

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 27, 2020

**Dear First Congregational,**

Last night at the church we took our first steps on our Lenten journey together as we gathered for our Ash Wednesday worship. Now as we journey together through this season of Lent, I invite your engagement in deepening your connection to God and to the church. This window of time between Ash Wednesday and Easter invites us to grow spiritually as we seek to be people of peace and peacemakers. Our theme for Lent is Immigration, viewing this topic through the lens of scripture and current events. Our Just Peace Intern from Butler University, Olivia Bradley, is helping to coordinate our study of immigration and so we give thanks for this opportunity to learn from one another.

Through Lenten small groups (there is still time to sign up this Sunday), border vigils (next one is March 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Broadway UMC), the Southeast Association Lenten Breakfast series (starts this Saturday with our own Lianna Campos leading worship), and Sunday morning worship leading to Holy Week, there are several ways open for you to engage in deepening your spiritual life during this season. Soon spring will arrive and the season of Lent will be behind us. But between now and then, let's see how we can grow in

our understanding of immigration and how God is still speaking to us today.

If you haven't already, I invite you to pick up the Lenten devotional to guide you each day in prayer and reflection. This is the church's gift to you. Let us know if you would like one mailed to you if you are unable to pick one up at church.

Blessings,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Adult Class - March 1, 9:45 a.m.

"Blessed Earth: Hope for Creation" - Following Jesus is good for the planet. ... This is the radical, yet solidly biblical premise of Blessed Earth. This week we begin with Chapter 1: Soil.

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

Student Pastor Cassidy Hall and Rev. Shannon Abbott will preach on "The Temptation of Privilege."

Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

### First Congregational Lenten Immigration Journey

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.

**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.)

### 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!

### 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

\* **February 29: "Love in the Home"**

The Altenheim Community, led by Lianna Campos  
3525 E Hanna Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46237

\* **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

**Just Peace: Religion Seminar Series**

**Incarceration, Nationalism, and Religious Identity in China - March 3rd at 7:00pm, Shelton Auditorium at Butler University**

The Chinese government has a troubled relationship with the nation's religious minorities. In this session, we will hear from experts on the persecution and mass incarceration of China's Buddhists, Christians, and Muslims.

**Next Men's Lunch - Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m.**

The next FCC Men's Lunch will be held at 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at Claddagh (234 S Meridian St, Indianapolis, IN 46225). It's about two weeks before St Patrick's Day, so we thought we'd beat the rush.

**Just Peace at the Border: Border Information and Vigil- March 10 at 6:30pm at Broadway UMC**

Please join us at Broadway United Methodist Church for the second vigil in memory of Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez. For more information, contact Cyndi Alte at [cdalte@aol.com](mailto:cdalte@aol.com)

MARCH  
**10**

**JOSE ANTONIO ELENA RODRIGUEZ  
WAS KILLED BY BORDER PATROL  
ON THE MEXICAN SIDE OF THE BORDER**

**WHAT:** An educational program about what is happening at the U.S. Mexico border followed by a prayer vigil for Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez a young boy killed by U.S. Border Patrol Oct 10, 2012 in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

**WHERE:** Broadway United Methodist Church, 609 F 29th St.

**WHEN:** Tuesday March 10, 2020 6:30

**WHO:** For anyone who wants to learn more and help make a change.

[www.broadwayumc.org/](http://www.broadwayumc.org/)



### **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 Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

## **THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**

<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class</b>
<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship w/ Student Pastor Cassidy Hall &amp; Rev. Shannon Abbott preaching</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 4</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Trustees Meeting (library)</b>
<b>Thursday, March 5</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Men's Lunch</b>
<b>Thursday, March 5</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
<b>Saturday, March 7</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Breakfast @ Zion (Troy Ave) UCC</b>
<b>Sunday, March 8</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Adult Class w/ Cassidy</b>

**Sunday, March 8**

**11:00 a.m.**

**Hall**

**Worship**

**Sunday, March 8**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Lunch w/ Rev. Daniel Meyers**