



# 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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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](mailto: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

Angel Flora, Liturgist

**April 21, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

Morningstar

Gast

INTROIT

New Life

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF PRAISE #2

Morningstar

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**WE ENCOUNTER**

SCRIPTURE

1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Angel Flora

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

MESSAGE

Joyful Perspective

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 23

SONG OF REFLECTION #252

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

*New Century  
Hymnal*

**WE RESPOND**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Your Grace Is Enough

Maher

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

God Is Our Shelter and Strength

Colligan

\*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.**

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

\*SONG OF SENDING #249 Peace I Leave with You, My Friends *New  
Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG

New Life

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Give Thanks to the Lord

Austin

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

**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.

**The Flower Calendar** is on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Please sign up for any occasion. The flowers can come from your garden, store or florist. For more information see **Sally Coombs**.

**TODAY! 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 4/21**. 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](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, April 23	10:00 AM	Library Team Meeting
Tuesday, April 23	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 23	7:00 PM	Youth Group Planning Meeting
Thursday, April 25	11:45 AM	Women's lunch bunch
Thursday, April 25	7:00 PM	Faith Formation Team Meeting
Friday, April 26	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, April 27	9AM-3PM	Church Women United of Indiana meeting
Saturday, April 27	9:30 AM	Caring Crafters
Sunday, April 28	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, April 28	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) Pastor Carol Preaches!

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## Today's Scripture

### 1 John 3:16-24 and John 10:11-18

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ died for us. And we, too, ought to lay down our lives for our sisters and brothers. If you have more than enough material possessions and see your neighbors in need yet close your hearts to them, how can the love of God be living in you? My children, our love must not be simply words or mere talk—it must be true love, which shows itself in action and truth. This, then, is how we'll know we belong to the truth; this is how we'll be confident in God's presence, even if our consciences condemn us. We know that God is greater than our consciences and that God knows everything. And if our consciences do not condemn us, my friends, then we have confidence before God, and we will receive whatever we ask from God's hand—because we keep the commandments and do what is pleasing in God's sight. The commandments are these: that we believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ, and that we love one another as we were told to do. Those who keep these commandments live in God and God lives in them. We know that God lives in us by the Spirit given to us.

I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. That's because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, in the same way Abba God knows me and I know God—and for these sheep I will lay down my life. I have other sheep that don't belong to this fold—I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice. And then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why Abba God loves me—because I lay down my life, only to take it up again. No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from my Abba.”

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



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