



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

Volunteer Building Manager: Wendy Baldwin

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Singers

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Readers, Ann Leatherman, Sean Baker, Scott Semester, Steve Leatherman

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund



reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

December 24, 2022

7:00 P.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Gesù Bambino

Yon, Martens, arr. Baker

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We pray for Hope this night.
We pray for Hope this night.

We pray for Love this night.
We pray for Love this night.

We pray for Joy this night.
We pray for Joy this night.

We pray for Peace this night.
We pray for Peace this night.

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.

OPENING HYMN #132

Joy to the World

*New Century
Hymnal*

REFRACTING THE SACRED

TIME FOR CHILDREN

THE STORY REFLECTED

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

HYMN #133 (vs.1)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

FIRST READING

Luke 2: 1-7

Ann Leatherman

HYMN #124 (vs.1)

Away in a Manger

SECOND READING

Luke 2: 8-9

Sean Baker

HYMN #139 (vs.1,2)

The First Noël

THIRD READING READING

Luke 2: 10-14

Scott Semester

HYMN #125 (vs.1,2,3)

Angels We Have Heard on High

FOURTH READING

Luke 2: 15

Scott Semester

HYMN #135 (vs.1,3,4)

O Come, All You Faithful

FIFTH READING

Luke 2: 16-20

Steve Leatherman

HYMN #148

What Child Is This

SERMON

Sacred Being

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

REFILLING THE SACRED

ADVENT INTERLUDE

What Child Is This

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

DOXOLOGY

**The Christmas Child has now come near.
We share our gifts with peace-filled cheer.
This Christmastide brings newfound love
that comes to us from God above.**

REFRAMING THE SACRED

ANNOINTED TO SACRED BEING

CLOSING HYMN #134

Silent Night

New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

O Holy Night

A. Adam

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.

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.



REMINDER:

Sunday, December 25

11:00 AM

ONLINE ONLY SERVICE

Today's Scripture

Luke 2:1-20 (The Voice Translation)

1 Around the time of Elizabeth's amazing pregnancy and John's birth, the emperor in Rome, Caesar Augustus, required everyone in the Roman Empire to participate in a massive census— **2** the first census since Quirinius had become governor of Syria. **3** Each person had to go to his or her ancestral city to be counted. **4-5** Mary's fiancé Joseph, from Nazareth in Galilee, had to participate in the census in the same way everyone else did. Because he was a descendant of King David, his ancestral city was Bethlehem, David's birthplace. Mary, who was now late in her pregnancy that the messenger Gabriel had predicted, **6** accompanied Joseph. While in Bethlehem, she went into labor **7** and gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped the baby in a blanket and laid Him in a feeding trough because the inn had no room for them.

8 Nearby, in the fields outside of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds were guarding their flocks from predators in the darkness of night. **9** Suddenly a messenger of God stood in front of them, and the darkness was replaced by a glorious light—the shining light of God's glory. They were terrified!

10 Don't be afraid! Listen! I bring good news, news of great joy, news that will affect all people everywhere. **11** Today, in the city of David, a Liberator has been born for you! He is the promised Anointed One, the Supreme Authority! **12** You will know you have found Him when you see a baby, wrapped in a blanket, lying in a feeding trough. **13** At that moment, the first heavenly messenger was joined by thousands of other messengers—a vast heavenly choir. They praised God. **14** To the highest heights of the universe, glory to God! And on earth, peace among all people who bring pleasure to God!

15 As soon as the heavenly messengers disappeared into heaven, the shepherds were buzzing with conversation. Let's rush down to Bethlehem right now! Let's see what's happening! Let's experience what God has told us about!

16 So they ran into town, and eventually they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the feeding trough. After they saw the baby, **17** they spread the story of what they had experienced and what had been said to them about this child. **18** Everyone who heard their story couldn't stop thinking about its meaning. **19** Mary, too, pondered all of these events, treasuring each memory in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned to their flocks, praising God for all they had seen and heard, and they glorified God for the way the experience had unfolded just as the heavenly messenger had predicted.



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