



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 “prayground” 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. 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

Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Student Pastor

Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director, Video Designer

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Jacob Smith, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Marion Harcourt, Liturgist

February 23, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Pass It On

K. Kaiser

INTROIT

God Says It's Time

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonnie Bomer

*SONG OF INVOCATION

Pass It On

(see back page)

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE	Luke 6:27-38	Marion Harcourt
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SCRIPTURE RESPONSE	Mayflower Singers
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MESSAGE	The Golden Rule	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
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*SONG OF REFLECTION#576 For the Healing of the Nations *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION	Come Sunday	D. Ellington
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PASTORAL PRAYER	Bonnie Bomer
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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.

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Love and Justice

Goudey, Paton

*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#216

God Days It's Time

*Sing! Prayer
& Praise*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG

Go Make a Diff'ence

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Go Make a Diff'ence

Angrisano, Tomaszek

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Address Directory Update - We are working on updating our address and contact directory. If you have had any changes in your contact info in the past year, please let Wendy Baldwin know at wbaldwinindy@gmail.com or make the changes in the draft copy on the table in the Narthex by Feb 23. Updated versions will be available by the end of the month.

February 25th Robin Run Gathering - There will be a gathering of fellowship, conversation, and prayer with Pastor Sarah at Robin Run on Tuesday, Feb 25, at 1:30. It will be in the Cafe in the Assisted Living Building. All FCC Robin Run residents have been invited, and there is limited availability for others. We will have light snacks, but please bring your own drink, if desired. Call or email Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

March 2nd Open Table Lunch Bunch: Join us for a lunch gathering for young adults and anyone seeking fellowship post-worship. After church on **March 2nd**, meet by the fireplace in the parlor with the group to decide where to go for lunch! If you miss us, you can find the lunch location on the white board!

Children's Faith Formation Class – After each Sunday's service, up front in the Playground, there will be a short Bible lesson for all children. Please grab a cup of coffee and visit while your children get together to learn about Jesus and the Old Testament stories that he knew

Worship Refreshment Hosting: On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. It is a time of connecting and community building. Wendy would like to have a break from doing this weekly, and so we are hoping more people will be willing to 'host'. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or contact Wendy. Also let her know if you would like more info and/or some 'training' on this process. Thanks for participating in this treasured ministry!

The Faith Formation Team is being reactivated. Your church needs you! Please indicate your interest by contacting Gini Coomer, chair of the Worship and Faith Board: coomerg6343@gmail.com. We meet on Zoom.

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.

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 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.



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: 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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

