life to ministerial leadership. I have continued to feel so held, loved, and supported by this church. Thank you to everyone who came and those who were unable to attend who joined us in the spirit of fellowship which binds us together! If you have any questions about this event or want to read my ordination paper email me at Cassidy@fcindy.org



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)
Sunday, April 3	12:15-12:45 p.m.	Sunday Playdate at the FC Indy Playground (Songs, Stories, and Snacks)
Sunday, April 3	1:00 p.m.	A sabbatical proposal discussion with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 5	ALL DAY	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Wednesday, April 6	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, April 7	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Saturday, April 9	12-2 p.m.	Inside Work Day with DPRMT
Sunday, April 10	11 AM	Palm Sunday Hybrid Worship
Tuesday, April 12	6:30 p.m.	A sabbatical proposal discussion with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)

Wednesday, April 13	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, April 14	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship Service (Zoom)
Saturday, April 16	9:30-2 p.m.	Outside Work Day
Sunday, April 17	11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship Service!
Tuesday, April 19	1:30 p.m.	Circle Book Meeting
Thursday, April 21	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Sunday, April 24	11:00 a.m.	Guest Preacher, Rev. Nathan Day Wilson
Sunday, April 24	12:30 p.m.	Ministry Retirement Celebration for Rev. Worth Hartman (Mayflower Hall)
Thursday, April 28	11:45 p.m.	Women's Lunch



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

The Playground Team would like to announce church playdate sessions on **April 3rd, May 1st and June 5th after worship from 12:15-12:45pm**. We will have light snacks, song and story time, and then free play. Weather permitting, we will meet outside on the patio. Hope to see you there!

SUNDAY PLAYDATE!
 AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ALL FAMILIES
 & CHILDREN
 WELCOME!

SONGS + STORIES + SNACKS
12:15-12:45 PM
AT THE PLAYGROUND!
 7171 N PENNSYLVANIA ST, INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46240
APRIL 3RD, MAY 1ST, JUNE 5TH
 QUESTIONS? EMAIL PastorSarah@fcindy.org

Adult Education Worship and Faith

Dear friends, during April the Adult Ed gathering will continue to reflect on devotions from the book Good Enough. Come and join us, in person or via Zoom for a time of sharing and encouragement.

Lent 5 4/3 | "We are fragile." *The Reality-Show Gospel* (p.195) Psalm 62

Lent 6/Palm Sunday | "You are a group project." *When Words Fail* (p.200) Luke 19: 28-42

Easter 4/17 | "A Good Enough Faith" *A Good Gardener* (p. 226)

April 24 To be determined

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/UCWV9wgAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

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



DIAL-IN (available after 1PM)

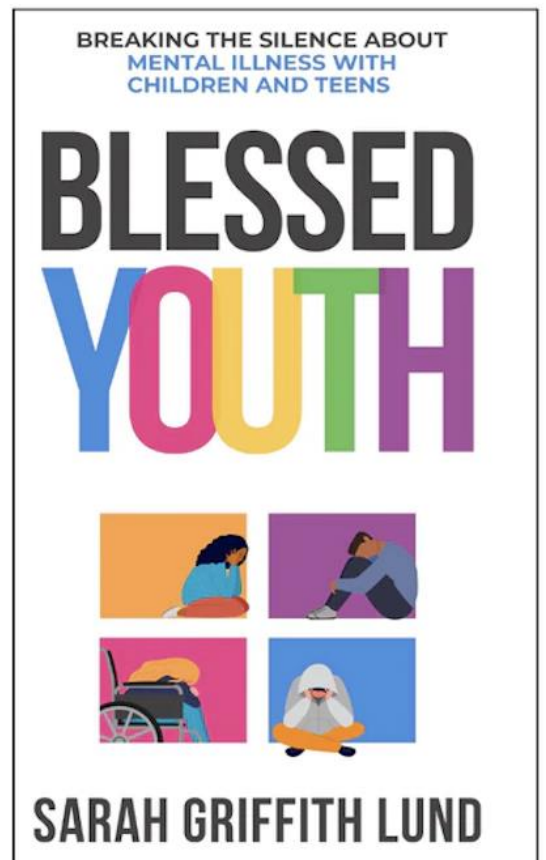
- **Dial 317-204-3862**
- Landline is preferred for clarity.
- If calling with a smart phone, setting your cellular setting to Wi-Fi calling will be clearer.

