



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

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

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Grady Locke, String Bass

Mike Kessler, Percussion

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Judy Fletcher, Liturgist

April 20, 2025 • Easter Sunday • 11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Christ the Lord Is Risen Today arr. Michael Thomas

INTROIT New Life Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #233 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today *New
Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Bonnie Bomer

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 neighbors in all of Creation.

All Creation is 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

John 20:1-18

Judy Fletcher

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Be Kind to Our Neighbors in All of Creation

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #156 New Life *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.

Lord, have mercy.

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

GLORIA

EASTER EARTH DAY VIDEO The Risen Christ! Gerald Peterson

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. S. Baker

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 Mayflower Singers

SPECIAL EASTER OFFERING to support UCC Partner ministries
in Gaza and Ukraine

INTERLUDE Christ Is Risen Brian Wren, Polish carol

*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 Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF SENDING #239 Christ Rose Up from the Dead *New
Century Hymnal*

BLESSING SONG Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Jesus Christ Is Risen Today arr. Brian Barlow

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Pop-Up Coffee with Pastor Sarah at Lulus 2292 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260: May 6 and June 10, 12:30-2:30pm.

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

Rev. Dr. Malcom Himschoot will join us on Sunday, April 27th as our Guest

Preacher while Pastor Sarah is attending a family funeral in Minnesota. Rev. Worth Hartman will be available for pastoral care April 25-30.

His email is worthgrover@sbcglobal.net and his cell is (317) 417-0806.

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'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 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

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

John 20:1-18

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—and told them, “The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don’t know where they have put Jesus!” At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn’t enter, but bent down to peer in and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn’t understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes. Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus’ body had lain. They asked her, “Why are you weeping?” She answered them, “Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don’t know where they have put the body.” No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn’t know it was Jesus. He asked her, “Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?” She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, “Please, if you’re the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you’ve laid the body and I will take it away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned to him and said, “Rabboni!”—which means “Teacher”. Jesus then said, “Don’t hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, ‘I’m ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!’” Mary of Magdala went to the disciples. “I have seen the Teacher!” she announced. Then she reported what the savior had said to her.

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



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