



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

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) is in office Thursdays from 10:30-1:30pm. Contact her if you have a need at cassidy@fcindy.org. Pastor Sarah can meet 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.

Masks can be found in the narthex.

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

Jackson Procise (he/him), Peace Moment

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

William and Mechelle Keslo, Liturgists

Angela Edwards, Soloist

March 3, 2023

Whole Homes/Half Sheltered

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 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy arr. Baker

INTROIT I Was Glad Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING DIALOGUE Alice Rutherford & Scott Semester

CALL TO WORSHIP Mechelle Kelso

Leader: We come to you today, O God, seeking to fill our hearts with your love.

All: We come to this place to remember you love us just as we are.

Leader: We gather in this holy house of worship, grateful for a sacred place to call home.

All: We come to this place to celebrate God's love for those struggling with housing insecurity.

Leader: Let us come into this time of worship of the Holy One and become wholly God's.

*SONG OF PRAISE #68 God Is Truly with Us *New Century Hymnal*

INTROIT TO PRAYER Mayflower Singers

FAITHFUL REFLECTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Sometimes we forget to love our neighbors who struggle with housing insecurity. Too often people face eviction and discrimination, leading to suffering. Help us, Holy God, to share your love with the whole world and work for housing justice. Amen.

RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

SHARING THE PEACE Jackson Procise

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

SILENT REFLECTION

LANGUAGES OF LOVE (*How to say "I love you"*) Sean Baker

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE John 2:13-22 William Kelso

ANTHEM

Fast Car
Tracy Chapman

Angela Edwards

MESSAGE

What Happens to God's Unhoused?

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #403

My Hope Is Built

New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

INVITATION AND COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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

Sweet Hour of Prayer

arr. Baker

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

We come here now and bring these gifts.

To you, O God, our praise we lift.

Let these our gifts go back to you,

To share with all this whole world through.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #77 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing *New Century Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

Beloved of God, remember that you are holy and whole. Be a blessing to those seeking shelter, honoring God's vision for all of creation to dwell together in unity. Go in peace, knowing that together we can build a more just world for all. Amen.

BLESSING SONG Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Called as Partner's In Christ's Service arr. Baker

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!



Something new is coming! Hopefully, you've noticed that the children in our playground are growing up! Our kids are a treasure to our church, and the newly formed Faith Formation Team has begun the work of providing faith formation to them beyond what they are absorbing from the playground. We hope to have some plans firmly in place by summer's end, with some "teaser" activities on a few Sundays during the summer. As part of our program development, we're putting out a survey to assess the perceived need for a childcare attendant for the interim before August, and perhaps as part of our ongoing faith formation activities. The survey can be accessed by the accompanying QR code. Please assist our efforts by sharing your thoughts, regardless of your parental status. Questions can be directed to Alice Rutherford at alice@caloosaspire.net or Mark Ladd at laddmj@gmail.com.

Updated Address Directories: Printed updated directories are now available in the Narthex. Please pick one up, as there have been a lot of updates this past year. If you would like an electronic version, contact Wendy Baldwin, wbaldwinindy@gmail.com.

Clearing Out "Stuff", and Finding New Homes for It: Our building has many different storage areas that have accumulated a lot of "stuff" over the years. We are actively working on clearing these out, and are uncovering a lot of items that the church no longer needs. If you would like any of these items, please help yourself and make a donation for them either online, by check, or by cash, with a notation of "Stuff". If you would like to help with the clearing out process, please contact Wendy Baldwin.

Youth Group: Join the FC Indy Youth Group, meeting Fridays 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!

Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise.



Gifts of single dollars, or those designated to Covenant Outreach, are divided equally 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 in 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, March 5	All Day	Pastor Sarah’s Day of Prayer
Tuesday, March 5	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, March 7	1:00 PM	Men’s Lunch
Friday, March 8	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Friday, March 8	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, March 9	9:30 AM	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 10	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, March 10	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

John 2:13-16

Since it was almost the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

In the Temple, Jesus found people selling animals and people trading money.

Jesus made a whip and drove them all out of the Temple—even the animals—and flipped the tables of the money changers, scattering all their money.

Then he faced the sellers: “Take all this out! Stop turning God’s house into a store!”

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



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