



October 2022 at a glance:

SUNDAYS	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education is Back! (In-Person Only)
SUNDAYS	11:00 a.m.	Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, Facebook)
TUESDAYS	1:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
THURSDAYS	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, October 2nd	After Worship	Playground Playdate
Wednesday, October 5th	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Saturday, October 8th	9:30 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, October 12th	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, October 13th	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Saturday, October 15th	9:30 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, October 16th	After Worship	All-Church Pitch-In
Tuesday, October 18th	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Meeting
Sunday, October 23rd	12:15 PM	CROP Walk
Thursday, October 27th	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch Bunch
Thursday, October 27th	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Saturday, October 29th	9:30 AM	Congregational Crafters
Sunday, October 30th	1-2 PM	Buzz with the Wise Team!
AUGUST 25 – OCTOBER 14		Pastor Sarah Medical Leave

A Message from Chair of Personnel

As chair of personnel, I am happy to report that Pastor Sarah's recuperation is going very well and all her follow up tests have shown normal results so there is no further worry of more serious issues. Pastor Sarah and her family are joyous and relieved about that, and they also express their heartfelt gratitude for all the love shown to them through this time. Our care and respect of her leave is allowing her to be fully healed and prepared to come back on the 16th!

Pastor Sarah has also expressed deep sorrow at the death of Bill Gillette, calling him a pillar of this church and she wraps Ginny, their family and our whole church family in love and prayer.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Thank you,

Karen Walker (317-319-8950)

Pastoral Care and Support: During this time when Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave, the Pastoral Care will be provided by the staff listed below.

PASTORAL UPDATE: WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE COVERAGE

Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave until October 14. Please join with us in prayer for Pastor Sarah and her family during this time. Per best practice guidelines, Pastor Sarah will be honoring healthy boundaries to ensure the greatest level of rest and recovery. Communication and contact will be limited to the designated representative of the congregation which is the chair of the personnel committee, Karen Walker. Karen can be reached at email: karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com or cell (317) 319-8950. **Please do not send emails to Pastor Sarah during this time as she will not be monitoring that account - personal notes of encouragement and good wishes are encouraged to be mailed to Pastor Sarah's Home (Address in Directory). Please watch for other opportunities to provide support or contact Karen Walker.**

While on medical leave August 25–October 14, Pastor Sarah will not be leading, attending, participating, facilitating, or contributing to any activities, meetings, events, or gatherings of the church or on behalf of the church. The medical leave is a doctor prescribed designated time away for Pastor Sarah from church duties, responsibilities, and obligations.

We celebrate our talented community and church and look forward to hearing from the following during worship services:

Sunday 10/2 – Rev. Elizabeth Price

Sunday 10/9 – Preacher Rev. Peter Frye with Worship Leader Rev. Lance Mullins

Sunday 10/16 - *Pastor Sarah is back!*

During this time you can reach out to the following for pastoral care needs:

10/1-10/14 Rev. Elizabeth Price. Her email is eprice235@gmail.com and her cell phone is (317) 727-0940.

Senior Councilor's Report

Steve Coomer, Lead Councilor (October-January)

It's hard to believe this is October; the year certainly is flying by. So here we are with the next transition in Senior Lead Councilor. During this time, we have a lot to be grateful for here at FCC. We need to be thankful that Pastor Sarah made it through her surgery successfully with no complications. I know I am looking forward to her return scheduled for Sunday, October 16. Let us make her return a real celebration. We all need to continue to pray for her progress and really celebrate her expected return. We also need to be grateful for those who have filled the pulpit and provided pastoral care during her absence and show them our continued support for them and our church.

Our church needs all of our support. As you know we have been trying an experiment with "year round stewardship". To this point we have been unable to meet our goals on a monthly basis. I know that we are all being hit hard by inflation, but please understand that our church is struggling as well, as a result of that same inflation. We all need, if possible, to dig a little deeper and add to our support of the church. We have a number of things we would like to do to improve our building, such as having more secure doors and making handicapped entry more manageable. We have had to repair air conditioning a couple of times which is also affected by inflation. Thanks to Worship and Faith for the creation of the Family Room. Second Sunday monthly messages from our various boards, denoting how your contributions are being used, will continue through January.

