



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: 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) in office 10:30 am-1:30 pm and Pastor Sarah is available 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

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Donna Wenzel, Liturgist

April 7, 2024

11:00 AM

*Please speak the **bold**-printed words in unison.*

Peace Be With You: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC's Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

New Life

Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you."

One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

*SONG OF CENTERING #67 Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling (vs.1-4) *New Century Hymnal*

INVOCATION

Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Donna Wenzel

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

MESSAGE

Joyfully Disabled

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #292 Breathe on Me, Breath of God *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world's grief, it's natural for us to be cynical. It's hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Leader: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But because we know Christ's peace, we can share it with others.

People: We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven.

Alleluia!

COMMUNION

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

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. We have life because of his presence with us. Let us join in God's abundance, giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world.

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*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 OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #81

God Be with You

New Century Hymnal

*BENEDICTION

Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your being, and share your new life in Christ with the world! Amen!

BLESSING SONG

New Life

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

TODAY: Tour of Our Church Grounds – Sunday, April 7: Our church is blessed with wonderful grounds, in particular, our Memorial Garden. Join us after worship on Sunday, April 7, for a tour and see the many spring wild flowers that we have.

Forming a New Social Media Team: Would you be interested in serving on a new Social Media Team? In conjunction with Pastor Sarah, this group will work with our Website & Communications Manager, Cassidy Hall, to gather content, provide feedback, and make recommendations on messaging through First Congregational's various social media outlets. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Sarah or Lead Councilor Bob Cook. You can also sign up on a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Finding New Homes for Our Unwanted “Stuff”: For the past few months, we have been working on clearing out closets and storage areas, uncovering a lot of items that the church no longer needs. Now we want to find new homes for this “stuff”. It is currently available to our church family, and we will feature it on **Sunday 4/14, Saturday 4/20 from 9:30-noon, and Sunday 4/21**. 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”. Questions? 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, April 9	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 9	3:30 PM	Worship and Faith Team Meeting
Tuesday, April 9	7:00 PM	Youth Group Planning Meeting
Wednesday, April 10	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Friday, April 12	6:30 PM	NAMI Support Group
Friday, April 12	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, April 13	9:00 AM	MCHNS Outdoor Workday
Saturday, April 13	1:00 PM	Celebration of life for Mary Lou Rothe
Sunday, April 14	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 14	11:00 AM	Mental Health Sunday Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, April 14	After Worship	Buzz and Pitch-In with the WISE Mental Health Team
Sunday, April 14		Members "Stuff Sale"
Sunday, April 14	3:00 PM	SE Association Annual Gathering at St. John's UCC Cumberland

Today's Scripture

John 20:19-31

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you." After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained." It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas—nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin"—was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!" Thomas' answer was, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound." On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you." Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!" Thomas said in response, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." Jesus performed many other signs as well—signs not recorded here—in the presence of the disciples. But these have been recorded to help you believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Only Begotten, so that by believing you may have life in Jesus' Name.

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



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