



# 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

@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.

**A Message from our Church Council regarding COVID:** While we navigate the continuing pandemic, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

**–Church Council resolution of November 16th, 2022**

**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 (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: \*Steve Coomer, Judy Fletcher, and Larry Eckel

Clerk: Janet Selby

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Sue Chapman

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Mayflower Singers

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Readers, Jeanette Coomer and Delaney Beh

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund



*reflecting the sacred*

Advent/Christmas 2022

December 11, 2022

11:00 A.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Burgundian Carol

Brand

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We pray for Joy this day.  
**We pray for Joy this day.**

We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.  
**We open to see the Sacred reflected in all things.**

We open to see each place  
**We open to see each place**

as a gift of holy presence.  
**as a gift of holy presence.**

This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,  
**This is the gift of the Christ Mystery,**

lighting the way to joy.  
**lighting the way to joy.**

HYMN OF JOY #107

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

*New Century Hymnal*

## REFRACTING THE SACRED

TIME FOR CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING                      Isaiah 35: 1-10                      Jeanette Coomer

MUSICAL REFLECTION              O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SECOND READING                      Luke 1: 46b-55                      Delaney Beh

SERMON                                  Sacred Space                      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

### REFILLING THE SACRED

ADVENT INTERLUDE              O Little Town of Bethlehem                      arr. Baker

JOYS AND CONCERNS

ADVENT PRAYER

**Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise.**

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.**

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING

MEDITATION      While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks      Handel, Tate

DOXOLOGY

**All praise to God we now do sing.  
Our gifts this Advent now we bring.  
This waiting time of joy we share,  
As for the Christ our hearts prepare.**

### REFRAMING THE SACRED

ANOINTED TO SACRED SPACE

CLOSING SONG #106      My Heart Sings Out with Joyful Praise  
*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE      Joy to the World      arr. Baker

### 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. Contact Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**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](mailto: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](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)

### 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, December 11	10:00 AM	Adult Ed (In-Person Only)
Sunday, December 11	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Tuesday, December 13	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, December 15	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)



**YOU  
ARE  
INVITED**

*Christmas  
with FC Indy*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24  
AT 7:00PM IN PERSON**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25  
AT 11:00 AM  
ONLINE ONLY,  
NO IN-PERSON SERVICE**



**Today's Scripture**

### **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

Let the desert and the wilderness exult! Let the Arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus! Let it blossom profusely,  
let it rejoice and sing for joy!  
The glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of YHWH,  
the splendor of our God. Strengthen all weary hands,  
steady all trembling knees. Say to all those of faint heart:  
“Take courage! Do not be afraid!  
Look, YHWH is coming, vindication is coming,  
the recompense of God—  
God is coming to save you!” Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
the ears of the deaf will be unsealed. Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer  
and the tongues of those who cannot speak  
will sing for joy. Waters will break forth in the wilderness,  
and there will be streams in the desert. The scorched earth will become a lake;  
the parched land, springs of water. The lairs where jackals used to dwell  
will become thickets of reed and papyrus. And through it will run a highway,  
a road called the Sacred Path.  
The unclean may not travel by it,  
but it will be for God’s people alone;  
and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray. No lions will be there,  
nor will any fierce beast roam about it,  
but the redeemed will walk there—for those whom YHWH has ransomed will return. They will enter  
Zion shouting for joy,  
with everlasting joy on their faces;  
joy and gladness will go with them,  
and sorrow and lament will flee away.

### **Luke 1: 46b-55**

“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.”

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

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



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