



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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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 “playground” 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.

Accessibility: Please see an usher if you’d like a listening device. We also have a variety of fidgets in the playground to support neurodiversity. Don’t hesitate to let an usher know if there’s something else you’re in need of!

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. Malcolm Himschoot (he/him), Preacher

Rev. Worth Hartman (he/him), Worship Leader

Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Student Pastor

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

Mayflower Singers

Jacob Smith, String Bass

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Wendy Baldwin, Liturgist

April 27, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Minuet in G Major, BWV Anh. 114 J.S. Bach, arr. Baker

INTROIT New Life Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF INVOCATION #51 O Sing a Song of Bethlehem *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Acts 5:27-30 Wendy Baldwin

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE Brought Up for Questioning Rev. Dr. Malcolm Himschoot

*SONG OF REFLECTION #300 Jesus Shall Reign *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION Moon Talk H. Mancini, arr.

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

OFFERING

INTERLUDE Minuet in G Major, BWV Anh. 116 J.S. Bach, arr. Baker

*DOXOLOGY *Song of Thanks*
The Resurrection now has come.
Christ's justice work must still be done.
These gifts we bring are for that goal,
To share and care for every soul.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Malcolm Himschoot

*SONG OF SENDING #503 O Savior, Let Me Walk with You *New Century Hymnal*

BLESSING SONG Peace I Leave with You, My Friends Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE March in D Major, BWV Anh. 122 J.S. Bach, arr. Baker

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

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 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.

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

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

Acts 5:27-30

The apostles were taken before the Sanhedrin, and the high priest began to interrogate them: "We gave you strict orders not to teach about that name, yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching—and you're determined to make us responsible for this Jesus' blood." To this, Peter and the apostles replied, "Better for us to obey God than people! The God of our ancestors has raised Jesus, whom you put to death by hanging him on a tree."

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

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More About Rev. Dr. Malcolm Himschoot

Rev. Dr. Malcolm Himschoot has been in UCC ministry for 22 years, as long as he has identified as a man and claimed a public role in transgender education. With the United Church of Christ in 2004 he helped make the indie documentary [*Call Me Malcolm*](#).

Himschoot's ministry has taken him from streets and prisons near the Denver Inner City Parish, to immigrant vigils, to affordable housing in Minneapolis, to policing reform in Cleveland, to coalition-building for indigenous rights in Maine. Along the way he has served established and new congregations, leading worship, preaching and teaching, offering pastoral care, and doing music with children. He served on denominational staff with Local Church Ministries from 2012-2019. Now in Maine co-pastoring the ecumenical Church of Universal Fellowship, he also directs the Maine Conference UCC program in regional theological education for lay learning and rural leadership development: The Maine School of Ministry.

His new book is [*Reading Secrets: A Queer Inheritance of Life and Scripture*](#). In poetic form it tells of spirituality and sexuality, a conflicting relationship with his father, and the promise and pathos of sacred text.