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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of March 4, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

“Beloved, love” is the theme of our generosity ministry for 2021 to help inspire us to give from our hearts. When we give from our hearts of our time, talents, and treasure, we give freely. The blessings of giving from a place of love is that the giving away fills us with a sense of love. When we give, we become part of God’s loving Spirit at work and moving in the world. Each one of us has something special we can give, each one of us has love to share.

Thank you all for the ways you give generously and with love to support the mission and ministry of First Congregational. Your financial gifts help us to live out our church’s mission to be a faith community of healing, belonging, and love. We deeply appreciate your faithful giving especially during these most challenging times. To Be The Church is to love. Thank you for sharing your love with First Congregational.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

Sunday Adult Education, 9:30 a.m. (Zoom)

For March, we are going to read and reflect on the Lenten devotions for the Sundays in March from the UCC resource "Promises, Promises." If you like, bring a poem that speaks to you on your Lenten journey to share with the class, or a piece of art that speaks to you. Our goal is to grow together in faith and love, through listening, reflecting, and sharing.

March 7 - Carol will reflect on the devotion for 3/7, 1 Cor.1:23

Sunday Worship, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)

Scripture: Mark 9:14-29

Sermon: "Loving the Questions and Embracing the Doubt" - Student Pastor Cassidy Hall preaching

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship followed by Special Congregational Meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Thank You for Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church by mailing a check to the church or through online donations at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

THIS WEEK AT FC

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.

TODAY!

- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - This group openly invites

anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

TONIGHT! Research Action Training Today at 7 pm

For those who are a part of First Congregational's Faith in Indiana Action Team, this is a reminder that **tonight** is the research action training administered by Rosie Bryant. In this meeting, we will go over how to effectively conduct a research action meeting with our legislator as well as help to inform what situations you may encounter during this meeting.

If you have not already registered for this event, please do so at <https://faithinindiana.org/changemakers/> . Make sure to choose today's training date, March 4th at 7 pm.

Our research action meetings with our assigned legislators are in the process of being scheduled, and those dates will be sent out to committee members once they are finalized. Everyone who plans on attending these research action meeting with legislators should attend tonight's research action training, even if you do not plan on engaging with the legislator.

As we discussed in last week's meeting, the areas of focus during this meeting will be gun violence, immigration, COVID-19 relief, and criminal justice reform.

- David Clark, Just Peace Intern

TOMORROW! World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 5 is World Prayer Day this year. World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative that is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday. The Church Women United organization is inviting all that are able to join one of two virtual sessions this March 5 (2 PM or 7 PM). This year the program is written by ladies of Vanuatu, an archipelago in the South Pacific.

2:00 p.m. zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87864707538?pwd=MERKMlhlRzBkdFloaTlVOWluQT hpQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 6470 7538 Passcode: 406774

Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

7:00 p.m. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81815440678?pwd=TEFDRkluRkU4U1hkdj9KVVpCUU1ZjZz09>

Meeting ID: 818 1544 0678 Passcode: 691939
Phone: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Monthly Food Drive – This Saturday, March 6th at 10-noon

Please bring canned goods and supplies to benefit the Northside Pantry to our food drive. So far this year, we have donated over 600 lbs from our monthly drives. Come to the church patio – rain, snow, or shine – where we can spend a few minutes connecting with one another. Thanks for all the great donations, and hope to see you there!

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series - Saturdays at 10AM

Last Saturday highlighted the ministry of our own First Congregational member, Rev. Elizabeth Price. You can watch the video here: <https://youtu.be/Wyv5MQIIIvw>.

Join us this Saturday at 10am as we continue highlighting and celebrating the vital ministries of our chaplains.

Join by using IKC Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81305889617?pwd=dVNMTXRpdE12M0lRcDREcUJDVVVxQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 0588 9617 Passcode: 661797

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81305889617#,,,*661797# US (Chicago)

+16468769923,,81305889617#,,,*661797# US (New York)



Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series

Highlighting and Celebrating our Chaplains

When: Saturdays from 10:00am—11:00am
February 20, 27, March 6, March 13, March 20

What: Stories from active chaplains serving in ministry, questions and answers, and time for community prayers

Why: To Build Community in the Southeast Association as we seek to love and serve like Jesus

Who: Everyone from the Southeast Association is invited to join us

Where: On the Indiana-Kentucky Zoom Link
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81305889617?pwd=dVNMTXRpdE12M0lRcDREcUJDVWVxQT09>

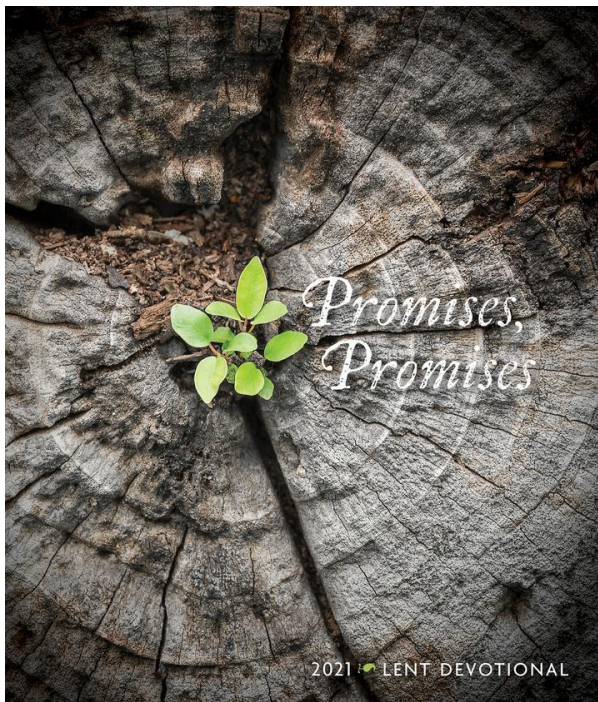
For more information, contact
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund at pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Zoom Vespers on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us on Zoom for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns.

