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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of April 16, 2020

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

Dear First Congregational,

One way our church lives into our mission to be a transforming presence for God in the world, a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love is to be a teaching congregation. We are blessed to journey with our student from Butler University, Just Peace Intern Olivia Bradley and our student from Christian Theological Seminary, Student Pastor Cassidy Hall.

In the next couple of weeks, our students will be ending their semesters, finishing up projects, papers and exams. Please keep them in your prayers as the remainder of the semester is all online. In talking with Olivia before she left campus to return home to Michigan, she shared that serving as our Just Peace Intern was the highlight of her semester at Butler. That truly warms my heart and makes me proud of our church. We are making a positive impact in the world, one young person at a time. After a summer break, our Student Pastor Cassidy will

restart her internship with us in August when the fall semester begins at Christian Theological Seminary.

What wonderful gifts Olivia and Cassidy share with our congregation. By living into who God calls them to be, they both are bright lights of hope in today's world. Please join me in expressing gratitude and thanks. You can send them a thank you email at obradley@butler.edu (Olivia) and at studentpastor@fcindy.org (Cassidy).

Thanks to each of you for helping us to be a church family that makes these internships possible. May God continue to bless us as a teaching congregation.

Peace,
Pastor Sarah

Join us for our 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>

Worship

Sunday Adult Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via

Zoom: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

- **April 19** - "Bread for the World" with Sue Chapman.

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

Pastor Sarah will preach on "The Wounded God."

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Zoom into Coffee Hour - Sundays at noon

Please join us for coffee hour each Sunday at 12pm.

Zoom

link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>



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)

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”.

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 "I amWithUS" 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 delivery. Donations to cover the cost of the supplies will be gratefully accepted.

Social Gatherings through Zoom

- **Friday Fellowship: Friday, 4/17, 5:00**
- **Trivia Time: Saturday, 4/18, 4:00**
- **Coffee Hour: Sunday, 4/19, 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: For children summer is the hungriest time of year with only 1 in 5 who receive school lunch getting lunch during the summer. Indiana ranks 41st in the nation for eligible children actually accessing summer feeding programs. (Bread for the World)



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

Friday, April 17	5:00 p.m.	Friday Fellowship
Saturday, April 18	4:00 p.m.	Trivia Time
Sunday, April 19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, April 19	12:00p.m.	Coffee Hour
Tuesday, April 21	4:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, April 21	1:30 p.m.	Circle IV Book Group
Wednesday, April 22	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle