



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: 9am – 12pm

Wednesday: 9am – 12pm

Thursday: 9am – 12pm

Friday: working off site

Shannon’s Office Hours

Monday: Sabbath

Tuesday: 9am – 12pm

Wednesday: 9am – 12pm

Thursday: 9am – 12pm

Friday: 9am – 12pm

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
Choir Director, Julie Houston
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall
Olivia Beeman, 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:

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey & Alice Rutherford, Worship Leaders
Bob Cook, Bell Choir Director
Mayflower Quartette: Alice Rutherford, Sean Baker, Julie Houston,
Jim Lootens
Jazz Trio: Sean Baker (piano), Fred Withrow (string bass),
Mike Kessler (percussion)

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 Playground 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.

DECEMBER 15, 2019

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: LESSONS & CAROLS

11A.M.

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

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

Headphones are available for those who may need assistance. Please see an usher.

JAZZ TRIO

Medley of Carols

arr. Baker

WELCOME & PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ADVENT HYMN #429

God Bless Our Homes (vs 3)

New Century Hymnal

UNISON PRAYER

On this third Sunday of Advent we pray for forgiveness for those hurt by racism, ableism, homophobia and sexism. May we heal from these wounds and be drawn together in God's grace as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen.

HYMN #144

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

New Century Hymnal

THE PEACE

SONG FOR ALL AGES

All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth

Gardner

HYMN #145

Once In Royal David's City (vs 1-3)

New Century Hymnal

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

BELL CHOIR

The Bells of Christmas

Balle, arr Moklebust

SECOND READING

“Two Christmas Cards”
written by Robinson Jeffers

Alice Rutherford

HYMN #123

Mary, Woman of the Promise (vs. 1-3)

New Century Hymnal

CHOIR

Venite Adoramus, Jesu Bambino

Ruth E Schram

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced.
And at his blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced.*

Venite adoremus, Dominum.

Adeste fideles, laeti triumphantes;

Venite, venite in Bethlehem.

Venite adoremus;

Let us adore him; Dominum.

THIRD READING

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

MAYFLOWER QUARTETTE

Some Children See Him

Hutson, Burt

Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.

Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown the Lord of heaven to earth come down.

Some children see him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond eyed, this savior whom we kneel beside.

Some children see Him almond eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's son to whom we pray.

Some children see Him dark as they, and ah, they love Him too!

*The children in each different place, will see the baby Jesus' face Like theirs but bright with
heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.*

O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering, Come worship now the infant King.

Tis love that's born tonight.

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 & LORD'S PRAYER

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.

JAZZ TRIO

Christmastime Is Here

Guaraldi

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.*

CHOIR

Gonna Sing About a Baby

G. Gilpin

Gonna sing about a baby, sing about a baby, Sing about a baby born in Bethlehem

Sing it high, sing it low.

Gonna sing about a baby born long ago.

There's a star in the sky.

Angels were a-singin' from the heavens on high.

All the people followed, followed that glorious light!

*DOXOLOGY

All praise to God we now do sing.

Our gifts this Advent now we bring.

This waiting time of joy we share,

As for the Christ our hearts prepare.

FOURTH READING

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
written by Christina Rossetti

Alice Rutherford

MAYFLOWER QUARTETTE

Riu, Riu Chiu

Trad Spanish Arr M. Burrows

Riu, riu chiu, la guarda ribera.

Dios guardo el lobo de nuestra cordera.

Shepherds in the fields were watching flocks by night,

When an angel chorus brought news of love and light.

Glory in the highest. What wondrous news they bring.

Let us lift our voices and with the angels sing.

FIFTH READING

John 1:1-14

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

HYMN #131

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

New Century Hymnal

SIXTH READING

“Little Tree”

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

written by E.E. Cummings

BELL CHOIR

On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Piae Cantiones, arr M.W. Joy

*HYMN #139

The First Nowell (vs 1-3)

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

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 attendant, Olivia, who will be with us every Sunday from 10:30-12:30 to care for our children. We need volunteers to join her! If you are interested in being a volunteer in the nursery, please contact Lianna Campos at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601.

Blue Christmas Service: Friday, December 20, 6:30 p.m. - Already feeling weary of the holiday season? You're not alone. Blue Christmas is back at FC Indy on Friday December 20th at 6:30pm until about 8:00pm. The night will be a quiet evening of poetry, prayer, remembrance, music, and connection. Come and just *be* with us, your presence is more than enough. Music will be provided by the band, Sister Sinjin and the evening will conclude with a provided soup and bread dinner.

