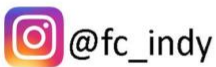




# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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:**

Pastor Carol Sowle (she/her), Preacher  
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Mayflower Singers  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Nancy Dickinson, Liturgists

**March 10, 2023      Whole Sustained Life/Half Withered Roots      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                                      For the Beauty of the Earth                                      arr. Baker

INTROIT    I Was Glad    Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING DIALOGUE    Alice Rutherford & Scott Semester

CALL TO WORSHIP

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 on this sacred land, grateful for the love Creation shows us, providing us with all that we need.

**All: We come to this time of worship to celebrate God's love for the whole Earth.**

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

\*SONG OF PRAISE #31 All Things Bright and Beautiful *New Century Hymnal*

VIDEO National Geographic Short Film "Three Seconds"  
by Spencer Sharp & Prince Ea

INTROIT TO PRAYER Mayflower Singers

FAITHFUL REFLECTION Carol Sowle  
**Sometimes we forget to honor the Earth. Too often we treat the Earth with disrespect and neglect being good stewards of the environment. Help us, Holy God, to share your love by taking care of the Earth and work for environmental justice. Amen.**

RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

SHARING THE PEACE  
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 3:14-21 Nancy Dickinson

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE      *The earth, and its fullness, belongs to God*      Carol Sowle

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #559      Thank You, God      *New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION      River      Pattison

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      Colorful Creator      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 #28 For the Beauty of the Earth *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

**Beloved of God, remember that you are holy and whole. Be a blessing to the Earth and honor its sacred goodness. 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 Creator God, Creating Still 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@caloosaspirit.net](mailto:alice@caloosaspirit.net) or Mark Ladd at [laddmj@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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, March 12	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, March 12	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 13	7:00 PM	MHCNS Building Meeting
Wednesday, March 13	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Friday, March 15	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, March 17	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, March 17	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, March 17	1:00 PM	Pastor Sarah’s PCRC

# Today's Scripture

## John 3:14-21

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so the Chosen One must be lifted up,  
so that everyone who believes in the Chosen One  
might have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world  
as to give the Only Begotten One,  
that whoever believes may not die,  
but have eternal life.

God sent the Only Begotten into the world  
not to condemn the world,  
but that through the Only Begotten  
the world might be saved.

Whoever believes in the Only Begotten avoids  
judgment,  
but whoever doesn't believe is judged already  
for not believing in the name  
of the Only Begotten of God.

On these grounds is sentence pronounced: pronounced:  
that though the light came into the world,  
people showed they preferred darkness to the light  
because their deeds were evil.

Indeed, people who do wrong hate the light and  
avoid it,  
for fear their actions will be exposed;  
but people who live by the truth  
come out into the light,  
so that it may be plainly seen  
that what they do is done in God.”

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



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