



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

www.fcindy.org
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 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. 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

Sarah Finnicum (she/her), Just Peace Intern

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Cora Ladd, Liturgist

September 7, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE Jesus Is Tenderly Call You Home Crosby, Stebbins

INTROIT Make Me a Servant Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION OF JUST PEACE INTERN

*SONG OF INVOCATION #459 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing
New Century Hymnal

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 18:1-11 Cora Ladd

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Gracelynn Norgaard

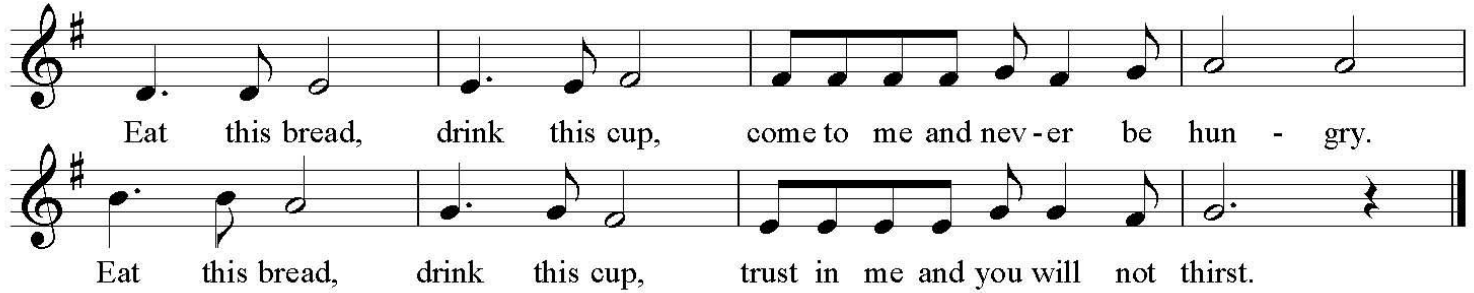
MESSAGE Origins of the United Church of Christ Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #128 Change My Heart, O God *Sing!*
Prayer and Praise

WE RESPOND

INVITATION

Eat This Bread



COMMUNION

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

I Surrender All

Deventer, Weeden

*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 #449	Softy and Tenderly	<i>New Century Hymnal</i>
BENEDICTION		Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
BLESSING SONG	Because He Lives	Mayflower Singers
POSTLUDE	A Charge to Keep I Have	Wesley, Mason

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

TODAY after Worship! Food, Fun, Fellowship and Trivia! You're 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.**

SEPTEMBER 9: Peace Learning Center's Better Way Business

Breakfast: Tuesday, September 9 | 8:15–9:45 AM at Gainbridge Fieldhouse Entry Pavilion, 125 S. Pennsylvania Street. Take your place a table with Worth Hartman and others from First Congregational where we will hear how the Peace Learning Center works with students, educators, and families to keep everyday conflict from becoming lasting harm. If you can come, RSVP, and Worth will sign you up and you'll receive a confirmation and further instructions on parking etc. Worth Hartman
Email: worthgrover@sbcglobal.net Text/Phone: 317-417-0806

SEPTEMBER 10: Public Safety Committee with IMPD: Join us as we mobilize to tell the council NO to the largest increase in police

budget in Indy's history. This meeting will happen Wednesday Sept 10th at 5:30 at the City County Building. Register via the link in the epistle or by contacting Worth Hartman.

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 September to December 2025 are the UCC Mental Health Network, GenderNexus, and Indy Action Coalition. 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**](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 18:1-11

This word came to Jeremiah from YHWH: “Get up and make your way down to the potter’s house. I will give you my message there.” So I went down to the potter’s house, and there the potter was working at the wheel. Whenever the object of clay that the potter was making turned out badly, the potter tried again, making of the clay another object, of whatever sort the potter pleased. Then the word of YHWH came to me: “House of Israel, can I not do to you what this potter does?—it is YHWH who speaks. Indeed, like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, house of Israel. At any moment I may announce that a nation or a dominion is to be uprooted, pulled down or destroyed. But if the nation I threatened abandons its depraved ways, I will change my mind and not inflict on it the disaster I planned. At another moment I may announce that I will build up a nation or establish one. But if it does something displeasing to me, refusing to listen to my voice, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it. “Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: ‘Thus says YHWH: Beware! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. Turn away from your evil life, each one of you, give up your evil ways, amend your conduct.’

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



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