



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 LGBTQAAIL+ 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.

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) is in office Thursdays from 10:30-1:30pm. Contact her if you have a need at cassidy@fcindy.org. Pastor Sarah can meet 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.

Masks can be found in the narthex.

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
Jackson Procise (he/him), Peace Moment
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Lisa Collins, Liturgist

March 24, 2023

Whole Justice/Half Peace

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

Pass it On

Kaiser, arr. Baker

INTROIT

I Was Glad

Mayflower Singers

Entering Into the Sacred

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING DIALOGUE

Alice Rutherford & Scott Semester

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come to you today, O God, seeking to fill our hearts with your love.

All: We come to this place to remember you love us just as we are.

Leader: We gather to worship God with our whole hearts.

All: We come to this time of worship to be encouraged as we seek to be advocates for an end to war and violence. We seek peace with justice.

Leader: Let us come into this time of worship of the Holy One and become wholly God's.

*SONG OF PRAISE #132 Pave the Way with Justice *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

INTROIT TO PRAYER

Mayflower Singers

FAITHFUL REFLECTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Sometimes we forget to be peacemakers. Too often we feel overwhelmed by ongoing conflicts and war. We feel powerless to stop the cycles of violence. Help us, Holy God, to share your love with the oppressed people of the world and work for peace with justice. Amen.

RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

LANGUAGES OF LOVE

(How to say "I love you")

Sean Baker

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:1-11

Lisa Collins

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

The image shows a single line of musical notation on a five-line staff. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: "This is what the Spi-rit is sa-ying to the church-es: Thanks be to God!".

MESSAGE

Is it Too Late for Peace?

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #120 Dream God's Dream *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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 God's Love Endures Forever

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

We come here now and bring these gifts.

To you, O God, our praise we lift.

Let these our gifts go back to you,

To share with all this whole world through.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #199 Go, Make a Diff'rence *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

*BENEDICTION

Blessing

Beloved of God, remember that you are holy and whole. Be a blessing to those who are facing violence and harm in body/mind/spirit. Go now in peace, knowing that together we can build a more just world for all. Amen.

BLESSING SONG Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE You Servants of God arr. Baker

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Updated Address Directories: Printed updated directories are now available in the Narthex. Please pick one up, as there have been a lot of updates this past year. If you would like an electronic version, contact Wendy Baldwin, wbaldwinindy@gmail.com.

Clearing Out “Stuff” - Sat 3/30 at 10:30: Our building has many different storage areas that have accumulated a lot of “stuff” over the years. Come help at 10:30 on Sat 3/30 to uncover items that the church no longer needs. If you would like any of these items, please help yourself and make a donation for them either online, by check, or by cash, with a notation of “Stuff”. If you would like to help with the clearing out process, and can't come on Saturdays, please contact Wendy Baldwin.

Youth Group: Join the FC Indy Youth Group, meeting Fridays from 6:30-8:30PM. We will have pizza and games and be a safe space for middle school and high school students.

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!



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise.



Gifts of single dollars, or those designated to Covenant Outreach, are divided equally 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 in 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, March 26	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 27	10:00 AM	WISE Mental Health Team Meeting
Wednesday, March 27	7:30 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting
Thursday, March 28	11:45 AM	Women's Lunch
Thursday, March 28	7:00 PM	Prayers for Peace Vigil (Zoom)
Friday, March 29		NO Youth Group
Sunday, March 31	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, March 31	11:00 AM	Easter Sunday! Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)

Today's Scripture

Mark 11:1-11

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this instruction: “Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, ‘Why are you doing that?’ say, ‘The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.’ ”

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, “What do you mean by untying that colt?” They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out, “Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!”

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

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



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