



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

 @fc\_indy  FirstCongregationalUCCIndy  FCINDY DOT ORG

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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 LGBTQAAI+ 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, including home visits, hospital visits, home communion, prayer and conversation. She may be reached by text or phone at (386) 478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. If you need to meet, please contact her at [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto:cassidy@fcindy.org)

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), Worship Leader

Student Pastor Bonnie Bomer, (she/her), Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Rev. Elizabeth Price, Liturgist

\*\*\*Fiesta is our Student Pastor, Bonnie Bomer's guide dog.

Please do not touch Fiesta while she is working and wearing her harness. When her harness is off, Bonnie has invited us to engage with Fiesta and pet her.

**October 13, 2024**

**Access Sunday**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

INTROIT

I Am the Light of the World

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Elizabeth Price

Leader: We are here to worship God just as we are.

**All: I am here!**

Leader: We have come with our sorrows and joys, our burdens and our gifts, our differences and our similarities, and our challenges and our victories, to worship God.

**All: I am here!**

Leader: We are here to join in community to grow in spirit, to engage with each other, and with God, and to share the grace of God!

**All: I am here!**

\*SONG OF PRAISE # 123 Draw the Circle Wide *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

OPENING UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Elizabeth Price

**Disabled God, we come to You today, searching for an experience of hope and belonging. You hold each of our bodyminds in sacred love and connection. When the world around us tries to cast us out, we find belonging and belovedness in Your embrace. As we worship this day, may we remember that our search for You will deepen our faith, and lead us one step closer to Your Kin-dom. We pray with confidence in your work within us, among us, around us, and through us. Amen.**

GLORIA

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, alleluia, alleluia!

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7

Rev. Elizabeth Price

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE Somebody Just Slapped Mud on My Eyes! Bonnie Bomer

## WE RESPOND

\*SONG OF REFLECTION

They'll Know We Are Christians  
(see back page)

MEDITATION

I Am Available to You

R. Hansome

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

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

Bonnie Bomer

INTERLUDE

Here Are Our Hearts

Drake, Jennings

DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.

## **WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #584

I Am the Light of the World

*New*

*Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Bonnie Bomer

BLESSING SONG

I Am the Light of the World

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Our God Has Done Great Things for Us

B. Hamm

**Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!**

**Ways to Connect & Serve:** Interested in participating with a small group at First Congregational? Check out the Connect & Serve cards in the pews, and take one with you, if you like! Looking for an activity that isn't there - contact Wendy Baldwin.

**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.

**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**.

**Cards to Our Church Family** – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

**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 Mental Health Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: the UCC Mental Health

Network, The Julian Center, and GenderNexus.



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: 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)

## **What Is Access Sunday?**

Access Sunday is an annual celebration of the gifts persons with disabilities bring to the church, and the joys of being in accessible community. It is also a time to remember and repent of the harm done to disabled people in religious spaces, and to call upon the whole church to recommit itself to access as a justice issue. In the UCC calendar, the second Sunday in October is designated as Access Sunday, but any Sunday of the year is a good time to consider disability and accessibility. Approximately 1 in 4 people in the United States live with some form of disability, and almost everyone else will develop one at some point in their life. As such, disability and accessibility are vitally important topics for us all, and for the church. Access Sunday 2024  
October 13, 2024

This Access Sunday, let us honor and celebrate disability wisdom, creativity, and brilliance. Let us expand our notions of God and theology. And let us call one another into greater access for all.

## **THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:**

- **TUESDAY, October 15, 10:00 AM: Library Team Meeting**
- **TUESDAY, October 15, 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting**
- **WEDNESDAY, October 16, 7:00 PM: Church Council**
- **THURSDAY, October 17, 1:00 PM: Men's Lunch**
- **ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, October 20, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)**
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP, October 20, 11:00 AM, In-person and Online**

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

### John 9:1-7

As Jesus walked along, he saw someone who had been blind from birth. The disciples asked Jesus, “Rabbi, was it this individual’s sin that caused the blindness, or that of the parents?” “Neither,” answered Jesus, “It wasn’t because of anyone’s sin—not this person’s, nor the parents’. Rather, it was to let God’s works shine forth in this person. We must do the deeds of the One who sent me while it is still day—for night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” With that, Jesus spat on the ground, made mud with his saliva and smeared the blind one’s eyes with the mud. Then Jesus said, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam”—“Siloam” means “sent.” So the person went off to wash, and came back able to see.

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

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# They'll Know We Are Christians

Fm Bbm

We are one in the Spi-rit, we are one in the Word; we are one in the  
 We will walk with each o-ther, we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each  
 We will work with each o-ther, we will work side by side; we will work with each  
 All\_ praise to our God, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

6 Fm Bbm

Spi - rit, we are one in the Word; And we pray that all  
 o - ther, we will walk hand in hand; And to - ge - ther we'll  
 o - ther, we will work side by side; And we'll guard each one's  
 Je - sus, God's\_ on - ly\_ Son. And all praise to the

10 Fm

u - ni - ty will one day be re - stored.  
 spread the news that God is in our land.  
 dig - ni - ty and save\_ each ones's pride.  
 Spi - rit who\_ makes\_ us\_ one.

13 *Refrain* D $\flat$  A $\flat$  D $\flat$  A $\flat$  Fm

And they'll know we are Chris tians by our love, by our

17 Bbm Fm Bbm Cm Fm

love, yes, they'll know\_ we are Chris - tians by our love.