



# 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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**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. 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), Preacher and Student Pastor

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director and Video Designer

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Jacob Smith, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Carol Sowle, 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.

**January 19, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

Ye Servants of God

arr. S. Baker

INTROIT

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child

Mayflower  
Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

## PRAYER OF REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**Holy God, we admit to you that all is not right — in our hearts and in our world, We look to the shadows and not to the light. We look for what is broken, and not at what is being mended. We look to criticize and not to praise. We look at ourselves and not to you. Turn us around so that we look at the possibility, at hope, at promise, at grace, at healing, at love. Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14:7-24

Carol Sowle

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Shining God's Light on Racism and Ableism  
Bonnie Bomer

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #123

Draw the Circle Wide

*Sing! Prayer  
and Praise*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION on Psalm 42:1

D. Wagner, arr. S. baker

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

INTERLUDE      See Amid the Winter's Snow      D. Laskey, arr. S. Baker

\*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 #217      Peace I Leave with You      *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION

Bonnie Bomer

BLESSING SONG

Let It Shine

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. S. Baker



# Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

## Save the Date for the January 26 Congregational Annual Meeting and Pitch-in!

**Worship Refreshment Hosting:** On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. It is a time of connecting and community building. Wendy Baldwin has typically hosted this time, except when she is travelling and then a handful of others fill in. Wendy would like to have a break from doing this weekly, and so we are hoping more people will be willing to 'host'. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact Wendy. Also let her know if you would like more info and/or some 'training' on this process. Thanks for participating in this treasured ministry!

**The Nominating Committee is looking for people to join our Boards and Committees for 2025!** If you are interested in getting more involved in your Church please contact Sandy Wood, Wendy Baldwin, or Steve Coomer. You can reach Sandy at 317-225-6206 and email is [sjfwood76@gmail.com](mailto:sjfwood76@gmail.com), Steve at [s.coomer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.coomer@sbcglobal.net) or Wendy at [wbaldwinindy@gmail.com](mailto:wbaldwinindy@gmail.com).

**The Faith Formation Team** is being reactivated. Your church needs you! Please indicate your interest by contacting Gini Coomer, chair of the Worship and Faith Board: [coomerg6343@gmail.com](mailto:coomerg6343@gmail.com). We meet on Zoom.

**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 Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise.

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)

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: Luke 14:7-24

Jesus went on to address a parable to the guests, noticing how they were trying to get a place of honor at the table. “When you’re invited to a wedding party, don’t sit in the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished has been invited. Otherwise the hosts might come and say to you, ‘Make room for this person,’ and you would have to proceed shamefacedly to the lowest place. What you should do is go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your hosts approach you they’ll say, ‘My friend, come up higher.’ This will win you the esteem of the other guests. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” Then Jesus said to the host, “Whenever you give a lunch or dinner, don’t invite your friends or colleagues or relatives or wealthy neighbors. They might invite you in return and thus repay you. No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. You should be pleased that they can’t repay you, for you’ll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” One of the guests heard this and said to Jesus, “Happy are those who eat bread in the kingdom of God!” Jesus responded, “A landowner was giving a large dinner and sent out many invitations. At dinnertime, the landowner instructed an aide to say to those invited, ‘Come to the feast, everything is ready.’ But they began to excuse themselves, each and every one. The first one said to the aide, ‘I’ve just bought some land, and I need to go out and inspect it. Please send my regrets.’ Another said, ‘I’ve just bought five yoke of oxen, and I need to go out and test them. Please excuse me.’ A third said, ‘I’ve just gotten married, so of course I can’t come.’ “The aide returned and reported all this to the landowner. The landowner became angry and said to the aide, ‘Go into town, into the streets and alleys, and bring in those who are poor or crippled, and those who are blind or lame.’ After doing so, the aide reported, ‘Your orders have been carried out, and there’s still room.’ The landowner then said to the aide, ‘Go out and scour the side roads and the back roads and make them come in. I want my house to be full! But I tell you, not one of those I had initially invited will taste a bite of my dinner.’ ”

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