



## 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.**

**\*\*\*Disclaimer:** Please be aware that today's worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera for your safety or other reasons, please speak with Pastor Sarah.

[PastorSarah@fcindy.org](mailto:PastorSarah@fcindy.org)

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

## **We celebrate our church staff:**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle

External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker

Media Technician, David Clark and Ben James

**We celebrate our church leadership:**

Senior Councilors: \*Alice Rutherford, Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel

Clerk: Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Dillenback

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Mayflower Quartette

Plymouth Players

Cristy James, Liturgist

**January 2, 2022**

**COMMUNION SUNDAY**

**11:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

INTROIT

Be Still and Know

Mayflower Quartette

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah  
Lund

OPENING SONG #547

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

*New Century  
Hymnal*

MOMENT OF PEACE

MEDITATION

Creator God, Creating Still

**WE PROCLAIM**

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

Cristy James

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

SERMON

In The Beginning

SPECIAL MUSIC

“New Day’s Lyric”

Amanda Gorman

**WE RESPOND**

COMMUNION SONG

As We Gather at Your Table

CELEBRATING COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

MEDITATION

Psalms 42:1

D. Wagner

PASTORAL PRAYER (from *Enfleshed*)

Mysterious One, throughout the ages you have been revealing yourself in new ways, drawing us more deeply into relationship with you. In Christ, you took on flesh that we might recognize your presence with us - weeping with us, eating with us, struggling and dreaming with us. Keep us open, O God, to the ways you continue to reveal your love in our midst today. Amen.

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

## WE GO

CLOSING SONG #165	Love Came Down at Christmas	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
BENEDICTION		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
BENEDICTION RESPONSE	Amen	Mayflower Quartette
POSTLUDE	Praise to Our God, the Almighty	

## CALLS to SERVE

*“Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8*

**TODAY! Adult Education at 10:00 a.m.** – On Sunday mornings, join us in the library (with masks) for a gathering time for faith formation.

**NO COFFEE HOUR** – There will be no coffee hour until Marion County is “Blue.”

**Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom)** – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pat Larracey at [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net), or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**Thank you to all who donated to the Hat & Mitten Tree and the Giving Tree!** All items and gift cards have been delivered, and every organization (Exodus, Damien Center, IYG, and Trinity Haven) was extremely grateful for our donations. We’ve helped many folks have a merrier Christmas and holiday season through our generosity.

In this time of Christian benevolence, we also want to remember our Kentucky neighbors who are suffering from the effects of the recent devastating tornadoes. Our Indiana-Kentucky Conference Disaster Preparedness and Response Ministry Team (DPRMT) is continuing to prepare for action in storm-damaged parts of our Conference. You can help by

donating through the IKC website, using the “Donate” button, then the PayPal button, and then typing “DPRMT” under “Add special instructions to the seller”. A check sent to the IKC office at 1100 West 42nd Street, Suite 155, Indianapolis, IN 46208, with a notation to DPRMT will also work. Workcamps in hard hit areas in 2022 are also seeking volunteers, so if you would like to participate in that way you can contact Greg Denk, Disaster Coordinator, at [ikc@ikcucc.org](mailto:ikc@ikcucc.org) Attn: Greg Denk. A background check for a minimal fee will be required to assist as a workcamp volunteer.

***REMINDER: CALLING ALL WRITERS, POETS, AND THINKERS!***

**The FC Indy Blog is here, “Pew Reflections”:** Please email your submissions to Cassidy ([cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org)) anytime to be shared on the blog on any topic. We are accepting prayers, meditations, poems, prose, short stories, and more! Questions about what the blog is or how it functions? Check out <http://fcindy.org/blog/newblog/> or email Cassidy.

**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 by mailing your check to the church or through online giving at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

**Members In Need Fund** - The Members In Need Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. All requests for financial support will be confidential and your privacy will be honored and respected. 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.

**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)

## How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

Please contact our office admin to join Zoom Gatherings: [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org)

### GIVING

*We seek to love and to share our joy.*

*We offer care, give thanks and praise, when Christ is present among us all.*

*We know the world's a mission field, needing forgiveness, justice and hope.*

**Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant. We have been an Open and Affirming Church since 1994.**

Our current outreach recipients: Indiana Youth Group, Damien Center, and Trinity Haven



### THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Sunday, January 2	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (In-person only–Library)
Sunday, January 2	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-person, YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, January 2	Reminder	No Coffee Hour
Tuesday, January 4	All Day	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Wednesday, January 5	7:00 p.m.	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, January 6	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, January 6	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)

# Today's Scripture

(The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition)

## John 1:1-18

IN THE BEGINNING

there was the Word;

the Word was in God's presence,

and the Word was God. The Word was present to God

from the beginning. Through the Word

all things came into being,

and apart from the Word

nothing came into being

that has come into being. In the Word was life,

and that life was humanity's light—a Light that shines in the darkness,

a Light that the darkness has never overtaken. Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who

came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. he

Word was coming into the world—was in the world—

and though the world

was made through the Word,

the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm,

the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word,

who believed in that Name,

were empowered to become children of God— children born not of natural descent,

nor urge of flesh

nor human will—

but born of God.

And the Word became flesh

and stayed for a little while among us;

we saw the Word's glory—

the favor and position a parent gives an only child—

filled with grace,

filled with truth. John testified by proclaiming, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'The one who

comes after me ranks ahead of me, for this One existed before I did.'" Of this One's fullness we've all had a

share—gift on top of gift. For while the Law was given through Moses,

the Gift—and the Truth—came through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God;

it is the Only Begotten,

ever at Abba's side,

who has revealed God to us.



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