

To UUs Throughout Indiana:

Drive-by Protests Planned at Prisons Across Indiana on May 16

COVID19 is ravaging marginalized communities—immigrants, homeless, poverty, people of color and the prison populations are among these. Last week alone, there were FOUR COVID-19 related deaths among a population of 1800 (Pendleton Correctional Facility) during 5 consecutive days. That is the equivalent to 14,400 people dying in NYC of COVID-19 in the same amount of time.

The Indiana Department of Corrections (IDOC) has been delayed by three weeks in locking down the prison and in implementing many precautions. Most sites are now finally taking temperatures regularly since last Saturday, but more disinfectants are needed to clean their cells on a daily basis. Another major concern is that prisons need to resume serving daily hot meals. As of now, the residents are only getting 3 meager sack lunches a day and some of the meat in them has been spoiled and caused sickness. Many of the residents have chosen to refuse this food, so in essence doing a hunger strike. Another issue has been delays in dispensing medications, even in the mental health units.

I am involved with IDOC Watch and other concerned persons from around the state, and we are planning a drive-by protest at several facilities (* see below) on Saturday, May 16th at 2:00 pm. (E.D.T.) We would love to have representatives from UU churches around the state attend. We will be using Twitter #betheirvoiceIN and we have a presence on Facebook: at IDOC WATCH. <https://m.facebook.com/IDOCWATCH/>

Please let me know if you are interested in becoming more involved. I will be at the protest at Pendleton with a battery-operated mic and PA system. I have talked with Bearshelle Edemé from FOX 59 news and they may be there and want to interview people. A strong showing from UUs across the state would be powerful.

Thank you for your assistance in sharing this. I can update you on staging areas as they are determined. Please contact me with questions or others who would like to be on the notification email list.

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*Indiana State PrisonMichigan City

*Pendleton Correctional.....Pendleton

*Westville Correctional.....Westville

*Indiana Youth Center.....Plainfield