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## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Epistle for the Week of August 11

#### Dear Church,

A hallmark of Christian community is the care and love for one another. It's been glorious as pastor to witness the ways First Congregational extends care and love to one another. As pastor, I am entering a season of needing care and love as I approach an upcoming medical surgery and necessary recovery time for rest, healing, and wholeness. On Thursday, August 25, I will have a radical hysterectomy with a doctor recommended six week recovery time. Thanks to the care and love of the congregation, I will use my accrued sick days so that I may take this important time for healing. The current plan is for me to be back in the pulpit on Sunday, October 16.

We are blessed with gifted and talented staff, ministers in the congregation, and lay leaders who have all generously offered to support the congregation during my medical leave. In the coming week you will hear more details about our plans for covering the various pastoral roles during my medical leave. I am very pleased with the plans for support that are coming together as we speak and I am confident the church will be in excellent hands.

Most of all, I trust that we are all in God's loving and tender hands, no matter what. I know God is with us and will be with us all in the days to come. Thank you all for your grace, your care, and your love for me and for one another.

#### Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

**WHERE WE BELIEVE IN:**

LOVE

SCIENCE

VACCINES

**THIS SUNDAY**

**Sunday Patio Psalms and Prayers:** "Patio Psalms and Prayers" continues in **August** while Adult Ed takes a break. At 10 AM, bring your lawn chair, your sunglasses and meet on the patio to reflect together on a selected Psalm. This is a great opportunity to share with one another in an outdoor natural setting, although depending on the weather, we may meet inside.

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

**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/> **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.

**MORE AT FC****Recycling Opportunity!**

Northminster Presbyterian Church in Broad Ripple is having its annual recycling event on **Saturday August 27th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in conjunction with Recycle Force.

**Their location is:**

**Northminster Presbyterian Church**

**1660 Kessler Blvd East Dr**

**Indianapolis, IN 46220**

**317-251-9489**

For a \$ 10 donation- small electronics and appliances such as laptops, small appliances (anything with a cord) and small boxes of batteries will be recycled.

For a \$20 donation- TVs, air conditioners etc.

Unburden yourselves of those appliances and electronics you didn't want to put in the trash to pollute the landfill. Best of all, the proceeds go to Recycle Force which provides jobs and support for ex offenders to reclaim law abiding lives after incarceration. Since

weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. or go on their website.

**Exterior Doors Task Force -- An Open and Shut job.** Do you use a door to enter the church? Ah! It is time to find ways to update our doors to provide increased visibility, function for ADA parameters, improved security, and function (as in, improve the ability of each door to open and close and lock). Interested in being part of this dynamic group? Time commitment is limited and field trips to visit other doors will be part of the responsibilities. Contact Judy Brown Fletcher at [JKBF@AOL.COM](mailto:JKBF@AOL.COM)

**Calling all Knitters, Crocheters, Sewers, and Crafters!** The Indiana/Kentucky Conference of churches have been asked to make prayer shawls for the participants in next year's UCC Synod to be held in Indianapolis in June. Many years ago, we had a similar group from the church that met once a month to craft together and we thought this would be fun to resurrect our creative talents. **We will meet at the church at 9:30 on the 4th Saturday of each month between now and then (weather and Covid restrictions permitting).** We do have some yarn and patterns, but you are welcome to devise your own method (knitting, sewing, crocheting, quilting, chain mail is right out). **Please let Linda Lupton know of your interest in joining the group** ([lklupton@aol.com](mailto:lklupton@aol.com), 765-621-5763). **Our first meeting will be August 27th at 9:30 am.**

**Tonight, Thursday, August 11, 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](mailto: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:** Judy Fletcher (Lead) [jkbff@aol.com](mailto:jkbff@aol.com), Larry

Eckel [lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net), and Steve Coomer, [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net)

**Care and Connections:** Wendy Baldwin, [wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com](mailto:wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com), Karen Walker, Sue Chapman, and Carol Sowle

**Outreach and Service:** Nancy Dickinson, [dickinson.nls@gmail.com](mailto:dickinson.nls@gmail.com), Worth Hartman, and Steve Leatherman

**Trustees:** Steve Coomer [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net), Wendy Baldwin, Bill Gillette, and Judy Fletcher

**Worship and Faith:** Aurelia Glennan-March, [ahoftmarch@gmail.com](mailto:ahoftmarch@gmail.com), Cristy James, and Alice Rutherford

**Clerk:** Janet Selby, [janet.selby@gmail.com](mailto:janet.selby@gmail.com)

## CONNECTION & SUPPORT

**FC Facebook page** (click [here](#))

“**First Congregational Indy Fellowship**” group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

### **Pastoral Care**

For pastoral care needs Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto: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**

Pastoral Care Associate: Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com))

Office Administrator & External Communications Manager: Cassidy Hall ([cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org))

Lead Councilor: Judy Fletcher (Lead), [jkbfaol@aol.com](mailto:jkbfaol@aol.com) Larry

Eckel, [lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net), Steve Coomer, [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://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

### 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

**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)

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## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

### Ways to Connect for Worship

#### *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](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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Indianapolis, IN 46240

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