



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 20, 2020

**Dear First Congregational,**

The scripture says that for everything there is a season...the season has come for our beloved Choir Director Julie Houston to retire from her position here on staff at First Congregational. Julie plans to honor her contract with us and work through the end of June. We are planning a celebration in her honor so that we may publically thank her and wish her well as she begins a new chapter in her life. Plans for this late spring/early summer Sunday morning celebration are underway and more details to come. Our church leaders are beginning the important work of finding our next Choir Director and I ask that you keep this process in your prayers...please pray that God might lead us to the right person for this moment in our church's life together.

Our congregation is blessed by the leadership of gifted and talented musicians that enrich our worship every Sunday. As our choir director Julie leads our choir and congregational singing with grace, wisdom, and professional skill. As your pastor, I enjoy working with our musical staff and Julie is a delight. On a more personal note, when I first met Julie, I liked her right away and appreciated her easy-going manner and her superb musical gifts. She will be missed. While she is still with us these next few months, let's enjoy our singing and our music together. This will make our hearts and God's heart glad.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Adult Class - Feb 23, 9:45 a.m.

Marion Harcourt went to the Holy Land in 2001. Seeing Galilee, the Jordan River, Jerusalem made real for her that the Bible is a story that occurred in real places! The topography, the importance of "Water is Life," the distances, the size of Jerusalem, all shaped the drama of the stories that are as real today as they were two millennia ago. She will share about her trip to Galilee and the Jordan River on Feb 23rd.

### Sunday Worship Service, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "What Happens When We Pray."

Scripture: Exodus 24:12-18 & Matthew 17:1-9

### First Congregational Lenten Immigration Journey

Our Lenten Immigration Journey begins on Ash Wednesday (February 26th at 6:30pm). Through the season of Lent, we will explore, reflect, and pray about the biblical and contemporary theme of immigration. What does the Bible say about immigration? What is the Still Speaking God saying to the church today about immigration? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in light of the complex realities at the US/Mexico border? Through community worship and small groups, everyone is invited on this Lenten immigration journey. Let's see where this journey leads us.



**February 26: Ash Wednesday Worship at 6:30pm**

**March 2 - March 20: Small Groups** (sign up sheets are in the narthex)

**April 5 - April 10 - Holy Week:** Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday

**April 12 - Easter**



## What's Happening at FC

(See [February Colony](#) for monthly announcements and further details.)

### In Remembrance of Olive Myers

Olive R. Myers, 99 of Indianapolis, passed away February 8, 2020. She was born April 23, 1920 to John and Frances Montgomery. Olive married her devoted husband, William Myers, in 1940. She lived a long and fulfilling life, spending her last days with her family. Please click on the link provided [here](#) for her obituary.

### TODAY! Men's Lunch, 1:00 p.m.

This week, the Men's Lunch is at Luciana's on 82nd St. They try to have a good head count in case a large table is needed, so if possible, please click [here](#) today to RSVP to Rich Gibson.

### Choir Rehearsal TONIGHT!

The FC Choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

### TOMORROW! Friday Night at the Movies

Join us on the 3rd Friday of each month – 2/21, 6:30ish: We meet at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema in the Fashion Mall at Keystone, and decide which film(s) to see, get refreshments, and socialize. Then, after the movie, hang out at the Indie Lounge for more fellowship. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

### Supply Drive for Family Promise - Deadline THIS SUNDAY!

This month, Family Promise is holding a supply drive to collect many items needed for use by families at the Day Center and while in the IHN shelter and After Care programs. Fliers listing needed items are in the narthex and in the link [here](#). Donations will be collected through THIS SUNDAY. Please put items in the large white laundry hampers in the narthex or use the white trash bags that are in those hampers. Supplies will be delivered

to Family Promise from Feb. 24 through Feb. 27. Your generosity will be appreciated by Family Promise and those they serve.

