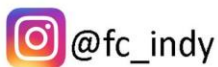




# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

[www.fcindy.org](http://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 LGBTQAAL+ 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:** Sabbatical Pastors, the Rev. Diane and the Rev. Jerry Zehr will be available for Pastoral care July–October. You can reach them in the following ways

**Diane:** [dianezehr@gmail.com](mailto:dianezehr@gmail.com) • 317-414-1047

**Jerry:** [Jerryzehr1@gmail.com](mailto:Jerryzehr1@gmail.com) • 317-551-8455

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (admin) is in office 9-12 on Thursday, meeting with the Zehrs by appointment.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Rev. Diane Zehr (she/her), Preacher  
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Mayflower Singers  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Scott Semester (he/him), Liturgist

**The rainbow candle on the altar is a symbol of the spiritual bond of love during this sabbatical season. We hold Pastor Sarah, her family, our staff, sabbatical pastors, lay leaders, and congregation in prayer that we might all be filled with the light of spiritual joy. Amen.**

**July 16, 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**

PRELUDE

I Believe in One God

Kimball

INTROIT

Heaven and Nature Sing

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*SONG OF PRAISE#422

Come, O Thankful People Come

*New Century  
Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:2-3;26-28

Scott Semester

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



The word of God for the peo-ple of God. Thanks be to God!

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final double bar line. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

MESSAGE

Having Dominion

Rev. Diane Zehr

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God *New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Colorful Creator

arr. Baker

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

\*SONG OF SENDING #407 How Firm a Foundation

*New Century  
Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

The Peace of the Earth

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Creator God, Creating Still

arr. Baker

*Music for Sending Forth*

## 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!

**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 WISE Covenant. Our current outreach recipients are: UCC Mental Health Network, The Julian Center, and the Trevor Project. 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, July 18	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, July 19	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, July 20	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, July 23	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, July 23	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

### Genesis 1-2:3

IN THE BEGINNING\* God created  
the heavens  
and the earth.

But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep—yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Light: Be!” and light was.

### Genesis 1:26-28

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be stewards of the fish in the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, the wild animals, and everything that crawls on the ground.”

Humankind was created as God's reflection:

in the divine image God created them;

female and male, God made them. God blessed them and said, “Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth—and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!”

ONE: A Word of God that is still speaking.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.



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