



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 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.

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:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader

Bread for the World Team: Sue Chapman, Katie Booth, Nancy Dickinson, Jessica Kramer, Janet Selby, Karen Walker, Sandy Wood.

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Today's flowers are given by Angela Hodges in memory of her mother, grandmother, and all mother figures we've lost along the way.

May 14, 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

Come, Gracious Spirit

James D. Kimball

Music for gathering

INTROIT

Because He Lives

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

LITANY

Janet Selby

Leader: God, you became human to inspire us to walk in your light. Lead us on the path to your justice and righteousness, as we advocate for better nutrition and a better tomorrow.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you are the Bread of Life. Empower us, by your grace, to be bread for the world as we participate in the urgency of your mission to end hunger and malnutrition.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you call us beyond ourselves to love others as our neighbor. Unite people of faith, people of good will, and all elected officials as one body committed to the common cause of national and global nutrition that all your beloved children have the chance to not only survive, but also thrive.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader: God, you sustain our advocacy with the power of the Holy Spirit. Inspire and equip Congress through our Offering of Letters with the political will to increase our nation's commitment and funding for nutrition at home and abroad.

All: God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

*SHARING THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

*SONG OF ACTION #216

God Says It's Time

Sing! Prayer & Praise

COME AS A CHILD

Sandy Wood

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Proverbs 31: 8-9 and John 14:15-21

Sue Chapman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE

Spiritual Advocacy

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION

Bread for the World

(Bulletin Insert)

WE RESPOND

INTRODUCTION TO LETTER WRITING

Karen Walker

LETTER WRITING

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Bread for the World

Marty Haugen, arr. Baker

*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.

PRAYER OVER LETTERS

Nancy Dickinson

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #120 Dream God's Dream *Sing! Prayer & Praise*

*BENEDICTION Bread for the World Team
Blessing

BLESSING SONG As You Go, Tell the World Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Bread for the World Marty Haugen, arr. Baker
Music for Sending Forth

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!

Today please join others in the Narthex to write letters to Congress supporting Bread for the World's recommendations for the Farm Bill.

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, May 16	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, May 16	1:30 PM	Circle Book Club (In-Person!)
Wednesday, May 17	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, May 18	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, May 18	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Sunday, May 21	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, May 21	11:00 AM	Mental Health Sunday Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, May 21	After Worship	Special Coffee Hour Celebrating the Ministry of Pastor Carol
Sunday, May 21	7:00 PM	Parent's Discussion (Zoom)

Scan this code to email your representatives:



- Please say 'YES' this is for an offering of letters – for First Congregational UCC Indy
- Please add your own heartfelt story and experience with hunger

Write letters to representatives and ask for these key components to the farm bill:

- Protect SNAP and eliminate barriers to food assistance, include farmer's markets for produce
- Ensure robust funding for international food programs, include more LOCAL sourcing
- Fight climate change impacts on farming, reduce post harvest food waste

Scan this code to find your legislator addresses:



Bread For The World

USE YOUR VOICE FOR OTHERS:

TELL CONGRESS TO ACT TO FEED ALL CHILDREN AT HOME
AND ABROAD WITH KEY COMPONENTS OF THE FARM BILL

Today's Scripture

Proverbs 31: 8-9

But you, speak out for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those abandoned by others. Speak out, issue decrees, vindicate the rights of the homeless and the hungry.

John 14:15-21

If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you. I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God.

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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