



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 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 hybrid worship service. We invite guests to fill out a visitor card found in the pew holder. Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together 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:** 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

Comeback Team: Messages from Church Council Regarding

Covid: CAUTION: Marion County COVID-19 rates are increasing. **Masking encouraged.** (Church Council, 5/11/22). First Congregational urges vaccinations, encourages masking for those unvaccinated or those at risk, and staying home if feeling unwell. (Based on CDC guidelines and approved by Church Council, April 13, 2022)

Pastoral Care: 9/11-9/15 Pastor Carol Sowle. Her email is casowle@gmail.com and her cell phone is (317) 496-9732.

We celebrate our church staff:

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her)

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle (she/her)

External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall (she/her)

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker (he/him)

Media Technician, Ben James (he/him)

Just Peace Intern, Delaney Beh (they/them)

We celebrate our church leadership:

Senior Councilors: *Judy Fletcher, Steve Coomer, and Larry Eckel

Clerk: Janet Selby

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Sue Chapman

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Singers

Liturgist, Faye Pudlo

Pastor Carol Sowle

September 11, 2022

11:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Morningstar

Gast, arr. Baker

INTROIT

God's Grace

WELCOME

Pastor Carol Sowle

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come! Come, all you who are seeking God.

Come! Enter into this place of safety,
And discover that God is seeking us!

People: We rejoice to have God find us here.

We rejoice to be in God's presence!

Leader: Come! Come in and experience God's joy when we turn towards
God's call.

ALL: Here in this sanctuary we worship together, and meet God!

SONG #187 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Luke 15:1-10

Faye Pudlo

RESPONSE #763



This is what the Spi-rit is sa-ying to the church-es: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Finding the Lost; Feeling the Joy!

Pastor Carol Sowle

SONG #547 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound *New Century Hymnal*

CLOSING SONG #188

Say It! Sing It!

Sing! Prayer and Praise

WE GO

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE

God's Grace

POSTLUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

CALLS to SERVE

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom) – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being.

Church Picnic, Sunday, September 18, after church! Join us for fun, food, and fellowship as we gather outside (Mayflower Room if bad weather) to share a meal and outdoor games – corn hole anyone? Please bring a food item for our pitch-in lunch – there is a signup sheet in the Narthex to get an idea of how many to plan for, or email Wendy Baldwin. Hope you can stay after church for this time of community and sharing!

Providing Care and Connection with our Church Family – Cards in the Narthex

If you are worshipping in person, please look for cards to sign in the Narthex. These will be a variety of birthday wishes, get well, or thinking-of-you cards, which we will then send to folks. This is a way to show our love and support for those in our church family. Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin

Playground Playdates are back! Join us for age-appropriate stories, songs, and snacks! Sundays following worship, 12:15-12:45, Beginning today, September 11th!

The Library Team Invites you to an Open House! Join us on Sunday September 25th after worship in the Adult Library on the second floor at the south end of the building. Refreshments will be provided. We are excited to introduce you to the many new books we have, including over 20 new mental health books donated by the WISE Mental Health Team. Sunday September 25th after worship.

Publications: Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website FCIndy.org

How to Access our Zoom Gatherings Please contact our office admin to join Zoom Gatherings:
cassidy@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/> **Note:** Cash donations of \$1.00 or less are counted as donations to the current Covenant Outreach. Cash of \$5.00 or more should be put in pew envelopes with a designation of Pledge/Contribution, Covenant Outreach, or the specific charity. Unless designated, cash over \$5.00 will go to the church budget.

1857 Society Annual Luncheon The 1857 Society of the First Congregational Church is holding its annual luncheon for members and prospective members on Friday, September 16th at Noon at the church. There will be a catered lunch. Please RSVP with a number attending to Randy Walker, Chair of the First Congregational Church Foundation; either call 317-796-2081 or email aa28977rwalker@gmail.com.

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. This new, shorter phone number will make it easier for people to remember and access mental health crisis services. (Please note, the previous 1-800-273-TALK (8255) number will continue to function indefinitely.) Click below to learn more about 988.

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

A Note on our Current Covenant Outreach Giving

Our Current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant (September – December) Our current outreach recipients are Indiana Youth Group, Trinity Haven, and the Damien Center.



THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Sunday, September 11	10:00 AM	Adult Ed is Back (In-Person Only)
Sunday, September 11	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, September 11	12:15-12:45	Playground Playdate
Tuesday, September 13	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, September 13	4:30 PM	WISE Team Meeting
Wednesday, September 14	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, September 15	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday September 15	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)

Today's Scripture

Luke 15:1-10

Meanwhile, the tax collectors and the “sinners” were all gathering around Jesus to listen to his teaching, at which the Pharisees and the religious scholars [grumbled], “This person welcomes sinners and eats with them!” Jesus then addressed this parable to them: “Who among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, doesn’t leave the ninety-nine in the open pasture and search for the lost one until it’s found? And finding it, you put the sheep on your shoulders in jubilation. Once home, you invite friends and neighbors in and say to them, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found my lost sheep!’ I tell you, in the same way there will be more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous people who have no need to repent. “What householder, who has ten silver pieces and loses one, doesn’t light a lamp and sweep the house in a diligent search until she finds what she had lost? And when it is found, the householder calls in her friends and neighbors and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I’ve found the silver piece I lost!’ I tell you, there will be the same kind of joy before the angels of God over one repentant sinner.”

**A Word of God that is still speaking,
Thanks be to God.**

Note: The Inclusive Bible uses the word “murmured” but other versions use “grumbled”
Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



@fc_indy



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG