



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

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 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.

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. If you need to meet, please contact her at 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. Elizabeth Price (she/her), Worship Leader and preacher

Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Student Pastor

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Gini Coomer, 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.

November 3, 2024

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Come O Fount of Every Blessing arr. S. Baker

INTROIT There Is Room for All Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #35 No Matter *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

Gini Coomer

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



The word of God for the peo-ple of God. Thanks be to God!

The image shows a musical staff with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of the following notes: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4-A4 (beamed eighth notes), G4 (quarter), F4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). There is a fermata over the D4 note. The second phrase starts with a quarter rest, followed by G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), and C5 (half).

MESSAGE

The Beauty of the Wise

Rev. Elizabeth Price

*SONG OF REFLECTION #388 Help Us Accept Each Other *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

MEDITATION

Henry Mancini

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Bonnie Bomer

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

Shadow and Substance

Dan Darmon

*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 #160 Listening Now *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG As You Go, Tell the World Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing arr. S. Baker

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

FCC's Outreach and Service Board has focused on the issue of affordable housing. We encourage members to join with a neighbor congregation hosting an event helping us learn about this pressing social justice issue located at North United Methodist Church: 3808 North Meridian Street, 2024 Richard E. and Anna Lee Hamilton Series on Theology and Contemporary Issues. "The Front Porch Factor: Let's Talk Housing" Sunday, Nov. 10, 2024 taking place in their Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. This year's Hamilton Series takes up the urgent topic of affordable housing. Rev. John Edgar, author of "A Front Porch for All People," will be the guest preacher at 8:30 a.m. and the 11 a.m. worship services. 12:00 p.m. Luncheon in Fellowship Hall. A RSVP to events@northchurchindy.com is required for the luncheon. There will

be a 1:00 p.m. Keynote Address by IU McKinney School of Law professor Fran Quigley and at 1:45 p.m.

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 .

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**

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

- **TUESDAY, November 5, 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting**
- **WEDNESDAY, November 6, 7:00 PM: Trustees**
- **WEDNESDAY, November 6, 7:00 PM: Personnel Committee**
- **ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, November 10, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: casowle@gmail.com**
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP, November 10, 11:00 AM, In-person and Online**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:28-34

One of the religious scholars who had listened to them debating and had observed how well Jesus had answered them, now came up and put a question to him: “Which is the foremost of all the commandments?” Jesus replied, “This is the foremost: ‘Hear, O Israel, God, our God, is one. You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” The scholar said to Jesus, “Well spoken, Teacher! What you have said is true: the Most High is one and there is no other. To love God with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself—this is far more important than any burnt offering or sacrifice.” Jesus, seeing how wisely this scholar had spoken, said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to question Jesus any more.

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

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Imagine Together: A World Made Whole

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus
it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and shouting. (Isaiah 35: 1-2)*

Isaiah 35 reflects on the intricate relationship between human activity and the environment, drawing parallels between the biblical narrative and contemporary ecological challenges. The passage emphasizes the profound impact of human actions on the landscape, illustrating how the expansion of deserts and ecological mismanagement contribute to famine and wildfires. Despite technological advancements, the text contends that human greed, indifference, and hopelessness impede necessary environmental healing. The theme of "A World Made Whole" calls for a collective responsibility to address ecological crises, urging a shift from destructive practices to stewardship.

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull observes, "The apostle Paul pointed out once that 'hope that is seen is not hope' (Rom 8:24). If this is true, it is also true that hope that is left unseen, unimagined, undared, is not hope either...Underlying Isaiah 35's dramatic imagery, hope is being expressed not simply for divine acts, but for those the prophet seeks to

inspire from a small band of Judeans who could recultivate the burned land and push back the chaos, and thus strengthen their own weak hands, feeble knees, and fearful hearts.”

How can we Imagine Together A World Made Whole? Can we be physicians of the environment? Caregivers of the land? Our collective stewardship and generosity can be healing. Together we can actively recreate healthy environments in our yards, churches, and towns. It is our collective effort that instills order in chaos

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



Imagine Together