



## 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  
External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall  
Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker  
Just Peace Intern, Allison Welz  
Media Technician, David Clark

## **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

Aurelia Hoft-March

Allison Welz

Nathan Howard, Liturgist



**December 12, 2021**

**11:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

INTROIT

Water

Mayflower Quartette

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLE LIGHTING INTROIT

Mayflower Quartette

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Nathan Howard

OPENING SONG #104

We Hail You God's Anointed

*New Century  
Hymnal*

MOMENT OF PEACE

MEDITATION

All Earth Is Waiting

**WE PROCLAIM**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 3:7-18

Nathan Howard

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

SERMON

Be Encouraged: God of the Waters of the Earth is With Us  
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

ADVENT MONTAGE (Part 3)

SONG #121

All Earth is Waiting

*New Century Hymnal*

**WE RESPOND**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTERLUDE

Jesu, Joy of Our Desiring

PASTORAL PRAYER (from Enfleshed)

God, you are our light and our salvation. You bring clarity where evil seeks to confuse us. Often, we are coerced into believing we don't need each other.

Seduced by power and fear, we are willing to turn from the cries of our neighbors. We refuse to share what we have or challenge systems of inequity. But you, O God, draw us back. You unveil the lies that separate us and lead us in the ways of love. Come quickly, and turn our faces in the direction of our collective salvation. 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 #132

Joy to the World!

*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Rejoice!

Mayflower Quartette

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World!

Arr. Baker

### 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 for a gathering time for faith formation.

**No Coffee Hour**– As a reminder there is no coffee hour until the county turns 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.

**The Hat & Mitten Tree and Giving Tree Are Here!**

If you have already tried to deliver donations to the Hat & Mitten Tree and/or the Giving Tree, please pardon our tardiness in having them erected and ready to receive contributions. With the uncertainty about returning to in-person activities we've waffled on whether or not to use the actual trees. **I'm happy to say that the trees should be ready for "decorating" this Sunday, barring any further unforeseen circumstances. Bring on the hats, mittens, scarves, gloves, and gift cards! Also, please remember contributions to the Christmas Fund either online or with a check at the church.**

***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, December 12	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (In-person only–Library)
Sunday, December 12	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-person, YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, December 12	Reminder	No Coffee Hour
Tuesday, December 14	1:45 p.m.	Circle Book Meeting
Wednesday, December 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Thursday, December 16	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, December 16	3:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, December 16	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, December 17	Anytime	Colony Submissions Due for January
Sunday, December 19	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (In-person only–Library)
Sunday, December 19	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-person, YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, December 19	Reminder	No Coffee Hour
Sunday, December 19	12:45 p.m.	Pastor Sarah's PCRC Team meets

## Today's Scripture

(The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward.)

### Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "You pack of snakes! Who warned you to escape the wrath to come? Produce good fruit as a sign of your repentance. And don't presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Sarah and Abraham as our mother and father,' for I tell you that God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones. The ax is already laid at the root of the tree; every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and tossed into the fire."

When the people asked him, "What should we do?" John replied, "Let the one with two coats share with the one who has none. Let those who have food do the same."

Tax collectors also came to be baptized, and they said to John, "Teacher, what are we to do?" John answered them, "Exact nothing over and above your fixed amount."

Soldiers likewise asked, "What about us?" John told them, "Don't bully anyone. Don't accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay."

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This one will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire." Using exhortations like this, John proclaimed the Good News to the people.



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