



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*No matter who you are, or  
where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

 @fc\_indy  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 LGBTQAAI+ 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Bonnie Bomer, Student Pastor

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Lisa Collins, Liturgist

\*\*\*Fiesta is our Student Pastor, Bonnie Bomer's guide dog. Please do not touch Fiesta while she is working and wearing her harness. When her harness is off, Bonnie has invited us to engage with Fiesta and pet her.

**September 8, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE            When I Survey the Wondrous Cross            HAMBURG

INTROIT                Nearer, My God, to You            Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF CENTERING #606    Near, My God, to You            *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

# WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Mark 7:24-37

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, with a final measure containing a whole note. The lyrics are written below the staff, aligned with the notes.

MESSAGE

Be Opened

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF RESPONSE #204 Take Up Your Cross *New Century Hymnal*

# WE RESPOND

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

Let Your Spirit Come

Chisum

## 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     I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG             Peace Be Upon You             Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE                     Where He Leads Me                     NORRIS

## Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

**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 stay after worship for a picnic lunch, bouncy house, and other fun activities!

**FCC is sending someone to Chautauqua next summer.....will it be you?** An anonymous donor has gifted our church with an endowment that will send someone to a week at the Chautauqua Institution in New York. Curious? Interested? For more information, including the team member names who can answer questions, please find the information and application at the bulletin board near the Narthex at church—or the weekly Epistle for electronic copies. Applications are due by September 30.

**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.

**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](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:**

**CHURCH PICNIC, September 8, After Worship!**

**TUESDAY, September 10, 3:00 PM: Staff Meeting**

**TUESDAY, September 10, 3:30 PM: Worship and Faith Meeting**

**ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, September 15, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, September 15, 11:00 AM**

## Today's Scripture

### Mark 7:24-37

Jesus left Gennesaret and went to the territory of Tyre and Sidon. There he went into a certain house and wanted no one to recognize him, but he could not pass unrecognized. A woman whose young daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him. She approached Jesus and fell at his feet. The woman, who was Greek, a Syro-Phoenician by birth, begged Jesus to expel the demon from her daughter. He told her, "Let the children of the household satisfy themselves at table first. It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She replied, "Yes, Rabbi, but even the dogs under the table eat the family's scraps." Then Jesus said to her, "For saying this, you may go home happy; the demon has left your daughter." When she got home, she found her daughter in bed and the demon gone. Jesus left the region of Tyre and returned by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Ten Cities. Some people brought an individual who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and begged Jesus to lay hands on that person. Jesus took the afflicted one aside, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the deaf ears and, spitting, touched the mute tongue with his saliva. Then Jesus looked up to heaven and, with a deep sigh, said, "Ephphatha!"—that is, "Be opened!" At once the deaf ears were opened and the impediment cured; the one who had been healed began to speak plainly. Then Jesus warned them not to tell anyone; but the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. Their amazement went beyond all bounds: "He has done everything well! He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak!"

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

  @fc\_indy  FirstCongregationalUCCIndy  FCINDY DOT ORG