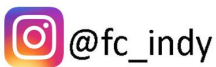




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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

Wendy Baldwin, Liturgist

Handbell Choir

Bread for the World Team: Katie Booth, Nancy Dickinson, Susan Eckel, Jessica Kramer, Karen Walker, Sandy Wood

March 17, 2023

Whole Food/Half Fed

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

A Celtic Ring

Susan E. Geschke

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITANY

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 to worship God with our whole hearts.

All: We come to this time of worship to be encouraged as we seek to be advocates for hunger justice.

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

WE RESPOND

INTRODUCTION TO LETTER WRITING

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Bread for the World

Marty Haugen, 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.

BLESSING OVER LETTERS

God of Grace, as we follow your invitation to use our voices to witness to your vision of a world without hunger, we ask that you bless these letters.

Use them to change the hearts and minds of our members of Congress.

May they be a clear and bold call for justice and peace in our world.

We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Growing In Faith

DeMann

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.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #170 We Share a Hunger *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

Beloved of God, remember that you are holy and whole. Be a blessing to the hungry whose pantries are half full and whose children go to school on half empty stomachs. Go now 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 Bread for the World Marty Haugen, arr. Baker



50 years of experience in collective Christian advocacy for national policies to end hunger

Use your voice: Tell congress to act to feed all children home and around the world through a strong farm bill



Key components to emphasize:

- Nutrition: Increase food assistance through farmer's markets
- Equity: Make SNAP more inclusive, including Puerto Rico
- Sustainability: Simplify food date labeling to reduce waste



Use this QR code to send **emails** to your senators and representative

-please say "YES" this is for an offering of letters – for First Congregational UCC Indy

-Please add your own heartfelt story, the reason for your commitment to end hunger

Use this QR code to find addresses for your senators and representative to send **letters**



Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

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” - Sat 3/30 at 10:30: Our building has many different storage areas that have accumulated a lot of “stuff” over the years. Come help at 10:30 on Sat 3/30 to uncover 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, and can't come on Saturdays, 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 19	10:00 AM	Library Team Meeting in Library
Tuesday, March 19	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 20	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, March 21	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, March 21	7:00 PM	Faith Formation Team Meeting
Friday, March 22	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, March 23	9:30 AM	Caring Crafters
Sunday, March 24	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, March 24	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

John 12:20-33

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: "Please, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and together the two went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied, "Now the hour has come for the Chosen One to be glorified. The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. If you love your life you'll lose it; if you hate your life in this world you'll keep it for eternal life. Anyone who wants to work for me must follow in my footsteps, and wherever I am, my worker will be there too. Anyone who works for me will be honored by Abba God. Now my soul is troubled. What will I say: 'Abba, save me from this hour?' But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Abba, glorify your name!" A voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowds that stood nearby heard this and said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking." Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. "Sentence is now being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw all people to myself." By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

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



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