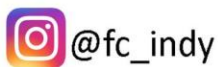




# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

[www.fcindy.org](http://www.fcindy.org)  
317.257.5397

7171 N. Pennsylvania St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46240

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# 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 LGBTQAAL+ 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](mailto: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**

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

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

Imam Michael Saahir, Message

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Jeannette Coomer, Liturgist

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

**April 30, 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**

PRELUDE

Creator God, Creating Still

arr. Baker

*Music for gathering*

INTROIT

Because He Lives

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

CALL TO WORSHIP (from enfleshed)

People of God, there is a feast set before us.

**An abundance of ordinary provisions is always in reach.**

Do we not have a fountain of compassion from which to draw?

**With God as our source, we are never in lack.**

Who is able to keep us from Wisdom? Who has the power to set limits upon our joy?

**Not even our enemies can hinder access to God.**

Let us rejoice! For we will not be left without.

**Thanks be to God, our Holy Provider.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #83

I Sing as I Arise Today

*New Century Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

Noah Giddings

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

Jeannette Coomer

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

God re - stores my soul and leads me in right paths.

SCRIPTURE SONG

Video

MESSAGE

Spiritual DNA

Imam Michael Saahir

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #448

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

*New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

To God Be the Glory

arr. Baker

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**The Resurrection now has come.  
Christ's justice work must still be done.  
These gifts we bring are for that goal,  
To share and care for every soul.**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

BLESSING OF THE JUST PEACE INTERN

PRAYERS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

**WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #77 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing *New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

arr. Baker

*Music for Sending Forth*

## **Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!**

**TODAY's Buzz, April 30<sup>TH</sup> ON ZOOM ONLY:** Join us for a Buzz to Discuss Pastor Sarah's Sabbatical, our plans, and ask any questions you might have!

**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!

**The Outreach and Service Board** is encouraging members to financially support community organizations that align with our churches' just peacemaking covenant. Consider a contribution to the Peace Learning Center (PLC). The PLC was created in 1997 by a team of people that included Tim Nation, the PLC's current Executive Director, to reduce violence and increase kindness in our community. Learn more about the Peace Learning Center at their website: [peacelearningcenter.org](http://peacelearningcenter.org)

**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.

**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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org), or 386-478-9012.

**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 designated 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](http://www.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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

### **THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:**

Tuesday, May 2	All Day	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Tuesday, May 2	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, May 3	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Thursday, May 4	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 4	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, May 7	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) – Rev. Shannon Abbott Preaches!

## Today's Scripture

### Psalm 23

YHWH, you are my shepherd—  
I want nothing more.  
You let me lie down in green meadows;  
you lead me beside restful waters:  
you refresh my soul. You guide me to lush pastures  
for the sake of your Name.  
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,  
I fear no danger, for you are with me. Your rod and your staff—  
they give me courage.  
You spread a table for me  
in the presence of my enemies,  
and you anoint my head with oil—  
my cup overflows!  
Only goodness and love will follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in your house, YHWH,  
for days without end.

ONE: A Word of God that is still speaking.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

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



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