



# 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:** You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care. She may be reached at (386) 478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (admin) is in office 9-12 on Thursday, meeting with Pastor Sarah by appointment.

Out of concern for community health, we request that you remain up to date with your vaccinations. Mask as needed. Please stay home if you feel unwell.

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Preacher  
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Mayflower Singers  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Rev. Elizabeth Price, Liturgist

**October 15, 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

Bourée

Handel

INTROIT

Heaven and Nature Sing

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF PRAISE #4 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You *New Century Hymnal*

\*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**WE ENCOUNTER**

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 23

Mayflower Singers



God re - stores my soul and leads me in right paths.

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 25:1-9, Philippians 4:1-9

Rev. Elizabeth Price

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



This is what the Spir-it is say-ing to the church-es: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE Joy to the World: Heaven and Nature Sing Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #379 Come, We Who Love God's Name (vs. 1,3,5)  
*New Century Hymnal*

**WE RESPOND**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 Hallowed Hour of Prayer Mayflower Singers

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Wendy Baldwin

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

We Can Praise You, God

M. Unbehagen

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below:**

**Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God, the source of all our gifts!**

**Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!**

**Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #212      Go Out Now in Peace      *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG      Peace I Leave with You, My Friends      Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

We Can Praise You, God

M. Unbehagen

*Music for Sending Forth*

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

**Constitution & Bylaws Revision** - For the past several months, a small team has been working on a full revision of First Congregational's Constitution and Bylaws. We are now ready to review with the congregation, get your feedback, and address any questions or concerns. A draft document will be available following review with the Church Council on 10/18. Please plan to attend one or all of the following events where we will review the proposed document:

**Sunday, 10/22, 10 am - Adult Ed**

**Sunday, 10/29, noon - Pitchin lunch**

**Wednesday, 11/1, 7 pm - Discussion on Zoom**

Questions? Ask Wendy Baldwin, Steve Coomer, or Steve Leatherman.

**Cards to Our Church Family** – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

**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.

**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!

**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:

Monday, October 16		Library Team Meeting
Tuesday, October 17	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, October 18	1:30 PM	Circle Book Club at Linda Lupton's
Wednesday, October 18	7:00 PM	Church Council
Thursday, October 19	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, October 19	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group
Thursday, October 19	7:00 PM	MHCNS Bldg Meeting
Sunday, October 15	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, October 15	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

## Today's Scriptures

### Philippians 4:1-9

For these reasons, my sisters and brothers—you whom I so love and long for, you who are my joy and my crown—continue, my dear ones, to stand firm in Christ Jesus. I implore Euodia and Syntyche to come to an agreement with each other in Christ. And I ask you, Syzygus, to be a true comrade and help these coworkers. These two women struggled at my side in defending the Good News, along with Clement and the others who worked with me. Their names are written in the Book of Life. Rejoice in the Savior always! I say it again: Rejoice! Let everyone see your forbearing spirit. Our Savior is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds; instead, present your needs to God through prayer and petition, giving thanks for all circumstances. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, my sisters and brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, decent, admirable, virtuous or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

### **Isaiah 25:1-9**

YHWH, you are my God—I exalt you! I praise your Name!

For you do marvelous things,  
planned long ago with steadfast faithfulness.

You turned cities into dump heaps,  
fortified cities into rubble;  
strongholds of foreigners are no more,  
never to be rebuilt.

It is for this reason  
that the powerful honor you,  
and cities of ruthless people fear you.

Yet you are a refuge to poor people  
refuge to the needy in their distress,  
shelter in the storm,  
shade from the heat—

for the breath of the ruthless  
is like an ice storm or a scorching drought.

You subdue the roar of the enemy,  
and the mantra of tyrants is stilled. On this mountain,

YHWH Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples  
a banquet of rich food,  
a banquet of fine wines,  
food rich and succulent,  
and fine, aged wines.

On this mountain God will remove  
the mourning veil covering all peoples,  
the shroud covering all nations,  
destroying all death forever.

God will wipe away  
the tears from every cheek,  
and will take away the shame  
of God's people on earth, wherever they live.

YHWH has spoken. On that Day it will be said,

“This is our God, this is the One for whose liberation we waited,

YHWH is the One in whom we had hoped! We rejoice exultantly in our deliverance.

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



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