

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 11, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

I am excited about some upcoming opportunities for mission and ministries beginning this Sunday and going throughout the Lenten Season.

This Sunday, we welcome Rev. Nicole Barnes as our guest preacher. Nicole serves as the Director of Operations and Voter Engagement for **Faith in Indiana**. As a part of FC's ministry connection with Faith in Indiana, on Sunday, February 21st we will have a Buzz including a training with Faith in Indiana for those who want to get more involved in the mission of community organizing.

I would also like to remind you that **Lenten Devotionals**, "Promises, Promises," are available for pick up at the church. This Lent, you are invited to "*bring your cynicism and your scars. But be sure you bring, too, that little bit of hope you still have for a God who won't let you down. From the writers of the popular online Daily Devotional, Promises, Promises includes a biblical text, reflection, and prayer for each day of Lent until Easter Sunday*" (Pilgrim Press).

If you are unable to pick up your devotional, and would like one delivered or mailed to you, please contact our Office Administrator (shannon@fcindy.org).

The season of Lent begins with an **Ash Wednesday** program led by Student Pastor Cassidy Hall. This special Ash Wednesday Lunch & Learn is on Wednesday, February 17th at noon. The Lenten Lunch & Learn program will continue with Cassidy each Wednesday at noon throughout Lent.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

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

February 14: Led by Wendy Baldwin, join us to discern and discuss a selected Bible passage, and how it speaks to us about generosity and stewardship.

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

Scripture: Zechariah 7:9-10 (NIV)

Sermon: "Ready or Not" (guest preacher, Rev. Nicole Barnes)

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship

Outreach & Service Meeting at 3:00 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!

- **Men's Lunch at 1PM (Zoom)** - This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets every other Thursday at **1:00pm**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.
- **Spiritual Support Group at 5:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well being. Contact Pat Larracey at plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

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

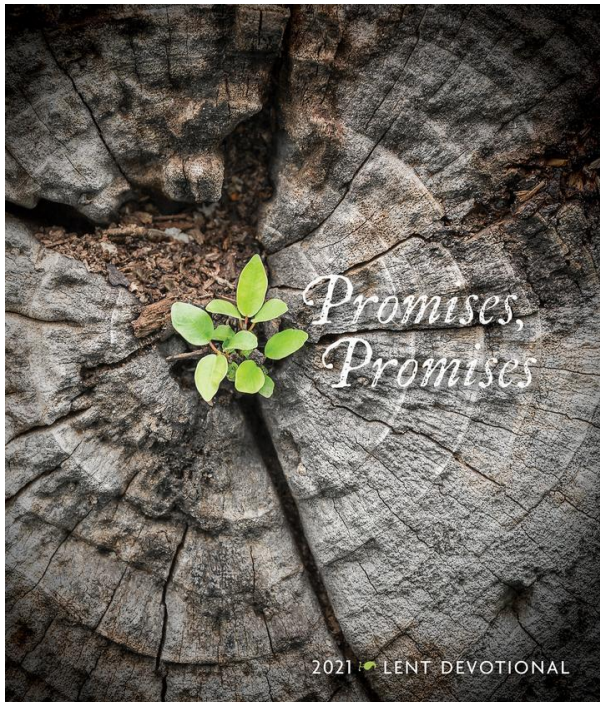
Join us on Zoom for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns.

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.

Monthly Food Drive – Rescheduled to Sat, 2/13, 10-noon

Please bring canned goods and supplies to benefit the Northside Pantry to our food drive, which is rescheduled to February 13. Last year, we donated over 2000 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. You can also pick up a Lenten devotional, as well as sign some birthday cards. Hope to see you there!

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 email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org.



Ash Wednesday Lunch & Learn - Wednesday, February 17th at Noon

LENTEN LUNCH + LEARN

Wednesdays in Lent,

BEGINNING ASH WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon – 1pm on Zoom

Bring your lunch

All Are Welcome



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

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series



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

Game Night, Friday, 2/19, 7 pm

Looking for some fun time? Join us on zoom to play some games together and share some fellowship with one another. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

Neighborhood Walk – Sat, 2/20, 11 am

Meet in the church parking lot for our monthly walk in the neighborhood. We will wear masks, and keep distant, while walking and catching up with each other. The walk will last about a half hour. Dress appropriately, but we will cancel if it is frigid or snowing hard.

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 February 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 Ecker (lspecker@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=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, Feb 11	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Feb 11	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, Feb 13	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC)
Sunday, Feb 14	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Feb 14	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Feb 14	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Feb 14	3:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 16	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, Feb 16	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, Feb 17	12:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Lunch & Learn

Thursday, Feb 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, Feb 20	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk
Sunday, Feb 21	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Feb 21	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Feb 21	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Feb 21	12:30 p.m.	Buzz with Faith In Indiana

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