



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**. **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.**

Pastor Sarah’s Office Hours

Monday: Sabbath

Tuesday: 9am – 12pm

Wednesday: 9am – 12pm

Thursday: 9am – 12pm

Friday: working off site

Shannon’s Office Hours

Monday: serving wider church

Tuesday: serving wider church

Wednesday: serving wider church

Thursday: serving wider church

Friday: serving wider church

Pastoral Care: Pastor Sarah may be reached at (386)478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

We celebrate 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
Olivia Beeman, Nursery Attendant
Jess Tyler, Nursery Attendant

We celebrate our church leadership:

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

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Worth Hartman, Worship Leader
Mike Kessler, Percussion
Fred Withrow, Electric Bass
New Creation Ensemble: Julie Houston, Alice Rutherford, Sean Baker

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. Preschool age and younger may use the nursery or children of all ages 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.

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

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Welcome to This House New Creation Ensemble

GATHERING SONGS	#123 Draw the Circle Wide	<i>Sing! Prayer and Praise</i>
	#27 You Are Welcome Here	
	#35 No Matter	

WELCOME and OPENING PRAYER Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*OPEN & AFFIRMING CANDLE LIGHTING Rev. Worth Hartman
[Christ Candle]

In 1994 First Congregational UCC, Indianapolis, identified itself as an Open and Affirming congregation.

[Red candle]

This began our commitment to end ignorance, fear, hatred, prejudice and discrimination against all people.

[Orange candle]

We are called to follow the life and teachings of Jesus who denied no one and welcomed all.

[Yellow candle]

We do this by creating a safe place which is free from exploitation and abuse, and that is inclusive for all people to worship God.

[Green candle]

We acknowledge that despite our best intentions, we are likely to make mistakes but we commit in advance to listen, confess, reconcile, restore and recommit in love on this journey.

[Blue candle]

Therefore, we enter into this mutual covenant with each other and God to offer an extravagant welcome on behalf of our body of believers to all who would follow Jesus regardless of gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, race, age, education, economic class, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, physical or psychological differences as equals in the life and ministry of our faith community.

[Purple candle]

*THE PEACE

WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM We've Come This Far by Faith Goodson, Arr. M McDonald

We've come this far by faith, leaning on our God.

Trusting in the holy word. God's never failed me yet.

Oh, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.

Don't be discouraged with trouble in your life.

God will bear your burdens and move all discord and strife.

We've come this far by faith, leaning on our God.

Trusting in the holy word. God's never failed me yet.

Oh, can't turn around, we've come this far by faith.

Just remember the good things God has done.

Things that seemed impossible. O praise God for the victories we have won.

SCRIPTURE Proverbs 31:8-9 Rev. Worth Hartman

SERMON "Rainbow Power" Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

HYMN #32 God of the Sparrow (vs 4,5) *New Century Hymnal*

HYMN #391 In the Midst of New Dimensions (vs 4,5) *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

PRAYER FOR OPEN & AFFIRMING and THE PRAYER OF JESUS

Our God in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. Do not let us enter into temptation, but rescue us from evil. For yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING of GIFTS and TITHES

CALL TO OFFERING and SERVICE

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.*

OFFERTORY

There Is Room for All

New Creation Ensemble

*DOXOLOGY and OFFERING PRAYER

To you O God we here do raise
our song and gifts of thankful praise.
The Christmas Child protect from harm,
and keep all children safe and warm.

WE GO

*CLOSING HYMN #575

O for a World

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Metta Prayer

New Creation Ensemble

POSTLUDE

Heal the World

Paich, Jackson

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

Nursery Care - Life is thriving in our Playground, and we are expanding our ministry offerings to our young ones by opening up the Nursery! We welcome our new nursery attendants, Olivia and Jess, who will be with us Sunday from 10:30-12:30 to care for our children. We need volunteers to join her! If you are interested in being a volunteer in the nursery, please contact Lianna Campos at lcampos33@gmail.com or 317-954-1601. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

TODAY! Inclusive Language Buzz with Pitch-In Lunch, Sunday, January 12, 12:30 p.m. - Worship and Faith is hosting a Buzz on the use of Inclusive Language in our worship services. You are invited to share in a meal and voice your experience of the recent changes we have made in our use of scripture, doxology, and prayer.

Sunday Adult Class, 9:45 a.m. – In January, Adult Ed will study "Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture; Walter Brueggemann on Confronting Today's 'Pharaohs'."

Jan 19 - "Moral Coherence in a World of Power, Money and Violence."

Annual Meeting, January 26 (after worship) - It's amazing! It's wonderful! It's the highlight of the church (governance) year! It's the Annual Meeting, after services on Sunday, January 26! Come one, come all: Members, visitors with a hankering to see how a congregation does business, anyone, everyone! Bring a dish for the pitch-in lunch, and don't worry about what to do with the kids. We'll have the nursery workers staying through the meeting so you have options galore!

Thank You for Your Generosity! - Thank you for the abundant donations for the hygiene kits. They are on their way to the southern border right now! Thanks to your generous donations, there are some extra hand towels and soap which will be donated to Family Promise, and socks which will be donated to Horizon House. Thank you!

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!

Green Team Tip – Turn off the stove or grill up to 10 minutes before you are done cooking your food to use the residual heat.

January Mission of the Month: Indiana Youth Group - In 1987 the Indiana Youth Group was founded by two volunteers in order to provide a safe space for social gatherings for self identified LGBTQ+ high schoolers. IYG has grown from a group of about a dozen youth to a social service agency providing resources for almost 1,000 youth and their families. Our donations to IYG help assure that the mission of IYG will expand throughout Indiana and act as a witness to FCC's ONA commitments.

Pantry Items of the Month

During the month of January, we are collecting: noodles, muffin mix, cereal, shampoo.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday, January 12	12:30 p.m.	Buzz w/ pitch-in: Inclusivity
Thursday, January 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, January 16	7:00 p.m.	Indianapolis Green Congregations
Sunday, January 19	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, January 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship
Sunday, January 19	12:30 p.m.	Worship & Faith
Sunday, January 19	6:00 p.m.	Christian Unity Worship @ Zion
		Evangelical UCC (N NJ St) w/ Pastor Sarah preaching

Proud to be ONA
[an open & affirming
congregation]



Today's Scripture (Common English Bible)

Proverb 31:8-9

⁸ Speak out on behalf of the voiceless,
and for the rights of all who are vulnerable.

⁹ Speak out in order to judge with righteousness
and to defend the needy and the poor.



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