



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) in office 10:30 am-1:30 pm and Pastor Sarah is available 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:

Carol Sowle (she/her), Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbot (he/him), Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Handbell Choir

Gini Coomer, Pianist

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Carol Sowle, Liturgist

May 5, 2024

11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Gavotte, Bach/Elery Roger's
Alfred Pub 1992

Bell Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SONG OF PRAISE #84

This Is the Day

New Century Hymnal

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 17: 1-16

Carol Sowle

MESSAGE

Holding Each Other Up

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

SONG OF REFLECTION #18 Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

MEDITATION

Gini Coomer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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.

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Gini Coomer

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

The Resurrection now has come.

Christ's justice work must still be done.

These gifts we bring are for that goal,

To share and care for every soul.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #547

Amazing Grace

New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

POSTLUDE

Praise and Celebration
Beckenhorat Press

Bell Choir

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Auction contacts? We are now at the point to find new homes for all of the "stuff" that we have cleared out of cabinets, closets, and storage rooms. We believe an auction company is best suited to deal with this. **Do you know of one that we could contact?** Please contact Wendy Baldwin at waldwinindy@gmail.com as soon as possible with any leads that you have!

The Flower Calendar is on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Please sign up for any occasion. The flowers can come from your garden, store or florist. For more information see **Sally Coombs**.

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 Open and Affirming Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition, the Damion Center, and Indiana Youth Group.



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, May 7	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, May 8	11:00 AM	WISE Team Meeting
Wednesday, May 8	11:30 AM	MHCNS Mayflower Room Event
Wednesday, May 8	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, May 9	11:30 AM	MHCNS Mayflower Room Event
Friday, May 10	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Friday, May 10	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Sunday, May 12	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, May 12	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Exodus 17: 1-16

The Israelites left the desert of Syn to travel by stages, as YHWH had directed them. They camped at Rephidim, but found no drinking water. Again they turned on Moses, saying, "Give us drinking water." Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test YHWH?" But the people were thirsty, and complained even more to Moses. "Why did you bring us out of Egypt only to make us and our children and our livestock die of thirst?" Moses appealed to YHWH. "What am I to do with these people? They are ready to stone me!" YHWH answered Moses, "Take some of the elders and move to the front of the people. Take with you the staff with which you struck the Nile. Go! I will wait for you there by the rock of Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." And Moses did so, in the sight the elders. Moses named the place Massah, "Testing," and Meribah, "Quarreling," for the Israelites tested YHWH when they said, "Is YHWH with us or not?" The Amalekites came into the area and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. Moses said to Joshua, "Select some of the able-bodied to go out and fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill holding the staff of God." So Joshua did as Moses ordered and fought the Amalekites, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur climbed to the top of the hill. So long as Moses kept his hands raised, Israel held the advantage, but whenever he lowered them, the Amalekites took the advantage. When Moses' hands grew weary they set up a stone for him to sit on. Aaron and Hur held his hands up, one on each side, so that they remained upright until dusk. And Joshua prevailed against the Amalekites by the sword. YHWH said to Moses, "Put this in writing, and tell it to Joshua: I will totally wipe out the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven." Moses built an altar and named it "YHWH is my Banner," and said, "Our hands held up the banner of YHWH. And God will make war against the Amalekites throughout the ages."

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



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