



# 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 “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  
Gini Coomer, Liturgist

In worship this Sunday you are invited to write your prayer concerns on the colored index cards in the pew pockets and hand them to either Pastor Diane or Pastor Jerry. They will include your prayer concerns in the pastoral prayer each week and pass them on to our prayer team for ongoing prayers through the week. You can also fill out a prayer card at any time and leave it in the designated basket in the narthex.

**August 20, 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	Meditation (Psalm 42:1)	D. Wagner
INTROIT <i>Entering Into the Sacred</i>	Repeat the Sounding Joy	Mayflower Singers

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #67    Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling (vs.1-4)    *New Century Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Matthew 14:23, Mark 6: 30-32, Luke 6: 12-13, Luke 4: 1-2, Luke 9:18 Gini Coomer

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE Repeat the Sounding Joy when I am Alone Rev. Diane Zehr

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #237 I Come to the Garden Alone *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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

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 #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

Be Still and Know

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Dance Into Joy

Camp, arr. Baker

*Music for Sending Forth*

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

**Cards to Our Church Family** – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

**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.

**The WISE Mental Health Team** is seeking input from the congregation's youth and their families (middle school age through high school) about starting a youth group in which there would be opportunities to connect with other youth, have fun together, do service projects and learn more about faith. Please contact Larry Eckel, 317-445-9351 [lspeckel@comcast.net](mailto:lspeckel@comcast.net) or Sandy Wood 317-225-6206 [csjlwood@att.net](mailto:csjlwood@att.net) if interested. Thanks!

**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 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, August 22	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, August 24	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch
Thursday, August 24	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, August 24	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, August 25	6:30 PM	Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone
Sunday, August 27	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, August 27	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

### **Matthew 14:23**

Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell.

### **Mark 6: 30-32**

The apostles came back to Jesus and reported all that they had done and taught. Jesus said to them, "Come away by yourselves to someplace more remote, and rest awhile." For there were many people coming and going, and the apostles hadn't had time to eat. So they went away in a boat to a deserted area.

### **Luke 6: 12-13**

It was about this time that Jesus went out to the mountains to pray, spending the night in communion with God. At daybreak, he summoned the disciples and picked out twelve of them, whom he named as apostles

### **Luke 4: 1-2**

Jesus returned from the Jordan filled with the Holy Spirit, and she led him into the desert for forty days, where he was tempted by the Devil. Jesus ate nothing during that time, at the end of which he was famished.

### **Luke 9:18**

One day when Jesus was praying in seclusion and the disciples were with him, he put the question to them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"

ONE: A Word of God that is still speaking.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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



@fc\_indy



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

FCINDY.ORG