



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 • 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. Jerry Zehr (he/him), Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Carol Sowle, 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.

September 3, 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 Praise to Our God, the Almighty

INTROIT The Wonders of God's Love Mayflower Singers
Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #417 This Is a Day of New Beginnings (vs.1-4) *New Century Hymnal*

***SHARING THE PEACE**

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

COME AS A CHILD

Rev. Jerry Zehr

SCRIPTURE

Ezekiel 36:26 and Romans 12:2

Carol Sowle

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

A musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). There is a whole rest for two measures, followed by G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), Bb4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), Bb4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (quarter), C4 (half). The piece ends with a double bar line.

MESSAGE

The Wonders of God's Love Changes Us

Rev. Jerry Zehr

*SONG OF REFLECTION #128

Change My Heart, O God

*Sing! Prayer
& Praise*

WE RESPOND

INVITATION

Mayflower Singers

COMMUNION

MEDITATION

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

Amen

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Meditation (Psalm 42:1)

D. Wagner

*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 #553

There Is a Balm in Gilead

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

BLESSING SONG

As You Go, Tell the World

POSTLUDE

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

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. Please contact Larry Eckel, 317-445-9351 lspeckel@comcast.net or Sandy Wood 317-225-6206 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, 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

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:

Tuesday, September 5	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 6	7:00 PM	Trustees
Thursday, September 7	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 7	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, September 8	6:30-8:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Sunday, September 10	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, September 10	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, September 10	After Worship	



On September 10, our Sabbatical activities continue with an all-church picnic and games! This is a rain or shine event. If we need to be inside, some activities may be modified or eliminated. The highlight will be right after lunch, when we will be entertained by a special guest magician.



Faith in Indiana Friends, Bailey Schwartz, Our Faith in Indiana Indy Metro Organizer, is inviting us at First Congregational to an Organizing Training as we prepare for issue campaigns for this fall and the year ahead. Hope you can join us Sat. Sept 9 12:00-4:30 PM at Allisonville Christian Church, 7701 Allisonville Rd, Indianapolis. RSVP through the following announcement.

Today's Scripture

Ezekiel 36:26

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh.

Romans 12:2

Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer.

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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