

 FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

 Forward



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of April 9, 2020



ALL in-person church activities are CANCELED through the end of April.

Dear First Congregational,

Holy Week blessings! As we seek to **Be The Church**, we will continue to worship, connect and love. Join us for **worship** today at 6:30pm on Facebook Live for our Holy Thursday worship, followed by our new worship video ([here](#)) focused on the biblical story of Holy Thursday.

Join us for time of **connection**! I'll be starting a weekly "Soul-Care with Pastor Sarah" a time for church members to check-in and to pray together. This will be Tuesdays from 4:00pm—5:00pm, starting Tuesday, April 14. We will use zoom. Here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/494018938?pwd=a3BrdnNyWXEza0tFMUgwek1CVFpYQT09>

Join us in **love**. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves. Love by following the Center for Disease Control guidelines for staying healthy and safe. Love by staying home and sheltering-in-place. Love by praying for people serving in essential roles for the health and safety of all. Love by sharing your resources generously.

You are not alone. You are an important part of our church family. You are loved.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

From Our Office Admin

I will be taking a "staycation" next week (4/14-4/17) to work on developing mindfulness practices that will be shared with the wider church, to rest, and to spend focused time with my family. **Please get all announcements for next week's epistle to me by noon TOMORROW (4/10).**

Blessings of good health,
Shannon

Worship

Sunday Adult Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via Zoom (see instructions below)

- **April 12** - On Easter Sunday, 4/12, Wendy Baldwin will lead us in a study of generosity and Easter, in the midst of a pandemic. As time allows, we will explore 3 Bible passages – John 2:1-11, Jeremiah 17:5-10, and John 12:1-8. For the study materials,

click [here](#). Hope to see you via Zoom at 9:30. (See link in announcements below.)

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "Jesus Has Left the Building"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

Zoom into Coffee Hour - Sundays at noon

Please join us for coffee hour each Sunday at 12pm. This Sunday, you are invited to wear your "Easter Bonnets" and see who can wear the silliest, biggest, ugliest, sportiest, smallest, or most glamorous hat.

Zoom

link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

First Congregational Holy Week Journey

- **TONIGHT!!! April 9, 6:30pm - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service on Facebook Live, followed by viewing worship video**
- **April 10 - Good Friday**
- **April 12 - Easter**



What's Happening at FC: Support While Social Distancing

Staying Connected

FC Facebook page (click [here](#))

"**First Congregational Indy Fellowship**" group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

Pastoral Care

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. You can contact Pastor Sarah for pastoral care needs at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspirit.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

Updated info on 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.

All Zoom gatherings are now monitored to 'admit' attendees, to help prevent "Zomb-bombing".

NEW! FC Emergency Fund - In lieu of Easter Lilies, donations will be received for the Emergency Fund. You can make a \$20 gift in celebration, memory or honor of someone and you will get a **virtual Easter Lily** shared on our church social media. Please email this information to Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org) by noon TOMORROW (4/10). The funds collected will support our church Emergency Fund. Mail checks to the church or give on-line.

W.I.S.E. Mental Health

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or **text "TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

Need Toilet Paper & Disinfectant?

Even though stores are trying hard to re-stock supplies, it is still difficult to find these items. First Congregational is expecting a shipment in early April from its supplier. We will have 2-ply toilet paper, spray disinfectant, paper towels, and gloves (our supplier is also out of stock of hand sanitizer and wipes). Please contact Wendy Baldwin to arrange pick-up or delivery. Donations to cover the cost of the supplies will be gratefully accepted.

Social Gatherings through Zoom

- **Friday Fellowship: Friday, 4/10, 5:00**
- **Trivia Time: Saturday, 4/11, 4:00**

- **Coffee Hour: Sunday, 4/12, noon**

IKC Project: Making Face Masks

A common theme among our church congregants is their desire to help eliminate the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, but do not know how they can make a difference. Therefore, I am sending you this email to offer your association churches a tangible way in which they can participate.

This week the IKC Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) initiated a conference-wide project of **making cloth face masks for health care facilities**. Some of our churches are already doing this, but not on this large scale. The IKC Disaster Preparedness webpage <http://ikcucc.org/ministries/disaster/> and the “[IKC Disaster Response](#)” Facebook page provide details of this project.

The DPRMT would appreciate you sharing this information with your association churches and encourage their participation. Together we can make a difference in protecting our communities.

Blessings,

Greg Denk, Disaster Coordinator

Indiana-Kentucky Conference - United Church of Christ

Hunger Fact of the Week: Indiana is the 13th hungriest state in the country. 1 in 7 Indiana households struggles to put food on the table. 18,155 Indiana veterans live below the poverty line.



April Mission of the Month: Exodus Refugee Immigration

This month we are supporting our local refugee resettlement agency, Exodus, a 501c3 agency. Exodus serves thoroughly vetted, legally admitted refugees who are fleeing persecution in their home countries and cannot return there. Exodus initially provides housing and other basic needs but goes on to support these newcomers with a variety of programs to help them adjust and thrive in their new community. These programs include medical and social services including mental health services, language classes, cultural orientation, job

training and placement, and special programs for women and for youth. During this Covid-19 pandemic their Employment Team is assisting refugee clients who have lost their jobs to apply for unemployment, while leveraging their network of 90+ employment partners to help find new jobs. Exodus is also providing limited financial assistance for rent, utilities, food, childcare, medicine, and other needs. Your single dollar bills in the offering plate, larger bills in the "Special Offering" envelopes or checks marked MOM or "Exodus" in the notation line will go to support this work. Please be generous in your support of refugees.

Send a check to the church with MOM: Exodus Refugee in the memo line, or donate online at: <https://www.exodusrefugee.org/donate/>

Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

Support Your Local IN-KY Conference Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

The staff of the IKC are working tirelessly to support local churches as we all discern best practices and how to get through this time together. Please remember to support the work they do and the many ministries they support through your **OCWM**

Giving at: <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>

Eviction Ministry Donations

The Eviction Ministry is a new ministry of the SouthEast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. The purpose of this ministry is to offer assistance to those who do not qualify for other state or local assistance programs and without such assistance would be evicted from their homes. During this time of increased financial concerns and unemployment, we anticipate an increase of requests for assistance. Please consider making a donation. **Checks can be made out to: Southeast Association of the IKC UCC.** Please include in the **memo line: "Eviction Ministry."**

Donations can be mailed to the treasurer at:

SE Association Eviction Ministry

Attn: Margie Potter

726 Coach Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

Thank you for your generosity!

- Shannon Abbott, Eviction Ministry Team

Feeding Families

Gleaner's and Second Helpings are two of the food banks currently offering food to children who usually get their meals from school.

Donate to **Gleaner's** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Donate to **Second Helpings** by clicking on the link [here](#).

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

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

All in-person events have been canceled through the end of April.

This Week on Zoom

Thursday, April 9	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Friday, April 10	5:00 p.m.	Good Friday Conversation
Friday, April 11	4:00 p.m.	Trivia Time
Sunday, April 12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 12	11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship
Sunday, April 12	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, April 14	4:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, April 15	5:00 p.m.	W.I.S.E. Mental Health Team
Wednesday, April 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council