We are certainly grateful that we have now returned to in-person church. If you cannot attend for one reason or another then you can live stream our services or go to YouTube and watch it later. While I realize road construction and health concerns create several difficulties, I would invite those of you watching via live stream or YouTube to come to church whenever possible to witness in person, the love that our congregation has for each other. The live service is a real treat as compared to in front of your computer.

In conclusion, we need to come together in the spirit of the Lord and in our stewardship to our church home. A church that continues to stay the same is a church that is moving backwards. Our church needs to move forward in order to guarantee that we are here for decades to come.

Steve Coomer, Lead Councilor (October-January)

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 and Betty Schnur

How to Join Zoom Meetings with FC Indy:



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

Adult Education

Worship and Faith

As in-person worship has ramped back up, the Worship & Faith Board has been hard at work making sure that worship is a meaningful experience for all, including those who worship with us online. Now that the lazy days of summer are behind us, more is to come.

Hopefully, everyone has noticed the new voice singing with the choir. And yes, we celebrate having a choir in the loft once again! With the addition of Scott Semester as our song leader, we now have four parts covered most of the time. Under Music Designer Sean Baker's guidance we'll soon begin developing some additional special music opportunities to include choral anthems, solos, duets, and other musical interludes. We're so grateful for all of our talented and skilled musicians.

Another project that W & F has worked on and is almost complete is the new Family Room (formerly the crib room). This space has been designed for family use before, during, and after the worship service, or at any other time they may be in the building. The room is now equipped with comfortable furniture, children's books, and age-appropriate toys and craft materials. We'd love to add a small settee of some sort so that parents can cuddle with kids, so feel free to contact Aurelia Glennan-March at ahoftmarch@gmail.com if you know of any such donation to be had. Child care staffing is an ongoing concern for us, so please reach out if you're interested in serving in this way. We want to support our young families as much as possible.

Another volunteer opportunity is in the area of communion preparation. The Worship & Faith Board oversees all aspects of the worship service, and none is more important than this ritual of our Christian faith. We invite anyone feeling called to serve by preparing communion once a month (or even just once!) to contact any of us on the board (names and contacts below).

As mentioned above, more is to come! Watch this fall for some new additions to our worship service, new twists on existing elements, and some reintroductions of elements set aside during the pandemic. (Verbal announcements are back!) Our goal is always to make the worship experience as stimulating, enriching, and soul-feeding as possible, while bringing all into a

closer relationship with God and one another. Feedback is welcome as we move forward.

Aurelia Glennan-March ahofmarch@gmail.com
Cristy James cristysails@gmail.com
Alice Rutherford alice@caloosaspirit.net

For October Adult Ed will be reading and reflecting on the UCC Daily Devotional for that Sunday.

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/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjV6Zpw>

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

OUTREACH & SERVICE

**Mental Health Team
Outreach and Service Board**

The W.I.S.E Mental Health Team will present a Buzz on Sunday Oct 30th from 1-2 p.m. EDT on Zoom. It will be a presentation and discussion on the Intersection of Mental Health and Spirituality, presented by the 2 "remote" members of our team who join us from Albuquerque N.M. (Janet Lynn Taylor) and from Berkeley, CA (Helen Walsh). Both women have personal knowledge and expertise' regarding mental health and disability issues and inclusivity.



More about Janet Lynn Taylor

When it comes to Janet Lynn's work and life experiences, there is one prevailing theme – community. Her professional and volunteer service as well as her personal interests; all center around helping others and making her community stronger.

Her volunteer service has benefited more than forty organizations. Among them, as a founding board member of the ALSA-NM, (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association) New Mexico Chapter after her father was diagnosed with the terminal disease.

She began her friendship with First Congregational Indianapolis in 2018 following the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network Conference in Phoenix, AZ. She is delighted to continue her service as a member of the Mental Health Team.

Professionally she earned a M.S. Workforce Education and Development degree from the University of Southern Illinois, Carbondale. She is now looking forward to using her education, professional experiences, and excellent communication skills to change perceptions about mental illness. She is the Principal for her Compassion Company, **1620 the Bright Side** which endeavors to **“Change the Stigma of Mental Illness through Awareness and Advocacy”**.

