



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

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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.

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)

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

Handbell Choir

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Readers, Linda Lupton and Marion Harcourt

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund



reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

December 18, 2022

11:00 A.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Overture of Carols

arr. Baker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We pray for Peace this day.
We pray for Peace 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 our deepest selves
We open to see our deepest selves

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 peace.
lighting the way to peace.

HYMN OF PEACE #101

Comfort, Comfort O My People

*New Century
Hymnal*

REFRACTING THE SACRED

TIME FOR CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING Isaiah 7: 10-16 Linda Lupton

MUSICAL REFLECTION O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SECOND READING Matthew 1: 18-25 Marion Harcourt

SPECIAL MUSIC We Now of Christmas arr. Tucker
Ding Dong! Merrily on High

JOYS AND CONCERNS

REFILLING THE SACRED

ADVENT INTERLUDE Ukrainian Bell Carol arr. Thompson

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.

MEDITATION

Coventry Carol

INVITATION TO OFFERING

OFFERING

DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

DOXOLOGY

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

REFRAMING THE SACRED

ANNOINTED TO SACRED KNOWING

CLOSING CHOIR ANTHEM

Let There Be Peace on Earth

arr. Baker

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High

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, or 386-478-9012.

Publications: Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website [FCIndy.org](http://www.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, December 18	10:00 AM	Adult Ed (In-Person Only)
Sunday, December 18	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Tuesday, December 20	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, December 20	4:30 PM	WISE Team Meeting
Thursday, December 22	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, December 22	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 7: 10-16

Once more YHWH spoke to Ahaz and said, “Ask for a sign from YHWH your God; let it be deep as the netherworld, or high as the sky!” But Ahaz answered, “I will not ask! I will not put YHWH to a test!” Then Isaiah said, “Listen, O House of David! Is it not enough for you to weary those around you, must you also weary my God? Therefore, the Holy One will give you a sign: This young woman will become pregnant and will give birth. You will name the child Immanu-El. This child will be living on curds and honey by the time it knows how to refuse evil and do good. But before that time—before the child knows how to refuse evil and do good—the land of the two rulers you dread will be laid waste.

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus came about. When Jesus' mother, Mary, was engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, an upright person unwilling to disgrace her, decided to divorce her quietly. This was Joseph's intention when suddenly the angel of God appeared in a dream and said, “Joseph, heir to the House of David, don't be afraid to wed Mary; it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived this child. She is to have a son, and you are to name him Jesus—‘Salvation’—because he will save the people from their sins.” All this happened to fulfill what God has said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and give birth, and the child will be named Immanuel” —a name that means “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of God had directed, and they went ahead with the marriage. He did not have intercourse with her until she had given birth; she had a son, and they named him Jesus.

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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