



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Epistle for the Week of April 1, 2021



Dear First Congregational,

arrived at Holy Week. Following the theme “It’s a New Day,” we now pause to reflect upon what is new about this day during this Holy Week. What new thing is God doing in your life? What new thing is God doing in our church? What new thing is God doing in our community?

Through the stories of Jesus’s life, death, and resurrection, we are invited to be part of God’s renewing of Creation. We know that the process of renewal is often messy and can lead us to joy. We are invited to trust the new thing God is doing even if the outcome may be unknown to us.

This Holy Week, let us be open to what God is doing within us, among us, and around us.

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)

In April we will celebrate resurrection, new directions for building a beloved community and new beginnings. Join in!

April 4 - Nancy Dickinson presents on the Resurrection

Easter Sunday Worship with Communion, 11AM (YouTube, FaceBook, Dial In)

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

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!

- **Men's Lunch at 1:00 PM:** For more information, please contact Dick Clough at (317) 872-3910.
- **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.

Good Friday "Seven Last Words" Chapel Service: Friday, April 2 at 12PM



You are invited to join Christian Theological Seminary on Facebook Live (<https://www.facebook.com/ctsindy>) for a special Seven Last Words chapel service featuring DMin and PhD students Rev. Eric Jackson, Rev. Moya Harris, Rev. Chad R. Abbott, Rev. Dr. Dominique A. Robinson, Rev. William H. Lamar IV, Rev. Dr. Lisa Goods, and Rev. April G. Johnson.

Food Drive & Fellowship! 1st Saturday of the Month – April 3, 10-noon

Our food donations to the Northside Pantry are helping to fight hunger needs, and the Pantry is very grateful that we are doing this – in 2021 we have already contributed about 1000 lbs of food and supplies! And our greatest gift – the ability to spend a few minutes of in-person fellowship with those that are there, while maintaining safe virus protocols. Since this is the day before Easter, we will also have some Easter goodies on hand.

Lenten Lunch Concludes

As we completed our Lenten Lunch yesterday, we discussed the “Dance of Redemption” listening to the words of Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, Sonia Sanchez, Jesus, and more. We also examined this dance of redemption through the eyes of Holy Week in Seven movements written below. You can view our time here: https://youtu.be/mQ3wKbdJ_T0

together (also below).

- **MOVEMENT ONE: Sonia's Reflection: Move on the idea of being free. Conscientization** *Jesus Entering Jerusalem* Matthew – 21:1-11
- **MOVEMENT TWO: Sonia's Reflection: I am not here to get something from you, I have something to give to you. Emancipatory Historiography** *Jesus Cleanses the Temple* Matthew – 21:12-17
- **MOVEMENT THREE: Sonia's Reflection: Where else are we on this earth? Theological Resources** *Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet* – John 13:1-20
- **MOVEMENT FOUR: Sonia's Reflection: Move to a different level in this world. Norm Clarification** *The Last Supper* Mark – 14:22-25
- **MOVEMENT FIVE: Sonia's Reflection: How are we holding people accountable? Strategic Options** *Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane* Mark – 14:32-42
- **MOVEMENT SIX: Sonia's Reflection: We will not wallow! What does it mean to be human? Annunciation and Celebration** *The Arrest and Crucifixion of Jesus* – Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 15:21-32
- **MOVEMENT SEVEN: Sonia's Reflection: Where is the history we are making? What are you doing now? How are we living now? What are we moving to now? Reflection/Strategic Action** *The Death of Jesus* – Mark 15:33-41

Though angered by the
injustice of human acts
love always prevails
–For Me, Janet Lynn Taylor

Child at the cliff edge.

God will protect you.”

–Acoma Pueblo, Sue Chapman

The trees aren't leaving.

I am alive to live. Here

in this love alone.

–Untitled, Cassidy Hall

Monday Morning Silent Prayer Sits with Student Pastor Cassidy Hall

Join me, Student Pastor Cassidy Hall, on our church zoom account for 20-minute prayer sits at 10am Mondays in April. During this time, I will begin by reading a poem or blessing, and encourage each of us to take a word or phrase into our silent prayer. Then we will simply be together for time, without words. You are welcome to call-in, keep your camera on or off, come and go as you please, or whatever works for you!

Questions? Email me at studentpastor@fcindy.org

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.

Outreach & Service

Those of us present at our Zoom meeting last week with Senator Rodric Bray's staffer considered it a huge success, and we all felt so proud of our speaking participants. They all showed outstanding leadership at our first contact with a

immigration, and health care were all addressed in a knowledgeable, personal, cogent manner. Sadly, Senator Bray's representative was poorly prepared for our meeting, but another meeting directly with Senator Bray is now being planned. Contact Worth Hartman or David Clark if you'd like more information, and especially if you'd like to get involved and/or be present at our next meeting. You'll definitely find it a rewarding experience!

COMING UP

Please click [HERE](#) to view the April 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

Office Administrator: Shannon (shannon@fcindy.org)

Lead Councilor: Larry Eckel (lspeckel@comcast.net)

(Senior Councilors: Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel, Alice Rutherford)

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

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

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[aEFVUTo9](#)

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Weekly Calendar

Thursday, April 1	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, April 1	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Friday, April 2	12:00 p.m.	Good Friday: 7 Last Words (CTS FB Live)
Saturday, April 3	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC)
Sunday, April 4	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 4	11:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship with Communion (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, April 4	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Monday, April 5	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Sit w/ Student Pastor Cassidy Hall
Tuesday, April 6	7:00 p.m.	Vespers (outside & Zoom)
Wednesday, April 7	7:00 p.m.	Trustees (Zoom)
Thursday, April 8	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Saturday, April 10	1:00 p.m.	PCRC (Pastor Carol)
Sunday, April 11	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, April 11	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, April 11	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

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