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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 18, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

As we open the door to enter into Lent with one another this week, know there are many opportunities for spiritual enrichment that invite you in. We began our **Lenten Lunch and Learn** yesterday and have recorded the first session for you to view (see below for the video). Join us next Wednesday at noon on the church zoom as we continue to learn from the wisdom of poets and prophets, guided by our own Student Pastor Cassidy Hall. We also have a **Lenten Devotional** from the UCC writer's group for you and yesterday for Ash Wednesday received this prayer, "Ashes to Action. Dust to Determination. Amen." The devotionals are waiting for you to pick up at the church, or the devotional can be delivered to your home by contacting the church office.

This Saturday we begin the **Lenten Saturday Series** with the UCC Southeast Association, featuring stories from our chaplains, including our own members Elizabeth Price, Worth Hartman, and Lisa Anderson. See the announcement below for more details. Our **special worship series** begins this Sunday with the special

focus *It's A New Day*, providing inspiration and hope to help us as we enter through this season of Lent together.

In a time where so much has been taken away from us because of the global pandemic, know that as a church family, we are giving each other the gift of our love, our prayers, and our support. During Lent, our focus is not on **giving up** something, but in **giving into** this time of spiritual enrichment and growth. I look forward to entering into the door of Lent with you all.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

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

February 21: Today we will learn about a pivotal but largely forgotten civil rights advocate and leader, Bayard Rustin. A gifted organizer, he schooled Martin Luther King Jr. in the art of civil disobedience. We will read a short summary of his contributions in this bio "Bayard Rustin" from *Quakers in the World*, found at this link: <https://www.quakersintheworld.org/quakers-in-action/160/Bayard-Rustin>.

We will also watch a video from Democracy Now, "Black, Gay & Pacifist: Bayard Rustin Remembered for Role in March on Washington, Mentoring MLK"

at: https://youtu.be/FW5z98A_eAo

For a longer article about his life, see "Who Designed the March on Washington" by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. at this link:

<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/african-americans-many-rivers-to-cross/history/100-amazing-facts/who-designed-the-march-on-washington/>

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

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10

Sermon: "Waiting For A Long Time For A New Day"

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship, followed by Faith In

Indiana Buzz at 12:30 p.m. - The Buzz is a time to learn about training and engagement with Faith In Indiana activities coming up. Marion County organizers Nicole Barnes and Rosie Bryant will be there.

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 Pat Larracey at plainandfancy1963@att.net, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

TOMORROW! 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.

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series - Starts THIS Saturday!



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

Neighborhood Walk – THIS Saturday, 2/20, 11 am

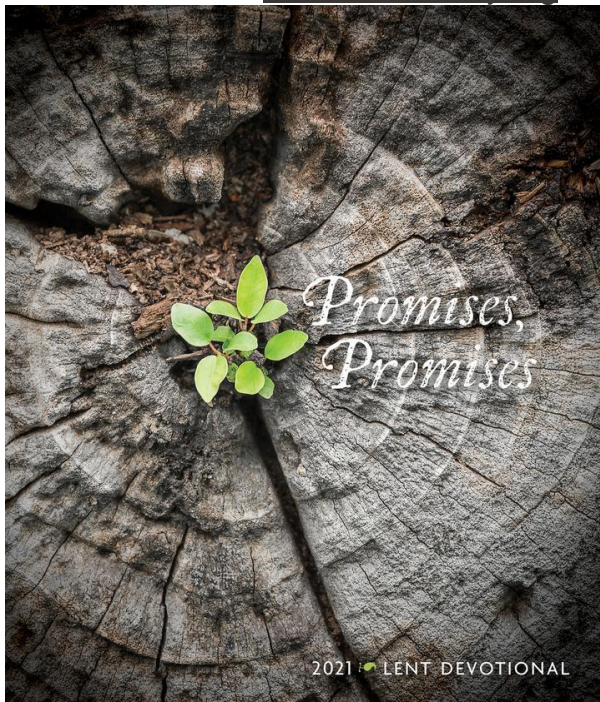
meet in the church parking lot for our monthly walk in the neighborhood. We will wear masks, and keep distant, while walking and catching up with each other. The walk will last about a half hour. Dress appropriately, but we will cancel if it is frigid or snowing hard.

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 email Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org.



Lenten Lunch & Learn Update - See You Next Wednesday!

If you missed this week, no problem! Catch up on the video here (https://youtu.be/uEE3aiIZ_0w) or just join us next time! This week we examined the similarities and differences between Jesus and poet Sonia Sanchez. For further reflection, **you can address these questions:**

1. AS you continue to reflect, how does the process of preparation compare and contrast with Jesus and Sonia Sanchez? What are some of the things you need to prepare for as you begin your Lenten journey?
2. What are the memories of your baptism (before, during, and after)? If you have not been baptized, what are your experiences in witnessing the baptism of others?
3. How did the life experiences of Wilsonia Benita Driver prepare her for the life of poet, author, playwright, mother, professor and activist Sonia Sanchez? How have your past experiences prepared you as you take your Lenten journey?

Next week, we'll move from the topic of preparation into the topic of igniting our inner genius, again with our teachers Jesus and Sonia Sanchez. Hope to see you there!

This week we closed with Sonia reminding us to "put on the sleeves of love." You can watch that video, here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vp3zyr-EK-w&fbclid=IwAR1DSX6SjLwormfz9vQ4HbGvgVYUilLhUsJmBTH1txdaSCabvsOacnYIXhA>



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 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 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

00 / 40.

- **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>

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.

Weekly Calendar

Thursday, Feb 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Friday, Feb 19	7:00 p.m.	Virtual Game Night
Saturday, Feb 20	10:00 a.m.	SE Assoc Virtual Lenten Series
Saturday, Feb 20	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (at FC)
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.	Faith In Indiana Buzz
Tuesday, Feb 23	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, Feb 23	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, Feb 24	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Lunch & Learn
Wednesday, Feb 24	5:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team Meeting
Wednesday, Feb 24	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, Feb 25	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch Bunch
Thursday, Feb 25	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Feb 25	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, Feb 28	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class

Sunday, Feb 28	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Feb 28	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

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