



# 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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**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:** 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](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.**

## **We celebrate our worship leaders today:**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Preacher & Worship Leader

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

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Children & Youth Faith Formation Leader

Mayflower Singers

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Alice Rutherford, Liturgist

**August 3, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

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

## **WE GATHER**

PRELUDE

Hush!

J. Martin

INTROIT

Nearer My God to You

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*SONG OF INVOCATION #30

Hush!

*Sing! Prayer and Praise*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and loving God, open our hearts so that we are able to admit to you the fullness of our lives – that which is beautiful and good, and that which is hurtful and hateful.**

**We confess that we do not follow Jesus in all that we do.**

**We love with condition.**

**We judge and condemn.**

**We cast the first stone, and keep the logs in our own eyes.**

**We do not turn to You as the source of our healing. Forgive us, we pray. Forgive our sin, and empower us to be imitators of Christ in love and service. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE	LUKE 12:13-21	Alice Rutherford
SCRIPTURE RESPONSE		Mayflower Singers
MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES		Gracelynn Norgaard
MESSAGE	Make US Generous Again	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
*SONG OF REFLECTION #294	There's a Spirit in the Air (vs. 1,3,6) <i>New Century Hymnal</i>	

## WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

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
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SPECIAL OFFERING: STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH

INTERLUDE	Giving	H. Mancini
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\*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

## **WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING #192    Carry the Light    *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION    Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG    Nearer My God to You    Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE    Children of God    J. Martin

# Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

**TODAY! August 3<sup>rd</sup> After Worship:**



**TODAY: Strengthen the Church Offering:** The Strengthen the Church Offering is one of our UCC 5 for 5 Offerings and is dedicated to:

- Support for launching new UCC congregations, especially those serving younger generations, black and indigenous communities, LGBTQ+ affirming spaces, or nontraditional or innovative ministry models.
- Youth and young adult ministries.
- Scholarships and training for emerging clergy and lay leaders, and
- Resources and coaching for churches undergoing revitalization, and grants for ministries with new worship formats, community engagement models, or justice outreach.

You can fill out a special offering card at the service or make an online gift. Please indicate on your check, offering card, or online gift that it is for "Strengthen the Church". Thank you.

**UPDATE: Open Table Lunch Bunch,** Will resume meeting September 7<sup>th</sup>. See you at the Congregational meeting today!

**Children's Faith Formation every Sunday in the sanctuary Playground after worship:** After each Sunday's worship service, up front in the Playground, there will be a 15 minute faith formation experience for all children led by Gracelynn.



**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!



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](http://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](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

## TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 12:13-21

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my share of our inheritance." Jesus replied, "Friend, who has set me up as your judge or arbiter?" Then he told the crowd, "Avoid greed in all its forms. Your life isn't made more secure by what you own—even when you have more than you need." Jesus then told them a parable in these words: "There was a rich farmer who had a good harvest. "What will I do?' the farmer mused. 'I have no place to store my harvest. I know! I'll pull down my grain bins and build larger ones. All my grain and goods will go there. Then I'll say to myself: You have blessings in reserve for many years to come. Relax! Eat, drink and be merry!' "But God said to the farmer, 'You fool! This very night your life will be required of you. To whom will all your accumulated wealth go?' "This is the way it works with people who accumulate riches for themselves, but are not rich in God."

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



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