



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.

***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 and Preacher

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

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

Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey, Liturgist

March 30, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

arr. S. Baker

INTROIT

We Are All One

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF INVITATION #417

This Is a Day of New Beginnings
New Century Hymnal

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

THRESHOLD MOMENT

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

We show love by being kind to our neurodivergent neighbors.

Nuerodivergent 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.

SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Rev. Dr. Patrick Larracey

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Be Kind to Our Neurodivergent Neighbors

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Bonnie Bomer

*SONG OF REFLECTION #278 Creator God, Creating Still *New
Century Hymnal*

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

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

How Great Thou Art

arr. S. Baker

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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

VIDEO	Our Church's Wider Mission	UCC National
INTERLUDE	Spirit of the Living God	arr. S. Baker

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*

**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.**

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

BENEDICTION

*SONG OF SENDING #609 Now Is the Time Approaching *New
Century Hymnal*

BLESSING SONG	We Are All One	Mayflower Singers
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POSTLUDE Ode to Joy Beethoven, arr. S. Baker

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!**

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. 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. Thanks for participating in this treasured ministry!

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.



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 5:16-21

And so from now on, we don't look on anyone in terms of mere human judgment. Even if we did once regard Christ in these terms, that is not how we know Christ now. And for anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old order has passed away; now everything is new! All of this is from God, who ransomed us through Christ—and made us ministers of that reconciliation. This means that through Christ, the world was fully reconciled again to God, who didn't hold our transgressions against us, but instead entrusted us with this message of reconciliation. This makes us Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making the appeal directly through us. Therefore we implore you in Christ's name: be reconciled to God. For our sake, God made the One who was without sin to be sin, so that by this means we might become the very holiness of God.



The poster features a yellow background with a grey starburst on the left containing the text 'A LENTEN SERIES AT FC INDY!' and a 'GOD' logo with a peace symbol. The main title 'BE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS' is in large, bold, black letters. Below it, a list of neighbor groups and dates is centered. At the bottom is a colorful illustration of a town skyline. Three birds are flying in the top left corner.

BE KIND TO OUR NEIGHBORS

OUR NEIGHBORS WITH DISABILITIES, **MARCH 9**

OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS, **MARCH 16**

OUR IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE NEIGHBORS, **MARCH 23**

OUR NEURODIVERGENT NEIGHBORS, **MARCH 30**

OUR LGBTQ+ NEIGHBORS, **APRIL 6**





OUR BLACK AND BROWN NEIGHBORS, **APRIL 13**

OUR NEIGHBORS IN ALL OF CREATION, **APRIL 20**

A LENTEN SERIES AT FC INDY!

GOD

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

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