



# 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:** 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. 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  
Linda Lupton, Liturgist

**April 13, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

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

**WE GATHER**

PRELUDE                      The Garden of Prayer                      Edward Broughton

INTROIT                      Hosanna                      Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS                      Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF PRAISE #213      "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"      *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 Black and Brown neighbors.

**Black and Brown 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

Luke 19:28-40

Linda Lupton

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Be Kind to Our Black and Brown Neighbors  
Bonnie Bomer

\*SONG OF REFLECTION #120

Dream God's Dream

*Sing! Prayer  
and Praise*

## 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

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

## MEDITATION

If You and I Believe in Christ

## 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

## OFFERING



INTERLUDE

Filled with Excitement

Rubén Ruíz Avila

\*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


Bonnie Bomer


\*SONG OF SENDING #132    Pave the Way with Justice    *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BLESSING SONG    Hosanna    Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE    All Glory, Laud, and Honor

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

	April 13 (Palm Sunday)	11:00 AM WORSHIP
	April 17 (Maundy Thursday)	6:00 PM SUPPER 7:00 PM WORSHIP
	April 20 (Easter Sunday)	11:00 AM WORSHIP



**Outreach and Service Team Meeting**, today at 12:15pm!

**Friday, April 18 at 6:00 PM: Pizza and movie night** featuring “Call me Malcolm.” This is the story of transgender and UCC minister Rev. Dr. Malcolm Himschoot. Rev. Himschoot will lead us in worship on Sunday, April 27.

**April 15 from 12:30-2:30pm Pop-Up Coffee with Pastor Sarah at Lulus** 2292 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260. Other upcoming Pop-up coffees: May 6 and June 10.

**Robin Run:** Our next gathering with Pastor Sarah Lund will be **Tuesday, April 22, 1:30 to 2:30**. We shall meet again in the CAFE, just off the lobby to Robin Run's Assisted Living main entrance. Come early, get a good seat, a snack and gather for fellowship and conversation. Red tote bags with the church's name on them will lead you to the right place. Your host, Pat Larracey: 317-625-6801

**Don't forget that Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers must be ordered by TODAY Sunday, April 13.** There are copies of the form on the Narthex table.

**Special Easter Offering** to support UCC Partner ministries in Gaza and Ukraine!

**The Outreach and Service Board** is encouraging members to financially support community organizations that align with our churches' just peacemaking covenant. Consider a contribution to the Peace Learning Center (PLC). The PLC was created in 1997 by a team of people that included Tim Nation, the PLC's current Executive Director, to reduce violence and increase kindness in our community. It is housed at Eagle Creek Park and has reached more than 220,000 people locally and internationally. The PLC's programs are designed to teach safe and simple ways to manage anger, solve problems, and develop appreciation for differing perspectives. They believe everyone can be a peacemaker. The PLC supports communities in redefining peace through equity, social emotional learning and the implementation of innovative practices. **Mission Statement: Peace Learning Center facilitates community learning that acts as a catalyst for peace. Vision Statement: Our vision is a healed world where strong and caring communities strive together to fully live in peace.**

**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

**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).



#### **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**

### **Luke 19:28-40**

Having said this, Jesus went ahead with the ascent to Jerusalem. Olives, Jesus sent two of the disciples with these instructions: "Go into the village ahead of you. Upon entering it, you'll find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and lead it back. If anyone should ask you, 'Why are you untying it?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it.' " They departed on their errand and found things just as Jesus had said. As they untied the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you doing that?" They explained that the Rabbi needed it. Then the disciples led the animal to Jesus and, laying their cloaks on it, helped him mount. People spread their cloaks on the roadway as Jesus rode along. As they reached the descent from the Mount of Olives, the entire crowd of disciples joined them and began to rejoice and praise God loudly for the display of power they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

Jesus replied, "I tell you, if they were to keep silent, the very stones would cry out!"

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



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