



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

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**.

Pastor Sarah's Office Hours

Shannon's Office Hours

Monday – Sabbath	Monday – Sabbath
Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Wednesday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Thursday – serving the wider church	Thursday – 9:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m.
Friday – serving the wider church	Friday – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Pastoral Care:

Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at pastorsarah@fcindy.org. While Pastor Sarah is serving the wider church in Toronto at the headquarters of the United Church of Canada from Thursday, September 26 – Saturday September 28, Pastor Carol can be reached at (317) 496-9732 or at casowle@gmail.com.

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
Student Pastor, Cassidy Hall
Just Peace Intern, Grace Langford

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

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

We celebrate those leading us in worship today:

Just Peacemaking Team & Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Worship Leaders

The flowers on the altar are from the garden of Mike and Evelyn Johnson.

SEPTEMBER 22, 2019

JUST PEACE SUNDAY

11 A.M.

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

Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand.*

Today we celebrate FC's second annual Just Peace Sunday. As a congregation we voted at our 2019 Annual Meeting to become a Just Peace Church. Today in our morning Adult Education time, worship, and afternoon buzz we are urging our congregation to lift up immigrants, to learn about their concerns, honor their contributions to our country and communities, hear their pain, pray for their well-being, and listen to hear where God is leading us regarding issues of immigrant justice.

Welcoming the stranger among us is part of our faith tradition, for we too were once strangers (Exodus 22:21, Leviticus 19:33, Deuteronomy 10:17-19). However, too often the immigrants among us are rejected, treated as outcasts and placed on the margins of society. Certainly a major just peace concern in our country at this time in our national, community and faith life is discerning how to respond to God's call to welcome the stranger.

WE GATHER

GATHERING MUSIC

Welcome to this House

Cowan, arr. Baker

In Thy Temple

L. Zaninelli

WELCOME and PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*CALL to WORSHIP

susanna-judith rae

O holy God, Heart of heaven and earth, praised be your holy name.

Your siblings, from all peoples of the world,

regardless of borders, praise you.

We praise you and give you thanks!

Because you have placed in our midst immigrant pilgrims

who make the earth flourish and produce,

to bring food to the table of the rich and poor alike.

We praise you and give you thanks!

Because you always walk

with those who cross borders in search of well-being, of

doing their part in building the world you entrusted to us.

On our way, we are mindful of your Presence

of the promise to Abraham and Sarah of the liberation of your people, Israel.

We praise you and give you thanks!

For your blessings on all immigrants,
on those who cross all the borders in the United States. Today we pray for a clear and direct
pathway to citizenship for all our people! We pray that You guide the hearts of policy makers, to
make the right decisions, and be on the right side of history.
We praise you and give you thanks. This is our prayer. Amen.

*OPENING SONG #402 De Colores (Sing of Colors) – final verse in Spanish *New Century Hymnal*

UNISON PRAYER *(Adapted from a prayer by Jews United for Social Justice)* Janet Selby

**Source of Life who is known by many names;
Over-turner and illuminator of hearts;
we gather with gratitude for the earth and all who journey in it.
We give thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation.
Source of justice who is known by many names;
let us not swerve from the path of righteousness
that leads to just and equitable relationships.
Open our eyes that we may see the immigrant and undocumented;
whose labor enables and sustains our living;
the farm worker, the hotel worker, the line cook,
the childcare provider, the healthcare worker;
Give us the will to leave behind the safety of our sanctuaries
to become your living sanctuary;
and claim our place in the movement to transform creation;
that our voice, our heart, our spirit will
join the voice, heart, and spirit of all who
demand to live with respect, justice, and peace.**

*THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Rev. Worth Hartman

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

*For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the beauty of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For the joy of human love, brother sister parent child,
Friends on earth and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

*For each perfect gift of thine to our race so freely given,
Graces human and divine, flowers of earth and buds of heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise this our joyful hymn of praise.*

SCRIPTURE	Leviticus 19:33-34 Psalm 146 Matthew 25:31-39	Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey
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SERMON	Welcoming the Stranger	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
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LETTER WRITING (see sample on back of bulletin)

SONG #564	We Are Not Our Own	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
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WE RESPOND

LORD'S PRAYER (adapted by Rev. Mari Castellanos)	Nancy Dickinson
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All: Our Mother and Father who are everywhere.

