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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of August 4

Dear Church,

A place to belong. A place to heal. A place to love. This is one way to think about our church's mission. Thank you all for being all of these things for one another.

Belonging means we know we are not alone. Healing means we know we are in the arms of compassion. Loving means we know we are beloved of God. What does it mean to you?

Thank you to the congregation, senior councilors, staff, and lay leaders, and special thanks to Pastor Carol for leading worship and preaching on Sunday and to Rev. Elizabeth for leading the celebration of life service for Eleanor Backman. A sudden illness kept me from these sacred roles last week and I am deeply grateful for all the support and prayers. What a gift to be able to experience care and connection from one another.

I pray that you experience a sense of belonging, healing, and loving because of your connection to First Congregational. I invite you to prayerfully consider making an additional financial gift to our church in support of our mission and to strengthen our church finances. Where is your treasure? Is it where your heart is?

May God guide us to grow even more welcoming, compassionate, and loving toward one another.

BELONGING MEANS WE KNOW WE ARE NOT ALONE.

HEALING MEANS WE KNOW WE ARE IN THE ARMS OF COMPASSION.

LOVING MEANS WE KNOW WE ARE BELOVED OF GOD.

FCINDY.ORG

**WELCOME TO FC INDY
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.

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, 765-621-5763).** **Our first meeting will be August 27th at 9:30 am.**

Tonight, Thursday, August 4, 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: Judy Fletcher (Lead) jkbfaol@aol.com, Larry

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

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'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)

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.

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

- 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

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