



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

@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.

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
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall

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:

Bob Cook (handbells/reader), Linda Lupton (ASL), Alice Rutherford (participant), David Besel & Morgan Dickason (readers), Carol Sowle (reader), Mayflower Quartette, Jesse Wittman (string bass), Mike Kessler (drums)

DECEMBER 13, 2020 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER

GATHERING MUSIC

HANDBELL INTROIT O Come, O Come Emmanuel

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLE LIGHTING

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

I Believe in God

Meagan Johnson
& Mayflower Quartette

OPENING SONG #104 We Hail You God's Anointed

NCH

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

WE PROCLAIM

MUSIC FOR ALL AGES

This Little Light of Mine

Linda Lupton
& Alice Rutherford

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 57:14-19

Luke 1:1-4, 26-56

David Besel
& Morgan Dickason
Reader's Theater

SERMON

Advent of Joy

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTERLUDE

Medley of Carols in VistaVision!

arr. Baker

WE RESPOND

TIME OF PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Stillness

Meagan Johnson

JOYS and CONCERNS

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

PASTORAL PRAYER and PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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.

WE GO

CLOSING HYMN #4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

NCH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

I Believe in God

Miller

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Baker

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 on Zoom

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 and to pray together. *Please note this is a different Zoom link from others used by FC:*

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84830474505?pwd=Ny9oeE84a0lpcTUrWHU2dUhFVUZZQT09>

Zoom Vespers Service - Tuesdays, 7:00-7:30 p.m. - With lessening daylight and colder weather, we are exploring ways to continue the fellowship we have shared the past few months. On Tuesdays, we will meet at 7 pm for a half hour on Zoom, to be together virtually.

Wellness Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. (Zoom) – On Wednesday, December 16th, join us as we *draw near* to God, as we nurture ways we can connect with one another, connect with God, and connect within ourselves in body, mind, and spirit. This Zoom will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

Spiritual Support Group – Thursdays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. via Zoom.

The Mission of the Month for December: The Christmas Fund - United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you! For more information, go to:

<https://www.pbucc.org/index.php/christmas-fund-home>. To contribute to

this effort, write a check to First Congregational, and designate Christmas Fund in the Memo line, or go to <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>.

Publications - Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website: 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 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.

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

Holiday Zoom Worship & Fellowship Schedule:

- **Dec 18, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. - IKC Blue Christmas Service** – Join us for an intergenerational service of prayer and lament. This service is co-sponsored by FC and is led by Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall. Register in advance for this meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsdU2hrDsiHtVmZwBkU-f4_DbtOITZsdFo After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.
- **Dec 24, 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship (FC Zoom)**
- **Dec 24, 8:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Zoom Fellowship**
- **Dec 25, 3:00 p.m. – Christmas Day Zoom Gathering**

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, Dec 13	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 13	11:00 a.m.	Third Sunday of Advent/Communion Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 13	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Dec 15	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care w/ Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, Dec 15	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Dec 16	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Wednesday, Dec 17	11:30 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, Dec 17	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Dec 17	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group
Friday, Dec 18	7:00 p.m.	IKC Blue Christmas Service
Saturday, Dec 19	11:00 a.m.	Neighborhood Walk (at FC)
Sunday, Dec 20	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 20	11:00 a.m.	Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 20	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Dec 20	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers

*All events are on Zoom unless indicated otherwise.

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

Isaiah 57:14-19

¹⁴ It is destined to be said, 'Rebuild! Rebuild! Open up the road! Remove the wreckage blocking the way of my people!' ¹⁵ For thus says the High and Exalted One, whose home is eternal, whose Name is holy: I dwell in a high and holy place with those who are humbled and broken in spirit, so I can revive the spirit of you who are dejected, revive the heart of you who are contrite. ¹⁶ I will not accuse you forever, nor will I always be angry—for then your spirit would grow faint before me, your breath which I created. ¹⁷ I was enraged by your sinful greed. I punished you and withdrew my favor, but you maintained your willful ways. ¹⁸ I know your ways—and I will heal you. I will lead you and comfort you, you and those among you who mourn, ¹⁹ bringing praise to your lips. I will bring peace, peace, to those far and near," says YHWH, "and I will heal them.

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 865-866). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

Luke 1:1-4, 26-56

MANY OTHERS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO compile a narrative of the events which have been fulfilled among us,² exactly as those happenings were passed on to us by the original eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word.³ I too have investigated everything carefully from the beginning and have decided to set it down in writing for you, noble Theophilus,⁴ so that you may see how reliable the instruction was that you received.

²⁷ to a young woman named Mary; she was engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David.²⁸ Upon arriving, the angel said to Mary, “Rejoice, highly favored one! God is with you! Blessed are you among women!”²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by these words and wondered what the angel’s greeting meant.³⁰ The angel went on to say to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. You have found favor with God.³¹ You’ll conceive and bear a son, and give him the name Jesus—‘Deliverance.’³² His dignity will be great, and he will be called the Only Begotten of God. God will give Jesus the judgment seat of David, his ancestor,³³ to rule over the house of Jacob forever, and his reign will never end.”³⁴ Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I have never been with a man?”³⁵ The angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you—hence the offspring to be born will be called the Holy One of God.³⁶ Know too that Elizabeth, your kinswoman, has conceived a child in her old age; she who was thought to be infertile is now in her sixth month.³⁷ Nothing is impossible with God.”³⁸ Mary said, “I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that, the angel left her.³⁹ Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah,⁴⁰ where she entered Zechariah’s house and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.⁴² In a loud voice she exclaimed, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!⁴³ But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me?⁴⁴ The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ Blessed is she who believed that what our God

said to her would be accomplished!”⁴⁶ Mary said: “My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior.⁴⁸ For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.⁴⁹ For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.⁵⁰ Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you.⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit;⁵² you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.⁵³ You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty.⁵⁴ You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy—⁵⁵ the promise you made to our ancestors—to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever.”⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then returned home.

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (p. 2308 - 2311). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.