



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)

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

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Readers, Rev. Lance Mullins and Delaney Beh

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

Rev. Dr. David M. Mellott



December 4, 2022

11:00 A.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

We pray for Love this day.
We pray for Love 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 person
We open to see each person

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 love.
lighting the way to love.

HYMN OF LOVE #110

Now Bless the God of Israel

*New Century
Hymnal*

REFRACTING THE SACRED

TIME FOR CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Romans 15: 4-13

Rev. Lance Mullins

MUSICAL REFLECTION

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

SECOND READING

Matthew 3: 1-12

Delaney Beh

SERMON

The Season of Desire

Rev. Dr. David M. Mellott

REFILLING THE SACRED

ADVENT INTERLUDE

It's Christmastime

Baker, Oprisko

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

DOXOLOGY

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

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

REFRAMING THE SACRED

ANNOINTED TO SACRED TIME

CLOSING SONG #115 Baptist Shouts on Jordan's Shore *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

Our Christ Is Coming

T. Kendall

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

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:

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|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Sunday, December 4 | 10:00 AM | Adult Ed (In-Person Only) |
| Sunday, December 4 | 11:00 AM | Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) |
| Sunday, December 4 | 12:15-12:45 PM | Playground Playdate |
| Sunday, December 4 | 1:00 PM | Pitch-In and Buzz with Just Peace Intern Delaney Beh |
| Tuesday, December 6 | 1:00 PM | Staff Meeting (Zoom) |

Today's Scripture

Romans 15:4-13

Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the scriptures. May God, the source of all strength and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and one voice, you may praise the God of our Savior Jesus Christ. Accept one another as Christ accepted us, for the glory of God. Christ became a servant of the chosen people to live out the truth of God's promise to them, and at the same time to give the Gentiles cause to glorify God for showing mercy. As scripture has it, "Therefore I will praise you among the nations and I will sing to Your Name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, all you nations, with God's people." And again: "Praise our God, all you nations, and let all the peoples praise the Most High." And Isaiah too says, "The root of Jesse is coming and will arise to rule over the nations, and they will place their trust in the Coming One." May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith, that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, "Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!" It was John that the prophet Isaiah described when he said, "A herald's voice cries in the desert: 'Prepare the way of our God, make straight the paths of God!'" John was clothed in a garment of camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist. Grasshoppers and wild honey were his food. At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. John baptized them in the Jordan River as they confessed their sins. When he saw that many of the Pharisees and Sadducees were coming to be baptized, John said to them, "You pack of snakes! Who told you to flee from the coming wrath? Give some evidence that you mean to reform! And don't pride yourselves on the claim, 'Sarah and Abraham are our parents.' I tell you, God can raise children for Sarah and Abraham from these very stones! "Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree. Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I will baptize you in water if you have a change of heart, but the One who will follow me is more powerful than I. I'm not fit even to untie the sandals of the Coming One! That One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire, whose winnowing-fan will clear the threshing floor. The grain will be gathered into the barn, but the chaff will be burned in unquenchable fire."

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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