



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
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 “playground” 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 • 317-414-1047

Jerry: 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
Sue Chapman, 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 23, 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 Want to Walk as a Child of the Light arr. Baker

INTROIT Heaven and Nature Sing Mayflower Singers
Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #5 Praise to God *New Century Hymnal*

*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

COME AS A CHILD

Sean Baker

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 4: 6-7

Sue Chapman

MESSAGE

Heaven and Nature do Sing Beautifully Together

Rev. Diane Zehr

*SONG OF REFLECTION #43

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

*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.

OFFERING

MEDITATION

Linger

S.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 #192

Carry the Light

Sing! Prayer and Praise

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

BLESSING SONG

Let it Shine

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Pass It On

K. Kaiser

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.



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

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

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Monday, July 24	10:00 AM	Library Team Meeting (in Library)
Tuesday, July 25	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, July 27	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, July 28	6:30 PM	First Friday Films, at Landmark Keystone
Sunday, July 30	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, July 30	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Genesis 1:26-27 and 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Genesis 1:26-27

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.

2 Corinthians 4:6-7

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. But this treasure we possess is in earthen vessels, to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us.

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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