



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 “prayground” 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. 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

Gini Coomer

Bell Choir

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Judy Fletcher, 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.

February 16, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Percussive Praise by Kevin McChesney
Choristers Guild 2003

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #84

This is the Day

New Century Hymnal

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Luke 6:17-26 Judy Fletcher

MESSAGE The Prophets Among Us Rev. Elizabeth Price

*SONG OF REFLECTION #180 Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit
New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION Peace by Joshua Kramer
2015 The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Inc.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

OFFERING

INTERLUDE Minuet J. S. Bach

*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 #77

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Bercuse and Finale from "The Firebird Suite"
by Igor Stravinsky, arranged by Merle Isaac

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

February Leader's Assembly Tuesday, February 18th 6:30pm St Luke's United Methodist Church *100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260.* (Door #6, Roberts Chapel) Join us at St Luke's as we continue to build power to advance our vision of a safe and healthy community together. We are gathering to take the next step in the organizing journey and engage lawmakers and policy experts on solutions for the issues we've agreed to organize around. Thanks for your interest and concern.
Worth Hartman worthgrover@sbcglobal.net

Address Directory Update - We are working on updating our address and contact directory. If you have had any changes in your contact info in the past year, please let Wendy Baldwin know at wbaldwinindy@gmail.com or make the changes in the draft copy on the table in the Narthex by Feb 23. Updated versions will be available by the end of the month.

Robin Run Gathering - There will be a gathering of fellowship, conversation, and prayer with Pastor Sarah at Robin Run on Tuesday, Feb 25, at 1:30. It will be in the Cafe in the Assisted Living Building, and is hosted by Pat & Judy Larracey. All FCC Robin Run residents have been invited, and there is limited availability for others. We will have light snacks, but please bring your own drink, if desired. Call Pat at 317-625-6801 if you have questions.

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 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. 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.



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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 6:17-26

Coming down the mountain with them, Jesus stopped in a level area where there were a great number of disciples. A

large crowd of people was with them from Jerusalem and all over Judea, to as far north as the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon—people who had come to hear Jesus and be healed of their diseases, and even to be freed from unclean spirits. Indeed, the whole crowd was trying to touch Jesus, because power was coming out of him and healing them all. Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed,
for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed,
for you’ll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed,
for you’ll laugh.

You are blessed when people hate you,
when they scorn and insult you and spurn your name as evil
because of the Chosen One.

On the day they do so, rejoice and be glad:
your reward will be great in heaven,
for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich,
for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are full, for you’ll go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you’ll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you,
for their ancestors treated the false prophets
in the same way.

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

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