





FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

 @fc_indy  FirstCongregationalUCCIndy  FCINDY DOT ORG

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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 Coverage Update: Pastor Sarah will be away serving the wider church followed by vacation 3/22—3/30. Pastor Carol will be available for pastoral care at casowle@gmail.com or 317-496-9732. The Rev. Elizabeth Price will be preaching Sunday, March 26.

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

Ben James (Media Technician)

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Steve Coomer, Trumpet

Marion Harcourt, Liturgist

April 2, 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

The Holy City

Stephen Adams

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

THE CALL

Holy, Living and Justice-Making God, we join your parade this day.

May peace flow. Let justice roll!

Give us courage for the path and a heart for each other.

May peace flow. Let justice roll!

We yearn for your reign and we proclaim: The day is coming!

May peace flow. Let justice roll!

PEACE

*OPENING HYMN #526

We Are Marching in the Light of God

*New Century
Hymnal*

WE PROCLAIM

COME AS A CHILD

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| INTRO AND RESPONSE | The Day Is Coming | Mayflower Singers |
| SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 35 | Marion Harcourt |
| RESPONSE | | Mayflower Singers |
| PRAYER POEM | | Mayflower Singers |
| RESPONSE | | Mayflower Singers |
| INVITATION AND COMMUNION | | Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund |
| RESPONSE | | Mayflower Singers |

WE RESPOND

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.

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|----------|------------------|-------------------|
| RESPONSE | Let Justice Roll | Mayflower Singers |
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OFFERING

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|-----------|
| MEDITATION | The Day Is Coming | 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 of those who walk this path alongside us,
we give thanks.
For the way in which these offerings will become our presence with others,
we give thanks.
For the gift of this community bound and working together,
we give thanks.

THE STORY OF HOLY WEEK

*CLOSING SONG #211 As You Go, Tell the World *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

*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 The Peace of the Earth Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Roll Down, Justice! M. Miller

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

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!

Outdoor Work Session, Apr 8, 9:30-11:30 - We will be having an intergenerational outdoor work session to clean up our grounds for the spring. Bring your favorite tools, or use some that the church has. Also, please bring some work gloves. Can't make it for the full 2 hours? - that's okay! Questions? Contact Wendy Baldwin, wbaldwinindy@gmail.com.

The Worship & Faith Board just wants to be sure everyone is aware that we are not holding a Maundy Thursday service again this year. Instead, we will include a Passion Week video in our Palm Sunday worship service. Please plan to attend on April 2 to wave palms and get a glimpse of the Passion story – all in preparation for celebrating the Resurrection on **Easter Sunday, April 9.**

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

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, 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

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

THIS WEEK AT FC INDY:

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| Tuesday, April 4 | 1:00 PM | Staff Meeting (Zoom) |
| Tuesday, April 4 | | Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer |
| Wednesday, April 5 | 7:00 PM | Trustees |
| Thursday, April 6 | 1:00 PM | Men's Lunch |
| Thursday, April 6 | 5:00 PM | Spiritual Support Group (Zoom) |
| Thursday, April 6 | 7:00 PM | CBL (Constitution and Bylaws) (Zoom) |
| Saturday, April 8 | 9:30-11:30 AM | Outdoor Work Session (at Church) |
| Sunday, April 9 | 10:00 AM | Adult Education |
| Sunday, April 9 | 11:00 AM | Easter Sunday Worship! (In-Person, YouTube, FB) |

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

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Today's Scripture: Isaiah 35

Let the desert and the wilderness exult!

Let the arabah rejoice and bloom like the crocus!

Let it blossom profusely,

let it rejoice and sing for joy!

The Glory of Lebanon is bestowed on it,

the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.

They will see the Glory of YHWH,

the splendor of our God.

Strengthen all weary hands,

steady all trembling knees.

Say to all those of faint 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 lairs where jackals used to dwell

will become thickets of reed and papyrus.

And through it will run a highway,

a road called the sacred Path.

The unclean may not travel by it,

but it will be for God's people alone;

and no traveler—not even fools—will go astray.

No lions will be there,

nor will any fierce beast roam about it,

but the redeemed will walk there—

For those whom YHWH has ransomed will return.

They will enter Zion shouting for joy,

with everlasting joy on their faces;

joy and gladness will go with them,

and sorrow and lament will flee away.