

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

Epistle for the Week of November 3

Dear Church,

This Sunday we will continue exploring in my four part sermon series inspired by the book *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, what it means to love our neighbor and love creation. Last Sunday I invited us to take time to notice the trees around us. The Sycamore tree provided Zaccheaus the ability to see Jesus. Jesus saw him because he climbed up into the tree. Without the tree, there would be not be this beloved gospel story.

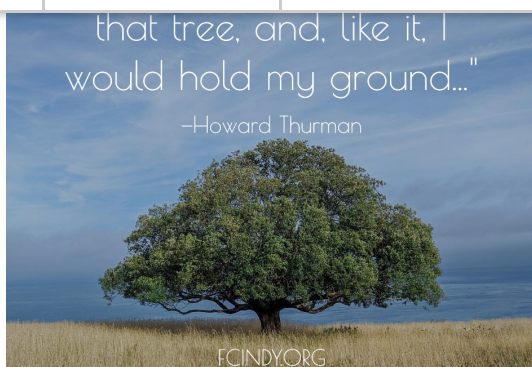
How might Creation, specifically trees, invite us to see Jesus? I believe God's Creation is one way we can not only see God, but also encounter God in a meaningful way.

As we discern how to be good stewards of the Earth and how to love Creation, perhaps the path begins with taking time to notice and then honor the beauty of Creation. **What can we learn from what the Earth might be saying to us?**

May you be blessed by the beauty of the Earth today.

Blessings,

Pastor Sarah



CROP Walk Results – A group of 6 FC members and 2 guests participated in our symbolic CROP Walk on Sunday, Oct 23. And many of you have generously contributed to raise about \$2000 to help Church World Service with hunger issues, both locally and globally. You can still donate – just identify your check or online gift as going to CROP. Thanks for your gifts towards this important outreach ministry!

THIS SUNDAY

ADULT ED AT 10AM! Join us at church this Sunday at 10am for a time of conversation, community, and curiosity. Note, Adult Ed is no longer hybrid and will now be in-person only!

Hybrid Worship: In-Person, Online, and Dial-In Sunday Worship, 11AM
(YouTube, Facebook)

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

Get out the Vote with Faith in Indiana: Here's the [link to sign up for a Get Out the Vote shift](#). Shifts are this Saturday 10-1 pm, Sunday 4-7 pm, and Monday 5-8 pm. On the link, first click on Central Indiana and then you have the option to pick your shift. We will join a zoom call together, get trained on how to use the calling tool, and then make calls from our home. There will be a script and instructions to make it quite simple. You will need a computer and a phone for it to work best. **Contact Rev. Worth Hartman for more info:** worthgrover@sbcglobal.net

Providing Care and Connection with Our Church Family – Cards in the Narthex

If you are worshipping in person, please look for cards to sign in the Narthex. These will be a variety of birthday wishes, get well, or thinking-of-you cards, which we will then send to folks. This is a way to show our love and support for those in our church family. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin

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

Tonight, Thursday, November 3, 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

Church Leadership and Contact Info:

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

Care and Connections: Wendy Baldwin, wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com, Karen Walker, Sue Chapman, Carol Sowle, and Rita Hummel

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

Member-at-large: Sandy Wood 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 you may contact Pastor Sarah who may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastor Sarah's 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)

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

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

Mental Health Support:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text “TalkWithUs” to

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.
- **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 Open and Affirming Covenant (September – December) Our current outreach recipients are Indiana Youth Group, Trinity Haven, and the Damien 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 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.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>
Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

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.

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Indianapolis, IN 46240

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