



# 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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**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:** You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care. She may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (admin) is in office 9-12 on Thursday, meeting with Pastor Sarah 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. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Gini Coomer, Come as a Child

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Ann Leatherman, Liturgist

**November 19, 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

Song of Thanks

Joel & Russell Nagy

INTROIT

Grateful

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF INVOCATION

We Gather Together

*(see insert)*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Ann Leatherman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



The word of God for the peo-ple of God. 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 common time (C). The melody consists of the following notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter rest, quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and a half note C5. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

MESSAGE

Thank You Jesus

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #422 Come, O Thankful People, Come *New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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

We Gather Together

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**We give to you what is your own,  
Whatever here those gifts may be.  
All that we have is yours alone.  
We give it back most gratefully.**

**WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #425 For the Fruit of All Creation *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

Grateful

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Now Thank We All Our God

*Music for Sending Forth*

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

**TODAY: Pastor Sarah PCRC Meeting Open to all Members: November 19, 2023; 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM;** The Pastor Sarah PCRC team will meet in the Library and will utilize the FCC Zoom account to open the meeting to members of the church. (Church Zoom)

**Special Congregational Meeting, Dec 10, 12:45:** On Sunday, December 10, we will have a pitch-in lunch following worship, and then have a special congregational meeting at 12:45. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on a new Constitution and Bylaws for our church. Our current Constitution requires that any changes be approved by a three-fourths vote of those present and voting, and that this will be the only business item discussed at this meeting. We hope you can be there! Copies of the final proposal are available in the Narthex, or you can see your epistle. Please let the CBL Team of Wendy Baldwin, Steve Coomer, Steve Leatherman, and Pastor Sarah know of any questions or comments that you have.

*Because of you, our church changes lives* - This is the theme for our Annual Campaign for 2024. While there are many ways to support the congregation, our annual campaign provides a chance to think about the choices we make with our money, time, and talent in support of First Congregational. Prayerfully consider all the ways that our church blesses your life and the lives of others, and **respond by turning in your pledge and Time & Talent cards by December 10.** You can:

- Put them in the offering plate during worship
- OR, mail them to the church.

Thank you to all who contribute in so many ways to our ministries!

**Thanksgiving Pie** - Please join us following worship on Sunday, 11/19, for fellowship and yummy pie (including gluten-free and sugar-free), provided by various members of our church family!

**During the month of November, Adult Ed will turn its attention to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples and their deep relationships with all of creation.** We will explore the Land Back movement that is gaining momentum from Indigenous peoples around the world, with support from non Indigenous people as well. This is a tough topic to explore, but a necessary one. It is not just about restoring justice. At its core, it is about restoring creation - and perhaps saving the very planet we all depend on. Come with open hearts and minds to consider this important topic together.  
**Nov 25** - YouTube video "How the Land Back movement might help save the Planet"

**Youth Group, Fridays!** Join the FC Indy Youth Group meeting each Friday from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students. **Note: Youth Group will not meet the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 23<sup>th</sup>**

**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.

**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. **\*\*\*This group will begin meeting only on the first Thursday of each month, beginning on December 7<sup>th</sup>.**



**Thank You for Your Financial Gifts!** Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant. **We have been an Open and Affirming Church since 1994.**

Our current outreach recipients: Indiana Youth Group, Damien Center, and Trinity Haven



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, November 21  | 3:00 PM  | Staff Meeting (Zoom)                       |
| Thursday, November 23 |          | HAPPY THANKSGIVING!                        |
| Friday, November 24   | 2:00 PM  | Graveside Memorial Service for Carol Kohls |
| Friday, November 24   | 6:30 PM  | Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone   |
| Sunday, November 26   | 10:00 AM | Adult Education                            |
| Sunday, November 26   | 11:00 AM | Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)           |

# Today's Scripture

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything—you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security," then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labor pains, and there will be no escape. But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are—let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation. God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Savior Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you're already doing.

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



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