

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of March 18, 2021

Dear First Congregational,

One of the most important ways we can love our neighbors as ourselves is to get the COVID19 vaccine as soon as we are eligible. Faith communities around the world are encouraging members of their community to take their shot so that we can keep our communities safe and healthy. I was vaccinated in February as a member of the clergy serving the community and conducting memorial services. I was surprised by joy when I got my shot. I felt hope. I felt gratitude.

There's been too much suffering and pain, and it's time for us to move forward. As our Lenten theme reminds us, "It is a New Day." I pray for the day when we can all safely gather together again in-person, and until then, let's all do our part and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

Blessings,
Pastor Sarah



**Are you ready to get back to
the people and activities you love?**

Your vaccination brings us one day closer
to controlling the pandemic and
reopening Church.

Get your vaccine ASAP!

Register at ourshot.in.gov or call 211.

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 21: Nancy will reflect on the devotion for 3/21, Jeremiah 31:33

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

Scripture: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Sermon: "Deep in Our Hearts"

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!

- **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.

Southeast Association Virtual Lenten Series - Saturdays at 10AM

You can watch the video from last Saturday here: <https://youtu.be/gNjZyhpm4qU>

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

Neighborhood Walk – Sat, March 20 at 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.

Vespers (Outdoor/Zoom) on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m.

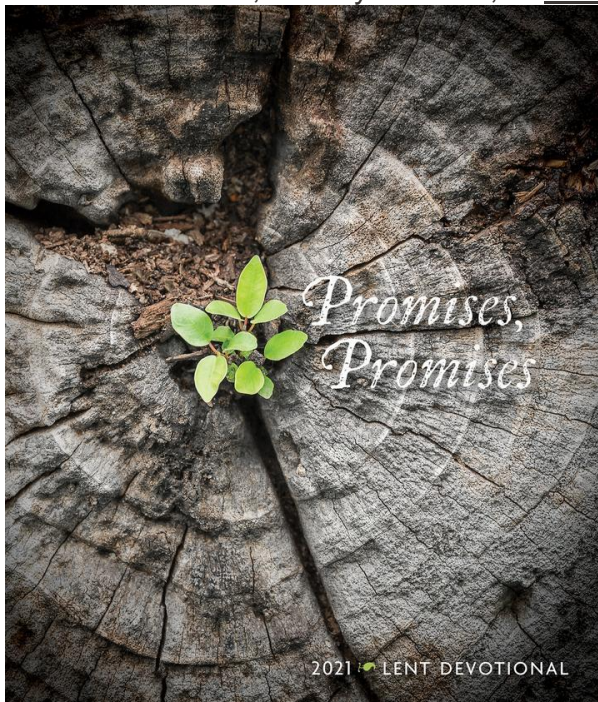
Join us for a time of togetherness, Scripture, and sharing of joys and concerns. When weather conditions allow, Vespers will be outdoors at the church at 7 pm. Please bring a lawn chair and wear a mask. We will also try to connect to Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We will NOT meet outdoors if the temperature is below 50 degrees, it's raining, or winds are greater than 20 mph; you can join us on Zoom.

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 week 5 recap and week 6 invite!

In this week's study, we continued to explore Sonia's poetry alongside scripture and focus on the resilience of both Jesus and Sonia. Then we considered how resilience in our own lives has shown up.

View week 5: <https://youtu.be/Sh6KNs4Fq7s> (Content Warning: There is language in a part of this study that may sound related to suicide. If you are not comfortable with this but would like to still catch-up, please email me and I can get you caught up with documents instead of the video).

Week 5 reflection questions:

1. In our Scripture lesson, Luke 4:14-21, it states that Jesus was 'filled with the power of the Spirit.' How has God revealed the power of the Spirit in your life personally, professionally, spiritually, etc.?
2. Have you, like Sonia Sanchez, experienced a loss (i.e. job, relationship, etc.) as you took a stand for justice? How did this experience shape your journey into arriving at who you be?
3. How are you changing the conversation against social justice with your voice, gifts and contributions?

Join us any week you can on the Church's Zoom, every Wednesday of Lent at 12noon. Questions? Email me at 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

Game Night, Friday, March 26 at 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.

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)

Senior Councilors: Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net), Alice Rutherford, Steve Coomer

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

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, March 18	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Saturday, March 20	10:00 a.m.	SE Association Virtual Lenten Series (IKC Zoom)

Saturday, March 20	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (at FC)
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
Tuesday, March 23	7:00 p.m.	Vespers
Tuesday, March 23	7:30 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (Zoom)
Wed, March 24	12:00 p.m.	Lenten Lunch & Learn
Thursday, March 25	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Sunday, March 28	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, March 28	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, March 28	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

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