



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG

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**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 resolution of November 16th, 2022





## RESPONSE #764



SERMON

Peace Be With You

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Let There Be Peace on Earth

*(see insert)*

## WE RESPOND

OFFERING

MEDITATION

Love and Justice

Patton & Goudey, arr. Baker

\*DOXOLOGY

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

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.

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

**WE GO**

SONG OF SENDING #193

Peace

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

RESPONSE

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Carry the Light

Moylan

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

**BUZZ TODAY, April 16 After Worship!** Noah, our Just Peace Intern will present a summary of his semester with First Congregational. We will start with a pitch-in lunch after church. Noah will present a summary of his tie with us including a discussion on Peace. Bring a favorite quote to share if you like.

**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 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](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, April 18	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 18	2:00 PM	Circle Book Club
Tuesday, April 18	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Meeting
Wednesday, April 19	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, April 20	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, April 20	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, April 23	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 23	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) – Pastor Carol Preaches!

## Today's Scripture

### John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said,

"You've become a believer  
because you saw me.

Blessed are those who have not seen  
and yet have believed."

Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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

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



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