



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



@fc\_indy



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

www.fcindy.org  
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making, Green for care of Creation, and WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church, with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQAAI+ community.

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.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

**\*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 please speak with our minister.

**Pastoral Care Coverage Update:** Pastor Sarah will be away serving the wider church followed by vacation 3/22—3/30. Pastor Carol will be available for pastoral care at [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com) or 317-496-9732. The Rev. Elizabeth Price will be preaching Sunday, March 26.

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (church admin) and Pastor Sarah are in office Thursdays from 9am-12.

## 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

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Mayflower Singers

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Ben James, Media Technician

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Rev. Elizabeth Price, Preacher

Pastor Carol Sowle, Worship Leader

Alice Rutherford, Children's Moment

Rev. Lance Mullins and Judy Fletcher, Readers

**March 26, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

*Asterisk (\*) indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

**WE GATHER**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Roll Down, Justice!

M. Miller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL

Carol Sowle

Holy and Living God, the list is long.

**May peace flow. Let justice roll.**

Let us not feel overwhelmed, but convicted in our call.

**May peace flow. Let justice roll.**

Remind us as we sit at your table that

we are called to invite the least and the unlikely.

**May peace flow. Let justice roll.**

**Roll down! Roll down, justice!**

**Roll like an ever-flowing stream,**

**flowing stream, roll down!**

PEACE

Carol Sowle

\*OPENING SONG #199

Go, Make a Difference

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

## WE PROCLAIM

COME AS A CHILD		Alice Rutherford
INTRO AND RESPONSE	God Has Work for Us to Do	Mayflower Singers
SCRIPTURE	John 11:1-45	Rev. Lance Mullins
RESPONSE		Mayflower Singers
PRAYER POEM		Judy Fletcher
RESPONSE		Mayflower Singers
SERMON	A World Bathed in Light	Rev. Elizabeth Price
RESPONSE		Mayflower Singers

## WE RESPOND

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS Pastor Carol Sowle

#### 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.

RESPONSE Let Justice Roll Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

MEDITATION

God Has Work for Us to Do

M. Miller

\*DOXOLOGY

For death-defying hope, we praise;  
for love that conquers all, we raise  
For justice here on earth we sing  
and righteousness as if a stream.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the gift of passion for God's work,  
**we give thanks.**  
For the way in which these offerings will become gifts of love embodied,  
**we give thanks.**  
For the gift of this community bound and working together,  
**we give thanks.**

\*CLOSING SONG #139

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

*Sing! Prayer  
and Praise*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Elizabeth Price

**May the song you sing in your heart  
be pleasing to God,  
moving you to the passion and compassion of Jesus,  
uplifted by a Spirit  
that keeps you humming life's tune of love.  
Amen.**

RESPONSE

May Peace Flow

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Roll Down, Justice!

M. Miller

## Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

**Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM** – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing; all skill levels welcome!

**Library Committee Meeting** – 10:00 AM on **Tuesday, March 28th**

**Women's Lunch Bunch** – All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship, **Thursday, March 30 at 11:45 a.m.** If the weather is inclement, we will gather on Zoom (usual church link) at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com).

**Outdoor Work Session, Apr 8, 9:30-11:30** - We will be having an intergenerational outdoor work session to clean up our grounds for the spring. Bring your favorite tools, or use some that the church has. Also, please bring some work gloves. Can't make it for the full 2 hours? - that's okay! Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin, [wbaldwinindy@gmail.com](mailto:wbaldwinindy@gmail.com).

**The Worship & Faith Board just wants to be sure everyone is aware that we are not holding a Maundy Thursday service again this year.** Instead, we will include a Passion Week video in our Palm Sunday worship service. Please plan to attend on April 2 to wave palms and get a glimpse of the Passion story – all in preparation for celebrating the Resurrection on **Easter Sunday, April 9.**

**The Outreach and Service Board** is encouraging members to financially support community organizations that align with our churches' just peacemaking covenant. Consider a contribution to the Peace Learning Center (PLC). The PLC was created in 1997 by a team of people that included Tim Nation, the PLC's current Executive Director, to reduce violence and increase kindness in our community. Learn more about the Peace Learning Center at their website: [peacelearningcenter.org](http://peacelearningcenter.org)

