

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of March 12, 2020

**ALL in-person church activities are CANCELED through the end of March 2020, effective IMMEDIATELY.**

**Dear First Congregational,**

Please refer to the **Pastoral Message of Love in a Time of Global Pandemic** explaining the cancellation of church activities.

During this time, the building will still be accessible by using the door code, so you may come in and use the sanctuary for personal meditation, check out one of our new mental health books in our library, or drop off pantry items.

Although staff will be working remotely, they will still be available. You may reach Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or (386) 478-9012. You may reach our office administrator, Shannon at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org).

Peace,  
Pastor Sarah

## Worship

### Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live, 11:00 a.m.

\* See instructions below to connect via Facebook Live

Pastor Sarah will preach on "In a Mirror Dimly"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

### A Note from your Music Designer

As we continue into Lent, I have been reflecting a lot on my personal Lenten journey as well as our church's Lenten mission. I began to "reflect" on mirrors. We often use mirrors to help us see what we cannot see ourselves. This led me to three songs that talk about a mirror (sometimes called a looking glass) and inner reflection.

My **Prelude** is a song by Henry Mancini with lyrics by Leslie Bricusse called "Life in a Looking Glass." Many of us are also going through personal Lenten journeys. It is a song about personal reflection and learning to accept what we see in the mirror and embrace change. A portion of the lyrics say, ♪ *"If you look at your life in a looking glass, you may see some things you don't want to see....in your heart you'll agree that's life that you see. And you'll know who you are, and be glad you're you."* ♪

For **Special Music**, I present a song recorded by Aretha Franklin in 1966 called "Take a Look." This song really fits our overall theme. In this "mirror," we as a society are asking ourselves to look at who we are and what's happening to our children and God's dream. The opening phrase is, ♪ *"Take a look in the mirror. Look at yourself, but don't you look to close. 'Cause you just might see the person that you hate the most."* ♪

The **Postlude** is a song recorded by Michael Jackson in 1988 called "Man in the Mirror." Michael has recorded many songs throughout his career that deal with spirituality and social justice. "Heal the World," and "We are the World" come to mind. The mirror in this song is also a personal reflection, but a reflection of how we are individually as evangelists for doing justice. ♪ *"I see the kids in the street with not enough to eat. Who am I to be blind? Pretending not to see their needs....If you wanna make the world a better place, take a look at yourself, and make a change."* ♪ — Sean Baker

### 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?

**April 5 - Palm Sunday**

**April 9 - Maundy Thursday at 6:30 PM** in the sanctuary - We will observe the last three days of Jesus' life in a Tenebrae service as we continue to explore the shadowy aspects of immigration.

**April 10 - Good Friday -**

**April 12 - Easter**



### **What's Happening at FC**

(See March Colony for monthly announcements and further details.)

### **Staying Connected Through Technology: A Technology Help Guide**

1) Are you signed up for the all-church e-mail list? If not, pause and send a request to be added by emailing Shannon at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org)

2) Do you have a Facebook account already? If yes, skip to number 4 below.

3) If you don't have a Facebook account yet, go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), and follow the instructions to "Create an Account." You don't have to use your Facebook account for anything else if you don't want to. You don't have to make friends, share photos, read the newsfeed, anything. You can use your account simply to stay connected to the church.

4) Once you're set with Facebook. Please do the following:

4a) make sure you have followed the Facebook

PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/facebook/>, and know how to navigate to it.

4b) Then go to First Congregational UCC's Facebook

Page: <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/>

**We will begin live streaming worship THIS SUNDAY, March 15.**

5) We are all still here for you and will stay connected. You can still contact Pastor Sarah ([pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)), Pastor Carol ([casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)), our Office Administrator

Shannon ([shannon@rcindy.org](mailto:shannon@rcindy.org)), our Moderator Alice Kuthertord ([alice@caloosaspirt.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirt.net)), and our Vice Moderator Larry Eckel ([lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net)).

*Dear God who is closer to us than the air we breathe, we give you thanks for the ways you connect us to one another. Your love is woven in and through us and, together, we are a tapestry of your Divine Peace and Joy. Keep weaving us together, God, even if we are physically distant from one another for a time. For we know that you are always with us, no matter where we are. Amen.*

**If you have questions, please reach out to us!**

### **WISE Mental Health Books**

There are new Mental Health books on a designated shelf in the Library ready for checkout. Thank you to our WISE Mental Health Team for purchasing these books, and to our Library Team for organizing them on our library shelves.

### **“Love of Creation” Spiritual Retreat – April 24-25**

Pastor Sarah will be leading a joint spiritual retreat for First Congregational and St Peter's. It will begin with dinner at 6 pm on Friday, April 24 and end at 3 pm on Saturday, April 25. The retreat is at Waycross Conference Center in Morgantown, about an hour south of Indianapolis. The cost is \$150 for a single room or \$120/person for double occupancy, and includes dinner, breakfast, and lunch. Rooms are limited, and a signup sheet is available in the Narthex. Reservations must be confirmed by Friday, April 10. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin

### **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.

### **March Mission of the Month: One Great Hour of Sharing**

The Mission of the Month in March is One Great Hour of Sharing. This is one of the five special offerings of the UCC and provides support around the world for disaster relief and community restoration. Begun after the devastation of World War II, Christian churches from a number of denominations responded to the call for international relief. Each denomination raised and directed their own funds but did so as a part of a common effort that beginning in 1950 has been called One Great Hour of Sharing. In 2020, the UCC will use our offering to respond to international disasters, to assist refugees in the United States, and to help communities become more sustainable with programs that help people to help themselves. This offering is our opportunity to share with the people of the world and be present when our love and support are most in need.

**Pantry Items of the Month**

During the month of March, we are collecting: spaghetti, rice, juices, peanut butter, 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**

**Sunday morning worship 11AM via Facebook Live**  
at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/>

**All other events have been canceled through the end of March.**