**Address Directory - We need your updates by THIS SUNDAY!**

We are working on the annual update to our address directory, and plan to have it completed by the end of the month. If you have had a change to your name, address, phone numbers, or email, or if you are not listed in the directory, please contact Shannon at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org), and/or make a note of the change(s) on the master copy on the Narthex table, by THIS SUNDAY, 2/23. Thanks, Wendy Baldwin.

**Lenten Devotionals: For the Beauty of the Earth**

Lenten devotionals are available for pick up in the narthex.

**Leap Day Game Night, Feb. 29, 5:30 - 8:00 PM**

Everyone is invited to bring a friend to our GAME NIGHT at First Congregational. We will provide snacks, chili, and deserts. Please bring your own beverage for the evening. Childcare will be available but please either sign the sheet at the back of the church or email Bob: [bobcook359@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcook359@yahoo.com) by Wednesday, February 26 if you need childcare. Join us anytime during the evening. Games begin at 5:30 and we will eat about 6:30.

**Lenten Breakfast Series: "God's Open House"**

Saturday Mornings at 8:30 am

\* **March 7: "Peace in the Home"**

Zion UCC (Troy Avenue)  
8916 E Troy Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46239

\* **March 14: "Justice in the Home"**

First Congregational UCC  
7171 N. Pennsylvania St, Indianapolis, IN 46240

\* **March 21: "Renewal in the Home"**

St. John (Cumberland)  
11910 E Prospect St, Indianapolis, IN 46239

\* **March 28: "Unity in the Home"**

Methodist Hospital (Downtown)  
1701 N Senate Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46202

\* **April 4: "God in the Home" (with Communion)**

Zion Evangelical UCC (Downtown)  
603 N New Jersey St, Indianapolis, IN 46202



### **Food Donations for the Northside Pantry**

Donations have been generous and are appreciated. Please keep them coming! We are grateful to the Meridian Hills Nursery School and Kindergarten who has joined us in donating and delivering food to the pantry.

### **February Mission of the Month: Peace Learning Center**

The Peace Learning Center is our February Mission of the Month and a valued community partner in just peacemaking. The PLC promotes peace education, valuing diversity and conflict resolution. Consider a generous contribution to our February Mission of the Month, the Peace Learning Center.

You could also consider participation in these workshops:

#### **Implicit Bias: What's Hidden Within**

February 26, or April 9 @ 12:30 - 4:30pm, or May 13 @ 9:00am - 1:00pm \$35

Implicit bias is something we all have. This workshop examines what it is, how it differs from overt bias, how to recognize our own, and how we move past bias through action. Join us for a day of self-exploration and self-reflection in a safe, encouraging space.

#### **Restorative Practices Level 1 Workshop**

March 10 and April 15 @ 9:30 am - 4:30 pm \$50

What if there were tools that helped democratize communication? Helped us process the elephant in the room that keeps relationships strained? And helps those who have done harm be held accountable as allow whole communities to be heard, learn from harm, and be supported in meaningful ways in our institutions? Those tools exist, they work, and they are called restorative practices.

Both at *Peace Learning Center @ Eagle Creek Park 6040 DeLong Road Indianapolis, IN 46254* [www.peacelearningcenter.org](http://www.peacelearningcenter.org)

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

During the month of February, we are collecting: jelly/jam, canned tuna/chicken, pasta, and bar soap.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Saran may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsaran@tcindy.org](mailto:pastorsaran@tcindy.org).

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Thursday, February 20	11:00 a.m.	Worship Design Team
Thursday, February 20	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch @ Luciana's on 82 <sup>nd</sup> St.
Thursday, February 20	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 21	6:30 p.m.	Movie Night @ Keystone Art Cinema
Saturday, February 22	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, February 23	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, February 23	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, February 23	12:00 p.m.	Student Pastor Support Team
Wednesday, February 26	6:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday, February 27	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, February 27	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, February 29	5:30 p.m.	Game Night
Sunday, March 1	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, March 1	11:00 a.m.	Worship