



# 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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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). While Pastor Sarah is away serving the wider church, 5/6-5/7, Pastor Carol is available for Pastoral Care at [casowle@gmail.com](mailto: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), Worship Leader

Rev. Shannon Abbott (she/her), Preacher

Nancy Dickinson, Communion Leader and liturgist

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

**May 7, 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

arr. Baker

*Music for gathering*

INTROIT

Because He Lives

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Carol Sowle

CALL TO WORSHIP (from enfleshed)

From the beginning, all life has been connected.

**There is a holy thread that weaves our lives together.**

At times, we hide from this truth.

**Other times it is hidden from us.**

It gets buried deep down beneath greed and isolation.

**It is forgotten when fear comes close.**

But there is a place where we find ourselves in each other.

**A place where every living is valued.**

We come to it on occasion. In brief and fleeting moments.

**It is our home in the life of God. Our place of origin and return.**

Let us go there together. Love has shown us the way

\*SONG OF PRAISE #386 The Church's One Foundation *New Century Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

Pastor Carol Sowle

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

John 14:1-14

Nancy Dickinson

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE

The Way

Rev. Shannon Abbott

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #493 O Jesus, I Have Promised *New Century Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

OFFERING

MEDITATION

Psalm 42:1

D. Wagner

\*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

### 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.

### INVITATION

Come to the Table of Grace

Mayflower Singers

### COMMUNION

Nancy Dickinson

## WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

\*SONG OF SENDING #210 There's Bread for the Journey *Sing! Prayer & Praise*

### \*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

Rev. Shannon Abbott

### BLESSING SONG

As You Go, Tell the World

Mayflower Singers

### POSTLUDE

*Music for Sending Forth*

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

arr. Baker

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

**No Playdate today**, but please join us on **May 21 at 7:00 PM on Zoom** for some conversation around developing our children's faith formation programming. All with an interest are welcome!

**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)

**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, May 9	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Thursday, May 11	2:00 PM	CBL (Constitution and Bylaws on Zoom)
Thursday, May 11	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, May 12	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Sunday, May 14	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, May 14	11:00 AM	Bread for the World Sunday Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scripture

### John 14:1-14

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God’s house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am there you may be as well. You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

Thomas replied, “But we don’t know where you’re going. How can we know the way?”

Jesus told him, “I myself am the Way—I am Truth, and I am Life. No one comes to Abba God but through me. If you really knew me, you would know Abba God also. From this point on, you know Abba God and you have seen God.”

“Rabbi,” Philip said, “show us Abba God, and that will be enough for us.”

Jesus replied, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and still you don’t know me? Whoever has seen me has seen Abba God. How can you say, ‘Show us your Abba’? Don’t you believe that I am in Abba God and God is in me? The words I speak are not spoken of myself; it is Abba God, living in me, who is accomplishing the works of God. Believe me that I am in God and God is in me, or else believe because of the works I do. The truth of the matter is, anyone who has faith in me will do the works I do—and greater works besides. Why? Because I go to Abba God, and whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that God may be glorified in me. Anything you ask in my name I will do.”

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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