



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 “pryground” 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 pryground 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. 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
Rev. Elizabeth Price, Vision Moment
Scott Semester, Liturgist

Today is Student Minister Bonnie's last Sunday as our student minister. Please join us after worship for special coffee hour to celebrate her time with us.

May 4, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Let Us Break Bread Together

INTROIT Open Our Eyes Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #42 O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

VISION MOMENT

Rev. Elizabeth Price

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Philippians 2:3-4, 1 Thessalonians 5:11, Acts 20:35
Scott Semester

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE	May the Fourth Be with You: The Hero's and Heroine's Journey	Bonnie Bomer
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*SONG OF COMMUNION #347 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ
New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

INVITATION Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread Mayflower Singers

COMMUNION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and Bonnie Bomer

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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

Let There Be Light

*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

*SONG OF SENDING #205 205 Dance into Joy

*Sing! Prayer
& Praise*

BENEDICTION

Bonnie Bomer

BLESSING SONG

Praise the Name of Jesus

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Star Wars (Main Theme)

John Williams

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

After Service: Join us for a special coffee hour celebrating the ministry of Student Pastor, Bonnie Bomer!

Today! Sunday, May 4th: Come to the Open Table, a lunch gathering for anyone seeking fellowship post-worship (all are welcome!). On May 4th after church, meet by the fireplace in the parlor with the group to decide where to go for lunch!

Book Circle: We will meet on **Thursday, May 8 at 1:30** - both in person in the church library, and on zoom. We will finish our discussion of **The Ride of Her Life: The True Story of a Woman, Her Horse, and Their Last Chance Journey Across America by Elizabeth Letts**. It is a fascinating tale of one woman's journey by horse across the country in the mid 1950s - her experiences and the people she met and things she learned along the way. The discussion will focus on the second half of the book, starting with chapter 18. For those who like to read ahead - starting in June we will be discussing **"The Good Neighbor, The Life and Work of Fred Rogers" by Maxwell King**. With or without reading the book - join us for lively discussion! Any questions, please contact Karen Walker (karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com, 317-319-8950).

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

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.

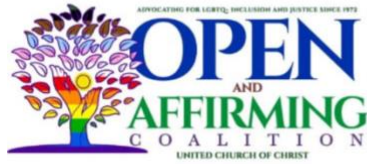
Food Donations to Northside Pantry – Help those with hunger insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

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 Open and Affirming Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition, the Damien Center, and Indiana Youth Group.



DAMIEN CENTER



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

Philippians 2:3-4

There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you're already doing.

Acts 20:35

"I have always pointed out to you that it's by such hard work that you must help the weak. You need to recall the words of Jesus, who said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

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



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