



## 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

@FirstCongregationalUCCLndy

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Welcome to your spiritual home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ 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.**

**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

**We celebrate our church leadership:**

Alice Rutherford, Moderator  
Larry Eckel, Vice Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk  
Jim Lootens, Treasurer  
Cheryl Dillenback, Financial Secretary

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Alice Rutherford & Bob Cook, Worship Leaders  
Pastor Carol Sowle, preacher  
New Creation Ensemble  
Mayflower Quartette

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**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](http://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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

**JULY 12, 2020**

**11:00 A.M.**

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

## **WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Carol Sowle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol Sowle, Bob Cook, Alice Rutherford

Our God is an extravagant God!

**We are no longer strangers and aliens,**

but members of the household of God.

**We gather together in our frailty and our giftedness,**

and God joins us and sends out the invitation.

**All who say “yes”**

are invited to the Kingdom dance.

**Our God is a God of extravagant inclusion.**

OPENING HYMN

Your Word

\*THE PEACE

Pastor Carol Sowle

*Share with those around you a sign of Christ’s peace.*

## **WE PROCLAIM**

GENEROSITY MOMENT

Wendy Baldwin

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Pastor Carol Sowle

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 Bob Cook & Alice Rutherford

SERMON

“The Extravagant Sower”

Pastor Carol Sowle

## WE RESPOND

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

Pastor Carol Sowle

*We invite those who desire to share a joy or concern.*

PASTORAL PRAYER & PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

INTERLUDE

CALL TO OFFERING and SERVICE

Pastor Carol Sowle

*We invite those who desire to share a service opportunity to do so briefly.*

\*DOXOLOGY #778

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God for all that love has done:

Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

## WE GO

CLOSING HYMN

Your Word

\*BENEDICTION

Pastor Carol Sowle

POSTLUDE

*Following worship, everyone is invited for Coffee Hour via Zoom.*

## CALLS to SERVE

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

**TODAY! Coffee Hour, immediately after worship** - (See Zoom link below.)

**July Mission of the Month: Underneath It All** - This mission provides underwear and school uniforms for children in IHN/Family Promise Aftercare. The Aftercare Program of Family Promise helps homeless families who get housing remain housed. Our donations to Underneath It All help ease their school budgets each fall by providing a uniform for each school aged child in the Aftercare Program. Make checks out to First Congregational United Church of Christ with Underneath It All in the memo line or donate online at <http://fcindy.org/online-giving/> (Please designate "MOM: Underneath It All" in your online giving). Thanks so much for your generosity with this ministry in the past and in this unprecedented year. For questions or help with this ministry, please contact me [csj1wood@att.net](mailto:csj1wood@att.net) 317-863-8238 (home) or 317-225-6206 (cell).

**Soul Care with Pastor Sarah: Tuesdays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** - Join us for our weekly "Soul-Care with Pastor Sarah" a time for church members to check-in, reflect on Richard Rohr's weekly meditations, and to pray together. Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84830474505?pwd=Ny9oeE84a0lpcTUrWHU2dUhFVUZZQT09>

**Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health, Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** – The Spiritual Support Group is open to all with mental illness and those living with mental illness loved one. It is open to you, neighbors, friends & acquaintances. This group will meet every Thursday via Zoom:  
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBtk5pcHZlYlB0aEFVUT09>

**Food Drive for the Northside Pantry** - On **Saturday, 7/18, from 10 am – 2 pm**, let's help fight poverty and hunger through our food donations. We will meet on the outside church patio. Bring dry and canned goods, as well as personal care items (soap, deodorant, etc). You can also bring your plastic bottle caps and paper for recycling. In future communications, we will let you know of particularly desired items. Per new church policy on in-person gatherings, only 10 people may participate (physically distanced) at a time, so please contact Wendy Baldwin if you are interested in helping. Also, please note that face masks are now required in the city of Indianapolis.

**Publications** - Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website:  
[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)

**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/>

**FC Emergency Fund** - The FC Emergency Fund is available to support housing, food, and medical needs for any of our church family who find themselves unemployed or underemployed due to Covid-19 impacts. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012. To make a donation, send a check to the church with "emergency fund" on the memo or make a donation on the church website.

### This Week on Zoom at First Congregational

Sunday, July 12	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Tuesday, July 14	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Tuesday, July 14	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care with Pastor Sarah (see announcement <u>above</u> for zoom link)
Tuesday, July 14	7:00 p.m.	Vespers Worship (outside)
Thursday, July 16	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group for Mental Health
Friday, July 17	1:00 p.m.	Worship Design Team
Saturday, July 18	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (outside)
Sunday, July 19	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, July 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship (YouTube, FB, & Dial In)
Sunday, July 19	11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour (or immediately after worship)
Sunday, July 19	1:00 p.m.	PCRC (Pastor Carol)

### 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's Scripture

### Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

<sup>1</sup> Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. <sup>3</sup> He addressed them at length in parables: "One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. <sup>4</sup> Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. This seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. <sup>7</sup> Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. <sup>8</sup> And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!"

<sup>18</sup> "Now listen to the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. <sup>21</sup> But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. <sup>22</sup> Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. <sup>23</sup> But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown."

*Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation (p. 734). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.*



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