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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of February 25, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

One thing Jesus makes clear early on in his ministry: Jesus cares about justice. As followers of Jesus, we are invited to answer Jesus' call to be disciples of love and justice. We are making good progress as a Just Peace Church living out this covenant through our partnership with Faith in Indiana.

Join us tonight, Thursday, on the church zoom at 7:00pm for a time together with Faith in Indiana organizer Rosie Bryant as we form a team at First Congregational to help us organize our work. Come and learn about this exciting new ministry. This is what it looks like to Be The Church. See you there!

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY

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

February 28: Student pastor Cassidy Hall will continue to lead us in exploring Black theology and Womanist Theology and how it may impact our common life together.

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

Scripture: Psalm 22:23-31

Sermon: "It's A New Day for the Poor"

Coffee Hour via Zoom, immediately after worship

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!

- **Women's Lunch Bunch (Zoom) at 11:30 a.m.** - For questions or more information please contact Sue Chapman at (317) 259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.
- **Men's Lunch (Zoom) at 1:00 p.m.** - 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 Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

TODAY! Faith in Indiana meeting at 7 pm

This meeting is a follow up to the Faith in Indiana Buzz with Rosie Bryant this past Sunday. As a reminder, this was a meeting where we talked about what changes we wanted to see in our community, what our values were that inspired these desires, and we expressed interest in wanting to work with Faith in Indiana to accomplish these goals.

Tonight, we will meet again to reaffirm our commitment to this work as well as logistically organize our next steps. One of these steps will be signing up for a research action training session next week, on either March 2nd or March 4th. During our time, we will address any lingering questions you may have and then advance with the necessary steps to partner with Faith in Indiana to influence and petition our local legislators.

Here is the church's Zoom link you can use to access our meeting at 7 pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

Dial in - 1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Passcode: 7171

Like Rosie Bryant mentioned in her most recent session with us, power exists in relationships. The power this congregation yields must help influence local and state legislation and depends on our ability to forge new relationships. It means showing up, speaking our truths, and practicing love. For everyone and in all places.

We strongly encourage you all to attend our meeting and help work toward implementing this vision of Just Peace and Radical Love in the world around us as we listen to God's calls to us.

- David Clark, Just Peace Intern

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series - Saturdays at 10AM

Last Saturday we kicked off our Lenten Series with an inspiring program celebrating the ministry of chaplains. We learned about Chaplain Lisa Anderson's ministry with children at Riley Hospital. I highly encourage you to take time to watch the video presentation: <https://youtu.be/mQzkG9SFs24>.

Join us this Saturday at 10am as we highlight the ministry of one of our own FC members, Rev. Elizabeth Price.

Join by using IKC Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81305889617?pwd=QVNIWlIARpQeI2M0IRcDRlR0U3DkVWVxQT09>

Meeting ID: 813 0588 9617 Passcode: 661797

One tap mobile

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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>

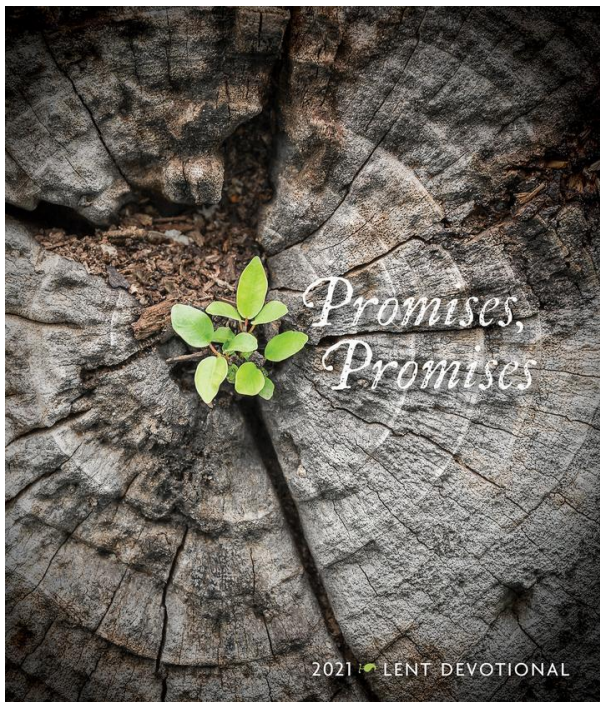
For more information, contact
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund at pastorsarah@fcindy.org

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!

If you missed this week, no problem! Catch up on the video here <https://youtu.be/oJ71Uls7opA> or just join us next time!

This week we continued to learn about poet Sonia Sanchez and story-linked her life and work to Jesus in the Jordan river as they both prepared for greatness. We also examined the power and importance of breath in our own lives and scripture — where and how was Jesus and John the Baptist breathing? Were they nervous or anxious? Then, we learned about how Sonia found the power of breathing as she began writing Haiku poems (poems containing 5 syllables in the

first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the 3rd). Connecting these pieces we shared a brief practice of engaging our senses and writing together briefly. Feel free to watch the video to try it!

Questions for this week's reflection:

1. What traumatic events or moments of rejection have God nudged and pushed you through as you moved into another spiritual and emotional level in your life?
2. What important role does the element of water play in this spiritual and emotional transformation for Jesus? How does this role correlate to the concept of water in African Traditional Religion found in our Africentric reflection in Lesson Two?
3. How does Sonia Sanchez's use of the Japanese poetry form of the haiku help us to explore contemplation and reflection in our daily lives and in our daily walk with God?



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

Monthly Food Drive – Sat, 3/6, 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!

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 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>

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Weekly Calendar

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
Saturday, Feb 27	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series
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
Tuesday, March 2	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, March 2	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wednesday, March 3	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Lunch & Learn
Wednesday, March 3	7:00 p.m.	Trustees

Thursday, March 4	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, March 6	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC)
Saturday, March 6	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series
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

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