



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: 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
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

Ann Leatherman, Liturgist



December 19, 2021

11:00 A.M.

PRELUDE

Medley of Carols

arr. Baker

INTROIT

Water

Mayflower Quartette

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CANDLE LIGHTING INTROIT

Mayflower Quartette

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Ann Leatherman

OPENING SONG #116

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(vs. 1, 6, 7)

*New Century
Hymnal*

MOMENT OF PEACE

MEDITATION

All Earth Is Waiting

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:39-55

Ann Leatherman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Quartette

SERMON

Be Encouraged: God of the Womb of Life is With Us
Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

ADVENT MONTAGE (Part 4)

WE RESPOND

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

INTERLUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter

PASTORAL PRAYER (from Enfleshed)

God who takes on flesh, you are not confined by the rigid and narrow. Your love is expansive and flexible. Your compassion is deep. Your Wisdom is ancient and always being reborn. May we be open to you in all your manifestations, familiar and new, that we might not miss the miracle of your dwelling with us. 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 #119 My Soul Gives Glory to My God *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Rejoice!

Mayflower Quartette

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

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, or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at 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. **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.**

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 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 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.

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

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings

Please contact our office admin to join Zoom Gatherings: 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 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
Tuesday, December 21	10:00 a.m.	Care and Connections Meeting
Thursday, December 23	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, December 24	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Worship Service (In-person and Online)! 🎄
Sunday, December 26	10:00 a.m.	Adult Education (In-person only–Library)
Sunday, December 26	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-person, YouTube, FB) (Dial-in only at 2pm)
Sunday, December 26	Reminder	No Coffee Hour

Today's Scripture

(The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward.)

Luke 1:39-55

Within a few days Mary set out and hurried to the hill country to a town of Judah, where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored, that the mother of the Messiah should come to me? The moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who believed that what our God said to her would be accomplished!"

Mary said:

"My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Savior. For you have looked with favor upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.

For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.

You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy—the promise you made to our ancestors—to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."



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