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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Minister's Message**  **Dear First Congregational Family,** Tonight we will gather in the sanctuary at 7pm for a time of thoughtful reflection as we recall the story of Jesus’ last week, remember the Last Supper, enter into the shadows and witness the stripping of the church. Easter will come, but first, we quiet ourselves and deepen our sense of God’s presence in the midst of the shadows and light of this world. If you can’t join us in person, consider taking a moment of silent reflection this evening and ponder the mysteries of God’s presence in the midst of all the sorrows of this world.   Sunday marks our Easter day celebration and the beginning of a new season in the church. In this season each of us is invited to come together in small groups (sign-up sheets are in the church narthex). The purpose of these small gatherings (8-10 people) is for me as your new pastor to listen to your hopes and dreams for our church. It’s the best way to begin…to share and listen to one another and see how God’s dreams are unfolding within us. I really hope you will join us in these small group gatherings. I am eager to share Easter with you and prepare for our season of rebirth.   With hope in the midst of the shadows,           Pastor Sarah    **Worship for Sunday**  **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.** Our topic this week will be "Easter Stories". Meet in the library.   **Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.** Easter!  Pastor Sarah's sermon this week will be "Who Will Open the Door?".    **New Creation - 5:30 p.m.** Even with conflicting versions of the events of the first Easter morning, it’s probably safe to say that all was not what it seemed that day. The day began with intense grief and mourning among the followers of Jesus, but we know from the variety of accounts that their grief quickly turned to rejoicing in new life. So it is with our own stories of sadness turning to joy. We pray that all is not what it seems in our time of despair, and the Resurrection is the basis of our hope. Join us in celebrating that hope and the promise of new life through the Resurrection this Easter Sunday. |  |  | | --- | | **What's Happening at FCC**  **Mission of the Month, Exodus Refugee** Despite significant cuts to the US immigration program by the present administration, refugees are still arriving in Indianapolis to make their new homes. Exodus Refugee Immigration is a local, independent, nonsectarian, not-for-profit 501 C3 organization that resettles legally admitted refugees who have experienced persecution in their home countries and are unable to return.  Since 1981 Exodus has been welcoming thoroughly vetted refugees and helping them achieve self-sufficiency in their new homes in our community.  Exodus is still serving new arrivals, arriving from Burma (now including Rohingya), Congo, and Syria, and those already here with a variety of programs designed to help them achieve self-sufficiency.  Exodus not only meets the basic needs of these newcomers but provides a full array of services including social and medical services, English language training, cultural orientation, and employment services, all of which help these new members of the community settle in and thrive.   Please give generously to support the important work Exodus does.  You may contribute dollar bills in the offering plate or larger amounts in the “Mission Offering” envelopes in the pew pockets.  If you choose to write a check, make it out to the church and mark “Exodus” on the notation line.  At a time when we sometimes wonder “What can I do?” this is something we **can do** to make a difference.  Exodus and these newcomers will greatly appreciate your help.  Thank you for your support.  **Pantry Items of the Month** During April we are collecting the following items:bread, cereal, soups and deodorant.   **Eat Pizza while supporting Merom Conference and Retreat Center (MCRC)!** Come to Monical's Pizza on Southport Road, Avon or Trader's Point on Saturday, April 7 for dine-in or dine-out.  In return, they will donate 20% of each check to MCRC. If interested, please pick up a flyer in the church office or contact the church office for the flyer to be emailed to you.  The flyer must accompany the order for the donation to be applied.  **Pastoral Care**  Please contact Rev. Sarah at (386) - 478-9012 or PastorSarah@fcindy.org. | | | | |
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