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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of July 28

Dear Church,

What is compelling preaching? That is the key question being asked by a new project funded by the Lilly Endowment. I am part of a cohort of Indianapolis area preachers invited to think deeply about this topic over the course of three sessions. We are a diverse group of cultures, ages, genders, sexual orientation, denominations, and races. We will meet for our third session in two weeks.

I invite you to share your thoughts with me about what makes preaching compelling to you. Feel free to email me with your ideas. What does compelling preaching do and how does it do it? What are the characteristics and practices of compelling preachers?

I am grateful for the honor to be called to preach and know that I am still growing and changing as a preacher. One of the key themes that has emerged so far is how compelling preaching is connected to the congregation and the local context. **What do you think?**

I am grateful for First Congregational and how our church supports prophetic preaching and supports its pastors. Thank you for being a church where preachers can be authentic and can explore together what it means to follow Jesus and share God's love in the world today.

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)

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

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 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

Calling all Knitters, Crocheters, Sewers, and Crafters! The Indiana/Kentucky Conference of churches have been asked to make prayer shawls for the participants in

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

Tonight, Thursday, July 28, 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

For pastoral care needs 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

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.

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

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=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

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