OUTREACH & SERVICE

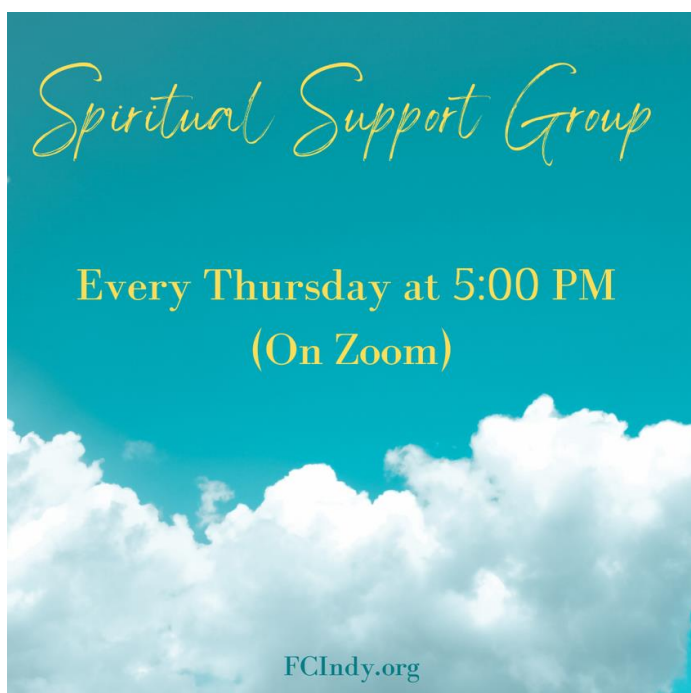
Mental Health Team Outreach and Service Board

The W.I.S.E. Mental Health Team is pleased and proud our Pastor and team member Sarah Griffith Lund has just had a new book published- Blessed Youth: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness with Children and Teens. **In conjunction with Mental Health Sunday May 22nd, the team is planning a Zoom Buzz at 1 p.m. to discuss the book.** We decided on a Zoom Buzz to allow as many people as possible to attend even if they are not able to come to the service in-person.

The team has ordered 10 books that can be borrowed by members of the congregation to read before the Buzz. The books will be available in the Narthex after Easter. Please sign out a book on the list beside the books and return it after you are done so others might also have a chance to read it. Members of the congregation can contact Pastor Sarah if they want to order their own copy of her book. They can email her and make the arrangements to get the book and pay her. You can also contact Chalice Press at [Chalice Press](#) and type in Pastor Sarah's full name and the title of the book. We look forward to getting together with many of you on Zoom, hearing from Sarah about her experience writing the book, and discussing its contents.



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.

CARE & CONNECTIONS BOARD

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Happy Birthday in April!

Katie Booth
Lianna Campos
Cheryl Dillenback

Bill Hummel
Sara Lootens
Mary Lou Rothe



If you're having a birthday in April, 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

The updated Address Directory will be available in print and electronically by late March. If you would like a PDF version sent to you, please contact Cassidy Hall at cassidy@fcindy.org.

SAVE THE DATE – In Person Church Retreat, May 6-7

Led by Rev Lance Mullins, there will be a retreat held at the church on Friday evening, May 6, and Saturday, May 7. There will be a signup sheet for this sometime in April.

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 was held in 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, April 9, 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!

Annual Spring Work Day – Saturday, April 16, 9:30-noon –

We'll work on beautifying our grounds in preparation for Easter the next day. The church has several rakes and wheel barrows, but bring any of your favorite garden equipment, such as clippers and work gloves. Contact Wendy Baldwin if you are able to come or have any questions.

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 through February 28, 2022.

