



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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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 “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. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader and Preacher
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

January 11, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Let It Be

Lennon, McCartney

INTROIT

Spirit

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISIONING TEAM MOMENT

Linda Lupton and Sandy Wood

GOOD NEWS UPDATE FROM THE GARDEN

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Scanlan-Holmes

*SONG OF INVITATION #16 Come to the Water *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17

Scott Semester

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Leave It This Way, Let It Be

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
(see back page)

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

SPECIAL MUSIC Go Tell It On the Mountain Burkhardt, Manz

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MISSION MOMENT

Outreach and Service and Care and Connections

OFFERING

INTERLUDE O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #137 Come Sweet Justice *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG Spirit Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Take Me to the Water

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

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.

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.

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! 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

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, “I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!” But Jesus replied, “Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God’s justice.” So John reluctantly agreed. Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said,
“This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favor rests.”

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

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365 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Unison

1. Wash, O God, your sons and daugh- ters, new-born crea- tures of your

2. Ev - 'ry day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may we be
 3. O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag- ined, all your

womb. Num-ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like
 fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of
 ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and
 bless - ing. liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our
 lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a -
 foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares, one with
 fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. By your

noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.
 Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.
 grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!