



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
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 LGBTQAAIL+ 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. While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church, 4/22-23, Pastor Carol is available for Pastoral Care at casowle@gmail.com and (317) 496-9732

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:

Pastor Carol Sowle (she/her), Pastor and Worship Leader

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Linda Lupton, Liturgist

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Jesse Wittman, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussionist

April 23, 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 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Music for gathering

INTROIT Because He Lives Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Carol Sowle

CALL TO WORSHIP (from enfleshed)

Come! Take refuge in the arms of Peace.

We rest in the promises of God.

No longer must we fret.

The way is made clear.

God is our salvation.

With joy, we seek the face of God together

*SONG OF PRAISE #10 The Presence of Our God Is Here *Sing! Prayer & Praise*

PRAYERS

Pastor Carol Sowle

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 #194

Go In Peace

Sing! Prayer & Praise

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

Pastor Carol Sowle

BLESSING SONG

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

It is Well with My Soul

Music for Sending Forth

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Sunday, April 30, Pastor Sarah will host Imam Michael Saahir for adult education and worship to share about Muslim and Christian common spiritual DNA. This will be Just Peace Intern Noah Giddings last Sunday with us and is part of his project on building peace among different religions.

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

Library Team Meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 at 10:00 AM in the Library.

Upcoming Buzz, April 30TH ON ZOOM ONLY: Join us for a Buzz to Discuss Pastor Sarah’s Sabbatical, our plans, and ask any questions you might have!

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:

Tuesday, April 25	10:00 AM	Library Team Meeting
Tuesday, April 25	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, April 27	11:45 AM	Women’s Lunch
Thursday, April 27	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, April 28	6:30 PM Meet	Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone
Saturday, April 29	9:30 AM	Caring Crafters at Church
Sunday, April 30	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 30	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, April 30	After Worship	Buzz about Pastor Sarah’s Sabbatical

Today's Scripture

Luke 24:13-35

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—discussing all that had happened as they went. While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?” They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn’t know the things that have happened these past few days?” Jesus said to them, “What things?” They said, “About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people— how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened—some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn’t find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.” Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening—the day is practically over.” So the savior went in and stayed with them. After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight. They said to one another, “Weren’t our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?” They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

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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