



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)  
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

@FirstCongregationalUCCIndy

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Welcome home! We celebrate being a Just Peace making church with an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the LGBTQ community since 1994.**

We welcome first time guests and include **all ages** in our worship service. We believe we are called 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**.

<b>Pastor Sarah's Office Hours</b>	<b>Shannon's Office Hours</b>
<b>Monday</b> – Sabbath Day	<b>Monday</b> – Sabbath Day
<b>Tuesday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Tuesday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Wednesday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<b>Thursday</b> – Out of the Office
<b>Friday</b> – Out of Office	<b>Friday</b> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Pastoral Care:**

Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**We celebrate the team of people called to serve on our church staff:**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund  
Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle  
Office Administrator, Shannon Abbott  
Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker  
Choir Director, Julie Houston  
Bell Choir Director, Bob Cook

**We celebrate the team of people elected to lead our church:**

Rich Gibson, Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk  
Jim Lootens, Treasurer  
George Meier, Financial Secretary

**APRIL 7, 2019**

**11 A.M.**

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.  
Asterisk (\*) indicates those who choose to may stand.*

**WE GATHER**

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Gather Us In

M. Haugen

Now Glad Of Heart

Trad.

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**\*CALL to WORSHIP**

Pastor Carol Sowle

Alleluia. In the spirit of peace we gather.

**Peace be with me.**

God's peace blossoms like a flower when tended with care.

**Peace be with you.**

Jesus brings us peace like a gift to share with one another.

**Peace be with us.**

**\*OPENING SONG # 451**

Be Now My Vision

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Carol Sowle

Moment of silence for personal reflection

THE PEACE

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

**We believe that we are called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. By this we mean that: Propelled by God's grace we strive to welcome and love everyone! Seeking to hear God's voice in today's world; we worship, learn, and grow in faith individually and as a community. Responding to God's call for compassion, justice and care of the earth, we equip and empower each other to make a difference in our lives and in the world!**

Please join with me in making a covenant with the church:

**I covenant with God and one another to serve God with faithfulness; treat one another with acceptance, love, and compassion; bear witness to the world with love; and live our faith humbly, yet boldly. Amen!**

## WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM

The Only Lamb

M. Ijames

*Spotless Lamb of God accepted as the offering in my place.  
Chosen as the sinless bearer of the sins of Adam's race.  
All the countless lambs before You could no satisfaction bring;  
Only Lamb of God you must be full and final offering.*

*Silent Lamb before the shearers makes no answer to their scorn;  
Wordlessly You stand submitting to a robe and crown of thorn.  
As You die, my wrathful sentence dies upon the lips of God.  
Only Lamb of God, my pardon bears your signature in blood.*

*Worthy Lamb enthroned in glory while the unnumbered throng  
Washed in blood, adorned and holy, joins the new and sweetest song;  
All my praise for my salvation finds it's voice before your throne.  
Only Lamb of God, thanksgiving, power and might be Yours alone.*

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Pastor Carol Sowle

SERMON

“What’s Giving You Life These Days?”

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SONG # 438

When Peace, Like a River

## WE RESPOND

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

*We invite those who desire to share a joy or concern. Please share your name so that people might get better acquainted. In the power and presence of God **we share your joy/prayer.***

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father or Our Mother or Our Creator or Our Sacred Presence, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day**

**our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

INTERLUDE

Love and Justice

Patton, Goudey

OFFERING of GIFTS and TITHES

CALL TO OFFERING and SERVICE

*We invite those who desire to share a service opportunity to do so briefly if the announcement is not in the bulletin. Please see the "Calls to Serve" for volunteer opportunities. Place connect cards in offering plates.*

\*DOXOLOGY (778) and OFFERING PRAYER

**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**

\*CLOSING SONG # 391

In the Midst of New Dimensions

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Now May The God of Peace.

