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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of September 8

**THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH:
Pastor Carol Sowle Preaches!**

CARE TEAM COVERAGE



REV. DR. PAT LARRACEY



FCINDY.ORG

An Affirmation of Faith from enfleshed:

We believe God is Love
And from Love, all things are born.
No creature or creation
Falls outside of God's eternal embrace.

We believe forces of
domination and destruction,
control and greed,
prejudice and violence,
pervade our lives,
seeking to turn us against one another,
against the earth,
and against the Spirit of the Liberating Christ.

We believe we depend on God,
the remembrance of our ancestors,
the courage of the prophets,

We believe in the power of God,
to make what seems impossible possible.

We believe in the Good News
that sets the captives free.

We believe in proclaiming the truths
that unsettle unjust power
and encourage collective liberation.

We proclaim
that Black Lives Matter and that white supremacy is sin.
that queer love is divine.
that trans bodies are beautiful.
that immigrants must be welcomed.
that women must be granted full bodily autonomy.
that the earth must be protected.
that the rich “shall be sent away empty.”
that all bodies are good bodies.
And we celebrate our siblings of other faiths and spiritualities.

We proclaim these truths in aspiration that we might learn to live them in full.
We recognize, still, other truths remain hidden,
and we pray we may continue to grow in understanding,
in love for all our neighbors,
in hunger for justice,
and in the steadfast practice of our faith.

CURRENT PASTORAL CARE COVERAGE:

9/3-9/11 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is plainandfancy1963@att.net
and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/11-9/15 Pastor Carol Sowle. Her email is casowle@gmail.com and her
cell phone is (317) 496-9732.

A NOTE FROM YOUR MUSIC DESIGNER:

Scott Semester is joining the First Congregational music team in the role of Worship Song Leader. I invite you to read his bio and get to know more about him.

— Sean Baker

Scott Semester is excited to be a part of making music with the First Congregational family. He grew up at St. Luke's United Methodist Church (just up the road), and as an adult member there, he sang with the Chancel Choir, performed in staged musical productions and Children's Ministries skits, and provided special music for worship, retreats, and other



with Sean Baker. In 2012, Scott was an on-stage performer in the Super Bowl XLVI Halftime Show with Madonna. When he's not singing, you can find Scott in his day job at the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, a private foundation working to advance the vitality of Indianapolis and the well-being of its people. Scott lives in downtown Indianapolis, and his family includes his mom and dad, his older brother, and two nieces and a nephew, who all live in Carmel.

A PASTORAL UPDATE FOR AUGUST 25-OCTOBER 14TH:

Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave from August 25–October 14. Please join with us in prayer for Pastor Sarah and her family during this time.

Per best practice guidelines, Pastor Sarah will be honoring healthy boundaries to ensure the greatest level of rest and recovery. Communication and contact will be limited to the designated representative of the congregation which is the chair of the personnel committee, Karen Walker. Karen can be reached at email: karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com or cell (317) 319-8950.

While on medical leave August 25–October 14, Pastor Sarah will not be leading, attending, participating, facilitating, or contributing to any activities, meetings, events, or gatherings of the church or on behalf of the church. The medical leave is a doctor prescribed designated time away for Pastor Sarah from church duties, responsibilities, and obligations.

Please do not send emails to Pastor Sarah during this time as she will not be monitoring that account - personal notes of encouragement and good wishes are encouraged to be mailed to Pastor Sarah's Home (Address in Directory). Please watch for other opportunities to provide support or contact Karen Walker.

We celebrate our talented community and church and look forward to hearing from the following during worship services:

Sunday 9/11 – Pastor Carol Sowle

Sunday 9/18 – Rev. Elizabeth Price

Sunday 9/25 – Pastor Carol Sowle

Sunday 10/2 – Rev. Elizabeth Price

Sunday 10/9 – Preacher Rev. Peter Frye with Worship Leader Rev. Lance Mullins

Sunday 10/16 - *Pastor Sarah is back!*

During this time you can reach out to the following for pastoral care needs:

9/3-9/11 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is plainandfancy1963@att.net and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/16-9/17 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is plainandfancy1963@att.net and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/18-9/23 Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is worthgrover@sbcglobal.net and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

9/23-9/25 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is plainandfancy1963@att.net and his cell is 317-625-6801.

