



# 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

Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Student Pastor Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Linda Lupton, 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 17, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

Turn! Turn! Turn!

Seeger

INTROIT

My Hope Is Built

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF PRAISE #573

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

*New Century  
Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

ANTHEM

Turn! Turn! Turn

Mayflower Singers


SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Linda Lupton

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

MESSAGE

Am-Aging Grace: Aging Gracefully with God's Help  
Bonnie Bomer

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #366 God of Our Life

*New Century  
Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Sweet Hour of Prayer

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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Jim Lootens

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

I Will Trust in the Lord

African-American Trad.

\*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 #78

Part in Peace

*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Bonnie Bomer

BLESSING SONG

My Hope Is Built

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Turn! Turn! Turn!

Seeger

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

**The FCC Youth Group** will meet Sunday 11-17-24 after worship. We'll gather at 12:15 pm for lunch then go to Woodland Bowl for bowling and other fun activities. We'll leave Woodland Bowl @ 3 pm, return to the church and parents can pick up the youth. If you can bring a sandwich that's great, but we'll have some fixings if you forget. We'll supply drinks, chips and dessert. If you want to come and haven't already communicated with Sandy Wood, call her at 317-225-6206 or email her at [sjfwod76@gmail.com](mailto:sjfwod76@gmail.com).



**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)

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

- **SUNDAY, November 17, 12:15 PM, Outreach and Service Meeting**
- **SUNDAY, November 17, 12:15-3 PM, Youth Group Lunch & Bowling**
- **TUESDAY, November 19, 10:00 AM: Library Team Meeting**
- **TUESDAY, November 19, 11:00 AM: Student Pastor Supervision**
- **TUESDAY, November 19, 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting**
- **WEDNESDAY, November 20, 7:00 PM: Church Council**
- **WEDNESDAY, November 13, 6:30 PM: NAMI Support Group**
- **SATURDAY, November 23, 9:30 AM, Caring Crafters**
- **ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, November 24, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)**
- **SUNDAY WORSHIP, November 24, 11:00 AM, In-person and Online**

### **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE**

#### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

There is a time for everything,  
a season for every purpose under heaven:  
a season to be born and a season to die;  
a season to plant and a season to harvest;  
a season to hurt and a season to heal;  
a season to tear down and a season to build up;  
a season to cry and a season to laugh;  
a season to mourn and a season to dance;  
a season to scatter stones and a season gather them;  
a season for holding close and a season for holding  
back; 6 a season to seek and a season to lose;  
a season to keep and a season throw away;  
a season to tear and a season to mend;  
a season to be silent and a season to speak;  
a season to love and a season to hate;  
a season for hostilities and a season for peace.

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



## **Imagine Together: Vitality**

Nicodemus, initially criticized by Jesus, gradually evolves into a vibrant follower. His narrative highlights the importance of spiritual curiosity in maintaining vitality, addressing the tendency for stagnation and fear of change. How could a commitment to curiosity be transformative for us?

The Covid pandemic forced churches to explore new ways of ministry. However, in this post-pandemic moment, many return to familiar patterns of the past. Have we lost our ability to experiment?

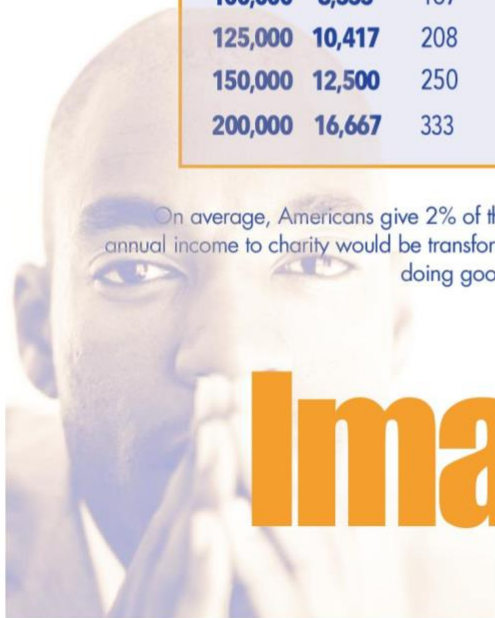
The story of Nicodemus serves as a model for gradual transformation, contrasting with more dramatic biblical conversions. As Rev. Dr. S. Chapin Garner notes, “Curiosity led Nicodemus from darkness to light, from ignorance to understanding, from stagnation to vitality. If we want to not only imagine but experience vitality, all we need to do is steward our natural God-given curiosity. Accept invitations. Explore new places. Get to know different people. And when the spirit within us is piqued...trust that prompting is from the Lord, and get excited to not only imagine, but experience, where we will be led!” Embracing curiosity can be the key to experiencing and maintaining vitality. How can we steward curiosity in our congregation?



**CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT  
OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.**

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