



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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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 LGBTQAAl+ 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 “playground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Our worship services are 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.

Warning! Scam alert!

Do not give any financial information from requests via email or text solicitations. These are scams and not from the church!

Accessibility: Please see an usher if you'd like a listening device. We also have a variety of fidgets in the playground to support neurodiversity. Don't hesitate to let an usher know if there's something else you're in need of!

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. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan, Preacher
Rev. Worth Hartman, Worship Leader
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director, Video Designer
Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Scott Semester, Liturgist

December 28, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| PRELUDE | Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring | J. S. Bach |
| INTROIT | Alleluia | Mayflower Singers |
| WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| CALL TO WORSHIP | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| One: Come, you who thirst for grace. | | |
| All: Come, you who hunger for justice. | | |
| One: Come, you who are a stranger in a strange land. | | |
| All: Come, you who are like a child at home. | | |
| One: Come, for Christ welcomes you to this time and place. | | |
| All: We have come to worship God. | | |
| One: Then let us worship well. | | |
| *HYMN #147 | See the Little Baby | <i>New Century Hymnal</i> |
| MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES | | Gracelynn Norgaard |
| SHARING THE PEACE | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| One: The peace of Christ be with you. | | |
| People: And also with you. | | |

WE ENCOUNTER

| | | |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|
| SCRIPTURE READING | John 1:1-5 | Scott Semester |
| SCRIPTURE RESPONSE | | Mayflower Singers |
| MESSAGE | My One Word – A New Year Challenge Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan | |
| *HYMN #124 | Away in a Manger | <i>New Century Hymnal</i> |

WE RESPOND

| | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|
| JOYS AND CONCERNS | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| MEDITATION | Burgundian Carol | O. Brand |
| PASTORAL PRAYER | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| 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 | | Rev. Worth Hartman |
| INTERLUDE | Caroling, Caroling | Hutson, Burt |

**The Christmas Child has now come near.
We share our gifts with peace-filled cheer.
This Christmastide brings newfound love
that comes to us from God above.**

*HYMN #133 O Little Town of Bethlehem *New Century Hymnal*

BLESSING SONG Alleluia Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Ding Dong! Merrily On High G. R. Woodard

Fun at First on New Year's Eve DAY – Dec 31, 1:30-3:30: Want to celebrate New Year's without being out at night? Join us for fun and games in the Parlor on Dec 31 from 1:30-3:30. We'll have munchies and drinks (non-alcoholic) while we share fellowship and dreams for 2026

New Wifi: We recently upgraded our Wifi throughout the church building and there are now new networks. To access Wifi, please use FCGuest and the password is Godisgr8. Questions/comments? Contact Wendy Baldwin.

Dream God's Dream! Our church depends on the financial gifts from members and friends in order for us to Dream God's Dream. Will you make a pledge of financial support for 2026? If so, **please turn in your pledge intention by 12/31, and we will bless these on Epiphany Sunday, 1/4.** Additional pledge cards are available in the Narthex, or email Financial Secretary Cristy James. Thank you to all who enable us to Dream God's Dream!

Seeking Gifts for the Acts of Kindness Fund: This is a special fund for our church members facing temporary financial setbacks. Can you make a special gift to it that will help individuals in our church family? Questions - ask Wendy Baldwin.

Christmas Wish Tree – This year the Outreach & Service Board is going to try something new. After the gift cards and knitwear are collected on Sunday, December 7, 2025, one of the trees will be left up and become a Wish Tree. Beginning on December 14, 2025, Cards will be available for everyone to write down their wishes for 2026. This can be a personal wish, a wish for our Church, or a wish for world in the coming year. **The wishes will be collected through Sunday, January 4, 2025.** Some of the collected wishes may be shared during a Joy and Concern moment or an Epistle or Colony article.

ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGE: The Annual Meeting for FCC has been changed by the Church Council to Sunday, February 1, 2026 because of the calendar and the timing of materials. Please plan on attending and mark your calendars with the appropriate date.

Worship Refreshment Hosting: On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. 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.

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.

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 – Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing, all skill levels welcome!



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts!

The Covenant giving organizations for September to December 2025 are the UCC Mental Health Network, GenderNexus, and Indy Action Coalition. 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**](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-5

IN THE BEGINNING there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light—Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

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

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