



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

Pastoral Care:

While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church May 14 - 16, Rev. Worth Hartman may be reached on May 14 at (317) 417-0806 or whartman@westminstervillage.com, and Pastor Carol Sowle may be reached May 15 – 16 at (317) 496-9732 or casowle@gmail.com. After those dates, Pastor Sarah can be reached at (386) 478-9012 or at 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
Lianna Campos, Vice Moderator
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Clerk
Jim Lootens, Treasurer
George Meier, Financial Secretary

We celebrate those serving in worship today:

Marion Harcourt, Worship Leader

MAY 12, 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 Als die alte Mutter Op. 55, No. 4 Antonín Dvořák
(Songs My Mother Taught Me)

I Was Glad L. Larson

WELCOME Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*CALL to WORSHIP Marion Harcourt
God is good.
All the time.
All the time.
God is good.

*OPENING SONG #1 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

OPENING PRAYER
Moment of silence for personal reflection

THE PEACE

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY OF PASTOR CAROL SOWLE

In baptism, Carol Sowle, was clothed with Christ, and is now called by God through the voice of the church to enter into the ministry of Jesus Christ.

We celebrate God's call and we affirm your ministry among us.

We also remember with joy our common calling to serve Christ.

Indeed, affirmation of ministry calls the whole church to renewed commitment to follow Christ. Let us therefore reaffirm our covenant with God and with one another.

Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, will you be Christ's faithful disciples, showing God's love?

We will, God helping us.

Together we are the Body of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

WE PROCLAIM

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

ANTHEM	How Lovely Are The Messengers	F. Mendelssohn
<i>How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace. To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words: Throughout all the lands their glad tidings. How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.</i>		

SCRIPTURE	Psalms 23	Marion Harcourt
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SERMON	The Case for a Good God	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
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SONG # 451 Be Now My Vision

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	Blues for Mothers	H. Mancini
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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 #4 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

*BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE May The Lord Bless You and Keep You L. Larson

POSTLUDE Mama, a Rainbow Hackaday, Grossman
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

Adult Class – Sunday, May 19, 9:45 a.m. – will begin "Anxious To Talk About It: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully About Racism," by Carolyn B Helsel, a Disciples of Christ minister. We will read this book together during the Adult Ed hour, with time set aside to discuss.

Poems & Stories - The Mental Health Team is collecting poems and stories from you on the topic of "LGBTQ and Mental Health" through **NEXT SUNDAY, May 19**. Booklets will be assembled to give to visitors to our booth at the PRIDE Festival. Entries may be emailed to Brandi Pudlo: btudlo@knox.edu.

Help Wanted: Cookie bakers for receptions. The Memorial Receptions team could use help with providing the home-made cookies for these events. The team will continue to do the set-up, presentation, making coffee, tea, and punch and supplying cheese and crackers, nuts and mints, serving, and cleaning-up. We would appreciate donations of baked goods for these events. The next reception is scheduled for **Saturday, May 25**. If you can help out then or for future receptions, please contact Sue Chapman at carolsuech59@gmail.com or call 317-259-1806. Thank you.

Kid's Night Out! (aka Parent's Night Off!) – Saturday, May 25, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. – Drop off your kids (ages 3-12) for a fun-filled night of dinner, crafts, and a movie! Please register in advance. Suggested donation of \$10/child. All volunteers have passed a current background check. CPR certified volunteer on site. Contact welcome@fcindy.org with any additional questions.

Update on Days for Girls: The cutters and sewers are nearing our goal, and all purchased products have been received thanks to your generosity. Now we need boxes. Bankers' boxes or the kind printer paper comes in are preferred, but others that aren't too big and can be closed are OK as well. Everything will be boxed up and taken to the Indiana-Kentucky Annual Meeting, which begins on May 31. We'd like the boxes to be here at church by May 29 at the latest. They can be left in the nursery. Thank you.

Green Team Tip – Share rides to church for meetings and worship whenever feasible. (If you want to share a green habit, please send it to 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!

May Mission of the Month: UCC Mental Health Network

The May Mission of the Month supports the UCC Mental Health Network. Your FCC WISE Mental Health Team refers to this resource often as we work to become a WISE Congregation with your support. The UCC Mental Health Network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illness/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of the congregation.

Partner with us:

- +While the diagnosis and treatment of serious mental illness is undergoing a revolution, the discrimination against persons with mental health concerns is still a fact of life.
- +We believe that education through churches is one key to changing this discrimination.
- +We believe that networking together within the UCC and with similar networks in other denominations and faith groups will help us in our efforts.
- +We believe that advocacy for individuals and for social and legislative change will improve the life of many.
- +We believe that through our own policies and within our own ministries we can model for the rest of society how to be caring congregations and a compassionate denomination.

Thank you for your support.

Pantry Items of the Month - During May we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit, muffin mix, and laundry detergent.

THIS WEEK AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday, May 12	12:15 p.m.	Reception for Pastor Carol Sowle
Wednesday, May 15	9:30 a.m.	Mindful Movement Yoga
Thursday, May 16	1:00 p.m.	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 16	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, May 19	9:45 a.m.	Sunday Adult Class
Sunday, May 19	11:00 a.m.	Worship – Mental Health Sunday

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

Psalm 23 (NRSV)

¹The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
²He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
³he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
⁴Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Psalm 23 (adaptation by Bobby McFerrin)

The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need.
She makes me lie down in green meadows
Beside the still waters, She will lead.
She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs
She leads me in a path of good things
And fills my heart with songs.
Even though I walk, through a dark and
dreary land
There is nothing that can shake me
She has said She won't forsake me
I'm in her hand.
She sets a table before me, in the presence
of my foes.
She anoints my head with oil
And my cup overflows.
Surely, surely goodness and kindness
will follow me
All the days of my life.
And I will live in her house
Forever, forever and ever.



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