



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, including home visits, hospital visits, home communion, prayer and conversation. She may be reached by text or phone at (386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org.

In-Person Office Hours: Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. If you need to meet, please contact her at cassidy@fcindy.org

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), Worship Leader and Preacher

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Scott Semeester, Liturgist

September 1, 2024

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Last Uns Erfreuen

arr. deanna Witkowski

INTROIT

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #277

Holy, Holy, Holy

New Century Hymnal

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



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

MESSAGE

Be Love

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF RESPONSE #12 I Sing the Mighty Power of God

*New Century
Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

MEDITATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

Marshall

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #493 O Jesus, I Have Promised *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG Peace Be Upon You Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Holy, Holy, Holy arr. Bill Carter

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship and Fun!

Ways to Connect & Serve: Interested in participating with a small group at First Congregational? Check out the Connect & Serve cards in the pews, and take one with you, if you like! Looking for an activity that isn't there - contact Wendy Baldwin.

Church Picnic, Sept 8, following worship: We had such a good time last year with the bouncy house, we decided to do this again, thanks to a generous gift to fund it. Please plan to come to worship on Sept 8, and stay for a picnic lunch, bouncy house, and other fun activities! So we know how much food to order, please sign up on the form in the Narthex, or contact Wendy Baldwin.

Self-Care & Mindfulness Table in the Parlor: How do you get through times of stress, exhaustion, or depression? The Care & Connection Board is looking for ideas that we can share with our congregation, as well as providing some ways to help provide mindfulness or concentration. Please check out the table set up in the Parlor.

New Door Keypad Code: Yay - our new patio door is now installed, with an "auto-opener" to allow easier opening of the door for those who need it. If you do not know the code, and need it, please contact Wendy Baldwin. The door will continue to be unlocked on Sunday mornings, so no code is needed at that time.

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.

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**.

Cards to Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our “card stand”, for those celebrating birthdays, or in need of prayers.

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 Mental Health Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: the UCC Mental Health Network and the Julian Center.



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, September 3	3:00 PM	Staff Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, September 4	7:00 PM	Personnel Meeting
Thursday, September 5	1:00 PM	Men’s Lunch
Thursday, September 5	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting
Sunday, September 8	10:00 AM	Adult Education
Sunday, September 8	11:00 AM	Worship (In-Person, YouTube, FB)
Sunday, September 8	12 Noon	Church Picnic!

Today's Scripture

James 1:17-27

Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above, descending from the Creator of the heavenly luminaries, who cannot change and is never in shadow. God willingly gave birth to us with a word spoken in truth, so that we may be, as it were, the first fruits of God's creatures. Remember this, my dear sisters and brothers: be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to anger; for God's justice is never served by our anger. So do away with all your filth and the last vestiges of wickedness in you. Humbly welcome the word which has been planted in you, because it has power to save you. But act on this word—because if all you do is listen to it, you're deceiving yourselves. Those who listen to God's word but don't put it into practice are like those who look into mirrors at their own faces; they look at themselves, then go off and promptly forget what they looked like. But those who look steadily at the perfect law of freedom and make it their habit—not listening and then forgetting, but actively putting it into practice—will be blessed in all that they do. If those who don't control their tongues imagine that they are devout, they're deceiving themselves and their worship is pointless. Pure, unspoiled religion, in the eyes of our Abba God, is this: coming to the aid of widows and orphans when they are in need, and keeping oneself uncontaminated by this world.

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

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