

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

Epistle for the Week of July 7

Dear Church,

As we pass the halfway mark for the year 2022, I wonder how you have experienced God moving in your life this year. This year continues to bring many challenges to us on global and local levels, with many communities and people suffering. Injustices continue to create unsafe and harmful living conditions for too many people. Yet, our faith teaches us that God is present with us, even in the face of injustice and oppression.

When I pause to reflect on where I have witnessed God this year, I think about First Congregational and how we seek to work collaboratively to support our mission and ministries. I think about our Senior Councilors and their faithful guidance. I think about the outpouring of support for Cassidy Hall's ecclesiastical council. I think about the letter writing campaigns for ending hunger and advocating for gun safety. I think about the retirement party for Rev. Worth Hartman and the joy that filled Mayflower Room. I think about our meaningful presence in the Indianapolis Pride parade. I think about the reading circle, the men's lunch, and the women's lunch; experiences to build community and nurture connection. I think about the steady, weekly Thursday 5pm meeting of the Spiritual Support group on zoom, open to anyone seeking caring, compassionate emotional support. I think about our faithful gatherings to worship every Sunday. I think about our collection of food for people who are hungry. And there's so much more...

inviting you to join in this movement of love and justice, care and compassion?

Thank you for being a meaningful part of our church. Thank you for helping to make a positive difference in the world. May God continue to bless us this year as we seek to be faithful to God's invitation to share love with the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

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)



Cassidy Hall, MA, MDiv, MTS



Guest Preacher, July 10th

FCINDY.ORG

THIS SUNDAY! We welcome Cassidy Hall (she/her) as our guest preacher! Cassidy is a graduate of CTS in Indianapolis where she received her MDiv and MTS degrees. Cassidy works at FC Indy in Church Admin and Communications, and serves the wider church in the Indiana-Kentucky Conference as Director of Communications. She is ordained pending call in the UCC and a proud member of our church!

THIS SUNDAY

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

or through online donations at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

MORE AT FC

Calendar Correction: This month's Church Council meeting will be on **July 20th at 7:00 PM.**

A New Call to Action, Sunday July 17 & 24: We will be 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.

Today, Thursday, July 7, 1:00 PM, Men's Lunch.

Tonight, Thursday, July 7, 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: Larry Eckel (Lead) lspeckel@comcast.net, Steve Coomer, s.coomer@sbcglobal.net, Judy Fletcher, jkbfb@aol.com

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](#)).

please contact the Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is worthgrover@sbcglobal.net and his cell is (317) 417-0806. Other times of year, 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 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

***For pastoral care needs while Pastor Sarah is away on vacation July 7-17, please contact the Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is worthgrover@sbcglobal.net and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

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

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

Lead Councilor: Judy Fletcher (Lead), jkbfb@aol.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

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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