



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

Find and Follow Us:



@fc_indy



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

**7171 N. Pennsylvania Street
Indianapolis, IN 46240**

**317•257•5397
www.fcindy.org**

Welcome to your Spiritual Home!

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

Whether you choose to join us online or in-person, we believe we are called together 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.

We welcome all who worship with us today and include **all ages** in our hybrid worship service. We invite guests and members to fill out a Welcome/Prayer card found in the pew holder, and put it in the offering plate. Children are invited to play quietly in the “pryground” at the front of the church, or use a “Quiet Bag” found in the Narthex.

***Disclaimer:** Today’s worship service is being live-streamed. While the focus will be on the worship leaders, anything you say or do may be on film. If you have any questions or need to ensure you are not on camera please speak with our minister.

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

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) and Pastor Sarah are in office Thursdays from 9am-12.

A Message from our Church Council regarding COVID:

While we navigate the continuing pandemic, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell. –Church Council resolution of November 16th, 2022

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Mayflower Singers

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester, Worship Song Leader

Lauren Ladd and Steve Coomer, Readers

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader and Preacher

March 19, 2023

11:00 AM

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

Asterisk () indicates those who choose to may stand in body/spirit.*

WE GATHER

MUSIC FOR GATHERING

Roll Down, Justice!

M. Miller

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE CALL

Holy and Living God, to choose You is to choose love.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Nudge us toward the reconciliation that ushers in right relationship.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

May peace flow. Let justice roll.

**Roll down! Roll down, justice!
Roll like an ever-flowing stream,
flowing stream, roll down!**

PEACE

*OPENING HYMN #223

What Wondrous Love is This

New Century Hymnal

WE PROCLAIM

COME AS A CHILD

INTRO AND RESPONSE

I Choose Love

Mayflower Singers

SCRIPTURE

Luke 23: 32-43

Lauren Ladd

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

PRAYER POEM

Steve Coomer

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

SERMON

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (from UCC Book of Worship)

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.

RESPONSE

Let Justice Roll

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

MEDITATION

I Choose Love

M. Miller

*DOXOLOGY

For death-defying hope, we praise;
for love that conquers all, we raise
For justice here on earth we sing
and righteousness as if a stream.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the gift and possibility of reconciliation and forgiveness,

we give thanks.

For the way in which these offerings can help us choose love,

we give thanks.

For the gift of this community bound and working together,

we give thanks.

*CLOSING HYMN #423

Great is Your Faithfulness

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**May the song you sing in your heart
be pleasing to God,
moving you to the passion and compassion of Jesus,
uplifted by a Spirit
that keeps you humming life's tune of love.
Amen.**

RESPONSE

May Peace Flow

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Roll Down, Justice!

M. Miller

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

“Love one another. And you’re to love one another the way I have loved you.” John 13:34

TODAY: Third Sunday Special Fellowship: Please join us in the Parlor immediately following worship TODAY for our Third Sunday Special Fellowship, where the theme will be 'green things' in honor of St Patrick's Day!

Sunday Mornings at 10:00 AM – Several options are available on Sundays before worship. Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion (upstairs at church). Or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning’s singing; all skill levels welcome! Or have refreshments and informal conversation in the Parlor.

Circle IV Book club via church Zoom – Circle IV is gathering Tuesday, **March 21st** at 2:00 pm on Zoom. All Readers welcome! Questions? Contact Linda Lupton lklupton@aol.com

Fourth Friday Films – We are bringing back our Fourth Friday Films monthly fellowship event. We meet at Landmark Keystone Cinema about 6:30-6:45, decide on which movie(s) people want to see, and then gather afterwards for beverages and discussion.

Join us on March 24 for this fun time together!

Caring Crafters – Meeting Saturday at the church, **March 25th** at 9:30 AM – All Crafting levels welcome! Questions? Contact Linda Lupton lklupton@aol.com

Library Committee Meeting – 10:00 AM on Tuesday, **March 28th**

Women’s Lunch Bunch – All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship, **Thursday, March 30 at 11:45 a.m.** If the weather is inclement, we will gather on Zoom (usual church link) at 12 noon. Questions? Contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or carolsuech59@gmail.com.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand,” for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

Letter writing in the Narthex – See the handouts to help you write a short letter to your state representative supporting full funding of the 9-8-8 mental health crisis line in Indiana.

Spiritual Support Group, Thursdays at 5:00pm (Zoom) – This group openly invites anyone seeking spiritual care concerning well-being. Contact Pastor Sarah at pastorsarah@fcindy.org, or 386-478-9012.

Questions for office staff about an event or our church? Contact External Communications Manager/Office Admin, Cassidy Hall (she/her) at cassidy@fcindy.org

Mental Health Support:

The 988 Lifeline: 988 is now active across the United States. (call or text) **National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI.ORG):** information and referral services: 1-800-950-NAMI (6264) **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

GIVING

We seek to love and to share our joy.

Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant, and the recipients are Exodus Refugee, Peace Learning Center, Family Promise, and Faith in Indiana. Gifts of single dollars, or those designed to Covenant Outreach, are divided evenly to these groups, unless otherwise specified. Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational’s operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org .

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

Sunday, March 19	10:00 AM	Adult Ed (In-Person Only)
Sunday, March 19	11:00 AM	Sunday Hybrid Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, March 19	After Worship	Third Sunday Fellowship in the Parlor
Tuesday, March 21	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, March 21	2:00 PM	Circle Book Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 22	10 AM	WISE Mental Health Team (Zoom)
Thursday, March 23	9 AM – 12	In-office Hours
Thursday, March 23	1:00 PM	Men’s Lunch
Thursday, March 23	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Thursday, March 23	7:00 PM	Bread Team Planning Meeting (Zoom)
Friday, March 24	Meet 6:30-45	Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone Cinema
Saturday, March 25	9:30 AM	Caring Crafters

. Today's Scripture

Luke 23: 32-43

Two others were also led off with Jesus, criminals who were to be put to death. When they had reached the place called the skull, they crucified Jesus there— together with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, “Abba forgive them. They don’t know what they are doing.” Then they divided his garments, rolling dice for them. The people stood there watching. The rulers, however, jeered him and said, “He saved others, let him save himself— if he really is the messiah of God, the Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him. They served Jesus sour wine and said, “If you are really the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was an inscription above Jesus that read, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who hung there beside him insulted Jesus, too, saying, “Are you really the Messiah? Then save yourself—and us!” But the other answered the first with a rebuke: “Don’t you even fear God? We are only paying the price for what we have done, but this one has done nothing wrong!” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your glory.” Jesus replied, “The truth is, today you’ll be with me in paradise!”

A Word of God that is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Scripture: Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.

Worship Notes: Design, leader parts, liturgy and words for Doxology © Marcia McFee, www.worshipdesignstudio.com. Used with permission. Do not distribute beyond your church. Prayer/Poem © Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling. Used with permission for “Roll Down Justice” Lent series by the Worship Design Studio. For all other uses, contact Bishop Easterling through <http://www.bwcumc.org>.