





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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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 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

Ben James (Media Technician)

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Alice Rutherford

Sue Chapman, Liturgist

Rev. Elizabeth Price, Reader

April 9, 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 Christ the Lord is Risen Today arr. Michael Thomas

INTROIT New Life Mayflower Singers

INTRODUCTION Matthew 28:1-9 Alice Rutherford

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

ONE: Christ is Risen!

ALL: Christ is Risen indeed!

ONE: It is the news that life and love always wins

that calls us to live that truth this day and all days.

For as we live in charity and steadfast love, God dwells with us!

I invite you to turn and face the Light of Christ

that is never extinguished

as it enters our worship on this Easter morning.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*OPENING HYMN #436 God of Grace and God of Glory *New Century Hymnal*

GREETING AND PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

ONE: The grace of Jesus Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you!

ONE: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Come, Resurrected Jesus,
rattle the rooms in which we are hiding,
shake the tired foundations
until unjust institutions crumble,
break the rules
that keep You and any of your people
out of our sacred spaces.
Then lift from the dust and rubble
a new creation.**

*ONE: Come, Resurrected Jesus,
enter our lives,
whisper our names
and scatter Your gifts of grace with wild abandon.
Give Your silent strength to all imprisoned
and let Your raging fire be our sign of liberty.*

**ALL: Come, Resurrected Jesus!
Help us find ourselves in vital places,
bringing Your word and freedom
to the poor, the oppressed, the outcast.
Call us, lead us, urge us,
to let justice roll down
today and all days! Amen!**

PEACE

WE PROCLAIM

COME AS A CHILD

INTRO AND RESPONSE

Welcome
(Mark Miller, Laurie Zelman)

Mayflower Singers

SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

Sue Chapman

RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

PRAYER POEM Rev. Elizabeth Price

RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

SERMON Welcome: The New Jerusalem 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.

RESPONSE Let Justice Roll Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

MEDITATION The Risen Christ Gerald Peterson

*DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the gift of life eternal that we celebrate this day,
we give thanks.
For the way in which these offerings will become life for others,
we give thanks.
For the gift of this community bound and working together,
we give thanks.

WE GO

*CLOSING SONG #233 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today *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 Fanfare for a Resurrection Day Steven Scott

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Special Easter Service Gift: The Special Easter Service Gift this year is again the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund. It is now over a year since Russia began its war against Ukraine, and as the war continues, so does the suffering of the country's people. It is estimated that the war has created over 13 million Ukrainian refugees, many of which are sheltering in nearby countries. The funds are being used for shelter, food, clothes, transportation, along with medical, and spiritual care. This Easter, we do not want to forget Ukraine and the Ukrainian people who are continuing to suffer from this terrible war.

Interfaith Activity April 14: Join other members for an interfaith experience. We are invited to a Friday Night Shabbat service at Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation. We will meet at FCC at 5:45 PM and carpool so that we save on parking and arrive as a group. Come share an experience with our friends in the neighborhood.

Buzz, April 16! 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. A sign-up sheet to get an idea of who is coming and food contributions will be on the narthex table beginning this Sunday

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

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 11	1:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, April 13	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, April 14	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Sunday, April 16	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 16	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, April 16	After Worship	Buzz with Just Peace Intern Noah Giddings

Today's Scripture

Jeremiah 31: 1-6

“When that time comes, says YHWH, I will be the God of all the tribes of Israel and they will be my people.

“Thus says YHWH:

the people who survive the sword will find forgiveness in the desert.

I will come to give rest to Israel.

They’ll say, ‘YHWH appeared to us in the past, and said,

“In everlasting love I conceived you.””

And now I will continue to show my love for you.

I will build you up again, and you will stand firm, Beloved Israel.

You will take up your tambourines once more and go forth with the crowd of merrymakers.

Once again you will plant vineyards on Samaria’s mountainsides.

The planters will plant and will enjoy the fruit.

For the day will come when sentinels will cry out on Ephraim’s hills,

‘Come, let us go up to Zion, to YHWH.’

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

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

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