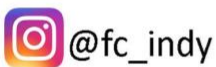




FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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 and Preacher

Liturgist

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Handbell Choir

May 21, 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

Personent Hodie

arr. Michael W. Joy

Music for gathering

INTROIT

New Life

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

MISSION MOMENT from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family-to-Family Support Group

CALL TO WORSHIP (From the UCC Mental Health Network)

One: We gather in the presence of the One who breathes life into all of Creation.

All: We sing God's praises, breathing in God's glory.

One: All are welcome in the presence of the Most High.

All: We come, seeking the goodness in the hands of God.

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Together we reflect the fullness of God's love; together we bring God's love into the world.

One: Let us worship the Living God whose breath gives us life.

*SONG OF PRAISE #195

Children of God

Sing! Prayer and Praise

*SHARING THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.


WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:12-14

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



This is what the Spi-rit is sa-ying to the church-es: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

You Are Not Alone

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #471

What a Covenant

New Centruy Hymnal

WE RESPOND

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

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.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

BLESSING FOR PASTOR CAROL

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.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING#433 In the Bulb There Is a Flower *New Century Hymnal*

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Blessing

BLESSING SONG

The Peace of the Earth

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Our Christ Ascends

Todd Kendall

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!

Special Coffee Hour Today to Celebrate Pastor Carol Sowle! – Join us after worship for a time of celebrating the ministry and retirement of Pastor Carol Sowle.

Tonight at 7pm, Parents' Discussion on Zoom – We are thrilled to see so many children in our Prayground! Children are the lifeblood of church, and their presence in worship fills us with joy. We're aware of some changing needs for our children as they grow in both body and faith, so we want to address those needs in the best ways possible. To that end **we invite all parents of children of all ages to join us in a Zoom conversation on Sunday, May 21, at 7:00 PM.** We also invite any church members with a desire to serve our children to join us. We want to hear from parents about your desires for faith formation for your children, so this will be primarily a listening time.

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.

Pride Parade, June 1st! Please sign the roster on the table in the entry if you can walk with First Congregational. More info will come early June
Thanks. Bob Cook

"Drag Church" June 4th! This unique worship experience will highlight our commitment to our ONA covenant, as well as provide a welcoming and safe opportunity for our LGBTQIA+ siblings to hear the Good News of their place in God's family.

Fourth Friday Films - 5/26, 6:30ish

Join us for a fun time together on Friday, 5/26, at Landmark Keystone Cinema about 6:30-6:45. We'll decide on which movie(s) we want to see, and then gather afterwards for beverages and discussion.

Boiler Update and Fundraiser -

Our boiler work is happening sooner than expected. Beginning Monday, 5/22, the work to dismantle the current boiler will occur, with the new system being installed after that. We expect it to take at least a week to complete. We are now in the official fundraising mode for this project. Thank you to those who have already contributed, and for the additional gifts received - another \$600 in the past week. We are close to being able to cover the cost of the boiler, and are hopeful about raising funds for our other building needs.

From Outreach and Service Board: We are having a special UCC offering coming up on 5/28/23. It is one of the 5 for 5 UCC offerings. It is the Strengthen The Church. This offering is shared at the national and conference levels to support youth ministries, support full time leaders for churches in areas where the UCC doesn't have a strong presence, and to provide support for new initiatives for existing churches. This fund also supports many churches on our native American reservations

Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our WISE Covenant, and the recipients are **UCC Mental Health Network, The Julian Center, and the Trevor Project**. 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 23	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, May 23	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Meeting
Thursday, May 25	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch
Thursday, May 25	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group (Zoom)
Friday, May 26	6:30 PM	Fourth Friday Films at Landmark Keystone
Saturday, May 27	9:30 AM	Caring Crafters
Sunday, May 28	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, May 28	11:00 AM	Worship

Today's Scripture

1 Peter 4:12-14

Don't be surprised, my dear friends, that a trial by fire is occurring in your midst. It is a test for you, but it shouldn't catch you off guard. Rejoice, instead, insofar as you share the Savior's sufferings, so that when the glory of Christ is revealed, you will rejoice exceedingly. Happy are you when you are insulted for the sake of Christ, for then God's Spirit in her glory has come to rest on you.

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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