



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)  
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

@FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Welcome home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQ community since 1994.** We welcome first time guests and include **all ages** in our worship service. We believe we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. We are a place to **belong**, a place to **heal** and a place to **love**. **At First Congregational we recognize God as a loving, creating, all-encompassing Spirit who is not limited by usual human boundaries. Therefore, we practice the use of inclusive, expansive, and non-gendered language when speaking of and to God.**

**Pastor Sarah's Office Hours**

**Monday:** Sabbath

**Tuesday:** 9am – 12pm

**Wednesday:** 9am – 12pm

**Thursday:** 9am – 12pm

**Friday:** working off site

**Shannon's Office Hours**

**Monday:** Sabbath

**Tuesday:** 9am – 12pm

**Wednesday:** 9am – 12pm

**Thursday:** 9am – 12pm

**Friday:** 9am – 12pm

**Pastoral Care:** Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

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**We celebrate our church staff:**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle

Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker

Choir Director, Julie Houston

Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall

Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford

Olivia Beeman, Nursery Attendant

**We celebrate our church leadership:**

Rich Gibson, Moderator

Lianna Campos, Vice Moderator

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk

Jim Lootens, Treasurer

George Meier, Financial Secretary

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey , Worship Leader

Jesse Wittman - String Bass

Mike Kessler – Percussion

Valerie Phelps - Vocalist

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***To the parents of our young children***

God put the wiggle in children, please don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. Preschool age and younger may use the nursery or children of all ages are invited toward the front using the Prayground if you like. Keep children engaged by quietly explaining the parts of the service, actions of the pastor, worship leaders, and musicians. Sing, pray, and speak the responses; children learn worship behavior by copying you. The way we adults welcome children in church directly affects how they respond to the Church and to one another. Let all ages know that they are at home in this house of worship. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

***To the members of our congregation***

The presence of children is a gift to our church and to our community. They remind us that we are to share and pass on our faith. It is a gift to have children among us. Please welcome our children and encourage their parents with a warm smile.

***Thank you.***

**DECEMBER 1, 2019**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**11 A.M.**

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.  
Asterisk (\*) indicates those who choose to may stand.*

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE                      Awake! Awake and Greet the New Morn                      Haugen, arr. Baker

INTROIT

WELCOME and OPENING PRAYER                      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*CALL to WORSHIP                      Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

Come, let us go up to the mountain of God  
**We want to learn God's ways and follow God's path**  
Come, let us be shaped by God's love  
**We want God's word of peace to guide our lives**  
Come, let us reject racism and war  
**We want to be God's people of peace**

OPENING HYMN #429                      God, Bless Our Homes (v1)                      *New Century Hymnal*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER  
**On this first Sunday of Advent we pray for peace, love and laughter to bless our homes.  
May we grow together in our understanding as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.  
Amen.**

\*HYMN #122                      Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (1-2)                      *New Century Hymnal*

\*THE PEACE

**WE PROCLAIM**

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM	Someday at Christmas	Miller, Wells arr. Baker
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*Someday at Christmas we'll be aligned, sharing a hope for all humankind.  
 One warm December our hearts will see a world where all are free.  
 Someday at Christmas there'll be no wars; when we have learned what Christmas is for.  
 When we have found what life's really worth, there'll be peace on earth.  
 Someday all our dreams will come to be; someday in a world where all are free.  
 Maybe not in time for you and me, but someday at Christmastime.  
 Someday at Christmas we'll see a land with no hungry children, no empty hand.  
 One happy morning people will share a world where people care.  
 Someday at Christmas there'll be no tears when ev'ryone's equal and no one has fears.  
 One shining moment, one prayer away from our world today.  
 Someday all our dreams will come to be; someday in a world where people are free.  
 Maybe not in time for you and me, but someday at Christmastime.  
 Someday at Christmas we will not fail. Hate will be gone and love will prevail.  
 Someday a new world that we can start with hope in ev'ry heart.  
 Someday all our dreams will come to be; someday in a world where people are free.  
 Maybe not in time for you and me, but someday at Christmastime.*

SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 2:1-5	Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey
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SERMON	"Be The Church: Reject Racism"	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
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HYMN #547	Amazing Grace (1-2)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
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**WE RESPOND**

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

*We invite those who desire to share a joy or concern. Please share your name so that people might get better acquainted. In the power and presence of God we share your joy/prayer.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

**Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Do not let us enter into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC	Love's In Need of Love Today	S. Wonder, arr. Baker
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## OFFERING of GIFTS and TITHES

### CALL TO OFFERING and SERVICE

*We invite those who desire to share a service opportunity to do so briefly if the announcement is not in the bulletin. Please see the "Calls to Serve" for volunteer opportunities.*

*Guests, please fill out a **Connect Card** found in the pew holders so that we might learn more about you. The cards may also be used to for prayer requests that will be shared through our weekly prayer chain. Please place Connect Cards in the offering plate.*

### \*DOXOLOGY and OFFERING PRAYER

All praise to God we now do sing.

Our gifts this Advent now we bring.

This waiting time of hope we share,

As for the Christ our hearts prepare.

