



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.

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

Liturgist, Judy Fletcher and Donna Wenzel

Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund



reflecting the sacred

Advent/Christmas 2022

January 1, 2023

11:00 A.M.

MUSIC FOR GATHERING It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

REFLECTING THE SACRED

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

We pray for a new start this day.
We pray for a new start 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 relationship
We open to see each relationship

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 the future.
lighting the way to the future.

OPENING HYMN #431 Now Greet the Swiftly Changing Year

New Century Hymnal

REFRACTING THE SACRED

TIME FOR CHILDREN

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING	Isaiah 63: 7-9	Judy Fletcher
MUSICAL REFLECTION	O Come, O Come Emmanuel	
SECOND READING	Matthew 2: 13-23	Donna Wenzel
SERMON	Sacred Doing	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

REFILLING THE SACRED

CHRISTMAS MEDITATION	Gesù Bambino	Yon, Martens, arr. Baker
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JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHRISTMAS 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.**

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

REFRAMING THE SACRED

CLOSING SONG #164 Arise, Your Light Is Come *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentleman

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

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, January 1	10:00 AM	Adult Ed (In-Person Only)
Sunday, January 1	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Tuesday, January 3	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, January 5	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)

Today's Scripture

Isaiah 63: 7-9

I will tell you of YHWH's unfailing love,
and sing the praises of YHWH
for all that YHWH did for us—
the many good things done for the house of Israel,
which God did with motherly compassion
and many kindnesses.
For YHWH said, "Truly these are my people,
children who will not be false to me"—
and so God became their Liberator.
In all their distress, O God, you were distressed,
and the angel of your Presence saved them;
you redeemed them out of deep love
and profound mercy;
you lifted them up and carried them
from time immemorial.

Matthew 2: 13-23

After the astrologers had left, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him." Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they left that night for Egypt. They stayed there until the death of Herod, to fulfill what God had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I have called my Own." Herod became furious when he realized that the astrologers had outwitted him. He gave orders to kill all male children that were two years old and younger living in and around Bethlehem. The age of the children was based on the date Herod had learned from the astrologers. Then what was spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice was heard in Ramah
sobbing and lamenting loudly:
it was Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled,
for they were no more."

After Herod's death, the angel of God appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and set out for the land of Israel. Those who had designs on the life of the child are dead." Joseph got up, awakened Jesus and Mary, and they returned to the land of Israel. Joseph heard, however, that Archelaus had succeeded Herod as ruler of Judea, and Joseph was afraid to go back there. Instead, because of a warning received by Joseph in a dream, the family went to the region of Galilee. There they settled in a town called Nazareth. In this way, what was said through the prophets was fulfilled: "He will be called a Nazarene."

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



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