



## 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

@FirstCongregationalUCCLndy

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

We celebrate being a Just Peace making,  
Green for care of Creation, WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive,  
Supportive and Engaged) for mental health church with  
an Open and Affirming covenant supporting the  
LGBTQAAI+ 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.**

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

## **We celebrate our church staff:**

Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Pastoral Care Associate, Pastor Carol Sowle

External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall

Music Designer/Organist, Sean Baker

Just Peace Intern, Allison Welz

## **We celebrate our church leadership:**

Senior Councilors: \*Steve Coomer, Larry Eckel, Alice Rutherford

Clerk: Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

Treasurer: Jim Lootens

Financial Secretary: Cheryl Dillenback

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Mayflower Quartette

Plymouth Players

Nathan Howard, liturgist



**September 12, 2021**

**11:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE	Welcome to This House	Cowen
INTROIT	I Was Glad	Mayflower Quartette
WELCOME		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
OPENING SONG #20	Praise God's Name	<i>Chalice Hymnal</i>
MOMENT OF PEACE		Just Peace Intern, Allison Welz
	<b>WE PROCLAIM</b>	
SCRIPTURE	Mark 8:27-38	Nathan Howard
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE		Mayflower Quartette

SERMON

Be a Blessing

Rev. Dr. Sarah  
Lund

SONG #204

Take Up Your Cross

*New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*We invite those who desire to share a joy or concern.*

MEDITATION

Nearer, My God to Thee

PASTORAL PRAYER (From Enfleshed)

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

God, the enormity of the suffering of the world burns in us like a forest fire, collapses us like a building, washes over us like floodwaters, sits in us like a plane that can't leave the gate. In our sorrow, console us with moments of beauty and belonging. Build with us communities of solidarity and kindness, for you desire not our suffering but our delight. Amen.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

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 Quartette

## WE GO

CLOSING SONG #344

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

*Chalice Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Make Me a Servant

Mayflower Quartette

POSTLUDE

Praise God's Name

### **CALLS to SERVE**

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

**TODAY! Patio Psalms and Prayers at 9:30 a.m.** – On Sunday mornings, grab your lawn chair and join us on the patio for an outdoor gathering time for faith formation. **Psalm 13 (6 verses)**

**TODAY! Virtual Coffee Hour!** - While we are not gathering in-person, we will have "Coffee Hour" on **Zoom** immediately following online worship.

**TODAY! All-Church Buzz about Hybrid Worship!** Join us at 1:00pm on **Zoom** following coffee hour to discuss thoughts about your experience with hybrid worship so far, and learn more about what's coming!

**Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom)** – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pat Larracey at [plainandfancy1963@att.net](mailto:plainandfancy1963@att.net), or 317-625-6801, or Pastor Sarah at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**Outreach & Service** – Thanks to all who continue to bring canned and packaged foods, paper products, and personal hygiene items for the Northside Pantry. The baskets in the narthex are filling up! August is the last month of our four-month Covenant Outreach dedicated to our W.I.S.E. for Mental Health covenant, supporting the UCC Mental Health Network, The Trevor Project, and The Julian Center. If you haven't already made a contribution to Covenant Outreach since April, now is the time!

**Publications** - Bulletins, Sermons, Epistles, and Colony are all available on our website: [www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)

**Continue Your Support of First Congregational UCC** - Please continue supporting the mission and ministries of your local church by mailing your check to the church or through online giving at <http://www.fcindy.org/online-giving/>

**Members In Need Fund** - The Members In Need Fund is available to support financial needs for any of our church family who find themselves in need. To request funds for you or your family, please contact Pastor Sarah by email [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org) or cell (386) 478-9012.

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline:** 1-800-273-TALK (8255) (press 1 for veterans, 2 for Spanish)

**National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)** Information HelpLine provides information and referral services. 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) and [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org).

**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)

### **How to Access our Zoom Gatherings**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9264494206?pwd=dmtWbWE5UXRBTK5pcHZlY1B0aEFVUT09> Meeting ID: 926 449 4206 Password: 7171

If you click on the URL, you should not need to enter in the Meeting ID and Password. To dial in by phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID 926 449 4206, Password 7171.

## **Ways to help the Afghan Crisis**

**A Local Partner Looking for Refugee Support:** As the war in Afghanistan

ends, Exodus Refugee is expecting to assist in settling some Afghani refugees here in the Indianapolis area. Donations are greatly appreciated and a list of needs can be found at [In-kind Support | Exodus Refugee](#). Families are arriving with very little notice, so watch the weekly Epistle for more information about how our church can be a part of this vital effort to care for our neighbors.

**Church World Service:** Church World Service, another agency working in partnership with the U.S. government to resettle refugees, has welcomed more than 7,000 Afghan Special Immigrant Visa recipients and their families since 2009, according to its website. CWS has issued an [emergency appeal](#) to support Afghans now arriving in the U.S., asking for \$700,000 in financial support to offer transportation, food and other emergency support and up to \$450,000 in in-kind housing support. Monetary donations can be made [online](#) or mailed to Church World Service, P.O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515 (designated to Protect Our Afghan Allies). Those interested in sponsoring a family arriving in their community or providing in-kind support — including landlords able to rent housing to new arrivals — can [fill out a form online](#) or email [refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org](mailto:refugeewelcome@cwsglobal.org). CWS has also compiled sample messages urging lawmakers to protect Afghans seeking safety [on its website](#) that can be shared on social media or sent to lawmakers. More info here: <https://pres-outlook.org/2021/08/how-to-help-afghans-arriving-in-the-us-after-fleeing-the-taliban/>

## This Week at FC Indy:

Wednesday, September 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (Zoom)
Thursday, September 16	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, September 16	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 19	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)

Sunday, September 19	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 19	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 22	5:00 p.m.	WISE Mental Health Team (Zoom)



**IT'S OUR SHOT, HOOSIERS**  
COVID-19 VACCINE

Are you ready to get back to the people and activities you love?

Your vaccination brings us one day closer to controlling the pandemic and reopening Church.

**Get your vaccine ASAP!**  
Register at [ourshot.in.gov](https://ourshot.in.gov) or call 211.

Marion County "color"	Indoors	Outdoors
<b>Blue, positivity is decreasing</b>	Masks are <u>optional for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
<b>Blue, positivity is increasing</b>	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>	Masks are <u>not required</u>
<b>Yellow</b>	Masks are <u>required for all</u>	Masks are <u>encouraged for vaccinated people</u> , and <u>required for unvaccinated</u>



<b>Orange</b>	Building is <u>closed</u> for in-person gatherings	Masks are <u>required for all</u>
<b>Red</b>	Building is <u>closed</u> for in-person gatherings	No church-sponsored outdoor gatherings

**Current Marion County “color status”: ORANGE**

## Today’s Scripture

### **Mark 8:27-38**

Then he and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus asked the disciples this question: “Who do people say that I am?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptizer; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets.” “And you,” he went on to ask, “who do you say that I am?”

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah!” But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly.

Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: “Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God’s!”

Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, “If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you’ll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you’ll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose yourself in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when we all stand before our God in glory.”

(The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2650-2651). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition)