



# 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

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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 (she/her), Student Pastor

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Linda Lupton, Liturgist

\*\*\*Bonnie Bomer is our Student Pastor. Her guide dog's name is Fiesta. 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 15, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

Hush!

Martin

INTROIT

Nearer, My God, to You

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today, we are grateful to gather and worship God in peaceful conditions.

**All: While some congregations are rocked with bombshells, our service can exist in calm.**

One: While some communities are rife with discord, our neighborhoods are primed for dialogue.

**All: We are provoked to bring God's peace and praise wherever we go.**

One: We hold fast to the vision of Shalom throughout all of God's creation.

**All: We believe that peace is possible.**

\*SONG OF INVOCATION #288    Let It Breathe on Me    *New Century Hymnal*

### SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: Christ, forgive us for harboring discord in our own hearts. At times, we hold unresolved anger in our bodies, in our families, and institutions. We forego confessions that would release us from silent stalemates. We are often quiet during the proliferation of warfare and buy into cultures of violence as if there is no peaceful alternative. We need your model and Spirit to lead us ever into fearless dwelling and loving communion. Amen.**

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Friends and peacemakers, "Just Peace is not a destination, but a path...may God grant us the required awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves and our communities."

**All: May we be inspired by the serenity of creation, the reconciliation of Christ, and the breath of the Holy Spirit to dwell in and share Shalom. Help us recognize the 'things that make for peace' in our world. Amen.**

RESPONSE

Glory to God

Mayflower Singers

# WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Mark 8:27-38

Linda Lupton

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers



MESSAGE

Who Are You, Jesus?

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF RESPONSE #199

Go, Make a Diff'ence

*Sing! Prayer  
and Praise*

MEDITATION

## WE RESPOND

MEDITATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Bonnie Bomer

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

Bonnie Bomer

INTERLUDE

Lift High the Cross

Mayflower Singers

## 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 #224      When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG      Go Make a Diff'ence      Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE      Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart      MORECAMBE

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

**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:**

**SUNDAY, September 15, 12:15 PM: Outreach and Service Team Meeting in the Church Library - All are welcome!**

**SUNDAY, September 15, 12:45 PM: Pastor Sarah's PCRC**

**TUESDAY, September 17, 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting**

**WEDNESDAY, September 18, 7:00 PM: Church Council Meeting**

**THURSDAY, September 19, 1:00 PM: Men's Lunch**

**SATURDAY, September 21, 9:30 AM: Handbell Choir**

**ADULT EDUCATION, SUNDAY, September 22, 10:00 AM: Join us for fellowship and discussion! Questions: [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com)**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP, September 22, 11:00 AM**



## Today's Scripture

Mark 8:27-38

Then he and the disciples set out for the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way, Jesus asked the disciples this question: "Who do people say that I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptizer; others, Elijah; still others, one of the prophets." "And you," he went on to ask, "who do you say that I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah!" But Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him. Then Jesus began to teach them that the Promised One had to suffer much, be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and religious scholars, be put to death, and rise again three days later. Jesus said these things quite openly. Peter then took him aside and began to take issue with him. At this, Jesus turned around and, eyeing the disciples, reprimanded Peter: "Get out of my sight, you Satan! You are judging by human standards rather than by God's!" Jesus summoned the crowd and the disciples and said, "If you wish to come after me, you must deny your very self, take up your cross and follow in my footsteps. If you would save your life, you'll lose it, but if you lose your life for my sake, you'll save it. What would you gain if you were to win the whole world but lose your self in the process? What can you offer in exchange for your soul? Whoever in this faithless and corrupt generation is ashamed of me and my words will find, in turn, that the Promised One and the holy angels will be ashamed of that person, when all stand before our God in glory."

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

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