



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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: office closed
Wednesday: office closed
Thursday: vacation
Friday: vacation

Shannon’s Office Hours

Monday: Sabbath
Tuesday: office closed
Wednesday: office closed
Thursday: office closed
Friday: office closed

Pastoral Care: Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org. While Pastor Sarah is visiting family for the holidays from Dec 25 – Jan 3, Pastor Carol may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com.

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
Olivia Beeman, Nursery Attendant
Jess Tyler, 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:

Wendy Baldwin, Worship Leader
Jesse Wittman, string bass Mike Kessler, percussion
Steve Coomer, trumpet Gini Coomer, harpsichord

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.

Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.

Asterisk (*) indicates those who choose to may stand.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE	Latin Snowfall	Mancini, arr. Baker
INTROIT	O Come, Lord Jesus	D Buxtehude, Arr P. Liebergen
WELCOME and PRAYER		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CALL to WORSHIP (*please remain seated*) Wendy Baldwin

We gather for worship on this fourth Sunday of Advent

To dream God's dream together

Where the color of one's skin will mean less than what is within the person's heart

Holy Spirit help us dream

Where water is clean and where air is safe to breathe

Holy Spirit help us dream

Where every child born has enough to eat

Holy Spirit help us dream. The world will change when we dream God's dream.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT HYMN #429	God, Bless Our Homes (vs 4)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
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UNISON PRAYER

On this forth Sunday of Advent we pray for open hearts to love our neighbors.

May we be filled with the Spirit of shalom as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Amen.

*HYMN #123	Mary, Woman of the Promise verses 1-3	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
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*THE PEACE

WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Geistliche Kirchengesang

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.

Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.

It came, a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.

With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior When half spent was the night.

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 1:18-25

Wendy Baldwin

SERMON

“Dream God’s Dream”

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

HYMN #120

Dream God's Dream

Sing! Prayer & Praise

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. Loving God **hear our prayer.***

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE PRAYER OF JESUS

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.

INTERLUDE

Carol for Another Christmas

Mancini, arr. Baker

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

All praise to God we now do sing.
Our gifts this Advent now we bring.
This waiting time of love we share,
As for the Christ our hearts prepare.

WE GO

*CLOSING HYMN #123 Mary, Woman of the Promise verses 4-5 *New Century Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE Go Out In Song L. Larson

POSTLUDE O, Holy Night A. Adam

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



CALLS to SERVE

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

Nursery Care - Life is thriving in our Playground, and we are expanding our ministry offerings to our young ones by opening up the Nursery! We welcome our new nursery attendants, Olivia and Jess, who will be with us Sunday from 10:30-12:30 to care for our children. We need volunteers to join! If you are interested in being a volunteer in the nursery, please contact Lianna Campos at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 7:00 p.m. – Please join us as we welcome the light of the world.

No Adult Class on Sunday, December 29.

No Choir Rehearsal this Thursday, December 26.

Friday Night at the Movies – Note a change of date in December from the 3rd Friday to the 4th **Friday, 12/27, 6:30ish**. Join us this month on 12/27 to avoid the hectic Christmas shopping season. We'll meet at 6:30ish at Keystone Art Cinema in the Fashion Mall at Keystone, and decide which film(s) to see, get refreshments, and socialize. Then, after the movie, hang out at the Indie Lounge for more fellowship. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin

Annual Stewardship Campaign: Devoted to Generosity - Thank you to all who have 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 31. Thank you for all of the generous ways that you give to the church and to the world!

Thank You for Your Generosity! - Outreach & Service thanks everyone who contributed to the Giving Tree and the Mitten Tree. This week we were able to deliver \$640 in gift cards to Family Promise so that the After Care Families can buy gifts for their families. We also delivered three large trash bags full of hats, gloves, scarves, and socks to Exodus Refugee for their clients. Many of the lovely items were hand knit or crocheted. *You can also show your generosity by continuing to participate in the Reverse Advent Calendar and in providing gifts for the hygiene kits for the border.*

PCRC – Pastor Carol's PCRC will meet on **Sunday, January 5th at 12:30 p.m.**

Inclusive Language Buzz, January 12th, 12:30 p.m. - Worship and Faith is hosting a Buzz on the use of Inclusive Language in our worship services. We will have a panel discussion with members of our

congregation on January 12 after worship. You are invited to bring a dish and voice your experience of the recent changes we have made in our use of scripture, doxology, and prayer.

Green Team Tip – Though they take more time, think about simple homemade gifts that show love. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to 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.

In 2018, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled

- Small pension supplementation for 379 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,453,050)
- Health benefits supplementation for 174 retired clergy and lay employees (\$429,903)
- Emergency grants for 49 individuals and families (\$60,526)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 401 retired clergy and lay employees (\$214,100)

Pantry Items of the Month – Reverse Advent Calendar - Instead of you getting a treat each day during Advent, you will be adding a designated food item to bring to church. Items should be turned in weekly, and they will be delivered to the Northside Food Pantry weekly. Flyers with the list of items are on the narthex table.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Tuesday, December 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 25		Christmas Day
Sunday, December 29	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Pastor Carol Sowle preaching

Today's Scripture (NRSV)

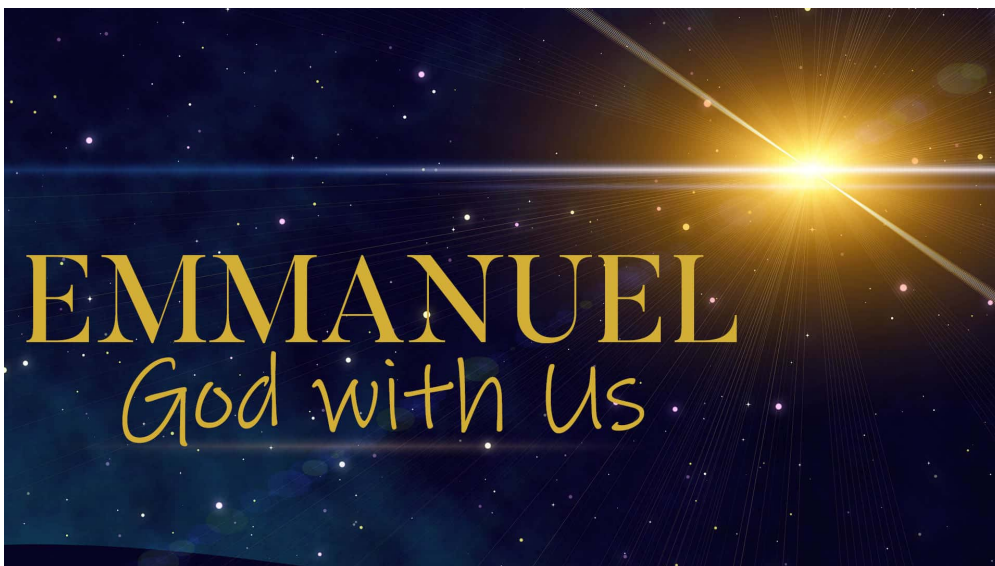
Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of God appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by God through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of God commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



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