

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

## Epistle for the Week of July 21

**Dear Church,**

As we navigate together what it means to live into providing hybrid (in person and online) worship, we are learning and experimenting as we go. Thank you to our hard working staff for their flexibility and creativity. Thanks to our members for your grace and patience.

One of our guiding values in providing hybrid worship, in addition to meaningful worship, is safety and harm prevention. In addition to creating a safe environment in accordance to the Center for Disease Control during a continued pandemic, we are also seeking to follow best practice for safety of holistic well-being for all. This means being mindful of live-streaming onto the public platform of YouTube activities (both spoken and unspoken) in the sanctuary. We are mindful that we have members who request privacy for safety reasons and do not want to be on video. We also have members who share during joys and concerns confidential information, for example: first and last names and medical conditions. These things are shared out of a desire to love, care, and support one another.

Our staff, our Church Council, our Come Back Team, our Worship and Design Team, and Worship and Faith Board have all discussed how to best provide safety and well-being for hybrid worship. The opportunity is to honor both the desire to provide time for sharing joys and concerns in worship while at the same time honoring the privacy and safety needs of our members. One way to honor both is to invite members to share joys and concerns from the pew without using a microphone. While at first we did not pass the microphone in order to reduce risk of spreading the virus, this also was done to honor the privacy of not being on video. While the risk for spreading the virus on surfaces is less, the privacy concerns

microphone among the congregation for joys and concerns at this time in order to honor the confidentiality and privacy of members because the service is being live-streamed onto YouTube.

While this change from the way we used to do things before the pandemic is challenging for some members, the church leaders entrusted with oversight of worship are prayerful and hopeful that we can respect the needs for safety and privacy of members. This is an experiment and other ways of meeting our needs for sharing joys and concerns are being explored.

**Thank you for your support during this time of change as we seek to care for one another, honor each other, and find meaningful ways to connect and share God's love.**

**Blessings,**  
Pastor Sarah



## THIS SUNDAY

**Sunday Patio Psalms and Prayers:** "Patio Psalms and Prayers" returns for the months of July and 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)

**A New Call to Action:** This Sunday we will continue writing letters in support of reproductive rights. State and local officials need to hear from YOU! Add your voice for justice! Help bring God's Just Peace to our world, our nation, and our community! Write a letter in the Narthex at your convenience.

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

**MORE AT FC**

**The Celebration of Life Service for Eleanor Backman** will be Sunday, July 31 at 5:00pm. [You can read her obituary here.](#)

**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 ([lllupton@aol.com](mailto:lllupton@aol.com), 765-621-5763). [Our first meeting will be August 27th at 9:30 am.](#)**

**Tonight, Thursday, July 21, 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.

# FC INDY CALL TO ACTION

On Sunday July 17 & 24th you can write a letter at church in support of reproductive rights.

State and local officials need to hear from YOU!



FCINDY.ORG

### ***Church Leadership and Contact Info:***

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

**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)

## **CONNECTION & SUPPORT**

FC Facebook page (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), [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.
- **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 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.

**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=PL6jXD7FGtLYodcjE3uVgK4PMTZJUv3sa3>

- 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.

### How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>  
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