



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

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Sean Baker, Liturgist

March 2, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision

INTROIT

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bonnie Bomer

*SONG OF PRAISE #43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Bonnie Bomer

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Sean Baker

MESSAGE

Do Not Lose Heart

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION Shine, Jesus, Shine (see back page)

WE RESPOND

CONFESSION

We allow the voices of siblings who do not look like us, love like us, or worship like us to be silenced. We have told them to wait for freedom, justice and equality. We foster in them *a denigrating sense of nobodiness*.

Lord, have mercy.

Or perhaps we have kept silence ourselves in the face of their struggle for full human life. *For it is not solely hateful words and actions, but also appalling silence that follows the path of oppression.* **Christ, have mercy.**

Perhaps our sin is to give in to weariness, discouragement, bitterness: You have called us to be *drum majors for justice, peace and righteousness*, Yet the work of peace and justice overwhelms us at times, To build with God the Beloved Community seems impossible, and we grow weary. We cry, "Peace, peace," but there is no peace within us or around us. We find ourselves on the path of hatred and oppression, violence and war. **Lord, have mercy.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We remember that you have given your Beloved people a new name: "My delight is in them."

Thank you, God for delighting in us even now, for forgiving us our slow action, our silence and our weariness, for empowering our work and inviting us once again to create with you the Beloved Community you long for.

GLORIA

COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Bonnie Bomer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

Light of the World

K. Crawford

*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 #158 O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright
New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Let It Shine

B. Hamm

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Updated Address Directories: Our updated address directory for 2025 is now available! There are paper copies on the table of the Narthex. You can also access a PDF of the directory online at www.fcindy.org, by clicking on News & Opportunities, and then Meeting Minutes & Docs. Or send a request for the PDF to cassidy@fcindy.org. **Please note - several emails & phone numbers have been updated. Please double check that you are using the most current contact info!**

Today! 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

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

With such hope we are very bold in what we say. And we are not like Moses, who covered his face with a veil to keep the Israelites from gazing at the radiance as it faded away. But their minds had been dulled, and to this day the same veil remains whenever the old Covenant is read—it has not been taken away, for only in Christ can it be removed. To this day, whenever Moses is read, a veil covers their understanding. But whenever anyone turns to our God, the veil is removed. Now our God is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of our God is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces reflect our God's glory, grow brighter and brighter as we are being transformed into the image we reflect. This is the work of our God, who is Spirit.

Therefore, because we have this ministry through God's mercy, we do not give in to discouragement. On the contrary, we renounce the shameful deeds that were kept hidden. We are not deceitful, nor do we adulterate the word of God. But by speaking the truth plainly, we commend ourselves to every person's conscience in the sight of God.

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

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Shine, Jesus, Shine

Graham Kendrick

A D/A A E/A A D/A A E/A

Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing, in the midst of the dark - ness shin - ing.
As we gaze on your ra - diant bright-ness, so our fa - ces dis - play your like - ness,

5 D E/D C#m F#m D E/D

Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us; set us free by the
e - ver chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry; mir - rored here may our

8 C#m F#m G Esus⁴ E G Esus⁴ E

truth you now bring us. Shine on us, shine on us.
lives tell your sto - ry. Shine on us, shine on us.

13 A E/A D Bm A/C# Bm/D B⁷/D# Esus⁴ E Esus⁴ E A E/A

Shine, Je - sus, shine; fill the land with our God's great glo - ry. Blaze, Spi - rit, blaze;

18 D Bm A/C# Bm/D Bm G E A E/A D Bm A/C# Bm/D B⁷/D#

set our hearts on fire. Flow, ri - ver, flow; flood the na - tions with

24 Esus⁴ E Esus⁴ E A E/A D Bm A/C# Bm/D E⁷ A

grace and mer - cy. Send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light.