



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:** 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. 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

Judy Brown Fletcher, Liturgist

August 10, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

INTROIT

God Says It's Time

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #439 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *New Century Hymnal*

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Judy Brown Fletcher

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Norgaard

MESSAGE

Make US Faithful Again

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #412

God Moves in a Mysterious Way
New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Life In a Looking Glass

Bricusse, Mancini

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

INTERLUDE

To God Be the Glory

*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 #596 Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me *New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG Go Make a Difference Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Our God Has Done Great Things for Us B. Hamm

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Youth Group! Join us for Youth Group on August 24, from 12:30-2:30pm!

UPDATE: Open Table Lunch Bunch, Will resume meeting September 7th.

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.



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

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Faith is the reality of all that is hoped for; faith is the proof of all that is unseen. Because of faith, our ancestors were approved by God. By faith, we understand that the world was created by the word from God, and that what is visible came into being through the invisible.

By faith, Sarah and Abraham obeyed when they were called, and went off to the place they were to receive as a heritage; they went forth, moreover, not knowing where they were going. By faith, Sarah and Abraham lived in the promised land as resident aliens, dwelling in tents with their children and grandchildren, who were heirs of the same promise—for they were looking forward to the city with foundations, whose designer and maker is God. By faith, Sarah received the ability to conceive, even though she was past childbearing age, for she thought that the One who had made the promise was worthy of trust. As a result of this faith, there came forth from one woman and one man, themselves as good as dead, descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sands of the seashore. All of them died in faith. They didn't obtain what had been promised, but saw and welcomed it from afar. By acknowledging themselves to be strangers and exiles on the earth, they showed that they were looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country from which they had come, they'd have been able to return to it. But they were searching for a better country, a heavenly one. So God isn't ashamed of them, or ashamed to be called their God. That's why God has prepared a city for them.

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



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