



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of April 2, 2020

ALL in-person church activities are CANCELED through the end of April.

Dear First Congregational,

Thank you all for being my church. I thank God for you all, my church family. In these troubling times, we are choosing to Be The Church in creative and new ways. We are calling, texting, emailing, zooming, facebooking, and we are writing cards and writing checks. Thank you! You all are doing hard things and as your pastor, I am proud of you all.

This Sunday we have the opportunity to celebrate home communion. As the first Sunday of the month, we will share in God's love feast for us. Create your own communion experience and follow along during our 11am Facebook Live worship or celebrate whenever works best for you. See below for more detailed instructions.

Know that we are here for you and you are not alone. Know that we love you. Know that we are faithful to God's calling for us to Be The Church that is worshiping, connecting, and loving.

Sending you all a virtual hug, love and peace.

With hope,

Pastor Sarah

Worship

Sunday Adult Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Class will meet via Zoom (see instructions below)

- **April 5** - Carol Sowle, a Bible Study for Palm Sunday. Click [here](#) for a printable guide for this Sunday's study.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign. If you don't have a device with visual display, you can simply call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

Sunday Worship Service on Facebook Live, 11:00 a.m.

Pastor Sarah will preach on "In Times of Turmoil: Be The Church and Love God"

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11

Communion Sunday

On Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday we will share together Holy Communion in our online interactive worship.

Before the time of the service you will want to prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread. In some parts of the world tortilla, rice cake, cassava are used as this element which is defined not as a wheat product but as the most common food of the people. Let it be something you alone or you with others in your house may break and share. Prepare a cup or cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or whatever you have available. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen where you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place a flower or plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith beside the bread and the cup. Thank you for your preparation.

First Congregational Holy Week Journey

April 5 - Palm Sunday

April 9 - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, 6:30pm (via Zoom)

April 10 - Good Friday

April 12 - Easter



What's Happening at FC: Support While Social Distancing

Staying Connected

FC Facebook page (click [here](#))

"First Congregational Indy Fellowship" group on Facebook (click [here](#)).

Pastoral Care

We are all still here for you and will stay connected. You can contact Pastor Sarah for pastoral care needs at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

Additional Church Support Contacts

Pastor Carol (casowle@gmail.com)

Office Administrator, Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Moderator, Alice Rutherford (alice@caloosaspire.net)

Vice Moderator, Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

TODAY! Care & Connections Meeting, 6:30pm - Care & Connections is meeting via Zoom TODAY at 6:30pm. Contact Wendy Baldwin for the Zoom link for this meeting.

TOMORROW! Worship & Design Meeting, 1:00pm - Worship & Design is meeting via Zoom TOMORROW at 1:00pm. Contact Alice Rutherford for the Zoom link for this meeting.

NEW! FC Emergency Fund - In lieu of Easter Lilies, donations will be received for the Emergency Fund. You can make a \$20 gift in celebration, memory or honor of someone and

you will get a virtual Easter Lily shared on our church social media. Please email this information to Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org). The funds collected will support our church Emergency Fund. Mail checks to the church or give on-line.

Need Toilet Paper & Disinfectant?

Even though stores are trying hard to re-stock supplies, it is still difficult to find these items. First Congregational is expecting a shipment in early April from its supplier. We will have 2-ply toilet paper, spray disinfectant, paper towels, and gloves (our supplier is also out of stock of hand sanitizer and wipes). Please contact Wendy Baldwin to arrange pick-up or delivery. Donations to cover the cost of the supplies will be gratefully accepted.

Social Gatherings through Zoom

- **TOMORROW! Friday, 4/3, 5 pm - Happy Hour!** We'll check in with one another, and let's share our stories.
- **Saturday, 4/4, 4 pm – Trivia Time!** We'll test our collective knowledge of some trivia.
- **Monday, 4/6, 5 pm – Happy Hour conversation**
- **Friday, 4/10, 5 pm – Good Friday conversation**
- **Saturday, 4/11 4 pm – Trivia Time**

To join the Zoom meeting, click this link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206>

Meeting ID: 926 449 4206

To Join by Phone call only: 1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), you will be prompted for the meeting ID 926 449 4206, followed by the # sign.

If you don't have a device with visual display, you can simply call in and participant as a 'conference call'.