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1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary			
1/1/2022 through 2/28/2022 Using 2022 Budget			
Category	1/1/2022 Actual	- Budget	2/28/2022 Difference
INCOME	46,227	63,071	-16,844
M. Unrestricted Contributions	46,227	63,071	-16,844
M.01 Pledged Offerings	985	1,698	-713
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	25,970	32,101	-6,131
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	9,272	9,272	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	10,000	10,000	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	10,000	-10,000
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund...	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	0	0	0
EXPENSES	48,564	50,538	1,974
A. Pastoral Leadership	20,951	21,393	442
B. Worship & Faith	4,506	5,512	1,006
C. Care & Connections	0	50	50
E. Outreach & Service	2,750	3,000	250
F. Trustees	0	24	24
G. Administration & Operations	10,074	8,427	-1,647
H. House & Grounds	8,964	10,953	1,989
I. Miscellaneous	1,320	1,179	-141
Net Difference:	-2,337	12,533	-14,871

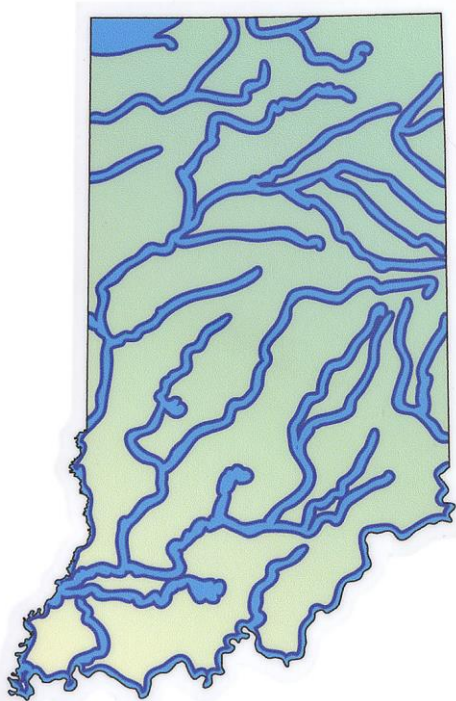
Highlights:

- **Income** of \$46,200 was \$16,800 below budget. However, note we had budgeted a need for \$20,000 in funds from the FCC Foundation but we only needed \$10,000. So the real shortfall was \$6,800.
- **Expenses** of \$48,600 were \$2,000 below budget.

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

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

Green Team



It's common to read or to hear reports of the sad state of Indiana's waterways. The INDIANAPOLIS STAR repeated this condition once again in its March 18 issue. Indiana is among our country's worst polluters of its waterways. This pollution comes from well-known sources; industry, agriculture, municipalities and the general public. There's no easy fix, but we should all do what we can to make our waterways safe for our use. Supporting environmental groups is one good way.

–Bill Gillette for the Green Team

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FC Indy was named as a Top Giving OGHS congregation in the 2020 giving year! Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

One Great
HOUR
OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing®

Proudly presents this award for high *per capita* giving in 2020
in the
UCC Indiana-Kentucky Conference
to
First Congregational UCC

In recognition of support to One Great Hour of Sharing,
the refugee, disaster relief and sustainable development offering
of the United Church of Christ

March 11, 2022

Date



Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Minister, Wider Church Ministries

April 2022

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Coming Soon: Stay tuned for more updates on **Shameless Storytelling a spiritual formation retreat on May 6th and 7th led by Rev. Lance Mullins!**

More about the retreat:

This Spring, as we celebrate the season of Resurrection, we have an opportunity to unburden ourselves of shame and affirm our sacred worth. At our **Shameless Storytelling** retreat, we will use writing as a tool to unpack and let go of the shame we carry.

Shameless Storytelling is a writing workshop. If you come, you will be expected to write. But here are some important things to know:

- ◆ You are not expected to be a “good” writer (whatever that is!). Some of us have shame about our ability to write. But here’s the thing: all of us who know how to put words on paper *are* writers, and all of us have a story to tell. This workshop isn’t about being – or becoming – a polished writer. It’s about claiming our stories honestly and expressively... and using words to do it.
- ◆ You are not expected to share your story. The writing you do in this workshop will be for you. We will talk about the benefit – and risk – of sharing our stories, and we will make some space for those who wish to take that step. But the focus of the workshop will be on writing our stories *for ourselves*, and no one is expected to share their written work during the retreat.
- ◆ Shame is an emotionally difficult subject, so come prepared to do some deep personal work at this retreat. But we will also make time to play with our stories, so come open to discovering joy in the process!



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

Women's Lunch Bunch: The Women's Lunch Bunch will meet in-person on **Thursday, April 28 at 11:45 a.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, April 7th and 21st at 1:00PM

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.