



# 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 “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:** Rev. Worth Hartman will be on call Monday through Saturday March 24-29 while Pastor Sarah is on vacation. His email is [worthgrover@sbcglobal.net](mailto:worthgrover@sbcglobal.net) and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. 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.**

\*\*\*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.

**We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader

Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Student Pastor and Preacher

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

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

## Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Judy Brown Fletcher, Liturgist

# March 23, 2025

11:00 AM

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

# WE GATHER

# PRELUDE

# We Are Called to Follow Jesus

# Strathdee

# INTROIT

# We Are All One

# Mayflower Singers

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF PRAISE #22 Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

*New Century Hymnal*

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## THRESHOLD MOMENT

There are many ways to say I love you,  
sharing God's love with the world.

**One way to show love is by being kind to our neighbors.**

We show love by being kind to our immigrant and refugee neighbors.

**Immigrant and Refugee neighbors are made in God's image and worthy of loving kindness.**

There are many ways to say I love you,  
sharing God's love with the world.

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 3:1-15

Judy Brown Fletcher

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Be Kind to Our Immigrant and Refugee Neighbors  
Bonnie Bomer

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #23 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy  
*New Century Hymnal*

## 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.**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

## MEDITATION

## PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

## 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

Jesus Call Us, o'er the Tumult

Alexander, Jude

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

\*SONG OF SENDING #214    Our God Has Done Great Things for Us  
*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION Bonnie Bomer

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**Join our newly established interfaith justice organization named INDY ACTION COALITION** at an action in support of our immigrant neighbors and calling on Marion County Sheriff Kerry Forestal to cease cooperation with ICE and stop using the Marion County Jail to detain immigrants for deportation. Rev. Worth Hartman will be one of the speakers. Press Conference Concerning Sheriff Kerry Forestal & Immigrant Detention Criminal Justice Center 695 Justice Way Indianapolis 46203 (around 3300 East Prospect St. near southeast side) Tuesday, March 25, 11:45 AM Gather on sidewalk in front of Justice Center, 12:00 Noon Press Conference

**Children's Faith Formation Class** – After each Sunday's service, up front in the Prayground, 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. Please sign up 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!

**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.

**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](http://www.fcindy.org).



**EXODUS  
REFUGEE**  
*The life ahead.*



### **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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)



# TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God. The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw—"The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it isn't consumed!" Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight—and see why the bush doesn't burn up!" When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: "Moses! Moses!" Moses answered, "I am here." God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground! "I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!" Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One. Then YHWH said, "I have seen the affliction of my people in Egypt; I have heard their cries under those who oppress them; I have felt their sufferings. Now I have come down to rescue them from the hand of Egypt, out of their place of suffering, and bring them to a place that is wide and fertile, a land flowing with milk and honey§—the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the children of Israel has reached me, and I have watched how the Egyptians are oppressing them. Now, go! I will send you to Pharaoh, to bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I, that I should go to Pharaoh and lead the children of Israel out of Egypt?" God answered, "I will be with you, and this is the sign by which you will know that it is I who have sent you: after you bring my people out of Egypt, you will all worship at this very mountain." "But," Moses said, "when I go to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is this god's name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I AM AS I AM. This is what you will tell the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God spoke further to Moses: "Tell the children of Israel: 'YHWH, the 'I AM,' the God of your ancestors, the God of Sarah and Abraham, of Rebecca and Isaac, of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my Name forever; this is the name you are to remember for all generations.

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



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