**Food Donations to Northside Pantry** – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

**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.

**Thank You for Your Financial Gifts!** Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant, and the recipients are Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith in Indiana. Gifts of single dollars, or those designed to Covenant Outreach, are divided evenly to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at [www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)

### **Mental Health Support:**

**The 988 Lifeline:** 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **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)

### **THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:**

Tuesday, March 28	10:00 AM	Library Committee Meeting
Tuesday, March 28	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, March 30	9 AM – 12	In-office Hours
Thursday, March 30	11:45 AM	Women’s Lunch Bunch
Thursday, March 30	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Thursday, March 30	7:00 PM	CBL (Constitution and Bylaws) (Zoom)
Sunday, April 2	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 2	11:00 AM	Sunday Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

### **Today’s Scripture**

#### **John 11:1-45**

There was a certain man named Lazarus, who was sick. He and his sisters, Mary and Martha, were from the village of Bethany. Mary was the one who had anointed the feet of Jesus with perfume and dried his feet with her hair, and it was her brother Lazarus who was sick. The sisters sent this message to Jesus: “Rabbi, the one you love is sick.”

When Jesus heard this, he said, “This sickness will not end in death; it is happening for God’s glory, so that God’s Only Begotten may be glorified because of it.”

Jesus loved these three very much. Yet even after hearing that Lazarus was sick, he remained where he was staying for two more days. Finally he said to the disciples, “Let’s go back to Judea.”

They protested, “Rabbi, it was only recently that they tried to stone you—and you want to go back there again?”

Jesus replied, “Aren’t there twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk by day don’t stumble, because they see the world bathed in light; those who go walking by night will stumble because there is no light in them.”

After Jesus said this, he said to the disciples, “Our beloved Lazarus has fallen asleep. I am going to Judea to wake him.”

The disciples objected, “But Rabbi, if he’s only asleep, he’ll be fine.” Jesus had been speaking about Lazarus’ death, but they thought he was talking about actual sleep. So he said very plainly, “Lazarus is dead! For your sakes I am glad that I wasn’t there, that you might come to believe. In any event, let us go to him.”

Then Thomas, “the Twin,” said to the rest, “Let’s go with Jesus, so that we can die with him.”

When Jesus arrived in Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Since Bethany was only about two miles from Jerusalem, many people had come out to console Martha and Mary about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary stayed at home with the mourners.

When she got to Jesus, Martha said, "If you had been here, my brother would never have died! Yet even now, I am sure that God will give you whatever you ask."

"Your brother will rise again!" Jesus assured her.

Martha replied, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the Resurrection, and I am Life: those who believe in me will live, even if they die; and those who are alive and believe in me will never die." "Do you believe this?"

"Yes!" Martha replied. "I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, God's Only Begotten, the One who is coming into the world." When she had said this, Martha went back and called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here, asking for you," she whispered. As soon as Mary heard this, she got up and went to him. Jesus hadn't gotten to the village yet. He was at the place where Martha had met him. Those who were there consoling her saw her get up quickly and followed Mary, thinking she was going to the tomb to mourn.

When Mary got to Jesus, she fell at his feet and said, "If you had been here, Lazarus never would have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the other mourners as well, he was troubled in spirit, moved by the deepest emotions. "Where have you laid him?" Jesus asked.

"Come and see," they said. And Jesus wept.

The people in the crowd began to remark, "See how much he loved him!" Others said, "He made the blind person see; why couldn't he have done something to prevent Lazarus' death?" Jesus was again deeply moved. They approached the tomb, which was a cave with a stone in front of it.

"Take away the stone," Jesus directed.

Martha said, "Rabbi, it has been four days now. By this time there will be a stench."

Jesus replied, "Didn't I assure you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?"

So they took the stone away. Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said, "Abba, thank you for having heard me. I know that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd, that they might believe that you sent me!" Then Jesus called out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" And Lazarus came out of the tomb, still bound hand and foot with linen strips, his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus told the crowd, "Untie him and let him go free." Many of those who had come to console Martha and Mary, and saw what Jesus did, put their faith in him.