

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

Epistle for the Week of June 2

Dear Church,

A spiritual teacher recently shared with me how their faith helps them hold the world's suffering in one hand and the world's blessings in the second hand. One does not cancel out the other. However, there certainly are times where both hands seem so full of sorrow, pain, outrage, and despair. Last week marked a deeply tragic and terrible event as our nation once again experienced horrific loss of lives of children and teachers from gun violence, this time at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas.

In response to this tragedy, the national setting of the United Church of Christ shared this call to prayer and action. For us at First Congregational, it is a time to recommit to our justice and peace ministries. It is time to strengthen our partnerships with Faith in Indiana and also support the efforts of the Indianapolis Gun Violence Reduction strategy that our church learned about earlier this spring. It is time to raise our voices in advocacy. I am grateful for church leaders and members who are organizing ways for us to respond with both action and compassion.

When both of our hands are filled with so much despair and tragedy, perhaps that is when God holds our hands. May God bless our grief and our anger, transforming it into power to create positive change.

Thank you for being a faith community dedicated to sharing God's love with the

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)



Interested in Walking in the PRIDE Parade with FC Indy? This year we are walking with St. Peter's UCC (Carmel). We will be handing out postcards and wearing blue shirts. The parade is at 10 am on 6/11, but generally lineup is at 9:30 and it can go until around noon. To sign up, please email wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com with your best contact info and intention to walk with FC Indy!

Are you considering membership
at First Congregational UCC?

New Member Sunday is June 5, 2022

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME A MEMBER,
EMAIL PASTOR SARAH, PASTORSARAH@FCINDY.ORG

New Member Sunday is This Sunday! Are you interested in becoming a member, curious about the process, or just want more information about membership? Contact Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org

This Sunday is NEW MEMBER SUNDAY: Are you interested in becoming a member, curious about the process, or just want more information about membership? Contact Pastor Sarah, pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Hybrid Sunday Adult Education, 10:00 AM (In-Person and on Zoom), June 5: Justice Work facilitated by Nancy Dickinson and her daughter Elizabeth.

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

12:15-12:45, Sunday, June 5: Playground Playdate! Join us for a time of songs, stories, and snacks! Questions, email pastorsarah@fcindy.org

A Call to Action: After last week's horrific umpteenth school shooting, several of us are feeling called to take action, in accordance with our Just Peace Covenant, to make our voices heard for change. With support from the Outreach & Service Board there will be a table in the narthex with writing materials available for letters to elected officials – national, state, and local. We invite all among us who feel similarly called to join us in this effort to promote sensible gun legislation. We believe the louder and more consistently we speak out to the officials who make our laws, the more likely we are to see some needed changes. Not one more of our children or other loved ones should fall victim to the status quo of gun availability. 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 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/>

MORE AT FC

Tonight, Thursday, June 2, 5:00 PM (Zoom): Spiritual Support Group.

A Message from Worship and Faith: As we pursue further efforts to accommodate the faith formation needs of our families and children, we are repurposing the nursery space next to the parlor kitchen into a welcoming space for them. On **Sunday, June 12, following worship** the Worship & Faith Board will be working on some clean-up and clean-out of that room. We welcome all who would like to be part of that effort. Bring a bag lunch and we'll

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](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 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

(cassidy@fcindy.org)

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

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

Ways to Connect for Worship

IN-PERSON!

YOUTUBE

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

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID and Password.

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THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Thursday, June 2	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, June 5	10:00 AM	Hybrid Adult Education (In-Person and Zoom)
Sunday, June 5	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) (Dial-in after 2 PM)
Sunday, June 5	12:15-12:45 PM	Playground Playdate!
Tuesday, June 7	All Day	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Wednesday, June 8	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, June 9	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, June 9	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)

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