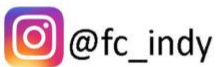




# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*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](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

Jacob Smith, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Lance Mullins, Liturgist

**April 28, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

How Great Thou Art

arr. Martinez

INTROIT

New Life

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF CENTERING #73 Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

*New Century  
Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**WE ENCOUNTER**

SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:7-21

Lance Mullins

John 15:1-8

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

MESSAGE

Joyful Belonging

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SONG OF BELONGING #495 Called as Partners in Christ's Service *New Century Hymnal*

**WE RESPOND**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Amazing Grace

arr. Baker

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

arr. Carter

\*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# 192

Carry the Light

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG

New Life

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

It Is Well with My Soul

arr. Baker

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

**Today after worship:** Join us for a Buzz with Just Peace Intern Jackson Prociše!

**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**.

**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 30	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Tuesday, April 30	7:00 PM	Youth Group Planning Meeting
Wednesday, May 1	7:00 PM	Personnel Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 2	1:00 PM	Men’s Lunch
Friday, May 3	6:30 PM	Youth Group
Saturday, May 4	9:30 AM	Bell Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, May 4	4:30 PM	MHCNS Picnic
Sunday, May 5	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, May 5	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB) Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott Preaches!

## Today's Scripture

### 1 John 4:7-21

Beloved,  
let us love one another  
because love is of God;  
everyone who loves is begotten of God  
and has knowledge of God.  
Those who do not love have known nothing of  
God,  
for God is love.  
God's love was revealed in our midst in this  
way:  
by sending the Only Begotten into the world,  
that we might have faith through the Anointed  
One.  
Love, then, consists in this:  
not that we have loved God,  
but that God has loved us  
and has sent the Only Begotten  
to be an offering for our sins.  
Beloved,  
if God has loved us so,  
we must have the same love for one another.  
No one has ever seen God.  
Yet if we love one another,  
God dwells in us,  
and God's love is brought to perfection in us.

### John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine,  
and my Abba is the vine grower  
who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't  
bear  
fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones  
to increase their yield.  
You've been pruned already,  
thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.  
Live on in me,  
as I do in you.  
Just as a branch cannot bear fruit of itself  
apart from the vine,  
neither can you bear fruit  
apart from me.  
I am the vine;  
you are the branches.  
Those who live in me and I in them  
will bear abundant fruit,  
for apart from me you can do nothing.  
Those who don't live in me  
are like withered, rejected branches,  
to be picked up and thrown on the fire and  
burned.  
If you live on in me,  
and my words live on in you,  
ask whatever you want  
and it will be done for you.  
My Abba will be glorified  
if you bear much fruit  
and thus prove to be my disciples.

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



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