9/25-9/30 Pastor Carol Sowle. Her email is casowle@gmail.com and her cell phone is (317) 496-9732.

10/1-10/14 Rev. Elizabeth Price. Her email is eprice235@gmail.com and her cell phone is (317) 727-0940.



***Sunday
Playground
PlayDates!***

AGE-APPROPRIATE STORIES, SONGS, AND SNACKS!

12:15-12:45, AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE:

SEPTEMBER 11
OCTOBER 2
NOVEMBER 16
DECEMBER 14

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 7171 N. PENNSYLVANIA ST.,
OUTDOOR PLAYGROUND OR FAMILY ROOM (DEPENDING ON WEATHER)

The poster features a blue and yellow checkered background. On the left is a green handprint, and on the right is a colorful circular graphic with a blue star-like shape in the center. The text is in a mix of bold, italicized blue and black fonts.

THIS SUNDAY

ADULT ED IS BACK! Join us at church this Sunday at 10am for a time of

Hybrid Worship: In-Person, Online, and Dial-In Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, 2PM Dial In)

Playground Playdates are back! Join us for age-appropriate stories, songs, and snacks! Sundays following worship, 12:15-12:45, September 11, October 2, November 16, December 14. First Congregational Church, 7171 N. Pennsylvania St., Outdoor Playground or Family Room (depending on weather)

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

Church Picnic: Sunday, September 18, after church

Join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we gather outside (Mayflower Room if bad weather) to share a meal and outdoor games – corn hole anyone? Please bring a food item for our pitch-in lunch – there is a signup sheet in the Narthex to get an idea of how many to plan for, or email Wendy Baldwin. Hope you can stay after church for this time of community and sharing!

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

The Library Team Invites you to an Open House! Join us on Sunday

We are excited to introduce you to the many new books we have, including over 20 new mental health books donated by the WISE Mental Health Team. We have reference books, books about faith and religion, books about justice issues, biographies and some non religious fiction books. It is easy to take books out- just fill out the card with your name and date then leave it in the green metal box. There's no time limit for keeping the books, though we'd like to get them back eventually. Also, there's no late fees. What a deal!

Hope to see you in the library on **Sunday September 25th after the worship service.**

The Library Team

1857 Society Annual Luncheon: The 1857 Society of the First Congregational Church is holding its annual luncheon for members and prospective members on Friday, September 16th at Noon at the church. There will be a catered lunch. The 1857 Society was created in October, 2018 in order to increase the endowment of First Congregational Church and secure its ministries for the future. The purpose of the 1857 Society is to recognize those individuals and families who have remembered First Congregational Church in their estate plans through a documented planned gift. More so, the Society serves to enable members and friends to witness the value of First Congregational Church in their lives and secure its ministries. If you can attend this gathering of committed members of First Congregational Church please RSVP with a number attending to Randy Walker, Chair of the First Congregational Church Foundation; either call 317-796-2081 or email aa28977rwalker@gmail.com.

Tonight, Thursday, September 8th, 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 jkbfb@aol.com (Lead), Steve

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

Care and Connections: Wendy Baldwin, wendy.baldwin@travelandleisure.com, Karen

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 while Pastor Sarah is on Medical Leave (August 25-October 15), please take note of the dates above or here:

8/25-9/2 Rev. Worth Hartman. His email is worthgrover@sbcglobal.net and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

9/3-9/11 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey. His email is plainandfancy1963@att.net and his cell is 317-625-6801.

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10/1-10/14 Rev. Elizabeth Price. Her email is eprice235@gmail.com and her cell phone is (317) 727-0940.

When Pastor Sarah is not on medical leave, her 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

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,
jkbfaol.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 66746.
- **The 988 Lifeline:** 988 is now active across the United States. This new, 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.



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

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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