



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



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**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

Worth Hartman, Liturgist

**NOTE ON TODAY'S SERVICE:** \*Disabled is preferred by the disabilities community over euphemisms that center ability such as "differently abled" or "handicapped." This varies from person to person because no disability is a monolith, but in general it is a best practice to use "disabled."

**ACCESS SUNDAY, November 5, 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

Praise to Our God, the Almighty

INTROIT

Make Us One

Mayflower Singers

*Entering Into the Sacred*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Accessible, inclusive, multi-sensory God, in celebration of You and Your Creation today, we give thanks for all.

**All: We give thanks for people of all experiences, disabilities, and abilities.**

Leader: God, you invite us to learn more, to connect more, to offer helpful accommodations; so people of all abilities and disabilities, minds and bodies, can thrive.

**All: God, all minds and bodies echo Your reflection.**

Leader: God, You are accessible to all. Opening our awareness to You on this Access Sunday, together may Your Creation be joyful and reflective. There is work to celebrate and work to continue in making Your world fully accessible.

**All: Amen.**

## OPENING PRAYER

God of all of our senses and all abilities and disabilities, we come before you, preparing our bodies, hearts, and minds for worship. Whether having a singular or multiple focus; whether comfortable, uncomfortable, or somewhere in between; feeling included, discluded, or somewhere in between: we are celebrating the ways that our minds and bodies experience the world, and reflect and echo your love, truth, and grace. God, we thank you for diversity in abilities, which we celebrate today. Amen.

\*SONG OF CENTERING #469      O Grant Us Light      *New Century Hymnal*

## \*SHARING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19

Worth Hartman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



The word of God for the peo-ple of God. Thanks be to God!

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final measure containing a whole note. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

MESSAGE

God is Still Speaking, Without Words      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**WE RESPOND**

## INVITATION

**All: Holy God, we confess that we have not always been inclusive, even though we try to be. That when we have observed difference we have failed to marvel at the way that each person we meet is created-in-your-image. We admit that we have much to learn when it comes to loving our neighbor as we love you and as we love ourselves. We are even skirting around the use of the word disability as we say this prayer, because as we move toward full inclusion it requires us to unlearn biases, including which words we should\* use, and this is uncomfortable work, God. Help us to value one another's humanity over our own discomfort over and over and over again. Amen.**

Pastor Sarah: God is with us in every unlearning. God is guiding us through every slip of the tongue, every oops, I shouldn't use that term, in every moment when we catch ourselves in the middle of an outdated way of being, and the Holy Spirit gently nudges us toward the loving Kin-dom that Christ calls us to co-create here on earth. May the Spirit of grace-in-the-awkwardness continue to forgive and bless our journey to full inclusion of all of God's beloveds. Amen!

## COMMUNION

## 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

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

You Are Holy

\*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**We give to you what is your own,  
Whatever here those gifts may be.  
All that we have is yours alone.  
We give it back most gratefully.**

**WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #547

Amazing Grace

*New Century Hymnal*

\*BENEDICTION

*Blessing*

BLESSING SONG

Metta Prayer

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

arr. Baker

*Music for Sending Forth*

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

**Beginning November 10<sup>th</sup>!** Join the FC Indy Youth Group meeting each Friday from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students.

**Annual 1857 Society Foundation Dinner and Buzz:** November 12, 2023; 12:45 PM to 2:00 PM in the Mayflower Room; Lunch will be provided (catered). We will cover the value to First Congregational of members providing a legacy gift to First Congregational Church; the ease in setting it up and we will have a speaker covering a financial topic of interest to many. RSVP to Randy Walker 317-796-2081; voice or text

**Pastor Sarah PCRC Meeting Open to all Members: November 19, 2023; 1:00 PM to 2:30 PM;** The Pastor Sarah PCRC team will meet in the Library and will utilize the FCC Zoom account to open the meeting to members of the church. (Church Zoom)

**During the month of November, Adult Ed will turn its attention to the wisdom of Indigenous peoples and their deep relationships with all of creation.** We will explore the Land Back movement that is gaining momentum from Indigenous peoples around the world, with support from non Indigenous people as well. This is a tough topic to explore, but a necessary one. It is not just about restoring justice. At its core, it is about restoring creation - and perhaps saving the very planet we all depend on. Come with open hearts and minds to consider this important topic together.

**Nov 12** - "Who's Land are you on? What you need to know about the Indigenous Land Back Movement," Lindsey Schneider Ted Talk

**Nov 19** - YouTube video "How US corporations poisoned this Indigenous Community"

**Nov 25** - YouTube video "How the Land Back movement might help save the Planet"

**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. **\*\*\*This group will meet for the last time on November 30th**



**Thank You for Your Financial Gifts!** Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Open and Affirming Covenant. **We have been an Open and Affirming Church since 1994.** Our current outreach recipients: Indiana Youth Group, Damien Center, and Trinity Haven



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, November 7	All Day	Pastor Sarah's Day of Prayer
Tuesday, November 7	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, November 8	1:00 PM	Men's Lunch
Thursday, November 9	5:00 PM	Spiritual Support Group
Friday, November 10	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Friday, November 10	6:30-8:30PM	Youth Group in Mayflower Room
Sunday, November 12	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, November 12	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, November 12	12:45 PM	1857 Society Lunch and Buzz



## Today's Scripture

### Psalm 19

The heavens herald your glory, O God, and the skies display your handiwork. Day after day they tell their story, and night after night they reveal the depth of their understanding.

Without speech, without words, without even an audible voice, their cry echoes through all the world, and their message reaches the ends of the earth.

For in the heavens the sun has pitched a tent. It comes forth with the grandeur of a wedding procession, with the eagerness of an athlete ready to race.

It rises at one end of the sky and travels to the other end, and nothing escapes its warmth. Your law, YHWH, is perfect; it refreshes the soul. Your rule is to be trusted; it gives wisdom to the naive.

Your purposes, O God, are right; they gladden the heart. Your command is clear; it gives light to the eyes. Holding you in awe, YHWH, is purifying; it endures. Your decrees are steadfast, and all of them just.

They are more precious than gold, than the purest of gold, and sweeter than honey, than honey fresh from the comb. In them your faithful people find instruction; there is great reward in keeping them. But who can detect one's own failings?

Forgive the misdeeds I don't even know about! Keep your faithful one from presumption as well, so that my faults never control me. Then I will be blameless and innocent of a grave error. May the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleasing in your sight, YHWH, my rock and my redeemer!

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



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