



## 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).

**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  
Just Peace Intern, Maddy Vaughn

**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), Linda Lupton (ASL), Aniseh & Jimmy Hodges (readers), Mayflower Quartette, Jesse Wittman (string bass), Sam Withrow (drums)

**NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**11:00 A.M.**

**WE GATHER**

GATHERING MUSIC

HANDBELL INTROIT      O Come, O Come Emmanuel

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER      Pastor Carol Sowle

CANDLE LIGHTING      Pastor Carol Sowle

I Believe in the Sun      Meagan Johnson  
& Mayflower Quartette

OPENING SONG #122      Come O Long Expected Jesus      New Century Hymnal

PASSING OF THE PEACE      Pastor Carol Sowle

**WE PROCLAIM**

MUSIC FOR ALL AGES      This Little Light of Mine      Linda Lupton  
& Alice Rutherford

SCRIPTURE      Isaiah 40: 1-11      Aniseh & Jimmy Hodges

ANTHEM      I Believe Even When      Mayflower Quartette

SCRIPTURE      Mark 1: 1-15      Jimmy & Aniseh Hodges

SERMON      Comfort and Joy      Pastor Carol Sowle

INTERLUDE

It's Christmastime

Baker, Oprisko

**WE RESPOND**

TIME OF PRAYER

Pastor Carol Sowle

SPECIAL MUSIC

In the Stillness

Meagan Johnson, solo

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 SONG

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

BENEDICTION

Pastor Carol Sowle

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

I Believe Even When

POSTLUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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**

**TODAY! Outdoor Vespers, 4:30-5:00pm** – Each Sunday afternoon, you can join us on the church patio for a quiet time to be together, ponder scripture, and share our joys and concerns. Bring a chair and face mask as we spend some precious time with one another, and practice our love by keeping distant and wearing face coverings. Note: *Outdoor vespers will not be held if the temperature is below 50, it is raining, OR the winds are above 20 mph.*

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>, join us as we  
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 November: Faith In Indiana**

Faith in Indiana helps churches to more actively address local social needs. In

Indianapolis, the current action agenda includes addressing the issues of gun violence, mass incarceration, immigrant justice, economic dignity, healthcare, and voting rights. Faith in Indiana provides an opportunity to work with other churches and have a greater voice and impact than if we acted alone. Faith in Indiana acts in the spirit of our Church's historical mission to join with others in faith to address the needs of others in our local community.

For more information, go to: <https://faithinindiana.org/what-we-do/>. To contribute to this effort, write a check to First Congregational, and designate Faith in IN 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](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.

**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)

### This Week at First Congregational

Sunday, Nov 29	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Nov 29	11:00 a.m.	1st Sunday of Advent Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In) w/ Pastor Carol preaching
Sunday, Nov 29	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Nov 29	4:30 p.m.	Outdoor Vespers
Tuesday, Dec 1	5:00 p.m.	Soul Care w/ Pastor Sarah
Tuesday, Dec 1	7:00 p.m.	Zoom Vespers
Wednesday, Dec 2	10:30 a.m.	Wellness Wednesday
Wednesday, Dec 2	5:00 p.m.	WISE MH Team
Wednesday, Dec 2	7:00 p.m.	Trustees
Thursday, Dec 3	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, Dec 3	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support
Sunday, Dec 6	9:30 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, Dec 6	11:00 a.m.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent/Communion Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, Dec 6	12:00 p.m.	Zoom Coffee Hour
Sunday, Dec 6	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 40: 1-11

"Console my people, give them comfort," says your God. "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem's heart, and tell it that its time of service is ended, that its iniquity is atoned for, that it has received from YHWH's hand double punishment for all its sins." A voice cries out, "Clear a path through the wilderness for YHWH! Make a straight road through the desert for our God! Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low; let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges become a valley! Then the Glory of YHWH will be revealed, and all humankind will see it." The mouth of YHWH has spoken! A voice commands, "Cry out!" and I answer, "What will I say?" — "All flesh is grass and its beauty is like the wildflowers: the grass withers and the flower wilts when the breath of YHWH blows on them. How the people are like grass! Grass withers, and flowers wilt, but the promise of our God will stand forever." Go up on a high mountain, you who bring good news to Zion! Shout with a loud voice, you who bring good news to Jerusalem! Shout without fear, and say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" YHWH, O Sovereign one, you come with power, and rule with a strong arm! You bring your reward with you, and your reparation comes before you. Like a shepherd you feed your flock, gathering the lambs and holding them close, and leading mother ewes with gentleness.



## Mark 1: 1-15

Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God: as it was written in Isaiah the prophet: "I send my messenger before you to prepare your way, a herald's voice in the desert, crying, 'Make ready the way of our God. Clear a straight path.'" And so John the Baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to John and were baptized by him in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. John was clothed in camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist, and he ate nothing but grasshoppers and wild honey. In the course of his preaching, John said, "One more powerful than I is to come after me. I am not fit to stoop and untie his sandal straps. I have baptized you in water, but the one to come will baptize you in the holy spirit." It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my beloved, my Own. On you my favor rests."

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



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