



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: While Pastor Sarah is on vacation from 12/25 – 1/3, Pastor Carol Sowle may be reached at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com. After 1/3, 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:

The Southern New England Conference of the UCC

DECEMBER 27, 2020

11:00 A.M.

WE GATHER

MUSIC Hark the Herald Angels Sing Rev. Marilyn Kendrix,
Bridge Conference Minister

WELCOME & GREETING Rev. Don Remick, Bridge Conference Minister

MUSIC Joy to the World Benjamin Gline Allen, Trumpet

CALL TO WORSHIP/INVOCATION Rev. Marilyn Kendrix

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Karen Ziel, Minister of Faith Formation
and Leadership Yolanda Montano, Accounting Assistant

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE Psalm 148 Charlie Kuchenbrod,
Executive Associate Conference Minister
Venson Jordan, Iron's Homestead Caretaker

MUSIC Where Will You Be Rev. Chuck Ericson,
Interim Eastern Regional Minister (CT)

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:22-40 Emily McKenna, Hartford
Office Manager
Rev. Dr. David Cleaver-Bartholomew,
Transitional Associate Conference Minister
for Stewardship and Financial Development
Debby Kirk, Director of Youth and Young Adults

WONDERING QUESTIONS

Karen Ziel

A WORD FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Dr. Michael Ciba, Senior Regional Ministry

WE RESPOND

Praying the Nativity

Rev. Heather Ramsey-Mabrouk,
Together We Thrive Program Coordinator

WE GO

MUSIC

Hark the Herald Angels Sing Rev. Marilyn Kendrix

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

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 30th, Wellness Wednesday will include a prerecorded ritual of letting go and setting new intentions for the coming year. This Zoom will be recorded and posted on the FC Facebook page and website.

Spiritual Support Group – No Spiritual Support Group this Thursday due to the holiday. Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey will be available by phone or email for support.

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

This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, Dec 27	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 27	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 27	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Tuesday, Dec 29	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Dec 30	-----	Wellness Wednesday
Saturday, Jan 2	10:00 a.m.	Food Drive (at FC)
Sunday, Jan 3	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Jan 3	11:00 a.m.	Communion Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Jan 3	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour

***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 Scriptures

Psalm 148

¹ alleluia!

Praise YHWH from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!

² Praise God, all you angels;
praise God, all you hosts!

³ Praise God, sun and moon;
praise God, all you shining stars!

⁴ Praise God, you highest heavens;
and you waters above the heavens!

⁵ Let them praise the Name of YHWH,
by whose command they were created.

⁶ God established them forever and ever and gave a decree
which won't pass away.

⁷ Praise YHWH from the earth,
you sea creatures and ocean depths,

⁸ lightning and hail, snow and mist,
and storm winds that fulfill God's word,

⁹ mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and ah cedars,

¹⁰ wild animals and ah cattle,
small animals and flying birds,

¹¹ rulers of the earth, leaders of all nations,
all the judges in the world,

¹² young men and young women,
old people and children—

¹³ let them all praise the name of YHWH
whose name alone is exalted,

¹⁴ whose majesty transcends heaven and earth,
and who has raised up a Horn for God's people

to the praise of the faithful,
the children of Israel,
the people dear to God!
Alleluia!

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 1443-1444). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

Luke 2:22-40

²² When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. ²³ For it's written in the Law of our God, "Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God." ²⁴ They likewise came to offer in sacrifice "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons," in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God. ²⁵ Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. ²⁶ She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. ²⁷ Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, ²⁸ he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹ "Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; ³⁰ because my eyes have seen the salvation ³¹ which you have prepared for all the peoples to see— ³² a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel." ³³ As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, ³⁴ Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, ³⁵ so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well." ³⁶ There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and

praying. ³⁸ Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

Priests for Equality. *The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2314-2315). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