One: You are with us, within us.... by the hardness of human hearts.

All: Holy be your name.

One: Holy is the memory of Jesus and Mary.....who gifted us with our faith.

All: Your kin-dom come, the commonwealth of your kin.

One: A kin-dom with no borders.....a kin-dom of harmony between all your creation.

All: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

One: As we commit ourselves to restore your creation...as we surrender our day-planners to your eternal vision.

All: Give us this day our daily bread.

One: Grant us bread without fear....the justice making Body of Christ.

All: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

One: May we forgive ourselves...forgive ...our dividing your children into winners and losers.

All: And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

One: The temptation of self-righteousness, the evil of judging others... the evil of a polluted world.

All: For yours is the kin-dom, the power and the glory.

One: Yours the reign of justice and peace....yours the everlasting glory of creation, in its magnificent, chaotic design.

All: Forever and ever, glory to you our God. Amen.

MEDITATION FOR CREATION

Forest Flower

Lloyd, arr. Baker

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.

*Guests, please fill out a **Connect Card** found in the pew holders so that we might learn more about you. The cards may also be used to for prayer requests that will be shared through our weekly prayer chain. Please place Connect Cards in the offering plate.*

*DOXOLOGY (785)

**We give you but your own,
what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

WE GO

*CLOSING SONG #526

We are Marching in the Light of God

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

World Peace Prayer

Rev. Worth Hartman

**Lead us from death to life,
from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope,
from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love,
from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our
world, our universe. Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Anonymous

POSTLUDE

Children of God

Martin, arr. Baker

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

Today's worship was planned and led by members of FC's Just Peacemaking Team.

Current Members: Nancy Dickinson, susanna-judith rae, Worth Hartman

Past members: Jim Rutherford, Rich Gibson, Janet Selby, Paul Terheide

Our team mission is to help FC grow in our identity and practice as a just peacemaking church, faithfully living out our Just Peace Church Covenant.

First Congregational Church Just Peace Church Covenant

(Adopted at Annual Meeting, Jan. 21, 2019)

We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, do hereby covenant with ourselves and each other as a Just Peace church to:

- *Follow the teachings of Christ in realizing that there is no true peace without justice for all*
- *Seek, through prayer and discernment, to identify opportunities to express and embody Just Peace principles:*
 - *Within ourselves*
 - *In our church and community*
 - *In our state*
 - *In our nation*
 - *In the world*
- *Seek God's clear call for ways to bear witness to Just Peace principles in a nonviolent way*
- *Engage as a congregation, partnering with other groups as seems advisable, to do so*
- *Periodically review our actions and those of our partners to ensure that they are effective and in consonance with the principles of Just Peace*



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.

CALLS to SERVE

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

TODAY! September Buzz w/ Pitch-In Lunch: Witness to the Southern US Border, Sunday, September 22, 12:30 p.m. - Witness can take many forms and for this event, Jill Olinger, member of St. Peter's UCC in Carmel, and President of the Indiana Kentucky Conference, will share stories of a personal journey of more than 10,000 miles and taken over 10 weeks in early 2019 along the US/Mexico border. The stories will be shared and conversation will be guided based on the UCC's 3 Great Loves: Love of Children, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Creation.

TODAY! Festival of Faiths - Please join us at our booth during the Festival of Faiths TODAY from 1-5 p.m. The festival is held in Veterans' Park (corner of Michigan and Meridian Streets). This year's theme is Celebrating Religious Diversity. See Bob Cook for more information.

Around a Table (Sign Up Deadline is TODAY!) - Would you like to build connections with other members outside of worship? Those interested will be placed in groups to get together for meals or snacks over a 4 month period. We will then repeat with new sign ups and new groups! If interested, please complete and turn in the sign up sheet on the table in the narthex. Please contact Karen Walker (317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com) for any questions or help with sign up.

