



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

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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 “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](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.**



## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

### SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:33-34

Carter Lund

### SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

### MESSAGE An Open Conversation about Hope and Covenant

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott, Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette

### \*SONG OF REFLECTION #403

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
*New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

### JOYS AND CONCERNS

### MEDITATION

H. Mancini

### 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

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy F. W. Faber

\*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 #292

Breathe On Me, Breath of God  
*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

# Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

**Friends for Justice, First Congregational has joined with The Garden and promised to bring 15 supporters to INDY ACTION COALITION LEADER'S ASSEMBLY WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21 6:30 PM ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DOOR # 6 100 WEST 86TH STREET INDIANAPOLIS IN 46260** Join Indy Action Coalition as we launch the 2026 Season of Action, where we build momentum for a public action in 2026 addressing issues including: **Community Safety Plan** coordinating with the city a plan to resist federal intrusion in Indianapolis protecting immigrant neighbors from ICE deportation, providing food, housing, and support **Housing** insure funding for Phase III Streets to Homes providing services to move folks from homelessness to permanent housing and engage the city in leveraging private funds for this effort. 100 folks have already been served.

**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](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**

Jeremiah 31:33-34

But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will put my Law in their minds and on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. “No longer will they need to teach one another or remind one another to listen to YHWH. All of them, high and low alike, will listen to me, says YHWH, for I will forgive their misdeeds and will remember their sins no more.

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



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