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN #122      Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (3-4)      *New Century Hymnal*

### INVITATION and SHARING COMMUNION

*All are welcome to the table, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.*

*We celebrate with juice and two types of bread, including gluten free.*

### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## WE GO

\*CLOSING HYMN #547      Amazing Grace (3-5)      *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE

### POSTLUDE

*Please remain seated for the postlude or leave the sanctuary quietly. Everyone is invited for coffee, refreshments, and conversation in the church parlor.*

## THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday, December 1	12:30 p.m.	Just Peace Buzz Pitch-In w/ Grace Langford
Monday, December 2	9:30 a.m.	Church Women United
Tuesday, December 3	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Meeting
Wednesday, December 4	11:00 a.m.	Witness & Welcome Meeting
Wednesday, December 4	6:00 p.m.	Just Peace Presentation w/Grace Langford (repeat from 12/1)
Wednesday, December 4	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, December 5	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, December 5	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, December 5	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 7	10:30 a.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 8	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 8	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, December 8	12:15 p.m.	Outreach & Service

### CALLS to SERVE

*"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

**Nursery Care** - Life is thriving in our Prayground, and we are expanding our ministry offerings to our young ones by opening up the Nursery! We welcome our new nursery attendant, Olivia, who will be with us every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 to care for our children. We need volunteers to join her! If you are interested in being a volunteer in the nursery, please contact Lianna Campos at [lcamos33@gmail.com](mailto:lcamos33@gmail.com) or 317-954-1601.

**Just Peace Buzz with Pitch In Lunch, Sunday, December 1, 2019, 12:30 p.m.** - The Just Peace Church Team invites you to this important presentation and discussion. We will hear from our Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford, who has been with us for three months studying our just peace process. She has summarized the findings of eleven just peace surveys, interviewed current and past team members and others involved in our just peace efforts and observed how we are doing in our first year as an official Just Peace Church. Join us for this time of discernment and receiving parting gifts from our Just Peace intern, Grace. Also, join us for **Advent wreath making** during and after the Buzz (1 wreath per family).

## **Annual Stewardship Campaign – Devoted to Generosity**

Thank you to all who have already turned in a pledge card and/or Time & Talent card for 2020. The ministries of our church depend on our faithful gifts. If you have not turned one in, extra cards are available in the Narthex, or by contacting the church office; to help with our planning, please turn these in by December 1. Thank you for all of the generous ways that you give to the church and to the world!



**Check it out! - Church Women United on December 2, 9:30 -11:30 a.m.** - CWU (Church Women United) will be meeting at our church on Monday, Dec 2 from 9:30 - 11:30. At the meeting December 2, the focus is on Human Rights. All are welcome to attend - there will be light refreshments and a short service (with participation from our Carol Sowle), and we will be collecting articles and donations for the Julian Center – (suggested items include: towels, washcloths, adult blankets, fitted twin sheets, deodorant, lotion, bars of soap, baby care items and umbrellas).

**Advent Devotionals** – Advent devotionals are available in the narthex. Please take one as we reflect during the season of waiting.

**Adult Class, Sunday, December 8, 9:45 a.m.** – Join with us as we move through the Advent Season by exploring song and Scripture “Who May Abide the Day of His Coming?” from *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah* (Haggai 1:1-14 & 2:1-9; Malachi 1:6-14; 2:1-9 and 3:1-4; Ezra 1:2-4; 3:10-13; 6:3-5; Revelation 4:1-6).

**Choir Rehearsals** - Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at [juliehouston@comcast.net](mailto:juliehouston@comcast.net). We would love to have you join us!

**Green Team Tip** – When the dishwasher has finished running (before it goes to the dry cycle), open the door to let the hot humid air put warmth and humidity into the house. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

**December Mission of the Month: The Christmas Fund** – The Christmas Fund is one of the “5 for 5” offerings of the United Church of Christ that FC has committed to support. The Christmas Fund, formerly known as the “Veterans of the Cross Offering,” gives congregations and members an opportunity to reach out in loving compassion, providing assistance to those who have so faithfully served our churches and now find themselves facing unexpected financial

needs. These funds enable the Pension Board's Ministerial Assistance program to provide, on behalf of the whole Church, pension supplements, health premium supplements, emergency grants for health or unexpected travel expenses, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to individuals and families in need. This year's theme is "A Light Shines in the Darkness." Your gifts this December will bring light into the darkness of financial need of deserving retired church workers and keep needed funds coming in the year ahead. Watch for the weekly bulletin inserts during Advent for stories of how individuals and their families have been helped by the Christmas Fund.

### **Today's Scripture (Common English Bible)**

#### **Isaiah 2:1-5**

<sup>1</sup> This is what Isaiah, Amoz's son, saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. <sup>2</sup> In the days to come the mountain of God's house will be the highest of the mountains. It will be lifted above the hills; peoples will stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many nations will go and say, "Come, let's go up to our God's mountain, to the house of Jacob's God, so that we may learn the ways of God and we may walk in God's paths." Instruction will come from Zion; and God's word from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> God will judge between the nations, and settle disputes of mighty nations. Then they will beat their swords into iron plows and their spears into pruning tools. Nation will not take up sword against nation; they will no longer learn how to make war. <sup>5</sup> Come, house of Jacob, let's walk by the light of God.

#### **Save the following dates for upcoming Special Services:**

- **December 15<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am – Lessons and Carols**
- **December 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm – Blue Christmas Service**
- **December 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm – Christmas Eve**

