



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

Scott Semester, 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 10, 2024

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

One of Us

Bazilian

INTROIT

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

UCC National Video

*SONG OF AFFIRMATION #7 Welcome to This House *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

ANTHEM	Imagine	Lennon
SCRIPTURE	Mark 12:38-44	Scott Semester
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE		Mayflower Singers
MESSAGE	Imagine Together: Generous Love	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
*SONG OF REFLECTION #562	Take My Gifts	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER	Bonnie Bomer
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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
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GENEROSITY MOMENT	Steve Coomer
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OFFERING	Bonnie Bomer
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INTERLUDE	This Is Holy Ground	Beatty
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*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 #448 Take, My Life, God, Let It Be *New
Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG Wherever You Go Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Praise God's Name Reinhardt

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 12, 11:00 AM: Student Pastor Supervision

TUESDAY, November 12, 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting

TUESDAY, November 12, 3:30 PM: Worship and Faith

WEDNESDAY, November 13, 6:30 PM: NAMI Support Group

THURSDAY, November 14, 1:00 PM: Men's Lunch

ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, November 17, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: casowle@gmail.com

SUNDAY WORSHIP, November 17, 11:00 AM, In-person and Online

SUNDAY, November 17, 12:15 PM, Outreach and Service Meeting

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:38-44

In his teaching, Jesus said, “Beware of the religious scholars who like to walk about in long robes, be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, and take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at banquets. These are the ones who swallow the property of widows and offer lengthy prayers for the sake of appearance. They will be judged all the more severely.” Jesus sat down opposite the collection box and watched the people putting money in it, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then Jesus called out to the disciples and said to them, “The truth is, this woman has put in more than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have put in money from their surplus, but she has put in everything she possessed from the little she had—all she had to live on.”

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

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Imagine Together: A Rested Church/Community

By Rev. Dr. Courtney Buggs

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”
Matthew 11: 28-30

Scant scholarship exists that addresses these verses. Still, the literary context of the passage supports exploration of traditional religion contrasted with the experience of Jesus’ Way. While the former way is depicted as stringent and laborious; the latter is referred to as easy and light.

The invitation is to those who 1) have grown weary from labor (or trouble); and 2) those who are bringing or carrying burdens. Figuratively, Jesus calls those who are fainting under the legal burdens of religion, those who feel burdened with their efforts to keep the laws of religion. The weariness may also be caused by sin or guilt for inability to adhere to the full Law. Moreover, the uncertainties of life might contribute to an arduous life experience.

Come to me and rest, that is, be refreshed, experience refreshment, be relieved. It is an invitation to cessation, interruption of that

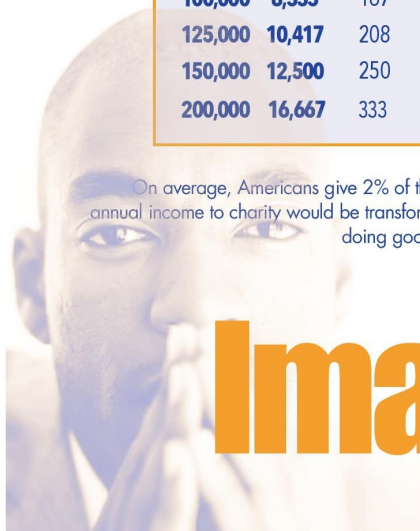
which causes unrest. This alone – come to me and rest – may cause readers to exhale! God’s Way brings relief from uncertainty and anxiety and sin and guilt. The invitation is not to idleness, but rather to companionship with God that leads to contentment, both in this present life, and life eternal. To suggest that this rest is limited to the eschaton is to deprive believers of Emmanuel, in this life. The rest of which Jesus speaks brings renewal and restoration.

Imagine Together how our congregation can promote the rest Jesus speaks about. What burdens can we ease? What can we make lighter?

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