More about Helen Walsh

Helen Walsh (she/her), is a member of First Congregational Church of Berkeley (FCCB), in Berkeley California. She is part of her local church Disability Empowerment ministry and an At Large on FCCB Church Council. She is excited to serve on the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries (UCCDM). She looks forward to more UCC churches becoming Accessible to All (A2A). She wants to share the beauty of life through the light of inclusion with community. We are all created in Gods image. Corinthians 12:12-27- For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.



Another way to be inclusive is to share image descriptions. These descriptions make images more accessible to blind, low-vision, and/or low-tech users. Helen shared the following notes on image descriptions with her message:
* An image description can be an Open description; placed under the image (inclusive design) and or by using an attribute commonly referred to as a tag “Alt Text”. The Alt Text attribute is what a screen reader uses to provide audio descriptions and reads text for a person that is blind or low vision.
Image description: Woman with freckles, blue eyes with short wavy brown hair wearing a tweed cap smiling. In the background geometric art work of a tree with fall colors.

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 will be covered by leaders during Pastor Sarah's medical leave.

CARE & CONNECTIONS BOARD

Wendy Baldwin, Chair

Happy Birthday in October!

Sue Horst

Jessica Kramer

Steve Leatherman

Jim Rutherford

Sandy Wood

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

Celebration Pitch-In, Sunday, October 16, after church

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we gather in the Mayflower Room to welcome back Pastor Sarah! Please bring a food item for our pitch-in lunch – we'll have a signup sheet to get an idea of how many to plan for, or email Wendy Baldwin. Hope you can stay after church for this time of community and sharing!

Weekly Cards to Sign in the Narthex

If you are worshiping in person, please look for cards to sign in the Narthex. These will be a variety of birthday wishes, get well, or thinking-of-you cards, which we will then send to folks. This is a way to show our love and support for those in our church family.

Providing Care and Connection for our Church Family

We are blessed to have people in our congregation who have been regularly helping out with helping others in our church family with things like transportation, providing food, visiting, or just staying in touch. The needs have been growing, and the bulk of the effort is being done by a handful of people – can you help out? Please contact Wendy Baldwin, or check out the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Showing willingness to help isn't a commitment that you will always be required to help – rather we would like to include you in the invitation to help when needs become known.

CROP Walk –

This is the 53rd year for the CROP Walk in Indianapolis, and FC Indy has participated in each one. The CROP Walk works to raise money to “end hunger one step at a time”, and the challenge continues to increase. This year, participating groups are asked to have their own CROP “Walk”, and here is the plan for our church:

- On Sunday, 10/23, we will have a symbolic CROP walk around the church's neighborhood. It will begin following worship, and last about a half hour. Please join us for this symbolic walk.
- You can contribute by making out a check to the church and designating it for CROP, or you can make online donations directly to our CROP “team” at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-congregational-ucc-3>
- If you would like to participate in the walk, register at this site or sign up in the Narthex.

We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and help improve food insecurity in communities around the world. **Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.**

The Green Team



This month's Green Team update is a culmination of important messages we've received from the late and incredible, Bill Gillette. His advocacy and persistence in our being a Green Church was inspiring to me and I trust his legacy will live on in many ways — one of those ways being our continuation of learning and leaning into being a Green Church.

–Cassidy Hall

Some of our final Green Team Messages from Bill:

Climate change is a subject that is so large and has so many aspects that it's hard to focus on just one. Yet that's what we must do in order for us to be most effective. We can focus on conservation or composting or a political area to have good, if limited, effect. We can join or just contribute to effective organizations. Writing a letter to the editor gives us an opportunity to express our views. There's a lot that we can do.

It's amazing how quickly the grounds surrounding us change from their brown winter outfits to their spring green ones. The grass, bushes and trees all pass from their dormant stages to their active ones. **That reminds us of our responsibility to the environment to do what we can to manage it with an eye toward its long-term health.**

With the arrival of the new year comes the opportunity to think in new ways. Severe weather events and the Covid-19 pandemic have jarred us and caught our attention. **How has our perspective on our values and activities changed in the last year and how can we as individuals make a difference in supporting our environment?** With a changed perspective, I'm making better New Years' resolutions in 2022 and intend to follow them more faithfully. I can do better. **What we all do matters.**

Bill Gillette

TRUSTEES

Chair, Steve Coomer

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 August 31, 2022.

