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## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Epistle for the Week of August 18

#### Dear Church,

God is making change. God is making space. God is making light. God is making music. Our congregation is exploring this theme of “God is making...” in our worship service as a reminder that God is with us, within us, and all around us. God is an active partner with us in the world and in our lives.

This Sunday my sermon will celebrate the ways God is making light to shine in the shadows. The following Sunday, August 28, will be a congregational hymn-sing led by Sean and Pastor Carol where we will celebrate how God is making music.

As I prepare for surgery and my medical leave starting August 25 through a October 16, I feel inspired by this theme of God with us, within us, and around us making change, space, light, and music. May God’s love come alive within you today and everyday.

I look forward to my return to the church on Sunday, October 16. Please see the message below for more details. I am grateful for you all and I will be holding all of you in my prayers. Thank you for holding me and my family in prayer and God’s abundant love.

#### Blessings,

Pastor Sarah



## A PASTORAL UPDATE FOR AUGUST 25-OCTOBER 14TH:

### PASTORAL UPDATE

Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave from August 25–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](mailto:karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) or cell (317) 319-8950.

While on medical leave August 25–October 15, 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 8/28 – A Hymn Sing-a-long, led by Pastor Carol and Sean Baker

Sunday 9/4 - Seminarian Preacher Vickey Allen of St. Peter's UCC with Worship Leader Rev. Lisa K. Anderson

Sunday 9/11 – Pastor Carol Sowle

Sunday 9/18 – Rev. Elizabeth Price

Sunday 9/25 – Pastor Carol Sowle

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!*

8/23-9/2 Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is [worthgrover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

9/3-9/11 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net) and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/11-9/15 Pastor Carol Sowle. Her email is [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com) and her cell phone is (317) 496-9732.

9/16-9/17 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net) and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/18-9/23 Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is [worthgrover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

9/23-9/25 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net) and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/25-9/30 Pastor Carol Sowle. Her email is [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com) and her cell phone is (317) 496-9732.

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

## 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!**

**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 obtaining a job is difficult after incarceration, Recycle Force is truly giving people the chance to rebuild their lives- a worthy cause. For more info call Northminster church 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)

**1857 Society Annual Luncheon:** The 1857 Society of the First Congregational Church is holding its annual luncheon for members and prospective members on Friday, September 16th at Noon at the church. There will be a catered lunch. The 1857 Society was created in October, 2018 in order to increase the endowment of First Congregational Church and secure its ministries for the future. The purpose of the 1857 Society is to recognize those individuals and families who have remembered First Congregational Church in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. More so, the Society serves to enable members and friends to witness the value of First Congregational Church in their lives and secure its ministries. If you can attend this gathering of committed members of First Congregational Church please RSVP with a number attending to Randy Walker, Chair of the First Congregational Church Foundation; either call 317-796-2081 or email [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977rwalker@gmail.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** ([lkupton@aol.com](mailto:lkupton@aol.com), 765-621-

**Tonight, Thursday, August 18, 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) [jkbfb@aol.com](mailto:jkbfb@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)

**Financial Secretary:** Sue Chapman, [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Jim Lootens, [lootens.jb@gmail.com](mailto:lootens.jb@gmail.com)

**Member-at-large:** Sandy Wood [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net)

## **CONNECTION & SUPPORT**

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

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

### **Pastoral Care**

For pastoral care needs while Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave (August 25-October 15), please take note of the dates above or here:

8/25-9/2 Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is [worthgrover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

9/3-9/11 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net) and his cell is 317-625-6801.

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

**When Pastor Sarah is not on medical leave, her Sabbath Days are 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), [jkbfb@aol.com](mailto:jkbfb@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.
- **The 988 Lifeline:** 988 is now active across the United States. This new, shorter phone number will make it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services. (Please note, the previous 1-800-273-TALK (8255) number will continue to function indefinitely.) Click below to learn more about 988.
- **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-

confidential, and privacy will be respected. To request funds or gifts, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto: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

**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)

## 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.



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