Soul Care with Pastor Sarah via Zoom- Join us after Zoom Vespers on **Tuesdays at 7:30p.m.** Simply stick around after vespers for a time to check-in and to pray together.

Lenten Devotionals - There is a Lenten Devotional for each family to pick up at the church. If you need your devotional delivered or mailed to your home, please contact Care & Connection Chair, Wendy Baldwin, at wendy.baldwin@rci.com or 317-319-0806.



Lenten Lunch and Learn Update — See You Next Wednesday!

This week we examined the desert places in our own lives alongside poet Sonia Sanchez and Jesus' temptation. We discussed the "rap-battle" of words between Satan and Jesus in the desert alongside Sonia's rhythmic words in her poetry. You can view that video here: <https://youtu.be/FE3QUkA65V4> As we reflect on our own deserts, we have no reflection questions this week.

Join us next week as we continue our Lenten journey — all are welcome!

Email me with any questions, Student Pastor Cassidy

Hall, studentpastor@fcindy.org

LENTEN LUNCH + LEARN

Wednesdays in Lent,
Beginning Ash Wednesday
12:00 noon – 1pm on Zoom

Bring your lunch
All Are Welcome

FCIndy.org

Outreach & Service - During March we support the United Church of Christ special offering to One Great Hour of Sharing. Please see the [March Colony](#) for a description of the global use of these funds, and please give generously to supplement our budgeted contribution. Also, watch for information about our advocacy work with Faith In Indiana. All who are interested are welcome to participate in these worthy efforts toward social justice.

Covenant Outreach - Covenant Outreach through April includes Family Promise (<http://familypromise.org>) and Exodus Refugee (<http://www.exodusrefugee.org>), in addition to Faith In Indiana (<https://faithinindiana.org>) and Peace Learning Center (<https://peacelearningcenter.org>). We invite donations to these Just Peace organizations, and we're investigating advocacy avenues as well. Watch this space!

COMING UP

Need Some Coffee?

A year ago, the church bought Equal Exchange coffee to last us several months for our coffee times together. During the shutdown, this coffee has been stored in the fridge or freezer. Since it will be some time before the church can use it, it is available to you for a \$5 donation per pack – both regular and decaf. You can pick it up inside the patio door entrance, or if you would like some and can't come to the

building, please contact Wendy Baldwin.

Please click [HERE](#) to view the March Colony with more information and events happening this month!

CONNECTION & SUPPORT

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

“First Congregational Indy Fellowship” group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

Pastoral Care

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Pastor Sarah's Sabbath Days: Mondays & Saturdays

The congregation covenant with Pastor Sarah to provide 2 days per week for personal rest and family renewal. On Mondays and Saturdays, Pastor Sarah is not available unless it is a pastoral emergency. Thank you for honoring this sacred gift of Sabbath time for our Pastor and her family.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

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

Mental Health Support:

- **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline:** 1-800-985-5990, or text “TalkWithUs” to 66746.
- **National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)
- **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Information HelpLine provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and www.nami.org.
- **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges at 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and www.theTrevorProject.org

members in need fund - The members in need fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email pastorsarah@fcindy.org or cell (386) 478-9012.

FC Covid Protocols:

Effective immediately, the church building is closed to in-person church gatherings until the following parameters are reached, based on guidance from Dr Virginia Caine, Marion County Public Health Director:

A 7-day average of 5% (or less) positivity among unique individuals tested for a two-week period, and new cases per day at 35 or under in Marion County, per the metrics shown on www.coronavirus.in.gov.

At that time, the Council will decide reopening measures.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

3 Ways to Connect for Worship

YOUTUBE

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWV9wqAvPiUKSkEbjav6Zpw>

- YouTube Live broadcasts at 11am..
- Use this option for live interacting and messaging. You must have or create a user account and be logged in to message live.

FACE BOOK

https://www.facebook.com/pg/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/posts/?ref=page_internal

- The video will be posted at 11am.
- This is for viewing only. For live interacting and commenting, please use the YouTube option.

DIAL-IN

- Dial **317-204-3862**
- Landline is preferred for clarity.
- If calling with a smart phone, setting your cellular setting to Wi-Fi calling

will be clearer.

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUTo9>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, March 4	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Thursday, March 4	7:00 p.m.	Faith In Indiana Research Action Training (link in registration)
Friday, March 5	2 & 7 p.m	World Day of Prayer (special link)
Saturday, March 6	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC)
Saturday, March 6	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series (IKC Zoom)
Sunday, March 7	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, March 7	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday Worship w/ Student Pastor Cassidy Hall (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, March 7	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, March 7	12:30 p.m.	Special Congregational Meeting
Tuesday, March 9	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, March 9	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wed, March 10	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Lunch & Learn
Wed, March 10	7:00 p.m.	Church Council
Thursday, March 11	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, March 11	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, March 13	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series (IKC Zoom)
Sunday, March 14	-----	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS – Spring Forward!
Sunday, March 14	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, March 14	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, March 14	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

***All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.**