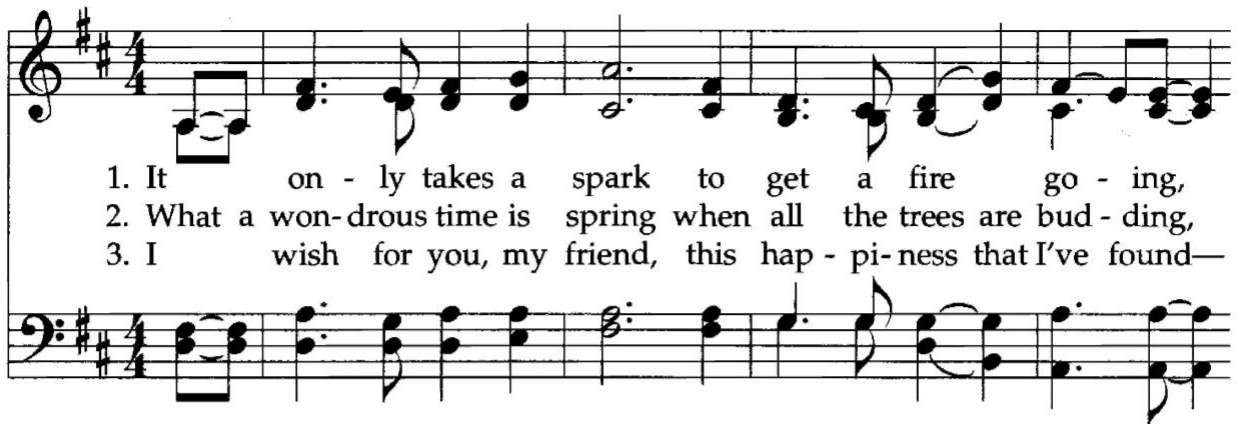
Luke 6:27-38

"To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other; when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don't demand it back. "Do to others what you would have them do to you. If you love those who love you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. If you do good only to those who do good to you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' do as much. If you lend to those you expect to repay you, what credit does that do you? Even 'sinners' lend to other 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. Love your enemies and do good to them. Lend without expecting repayment, and your reward will be great. You'll rightly be called children of the Most High, since God is good even to the ungrateful and the wicked. "Be compassionate, as your loving God is compassionate. Don't judge, and you won't be judged. Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned. Pardon, and you'll be pardoned. Give, and it will be given to you: a full measure—packed down, shaken together and running over—will be poured into your lap. For the amount you measure out is the amount you'll be given back."

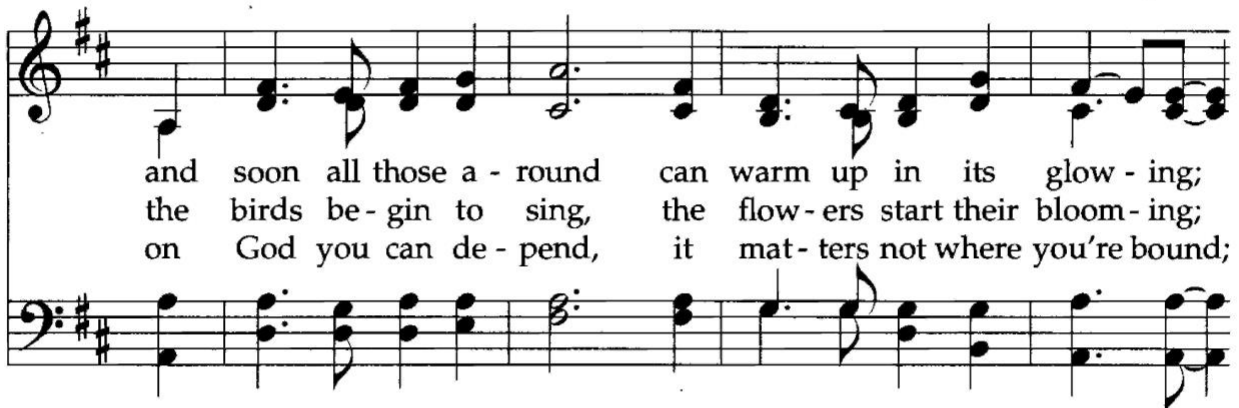
(Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible. Sheed & Ward. Kindle Edition.)

Pass It On

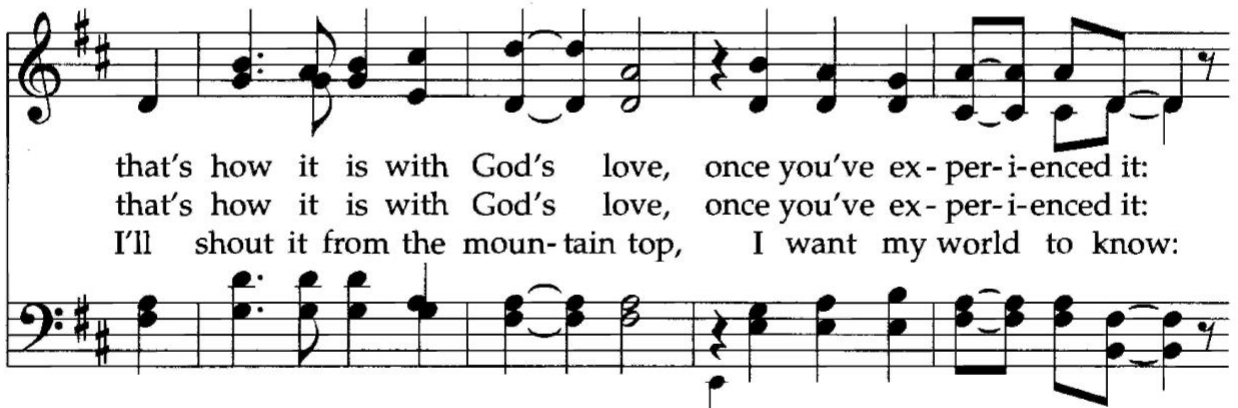
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1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,
 2. What a won-drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that I've found—



and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;
 the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;
 on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;



that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it:
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it:
 I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want my world to know:



you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.
 you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.
 the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

WORDS and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON
Irr.