1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary

1/1/2022 through 8/31/2022 Using 2022 Budget

Category	1/1/2022 Actual	- Budget	8/31/2022 Difference
INCOME	173,368	167,799	5,568
M. Unrestricted Contributions	173,368	167,799	5,568
M.01 Pledged Offerings	2,995	4,043	-1,048
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	120,911	124,484	-3,573
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_De...	9,272	9,272	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	30,000	20,000	10,000
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	10,000	10,000	0
M.06 Foundation - Trad. Music Fund ...	0	0	0
M.08 Other Transfers from Restr Accts	0	0	0
EXPENSES	182,873	185,982	3,109
A. Pastoral Leadership	85,763	85,821	59
B. Worship & Faith	18,549	23,136	4,588
C. Care & Connections	135	200	65
E. Outreach & Service	11,309	13,170	1,861
F. Trustees	0	96	96
G. Administration & Operations	27,477	23,153	-4,325
H. House & Grounds	34,780	35,282	502
I. Miscellaneous	4,860	5,123	262
Net Difference:	-9,505	-18,182	8,677

Highlights:

- **Income** of \$173,400 was \$4,500 short of budget excluding the timing of draws from the FCC Foundation (we took a \$10,000 draw in August that was budgeted to occur in September).
- **Expenses** of \$182,900 were \$3,100 below budget. Savings in Worship and Faith (mostly lower music expenses) and small savings in other areas were partially offset by higher-than-budget Administrative Operations expenses.
- **In summary**, our overall expenses are being managed well but our unrestricted giving is falling short of both our budget (-\$4,500) and last year (-\$3,300).

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

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

Note: Cash donations of \$1.00 or less are counted as donations to the current Covenant Outreach. Cash of \$5.00 or more should be put in pew envelopes with a designation of Pledge/Contribution, Covenant Outreach, or the specific charity. Unless designated, cash over \$5.00 will go to the church budget.

A Note on our Current Covenant Outreach Giving

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant (September – December) Our current outreach recipients are Indiana Youth Group, Trinity Haven, and the Damien Center.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

UCC General Synod 2023 The IN-KY Conference is thrilled to be hosting the General Synod of the United Church of Christ on June 30-July 4, 2023! This event, held every 2 years, is a time for the UCC to gather to make important decisions, share ministry, and be in community with one another. It will be held at the Convention Center in Indianapolis, and we need lots of volunteers to put this together! Wendy Baldwin is on the Local Arrangements Committee, so please let her know if you are interested in helping out in the months before and/or during the event.

Women's book circle, 1:30pm on Tuesday October 18th continues throughout the year. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Please contact Linda Lupton for more information.

Congregational Crafters, 9:30am the last Saturday of each month. This month Congregational Crafters meets on Saturday, October 29th.

Celebration Pitch-In, Sunday, October 16, after church. Join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we gather in the Mayflower Room to welcome back Pastor Sarah! Please bring a food item for our pitch-in lunch – we'll have a signup sheet to get an idea of how many to plan for, or email Wendy Baldwin. Hope you can stay after church for this time of community and sharing!

On Sunday, 10/23, we will have a symbolic CROP walk around the church's neighborhood. It will begin following worship, and last about a half hour. Please join us for this symbolic walk. You can contribute by making out a check to the church and designating it for CROP, or you can make online donations directly to our CROP "team" at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/first-congregational-ucc-3>. If you would like to participate in the walk, register at this site or sign up in the Narthex.

Calendars for Exodus Once again we are collecting new calendars for Exodus Refugee. They need them for their new arrivals as well as for already settled refugees. Over the coming months please leave them in the box in the narthex labelled "Calendars." **Thank you!** Sue Chapman **Carol Sue Chapman**
carolsuech59@gmail.com

Women's Lunch Bunch: All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship. This month we will meet on **Thursday, October 27th at 11:45 a.m.** For any questions or for 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.

The FC Indy Blog is here, "Pew Reflections": Please email your submissions to Cassidy (cassidy@fcindy.org) anytime to be shared on the blog.

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.