



# 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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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:** 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

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Steve Leatherman, Liturgist

**November 26, 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

Lancashire

INTROIT

Seraphic Hymn

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Worth Hartman/Bailey Schwartz, Faith in Indiana

\*SONG OF PRAISE #304 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

*New Century  
Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25: 31-45

Steve Leatherman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

God of the Oppressed

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #575

O for a World

*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

Diademata

\*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 #209      A Song Must Rise      *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG      I Am the Light of the World      Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE      Our Christ Reigns      T. Kendall  
*Music for Sending Forth*

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

**Christmas is coming!** Our mitten tree will be up with goods going to Exodus refugee. Due to time constraints, a box will be out on Nov 26th until the tree is officially put up. Gift cards for two of our organizations we support can also be submitted beginning Nov 26th. Put them in the offering plate until the tree is up on Dec 3. We will add them to the tree. Don't forget the 5 for 5 offering coming up on Dec 15

**Playdate Next Weekend, December 3rd!** Monthly Playdates are here and all ages are welcome to join us! We will read a story, sing a song, and have a light snack. We hope to see you there! Join us on December 3rd for a special Christmas Playdate to start the season of Advent.

**Are You Considering Membership at First Congregational UCC?** New Member Sunday is December 17, 2023! For more information or to become a member, email Pastor Sarah at [PastorSarah@FCIndy.org](mailto:PastorSarah@FCIndy.org)

**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!

**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.

**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.

**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 28	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, November 29	10:30 AM	WISE Team Meeting
Thursday, November 30	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Friday, December 1	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, December 2	10:00 AM	Hanging of the Greens!
Sunday, December 3	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, December 3	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, December 3	12:15 PM	Playdate in the Family Room

## Today's Scripture

### Matthew 25:31-45

“At the appointed time the Promised One will come in glory, escorted by all the angels of heaven, and will sit upon the royal throne, with all the nations assembled below. Then the Promised One will separate them from one another, as a shepherd divides the sheep from the goats. The sheep will be placed on the right hand, the goats on the left. “The ruler will say to those on the right, ‘Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then these just will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?’ The ruler will answer them, ‘The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.’ “Then the ruler will say to those on the left, ‘Out of my sight, you accursed ones! Into that everlasting fire prepared for the Devil and the fallen angels! I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink. I was a stranger and you gave me no welcome; naked and you gave me no clothing. I was ill and in prison and you did not come to visit me.’ Then they in turn will ask, ‘When did we see you hungry or thirsty, or homeless or naked, or ill or in prison, and not take care of you?’ The answer will come, ‘The truth is, as often as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me.’”

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



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