



# 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  
Handbell Choir  
Mayflower Singers  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Carol Sowe, 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.

Today we welcome the Indiana-Kentucky Conference Minister, the Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott.

**October 8, 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**

FANFARE

Come, My People

James Martin

GATHERING VIDEO

Morningstar

Mary Gast, arr. Baker

INTROIT

This Joy I Have

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF PRAISE #2

Morningstar

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Jubilant Pearl  
*Michael Helman*

Handbell Choir

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-4

Carol Sowle

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



This is what the Spir-it is say-ing to the church-es: Thanks be to God!

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with a final measure containing a whole note. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

MESSAGE

The Curtain Call: How to Take a Bow and Exit Gracefully

Rev. Jerry Zehr

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #314 Community of Christ *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

Hallowed Hour of Prayer

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Holy, Holy, Holy

arr. Bill Carter

\*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**

SABBATICAL RETURN LITURGY

Sabbatical Pastor: When a minister has been in the same pastoral charge for five years, First Congregational's policy makes provision for a sabbatical period of at least three months. During this time, the pastor is released from all duties and responsibilities of ministry.

Senior Councilor: In July, we paused in worship to bless Sarah and send her out with our love. She has spent the last few months on Sabbatical and this morning it is our joy to welcome her back home into ministry at First Congregational. Let us welcome Sarah back with the same love and blessing with which we sent her off:

**Sarah, we have missed you, we have prayed for you, we welcome you home with joy!**

Senior Councilor: Much has happened in your life and ours since we were last together.

**We look forward to sharing our stories with you, and we look forward to hearing your stories. May your homecoming be filled with the blessing of God's care in which you have been held and renewed. It is good to have you home with us!**

Senior Councilor: We are thankful for the faithful leadership of our sabbatical pastors Diane and Jerry. They have led us in worship on a joyful journey of faith. We release you both from your ministry now at the close of the sabbatical time at First Congregational and send you with our blessings of joy.

**We thank you Diane and Jerry for all the ways your ministry with us blessed us with joy. May God continue to bless and care for you both.**

Senior Councilor: May God's blessing continue on us all as the Body of Christ in this place.

**Everyone: Together, with Pastor Sarah, we look forward to continuing Christ's joyful ministry of justice, peace, and love in this place and beyond in the days ahead. Amen.**

\*SONG OF SENDING #81                      God Be with You                      *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG                      Peace I Leave with You, My Friends                      Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Ode to Joy

Beethoven, 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. 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, October 10	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, October 10	3:30 PM	Faith and Worship (Zoom)
Thursday, October 12	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, October 13	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Sunday, October 15	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, October 15	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

### Philippians 2:1-4

If our life in Christ means anything to you—if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all—then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own.

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



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