

[View this email in your browser](#)[FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)[Forward](#)**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH****UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Epistle for the Week of June 16

Dear Church,

We are continuing to learn how to “live our faith out loud” as a congregation. This feels different to me in 2022 than it has in past years. So much has changed in our lives and in the world. **Yet one thing remains: we are invited by God to be embodied testimonies to divine love for and in the world.**

Members of First Congregational and friends embodied this unconditional, no rules attached, divine love last Saturday at the Indy Pride Parade with our sister UCC church, St. Peter's in Carmel. I was with you all in spirit (I even wore my rainbow stole) while I was in Wisconsin giving the keynote and workshops at the Wisconsin UCC Conference Annual Meeting as they prepare to begin the process to become a WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged) for mental health Conference.

We are going out into the world and being faithful. And it can be really fun and joyful to share God's love so freely. These are moments for our church to celebrate and treasure. Thanks be to God! I am grateful for a church that is not afraid to leave the building and take love into the streets.

Note: I will be taking bereavement time to be with family in FL this weekend for the memorial service for my brother-in-law. Monday through Friday I will be serving the wider church leading a mental health youth camp where my son will

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Messages from Church Council Regarding Covid: CAUTION: Marion County COVID-19 rates are increasing. **Masking encouraged.** (Church Council, 5/11/22)

First Congregational urges vaccinations, encourages masking for those unvaccinated or those at risk, and staying home if feeling unwell. (Based on CDC guidelines and approved by Church Council, April 13, 2022)



PRIDE Parade Recap! We had a wonderful time this year celebrating God's love of all genders and sexualities! Below are some pictures of our representation in the parade. For all who joined in body or spirit, we give thanks!





THIS SUNDAY

Hybrid Sunday Adult Education, 10:00 AM (In-Person and on Zoom), June 19: God is Not Done With You Yet from the UCC Daily Devotion. Sue Chapman will facilitate. The reflection is on Genesis 12:4. [A link to the reflection is here.](#)

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

A Continued Call to Action: Thank you to those who wrote letters in support of sensible gun legislation last Sunday. The table and writing materials in the narthex will again be available this Sunday for more letters, as gun violence continues unabated. Note that digital letters to lawmakers are also welcome, and information for contacting national and local officials through their websites is available at the table. Please take a few moments – this Sunday and other Sundays in the future – to write a letter to help bring God’s peace to our world, our nation, and our community. Questions? Contact Alice Rutherford alice@caloosaspirit.net or Sandy Wood csjlwood@att.net

Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC: Please continue

MORE AT FC

Tonight, Thursday, June 16, 5:00 PM (Zoom): Spiritual Support Group.

The Church Blog! There have been a couple new blog posts you can read on [our church blog here](#). Remember to submit your writing to me anytime! cassidy@fcindy.org.

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.

Church Leadership and Contact Info:

Senior Councilors: Larry Eckel (Lead) lspeckel@comcast.net, Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net, Judy Fletcher, jkbfb@aol.com

Care and Connections: Wendy Baldwin, wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com, Karen Walker, Sue Chapman, and Carol Sowle

Outreach and Service: Nancy Dickinson, dickinson.nls@gmail.com, Worth Hartman, and Steve Leatherman

Trustees: Steve Coomer s.coomer@sbcglobal.net, Wendy Baldwin, Bill Gillette, and Judy Fletcher

Worship and Faith: Aurelia Glennan-March, ahoftmarch@gmail.com, Cristy James, and Alice Rutherford

Clerk: Janet Selby, janet.selby@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Sue Chapman, carolsuech59@gmail.com

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

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

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: Judy Fletcher (Lead), jkbfaol.com Larry

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

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

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.

A NOTE ON OUR CURRENT COVENANT OUTREACH GIVING

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our WISE Covenant (May – August) Our current outreach recipients: The Julian Center, The UCC Mental Health Network, and The Trevor Project.



United Church of Christ
MENTAL HEALTH NETWORK™



THE JULIAN CENTER

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

IN-PERSON!***YOUTUBE***

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6jXD7FGtLYodcjF3uVgK4PMTZJUv3sa3>

- 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.

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| Thursday, June 16 | 5:00 PM | Spiritual Support Group |
| Friday, June 17 | August Colony Submissions Due | August Colony Submissions Due |
| Sunday, June 19 | 10:00 AM | Hybrid Adult Education (in-person and on zoom) |
| Sunday, June 19 | 11:00 AM | Hybrid Worship (in-person and on YouTube) |
| Tuesday, June 21 | 4:30 PM | WISE Team Meeting |
| Thursday, June 23 | 1:00 PM | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, June 23 | 5:00 PM | Spiritual Support Group |

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