



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 our leadership.

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: 9/25-9/30 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

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Just Peace Intern, Delaney Beh

Liturgist, Lauren Ladd

Pastor Carol Sowle

September 25, 2022

11:00 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Be Still, My Soul

INTROIT

On Eagle's Wings

Joncas

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Carol Sowle

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, we worship you!

All: We remember the good things you have done for us.

One: O God, we trust in you!

All: You shelter us in troubled times and calm our fears!

One: O God, we seek to follow you!

All: You hear us when we call; you answer with your steadfast love.

All together: Come, let us worship God, who is our strength and shield.

SONG #8

Praise to the Living God

New Century Hymnal

THE PEACE

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.


WE PROCLAIM

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 91

Lauren Ladd

RESPONSE #763



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

SERMON

God Is...

Pastor Carol Sowle

SONG #488

Be Still, My Soul

New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

OFFERING

MEDITATION

God of our Days

Strachan

DOXOLOGY

We give to you what is your own,
Whatever here those gifts may be.
All that we have is yours alone.
We give it back most gratefully.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

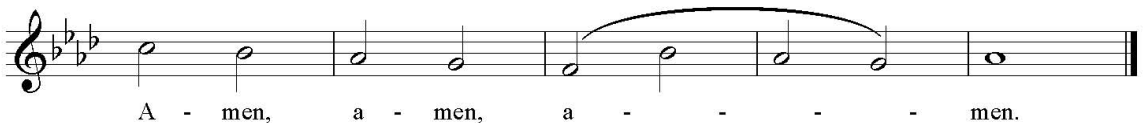
PRAYER (adapted from enflashed)

Beloved One, you invite all of who we are into your care. In our fullness, our complexity, even in our messiest state, you declare us your delight. May we learn to trust in this love, faithful and everlasting. 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.

RESPONSE #812



CLOSING SONG #149

God of Our Days

Sing! Prayer and Praise

WE GO

BENEDICTION

Pastor Carol Sowle

RESPONSE

On Eagle's Wings

Joncas

POSTLUDE

Petite Toccata

Kimball

CALLS to SERVE

“Here am I; send me!” Isaiah 6:8

TODAY: 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. We have reference books, books about faith and religion, books about justice issues, biographies and some non religious fiction books. It is easy to take books out- just fill out the card with your name and date then leave it in the green metal box. There's no time limit for keeping the books, though we'd like to get them back eventually. Also, there's no late fees. What a deal! Hope to see you in the library on **Sunday September 25th after the worship service.**

Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom) – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

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, October 2, November 16, December 14. First Congregational Church, 7171 N. Pennsylvania St., Outdoor Playground or Family Room (depending on weather)

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.

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 25 | 10:00 AM | Adult Ed is Back (In-Person Only) |
| Sunday, September 25 | 11:00 AM | Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) |
| Tuesday, September 27 | 1:00 PM | Staff Meeting (Zoom) |
| Thursday, September 29 | 1:00 PM | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday September 29 | 5:00 PM | Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) |

Today's Scripture

Psalm 91

¹ You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High and pass the night in the shadow of Shaddai,

² say: "YHWH, my refuge and my mountain fortress, my God in whom I trust!"

³ For YHWH says: "I will rescue you from the snare, and shield you from [the deadly pestilence.]

⁴ I will cover you with my pinions; under my wings you will take refuge; my faithfulness will shield you.

⁵ You have no need to fear the [terrors] of the night or the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ the plague that lurks in the shadows or the [destruction that wastes at noonday]

¹⁴ Because you love me, I will deliver you; I will rescue you because you acknowledge my Name.

¹⁵ You will call upon me, and I will answer you; I will be with you in trouble; I will deliver you and honor you.

¹⁶ I will satisfy you with a long life and show you my salvation."

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

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible (p. 1372). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition. (With some adaptations from the NRSV Bible).