L. Larson

POSTLUDE

Mazurka in F Major, Op. 68, No. 1

F. Chopin

*Please remain seated for the postlude or leave the sanctuary quietly. Everyone is invited for coffee, refreshments, and conversation in the church parlor.*

## **CALLS to SERVE**

*"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8*

**TODAY!!! Notice of Special Congregational Meeting** – Immediately following 11am worship. The purpose will be to fill the vacancy of the position of Vice Moderator. Lianna Campos has volunteered and is the approved candidate of the Church Council. Please join us and show your support to approve our new Vice Moderator. Thank you, Rich Gibson, Moderator

**TODAY!!! Picnic with Meridian Hills Cooperative School, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.**

Bring your picnic basket and blanket and join us on the playground TODAY for an afternoon of fun! We will have crafts, games, face painting, and a freshly spruced-up playground for the whole family to enjoy. Tea and cookies will be provided. Please bring your own picnic if you would like any additional refreshments.

**Adult Class – Sunday, May 5, 9:45 a.m.** – Presentation by the Green Team.

**TOMORROW! Ending Hunger—What's God Got to Do with It? April 29, 7-8:30 p.m. at North United Methodist Church** - At this Bread for the World event, Rev. Dick Hamm explores how hunger advocates can help our elected officials understand how policies and priorities can help end hunger and also explores the Biblical basis for advocacy. Check-in is from 6:45 -7:00 p.m. The event is free.

Please register so they know how many to expect at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/changing-the-systems-whats-god-got-to-do-with-it-tickets-59889096901>

**Poems & Stories** - The Mental Health Team is collecting poems and stories from you on the topic of "LGBTQ and Mental Health" through May 19. Booklets will be assembled to give to visitors to our booth at the PRIDE Festival. Entries may be emailed to Brandi Pudlo: [bt pudlo@knox.edu](mailto:bt pudlo@knox.edu). If you would like to send a draft for proof-reading before a final copy is printed, please send an email with the draft by the first week of May.

**Green Team Tip** – When recycling tin cans take a moment to make a slit in the label, peel it off and put it in the paper recycling bin. (This week's Green Tip is from Linda Lupton. If you want to share a green habit, please send it to [hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com](mailto:hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com).)

**Dress for Success** - Spring Cleaning? Have gently used professional clothes you are no longer wearing? Dress for Success can give them to women who can't afford interview clothes to help them be better prepared when job hunting. Put donations in the cloakroom by the sign. Thanks!

**April Mission of the Month: Exodus Refugee** - Exodus Refugee helps resettle refugees who come to this country legally by meeting basic needs, and also provide services including social and medical services, English language training, and employment services in order to achieve self-sufficiency in their new home. With the cuts and changes in US immigration policy, there has been a severe cut in funding, but legal refugees continue to arrive. We ask that you give generously to support their important work that answers God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Change and dollar bills in the offering plate will be designated for the mission of the month. Larger bills should be put in the "mission offering" envelopes in the pew and put in the offering plate. Checks should have Exodus marked in the memo line and made out to the church. We appreciate your help. Thank you for your support.

**Pantry Items of the Month** - During April we are collecting the following items: canned ravioli, cereal, soup, pasta and deodorant.

### THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	Congregational Meeting
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Worship & Faith Meeting
<b>Sunday, April 28</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	Picnic w/ Meridian Hills School
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	<b>3:30 p.m.</b>	Care & Connection
<b>Tuesday, April 30</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Bread for the World Meeting
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	Mindful Movement
<b>Wednesday, May 1</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Trustees Meeting
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	Men's Lunch
<b>Thursday, May 2</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Choir Rehearsal
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Sunday Adult Class
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Worship
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	Summer Series Planning Mtg

**To the parents of our young children:** God put the wiggle in children, please don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. You are invited toward the front using the Playground if you like. Keep children engaged by quietly explaining the parts of the service, actions of the pastor, worship leaders, and musicians. Sing, pray, and speak the responses; children learn worship behavior by copying you. The way we adults welcome children in church directly affects how they respond to the Church and to one another. Let all ages know that they are at home in this house of worship. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

**To the members of our congregation:** The presence of children is a gift to our church and to our community. They remind us that we are to share and pass on our faith. It is a gift to have children among us. Please welcome our children and encourage their parents with a warm smile. **Thank you.**

### Today's Scripture (NRSV Translation)

#### John 20:19-31

<sup>19</sup> When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

<sup>24</sup> But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

<sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.



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