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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of March 11, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

“Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). This Bible verse spiritually grounds me because it reminds me to trust God. During this time of Lent, we are in the midst of change.

It’s a new day with the rollout of vaccines. It’s a new day with the beginning of a new collaborative church lay leadership model. It’s a new day with our partnership with Faith in Indiana.

It’s a new day. I’m filled with hope. Let’s trust God with this new day. Let’s take time to be still and discern together our next steps.

Join me in praying for our church during this time of change and growth. Join me in taking time to be still and to know that God is God.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

THIS SUNDAY



Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night!

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 14 - Wendy will share on the stewardship theme of "Beloved, Love"

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

Scripture: John 3:14-21

Sermon: "Choosing Love in Action"

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/>



Join us on Sunday, March 14 at 4 pm EST for a Conference-wide Service of Lament in the context of COVID-19.

To prepare, you may wish to make a list of names of people in your life and context who have died as a result of COVID. You may also wish to have a candle (wick burning or electric) to light during the service.

All are welcome to join us in solemn remembrance.

Join the Zoom at 4 pm, Sunday March 14 here: <http://bit.ly/IKCServiceOfLament>

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.
- **Men's Lunch, 1:00 p.m. (Zoom)** - Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@gmail.com for more information.

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series - Saturdays at 10AM

You can watch the video from last Saturday here: <https://youtu.be/9eKDI8kRc-E>

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=dVNMTXRpdE12M0lRcDREcUJDV VVxQT09>

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

Women's Book Circle - Tuesday, March 16th at 1:30 PM (Zoom)

For more information please contact Karen Walker at 317-319-8950 or karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

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

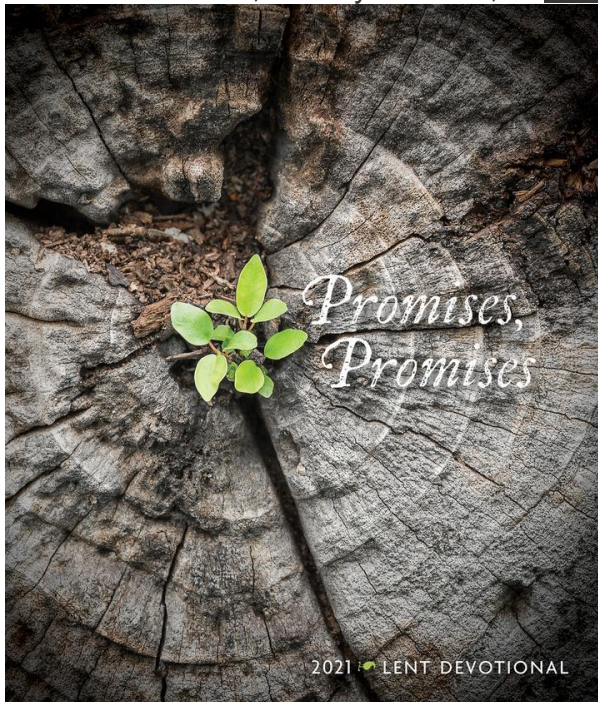
Join us on Zoom for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns. Beginning on March 23, we will have Vespers outdoors at the church at 7 pm. Please bring a lawn chair and wear a mask. We will also try to connect to Zoom for those unable to attend in person.

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 what it means to “do battle” in our own lives. We considered the stories of Jesus and Sonia and the ways in which we can learn from them for our own battles and the battles within our collective lives. We asked:

How can we pray for those about to go battle? Who/what are you doing battle with at this time in your life? What does it look/feel like when I know God is in the battle with me? Our time concluded learning about the Yoruba, one of the largest African ethnic groups south of the Sahara Desert. We learned of how the Yoruba inspired the language of Sonia and the ways in which she utilizes texture and rhythm in her work. Finally, we gathered our own individual rhythms and created a unified rhythm by reading Sonia's poem Aaaayeee Babo (Praise God), which can be found here: <https://www.splitthisrock.org/poetry-database/poem/aaaayeee-babo-praise-god>

Watch/listen our time together here: <https://youtu.be/FI4TseNVVik>

Week 4 Reflection Questions:

How does Jesus' encounter with the devil encourage/challenge you as you face temptation and rejection?

Did the poem "Aaaayeee Babo (Praise God)" by Sonia Sanchez challenge/stretch your faith as a Christian in any way? Explain.

Have you ever been introduced to the Yoruba language and/or any traditions from the continent of Africa? Have you ever seen a map of the continent of Africa? How many countries can you identify on a map of Africa?

Reminder all week's questions and info can be found here:

<https://www.upsem.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Lenten-Guide-final-2.pdf>

SEE YOU NEXT WEEK! All are welcome. Questions/Comments? Email me: 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

Through this month and next our Covenant Outreach is still supporting Family Promise, Exodus Refugee, Faith In Indiana, and Peace Learning Center. To financially support these excellent organizations, please make a single contribution to “Covenant Outreach”, and it will be distributed equally across all of them (unless otherwise specified). See the March Colony for advocacy/volunteer opportunities at Family Promise. Also, please remember to support our UCC special offering to One Great Hour of Sharing throughout March.

COMING UP

Neighborhood Walk – Sat, 3/20, 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 raining.

Game Night, Friday, 3/26, 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.

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=dmTWbWE5UXRBTk5pcHZlYlBoaEFVUT09>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Password: 7171

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Weekly Calendar

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	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
Sunday, March 14	1:00 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, March 14	3:00 p.m.	Outreach & Service
Tuesday, March 16	1:30 p.m.	Women's Book Circle
Tuesday, March 16	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Tuesday, March 16	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah
Wed, March 17	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Lunch & Learn
Thursday, March 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, March 20	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series (IKC Zoom)
Sunday, March 21	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, March 21	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, March 21	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, March 21	12:45 p.m.	PCRC (Pastor Sarah)

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