



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 LGBTQAAl+ 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:** Our worship services are 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.

Warning! Scam alert!

Do not give any financial information from requests via email or text solicitations. These are scams and not from the church!

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.

We celebrate our worship leaders today:

Rev. Laura Beth Buchleiter (she/her), Preacher
Rev. Elizabeth Price (she/her), Worship Leader
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director, Video Designer
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Sean Baker, Liturgist

We celebrate our guest preacher, Rev. Laura Beth Buchleiter! Rev. Laura Beth Buchleiter is an ordained Baptist minister, slowly making her way the PC(USA). She is currently launching The Center for Peace and Restoration - a trauma-informed space for queer (and queer adjacent) people to explore and reengage in spiritual growth. After a lifetime of roaming, she is settling down in Indianapolis where she enjoys the local music and arts scene and getting outside as much as life allows.

July 13, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Children of God

INTROIT

Make Us One

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Elizabeth Price

*SONG OF PRAISE #133 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker *Sing!*
Prayer and Praise

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Psalm 57 Sean Baker

MESSAGE Love: The Essence of Divinity, in Motion Rev. Laura Beth Buchleiter

*SONG OF REFLECTION They'll Know We Are Christians
(see back page)

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS Rev. Elizabeth Price

MEDITATION Sweet Hour of Prayer

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Elizabeth Price

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 Rev. Elizabeth Price

INTERLUDE What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*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.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Elizabeth Price

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING #471 What a Covenant *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

Rev. Laura Beth Buchleiter

BLESSING SONG

Praise the Name of Jesus Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

What a Covenant

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Note: Friday Prayer on Zoom will be paused for the summer.

Thanks to everyone who contributed shawls for the upcoming General Synod!

July 20 is rapidly approaching. Mark your calendars now. The Vision Team is sponsoring a pitch in /Buzz session at 12:15, right after church, to explain the new e-Connect program, our responsibilities, those of the congregation, and those of Pastor Sarah. Think of this as the planting, nurturing, and harvesting a garden. We are in this together.

We look forward to sharing this information and working with everyone for the gain of all.

July 20 is a busy day at First Congregational Church. In addition to Pastor Sarah's continued series of sermons dealing with the General Synod topic of "Into the Deep," The Worship and Faith Board and the Personnel Committee are pleased to announce the launch of the new Faith Ministry program. Leader, Gracelynn Norgaard, will be sharing a Message for all Ages and then will be starting her first time with our children in the Playground. Please plan to join us for this exciting new program launch and then stay for the pitch in. All are welcome.

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. In the past, Wendy Baldwin has handled this when she is in town, but we are hoping more people will be willing 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.

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!

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.



Thank You for Your Financial Gifts! The Covenant giving organizations for May through August 2025 are the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition, Damien Center, and the Indiana Youth Group. 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.



DAMIEN CENTER



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

Psalm 57

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me! In you my soul takes shelter; I take shelter in the shadow of your wings until the destroying storm is over. I call on God the Most High, on God who has done everything for me, to send help from heaven to save me, to stop them from persecuting me.

——Selah——

O God, send me your love and your faithfulness.

I'm surrounded by lions greedy for human prey, their teeth are spears and arrows, their tongue a sharp sword.

Rise high above the heavens, O God, and let your glory cover the earth! They laid a net where I was walking when I was bowed with care; they dug a pit for me but fell into it themselves.

——Selah——

My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready; I will sing and play for you.

Awake, my muse! Awake, lyre and harp! I will awaken the dawn!

I will thank you among the peoples, YHWH, and sing of you among the nations; your love is high as heaven; your faithfulness reaches to the skies.

Rise high above the heavens, O God, let your glory cover the earth!

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



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They'll Know We Are Christians

Fm Bbm

We are one in the Spi-rit, we are one in the Word; we are one in the
 We will walk with each o-ther, we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each
 We will work with each o-ther, we will work side by side; we will work with each
 All__ praise to our God, from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

6 Fm Bbm

Spi - rit, we are one in the Word; And we pray that all
 o - ther, we will walk hand in hand; And to - ge - ther we'll
 o - ther, we will work side by side; And we'll guard each one's
 Je - sus, God's__ on - ly__ Son. And all praise to the

10 Fm

u - ni - ty will one day be re - stored.
 spread the news that God is in our land.
 dig - ni - ty and save__ each ones's pride.
 Spi - rit who__ makes__ us__ one.

13 *Refrain* Db Ab Db Ab Fm

And they'll know we are Chris tians by our love, by our

17 Bbm Fm Bbm Cm Fm

love, yes, they'll know__ we are Chris - tians by our love.