



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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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
Jacob Smith, String Bass
Mike Kessler, Percussion
Handbells
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Angel Flora, Liturgist
Karen Walker and Linda Lupton, Chautauqua Sharing

August 31, 2025

Chautauqua Sunday

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Joyful Rhythm

K. McChesney

INTROIT

We Are All One

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*SONG OF PRAISE #28 For the Beauty of the Earth

*New Century
Hymnal*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most Holy and Merciful Creator,

We confess to you and to one another,

that we have sinned against you

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength.

We have not fully loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not

always had in us the mind of Christ. You alone know how often we

have grieved you by wasting your gifts, by wandering from your

ways. Forgive us, we pray you, and renew in us the grace and

strength of your Holy Spirit, for the sake of Jesus Christ your Son

and our Savior. Amen.

GLORIA

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

Exodus 35:4-29

Angel Flora

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Beauty Can Save the World

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

With Linda Lupton and Karen Walker

*SONG OF REFLECTION #30 Colorful Creator *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

H. 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

For the Beauty of the Earth

arr. S. Baker

*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 #194 Go in Peace *Sing! Prayer and Praise*

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG We Are All One Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE H. Mancini

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Food, Fun, Fellowship and Trivia! Who wouldn't want a chance to taste the special dishes of our FCC cooks and have the chance to show off your culinary specialties (or whatever you have in your pantry)? What about fun trivia questions with exciting, weird prizes for correct answers? **On Sunday September 7th** after worship the **entire congregation** is invited to a Pitch-in sponsored by the FCC Foundation Board. No long speeches imparting information about the virtues of the Foundation. **Just a fun chance to learn more about the Foundation and how it relates to you. Remember each and every one of you is a member of the FCC foundation by virtue of being a member of FCC.**

Saturday, September 13, 11:00 am: Celebration of Life Service for Paul Terheide, the Rev. Worth Hartman presiding.

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.



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

Exodus 35:4-29

To the gathered Israelites, Moses continued, “Here is what YHWH has commanded: Raise a contribution for YHWH. Whoever is willing and generous is to bring a gift for the Holy One: gold, silver and bronze; indigo, purple and scarlet yarn, and fine linen; goat’s hair, tanned sheep’s skin, and fine leather; acacia wood; lamp oil; spices for the anointing oil and for the fragrant incense; and onyx stones and other gems to be set in the ephod and the breastpiece. “All the skilled artisans among us are to make what YHWH has commanded: the Tabernacle with its tent and covering, clasps, frames, crossbars, posts and bases; the Ark with its poles, the Covering, and the screen curtain; the table with its poles and all the vessels, and the Bread of the Presence; the lampstand for the light and its accessories—the lamps and the oil for the lampstand; the incense altar with its poles, the anointing oil, the fragrant incense and the hangings for the entryway to the Tabernacle; the altar for burnt offerings, its bronze grating, its poles and its utensils; the bronze basin and its stand; the courtyard with its posts and bases, and the curtain for the courtyard entrance; the pegs for the Tabernacle and for the courtyard and their cords; and the finely-worked vestments for ministering in the sanctuary—both the sacred vestments for Aaron the priest, and the vestments for Aaron’s heirs when they serve as priests.” All the gathered Israelites left Moses’ presence, and those who were inspired in their minds and moved in their spirits returned with freewill offerings to YHWH for the work on the Tent of Meeting, for all its services and for the sacred garments. Women and men alike gave freely, bringing gold jewelry: brooches, earrings, finger rings, bracelets, necklaces, various gold objects—every one of them presented a donation to YHWH. Those who had indigo, purple or scarlet yarn, or fine linen or goats’ hair, or tanned rams’ skins or fine leather, brought it. Those who were able brought silver or bronze as offerings to YHWH, and those who had acacia wood suitable for this work brought it. Skilled women set to spinning with their hands the indigo, purple and scarlet yarn, and the fine linen, and brought it, while other inspired women with practical knowledge spun the goats’ hair. The clan leaders brought onyx stones and other gems for mounting on the ephod and the breastpiece, and spices and oil for the lamps, and for the anointing oil and the fragrant incense. Every Israelite, woman or man, whose heart was moved to contribute to this work that YHWH had commanded of Moses, brought items necessary for the work, and did so freely.

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



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