Adult Class, Sunday, December 22, 9:45 a.m. – For December, the Adult Ed class will move through the Advent Season by taking up the first four sessions from *Hallelujah: The Bible and Handel's Messiah*, a curriculum from Kerygma. We will be listening to parts of *Handel's Messiah*, and engaging with the scriptural references. Dec 22 – (led by Pastor Carol) – **"Glory to God in the Highest"** (Luke 2:1-14; Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 11:28-29)

Choir Rehearsals - Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at juliehouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

Church Office Closed for the Holidays – The church office will be closed Dec 24 – Jan 1.

Announcement Deadlines – Please send all submissions for the January Colony newsletter, as well as any bulletin or epistle announcements through the remainder of December to Shannon at shannon@fcindy.org no later than **this Tuesday, December 17th**. Due to holiday office closing, late submissions may not be included in upcoming publications.

A Chance to Offer International Help – In preparation for the IKC Borderland Trip in January, Outreach and Service Board is making 25 hygiene kits for Good Shepherd UCC in Tucson, AZ to use in their work with migrant shelters there and in Mexico. The Board is providing most of the items for the kits, but has asked the congregation's help in obtaining hand towels and white

adult size tube socks. The tree in the Parlor which had gift cards for Family Promise will now contain ornaments specifying an amount of socks or towels to buy. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) on the ornament, and return the item(s) and ornament to the tree by Sunday Jan 5th. On Sunday January 5th we will assemble the kits after worship. If you have questions, please contact Sue Chapman, Cassidy Hall or Sandy Wood. Thanks for your efforts to help refugees!

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!

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 – Advent is here. How are you planning to celebrate Jesus' birthday with appropriate gifts to him, recognizing what he taught us about sharing? (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.

Save the Dates for the following upcoming Special Services:

- December 20th, 6:30 pm – **Blue Christmas Service**
- December 24th, 7:00 pm – **Christmas Eve**

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday, December 15	12:45 p.m.	PCRC (w/ Pastor Sarah)
Wednesday, December 18	6:00 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, December 19	1:00 p.m.	Men’s Lunch
Thursday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	Winter Solstice Celebration (at Unitarian Church)
Friday, December 20	6:30 p.m.	Blue Christmas Service
Sunday, December 22	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, December 22	11:00 a.m.	Worship – 4 th Sunday of Advent

Today's Scripture (Inclusive Bible)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

² The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light—upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining!

⁶ For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace.

⁷ This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end, with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever. The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!"

Luke 1:26-35, 38

²⁶ Six months later, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,

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.

³⁸ Mary said, "I am the servant of God. Let it be done to me as you say." With that, the angel left her.

John 1:1-14

IN THE BEGINNING there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. ² the Word was present to God from the beginning. ³ Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—⁵ a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

⁶ Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, ⁷ who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. ⁸ He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light—the true Light that illumines all humankind. ⁹ The

Word was coming into the world—¹⁰ was in the world—and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it.¹¹ Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it.¹² Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God—¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh, nor human will— but born of God.¹⁴ 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.



@fc_indy



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ADVENT III

The Rev. Dr. Dallas A. "Dee" Brauninger

2019 has been a difficult year for the Rev. Dr. Dallas A. "Dee" Brauninger. Her husband, Bob, died in February. "Bob and I married while we were both in seminary," says Dee. "We had 52 years of married and professional life together." Last summer, Dee was also diagnosed with cancer and was anticipating surgery in the fall.

In the early 70's, Dee served a small community church in Boulder, Colorado, for five years. During those years, Dee and Bob fostered three teenage girls, adopted their son as a newborn, and then had a daughter.

Given their growing family responsibilities, the Brauningers determined that they wanted to "parent half-time and pastor half-time" in rural parishes. In 1976, they moved to Nebraska where they found a church willing to accept this arrangement—a breakthrough for the time. "We broke ice all around," says Dee.

Then in the late 1980's, Dee began to experience loss of vision and soon required service dogs to help her navigate the world. She notes that, "although I could no longer see, couldn't read, couldn't drive, I had no trouble being accepted."

Midway through her time at Hemingford, symptoms of Dee's rheumatoid arthritis prevented her from preaching. Not inclined to stop communicating, she wrote daily meditations for *These Days* as well as "*Finding Voice*," the ucc.org series about the Antoinette Brown Award recipients. She also edited the newsletter and launched the website of the UCC's Disabilities Ministries, on whose Board she served for many years.

Looking back on her career in ministry, Dee recalls, "Bob and I chose to serve as co-pastors at small or rural churches throughout our long ministry in Nebraska. We were both able to extend our ministry to the broader church. Bob served on the World Board, making several trips to Ghana. We loved this ministry.

"Each year, we were amazed by the generous giving from our churches to the Christmas Fund. How unexpected that we would be recipients in 2018. Bob and I each received a \$500 gift before he died from Parkinson's with Lewy-body dementia. The gifts helped with living expenses and care of my service dog," says Dee.

Along with other recipients of much-needed financial assistance, Dee is grateful for the steadfast generosity of those who faithfully support the Christmas Fund each year with their gifts.