Instructions for Zooming:

1. If you plan to use your smart phone or tablet, you need to download the Zoom app before the meeting. Find it in the app store for your mobile device.
2. If you plan to join the meeting via your computer and don't already have ZOOM on your computer, you'll be asked to download it. It will self-install and then you'll be taken to the meeting.
3. **NOTE: you do not have to register or set up a free account to be a participant in a meeting. You can join a meeting without signing in.**
4. You will asked whether you want to join with video (I hope you say Yes) and what type of

audio you wish to use, your phone or your computer.

5. To use your phone's audio, you will have to select "use internet audio."

Due to the recent reports of Zoom meeting hacks, the Host will be using the 'waiting room' option to only allow recognized people into the Zoom gathering.

Indiana to Offer Psychological First Aid Trainings

The Indiana Family and Social Services Administration and American Red Cross Indiana will launch two virtual psychological first aid training courses for healthcare and social services professionals. The training is to help individuals exposed to a traumatic event or disaster. They'll take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 7 to the first 30 participants to register for each session.

- <https://ddrsprovider.fssa.in.gov/Events/Public/Register.aspx?ReturnTo=Calendar&CalendarMonth=4&CalendarYear=2020&CourseID=857>

Anyone feeling anxiety from the pandemic should be encouraged to call the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Disaster Distress Helpline at 800-985-5990**, or text **"TalkWithUs" to 66746**. Users will be connected with trained crisis counselors.

Hunger Fact of the Week: More than 37.2 million people in the U.S., including children, lived in households that struggled to put food on the table in 2018. And of course, the Corona virus has increased this number. African-Americans were approximately twice as likely as the overall population to live at risk of hunger. (Bread for the World)



April Mission of the Month: Exodus Refugee Immigration

This month we are supporting our local refugee resettlement agency, Exodus, a 501c3 agency. Exodus serves thoroughly vetted, legally admitted refugees who are fleeing persecution in their home countries and cannot return there. Exodus initially provides housing and other basic needs but goes on to support these newcomers with a variety of programs to help them adjust and thrive in their new community. These programs include medical and social services including mental health services, language classes, cultural orientation, job

training and placement, and special programs for women and for youth. During this Covid-19 pandemic their Employment Team is assisting refugee clients who have lost their jobs to apply for unemployment, while leveraging their network of 90+ employment partners to help find new jobs. Exodus is also providing limited financial assistance for rent, utilities, food, childcare, medicine, and other needs. Your single dollar bills in the offering plate, larger bills in the "Special Offering" envelopes or checks marked MOM or "Exodus" in the notation line will go to support this work. Please be generous in your support of refugees.

Send a check to the church with MOM: Exodus Refugee in the memo line, or donate online at: <https://www.exodusrefugee.org/donate/>

Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC

Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

Support Your Local IN-KY Conference Through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

The staff of the IKC are working tirelessly to support local churches as we all discern best practices and how to get through this time together. Please remember to support the work they do and the many ministries they support through your **OCWM**

Giving at: <https://ikcucc.org/connect/donate/>

Eviction Ministry Donations

The Eviction Ministry is a new ministry of the SouthEast Association of the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC. The purpose of this ministry is to offer assistance to those who do not qualify for other state or local assistance programs and without such assistance would be evicted from their homes. During this time of increased financial concerns and unemployment, we anticipate an increase of requests for assistance. Please consider making a donation. **Checks can be made out to: Southeast Association of the IKC UCC.** Please include in the **memo line: "Eviction Ministry."**

Donations can be mailed to the treasurer at:

SE Association Eviction Ministry

Attn: Margie Potter

726 Coach Rd.

Indianapolis, IN 46227

Thank you for your generosity!

- Shannon Abbott, Eviction Ministry Team

Feeding Families

Gleaner's and Second Helpings are two of the food banks currently offering food to children who usually get their meals from school.

Donate to **Gleaner's** by clicking on the link [here](#).

Donate to **Second Helpings** by clicking on the link [here](#).

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday morning worship 11AM via Facebook Live
at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstCongregationalUCCIndy/>

All in-person events have been canceled through the end of April.

This Week on Zoom

Thursday, April 2	6:30 p.m.	Care & Connections
Friday, April 3	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design
Friday, April 3	5:00 p.m.	Happy Hour
Saturday, April 4	4:00 p.m.	Trivia Time
Sunday, April 5	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 5	11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship w/ Communion
Monday, April 6	5:00 p.m.	Happy Hour
Thursday, April 9	6:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Thursday, April 10	5:00 p.m.	Good Friday Conversation
Saturday, April 11	4:00 p.m.	Trivia Time
Sunday, April 12	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 13	11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship