



## 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

Alice Rutherford, liturgist

**September 5, 2021**

**11:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE	Like a Healing Stream	Harding
INTROIT	I Was Glad	Mayflower Quartette
WELCOME		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
OPENING SONG #612	Strengthen All the Weary Hands (vs. 1, 2)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
MOMENT OF PEACE		Just Peace Intern, Allison Welz

**WE PROCLAIM**

SCRIPTURE	Isaiah 35:4-7a	Alice Rutherford
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE		Mayflower Quartette
SERMON	How Will We Be Saved?	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
SONG #612	Strengthen All the Weary Hands (vs. 3, 4)	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>

## WE RESPOND

SHARING of JOYS and CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Like a Healing Stream

Harding

PASTORAL PRAYER (From Enfleshed)

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

God, the suffering of the world can be overwhelming. The way of empire makes refugees of your beloveds and wreaks havoc on the ecosystems of Earth. When we are in pain, may we find comfort in knowing that you are with us; you weep with us, you work alongside us, and you love us. 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 #547

Amazing Grace

*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen

Mayflower Quartette

POSTLUDE

Let Us Break Bread Together

## **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.

**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!

### **Invitation to new faith formation opportunities!**

As a hybrid church it’s important for us to offer faith formation activities in a variety of ways. One such avenue is the ongoing Patio Psalms and Prayers meeting on the church’s patio each Sunday morning at 9:30. This group is studying and discussing the psalms and offering personal joys and prayer concerns in an in-person format. In support of our hybrid church vision, the Worship & Faith Board is offering an online-only faith formation opportunity for anyone wishing to participate. Over the next few months we’ll gather on the church’s Zoom link for a “sermon talkback” every other Sunday at 5:00-6:00 PM. Pastor Sarah’s sermons are usually stimulating and thought-provoking, so

this will be an opportunity for some interactive reflection on what she has offered to us in worship. Tune in as you feel comfortable on any or all Sundays – September 12 & 26, October 10 & 24, November 7 & 21.

Another online opportunity is being offered by the UCC – the 6-month series “Reason to Have Hope”. This course was developed as a resource to support the recently adopted General Synod resolution defining racism as a public health issue. The discussion group will meet every other Tuesday, 1:00-2:00 PM, beginning on September 14 and ending on March 15. Learn more and register at [CHHSM Discussion Group to Delve into ‘Reason to Have Hope’ Course - CHHSM](#)

**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 Afghan 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 8	7:00 p.m.	Trustees (Zoom)
Thursday, September 9	5:00 p.m.	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, September 12	9:30 a.m.	Patio Psalms & Prayers (FC patio)
Sunday, September 12	11:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (YouTube, FB, Dial In)
Sunday, September 12	12:00 p.m.	Virtual Coffee Hour (Zoom)
Sunday, September 12	1:00 p.m.	All-Church Buzz (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 15	7:00 p.m.	Church Council (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.

<b>Marion County "color"</b>	<b>Indoors</b>	<b>Outdoors</b>
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<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

### **Isaiah 35:4-7a**

Say to all those faint of heart: “Take courage! Do not be afraid! Look, YHWH is coming, vindication is coming, the recompense of God—God is coming to save you!”

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf will be unsealed. Then those who cannot walk will leap like deer and the tongues of those who cannot speak will sing for joy.

Waters will break forth in the wilderness, and there will be streams in the desert. The scorched earth will become a lake; the parched land, springs of water. (The Inclusive Bible (pp. 2650-2651). Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition)