



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

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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. Jerry Zehr (he/him), Preacher  
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Jacob Smith, String Bass  
Mike Kessler, Percussion  
Mayflower Singers  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Corinne Summers, 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.

**September 24, 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	Welcome to This House	Cowen, arr. Baker
INTROIT <i>Entering Into the Sacred</i>	The Wonders of God's Love	Mayflower Singers

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*SONG OF CENTERING #30	Hush!	<i>Sing! Prayer and Praise</i>
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**\*SHARING THE PEACE**

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

JUST PEACE MOMENT	Outreach and Service Board
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## WE ENCOUNTER


SCRIPTURE

Galatians 6:9 and Romans 5:3-5

Corinne Summers

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



This is what the Spi-rit is sa-ying to the church-es: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Don't Get Tired, Get Inspired

Rev. Jerry Zehr

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #488

Be Still, My Soul

*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

Amen

Mayflower Singers



A - men, a - men, a - - - - men.

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Your Grace Is Enough

Maher, arr. Baker

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

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

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

**Praise God for all the love has done;**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

### WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

\*SONG OF SENDING #199    Go, Make A Diff'ence *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

Singers

Go, Make A Diff'ence

Mayflower

POSTLUDE

*Music for Sending Forth*

How Great Thou Art

arr. Baker

## 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](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, September 26	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, September 28	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch
Thursday, September 28	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Saturday, September 30	4:30 PM	MHCNS Picnic
Sunday, October 1	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, October 1	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

Galatians 6:9

Never grow tired of doing good. We will reap a harvest at the proper time—if we don't grow weary.

Romans 5:3-5

But not only that—we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and character, hope. And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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



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