Adult Ed. Time on the IndyGo Red Line, Sunday, September 29

*9:00 AM Meet at the Redline Platform, 66th Street and North College (parking on access street west side of College at 66th St.) *9:17 to 9:44 ride to 18th Street and North Meridian Street platform. *9:59 to 10:30 return trip to 66th Street and North College and on to 11:00 AM Worship at FCC. We can talk, sing, pray witnessing to our just peace, green values and celebrating a leap forward in our cities public transit. Wear FCC tee shirts, buttons, bring signs, banners. And it's free!

Thinking about making First Congregational your church home? We would love to welcome you into membership. We are planning our next New Member Sunday, November 10th, so let Pastor Sarah know if you are interested or have questions.

Choir Rehearsals – Rehearsals are on Thursday nights from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. We welcome new members. If anyone is interested in joining the choir, please email Julie at juliehouston@comcast.net. We would love to have you join us!

CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk, Sunday October 6th - Let's continue to HELP END HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME by being a walker, sponsoring a walker, donating through church at www.crophunger.org/walk.org/Indianapolisin/FCindy or by check payable to CWS/CROP. Additional information at the CROP WALK table in the narthex or see Sally Coombs, sallysews73@gmail.com or call 317-446-2853.

Green Team Tip - Do you do laundry with cold water as much as possible? (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com.)

September Mission of the Month: Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light

HIPL is an interfaith organization dedicated to advocating for sustainable living and changes to protect God's creation of life on this earth, both human and others. Its mission is to educate

congregations on sustainable living practices that will reduce our carbon footprint, and promote the use of renewable energy resources. They were instrumental in helping us start and maintain the study and work process that has led to our efforts to decrease our church's carbon footprint with changes to our lighting and now the installation of a photovoltaic system that will allow the church to capture part of its energy from a renewable source. The organization is funded primarily from contributions from its member congregations. Please support them with the September Mission of the Month.

Pantry Items of the Month – During September we are collecting the following items: bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, and deodorant.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday, September 22	12:15 p.m.	Border Buzz w/ Pitch-In Lunch
Sunday, September 22	1:00 p.m.	Festival of Faiths
Wednesday, September 25	6:30 p.m.	Calling Circle
Thursday, September 26	11:45 a.m.	Women's Lunch
Thursday, September 26	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, September 29	9:00 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class on the Red Line
Sunday, September 29	11:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Rev. Chris Davies
Sunday, September 29	12:00 p.m.	Coffee Chat w/ Rev. Chris Davies
Sunday, September 29	3:00 p.m.	Ecclesiastical Council for Rev. Shannon Abbott @ St. Peter's UCC



Today's Scripture (NRSV Translation)

Leviticus 19:33-34

³³ When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.

Psalms 146

¹ Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

² I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶ who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.

Praise the Lord!

Matthew 25:31-39

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

Write a Letter to Congress Advocating to Help Migrant Families: Each day brings a new attack on our immigrant neighbors and the scope and breadth of these challenges can be staggering. We see children sleeping on concrete floors, parents grieving after being cruelly separated from their children, overcrowding and lack of even basic humanitarian conditions in detention facilities. As the United Church of Christ we have declared ourselves to be an immigrant welcoming church, believing that love of our neighbor extends to welcoming each migrant— and that compassion should be at the root of how our nation treats migrants. How we invest our money reflects our values as a nation, and right now those values are corrosive and harmful. This has got to stop. Congress should instead invest in policies that uplift family unity, address the root causes of forced migration, and prioritize human needs by respecting the rights and dignity of every person. We actively urge congress to end family and child detention, family separation, and the funding of these immoral practices; and are asking that the United Church of Christ raise up their voices to make that happen. An important way to do that is by sending in letters to Members of Congress.

Sample Letter:

Dear (Member of Congress),

I am writing as a constituent and person of faith. I am saddened and troubled by the administrations ongoing attacks on our immigrant neighbors. As you work on funding legislation I ask that you no longer fund the cruel immigration and deportation policies. Instead, I urge you to invest in programs that uplift family unity, address the root causes of forced migration, and prioritize human needs by respecting the rights and dignity of every person.

Sincerely,



@fc_indy



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