



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 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. Worth Hartman (he/him), Preacher & Worship Leader

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

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader

Mayflower Singers

Sarah Finnicum (she/her), Just Peace Intern

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey, Liturgist

Participants: Steve Leatherman, susanna judith-rae, Chuck Kiphart, Anne Leatherman

*We partner with Pastor Sarah as she serves the wider church today
at First Congregational of Norwalk, CT.*

September 14, 2025

JUST PEACE SUNDAY

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Lead Us from Death to Life

Kumar, Haugen

INTROIT

Come Sweet Justice

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today, we are grateful to gather and worship God in peaceful conditions.

All: While some congregations are rocked with bombshells, our service can exist in calm.

One: While some communities are rife with discord, our neighborhoods are primed for dialogue.

All: We are asked to bring God's peace and praise wherever we go.

One: We hold fast to the vision of Shalom throughout all of God's creation

All: We believe that peace is possible.

OPENING PRAYER

susanna judith-rae

God we believe that you have called us together to broaden our experience of you and of each other. We believe that we have been called to help in healing the many wounds of society and in reconciling people to each other and to God. Help us as individuals and together, to work, in love, for peace and never to lose heart. We commit ourselves to each other, in joy and sorrow. We commit ourselves to all who share our belief in reconciliation, to support and stand by them. We commit ourselves to the way of peace, in thought and deed. We commit ourselves to You, O God, as our guide and friend. Amen.

(see back pages)

Chuck Kiphart

Christ, forgive us for harboring discord in our own hearts. At times, we hold unresolved anger in our bodies, in our families, and institutions. We forego confessions that would release us from silent stalemates. We are often quiet during the proliferation of warfare and buy into cultures of violence as if there is no peaceful alternative. We need your model and Spirit to lead us ever into fearless dwelling and loving communion. Amen.

Rev. Worth Hartman

GLORIA

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 2:1-4 Luke: 19:41-44 Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

Mayflower Singers

Gracelynn Norgaard

MESSAGE The Things That Make For Peace.... Rev. Worth Hartman
Sarah Finnicum, Just Peace Intern
Steve Leatherman, Chair, Outreach and Service Board

Ann Leatherman

Christ, Take our words . . . our world . . . our weapons . . . our work, and transform them into your image.

So we may see your face in truth where news is reported

In justice, where power is abused.

In peace where war is threatened.

In reconciliation where deeds foster hatred.

Open our eyes Lord!

Forgive us when we ignore the suffering of your people

And violence and injustice near and far.

**Give us courage to confront our fears and help us to act as agents of peace.
Restore to us the vision of one church.
Open our eyes!
God, We are created in your image.
The only way to show your peace and justice is through us.
We are responsible for your world and for each other.
Transform us through your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes!**

SONG OF REFLECTION #576 For the Healing of the Nations
New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER (adapted by Rev. Mari Castellanos)

All: Our Mother and Father who are everywhere.

One: You are with us, within us.... by the hardness of human hearts.

All: Holy be your name.

One: Holy is the memory of Jesus and Mary.....who gifted us with our faith.

All: Your kin-dom come, the commonwealth of your kin.

One: A kin-dom with no borders.....a kin-dom of harmony between all your creation.

All: Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

One: As we commit ourselves to restore your creation...as we surrender our dayplanners to your eternal vision.

All: Give us this day our daily bread.

One: Grant us bread without fear....the justice making Body of Christ.

All: Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

One: May we forgive ourselves...forgive ...our dividing your children into winners and losers.

All: And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

One: The temptation of self-righteousness, the evil of judging others... the evil of a polluted world.

All: For yours is the kin-dom, the power and the glory.

One: Yours the reign of justice and peace....yours the everlasting glory of creation, in its magnificent, chaotic design.

All: Forever and ever, glory to you our God. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

O Day of God, Draw Near

R. B. Y. Scott

DOXOLOGY

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Incarnate One, especially in these times of uncertainty, we hope to be companions of righteousness. We hope to divest from all that destroys. We hope to live into the Spirit of Christ that sets the captives free. With these offerings, we pray that our gratitude will manifest in acts of radical love and peace where and when they are needed most. Amen.

*SONG OF SENDING Let There Be Peace on Earth (*see last page*)

BENEDICTION

World Peace Prayer

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe.

Amen.

BLESSING SONG Peace I Leave with You, My Friends Mayflower
Singers

POSTLUDE

Come Sweet Justice

Gilio, Ressman

Members of the Just Peace Church Team 2018-2021: Nancy Dickinson, Rich Gibson, Worth Hartman, susanna-judith rae, Jim Rutherford, Janet Selby, Paul Terheide

Our Just Peace Church Covenant is currently supported by the Outreach and Service Board whose members are: Bob Cook, Worth Hartman, Pastor Sarah, Chuck Kiphart, Ann Leatherman, Steve Leatherman, Mechelle Monroe, Gracelynn Norgaard

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

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

First Congregational Church Just Peace Church Covenant Adopted at Annual Meeting on Jan. 21, 2019

We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, do hereby covenant with ourselves and each other as a Just Peace church to:
Follow the teachings of Christ in realizing that there is no true peace without justice for all.

Seek, through prayer and discernment, to identify opportunities to express and embody Just Peace principles:

- Within ourselves
- In our church and community
- In our state
- In our nation
- In the world

Seek God's clear call for ways to bear witness to Just Peace principles in a nonviolent way.

Engage as a congregation, partnering with other groups as seems advisable, to do so.

Periodically review our actions and those of our partners to ensure that they are effective and in consonance with the principles of Just Peace

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TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 2:1-4

This is what Isaiah ben-Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

In the last days, the mountain of YHWH's Temple
will be established as the most important mountain

and raised above all other hills—

all nations will stream toward it.

Many people will come and say:

“Come, let us climb YHWH's mountain

to the Temple of the God of Jacob,

that we may be instructed in God's ways

and walk in God's paths.” Instruction will be given from Zion

and the word of YHWH from Jerusalem.

God will judge between the nations

and render decisions for many countries. They will beat their swords into plowshares,

and their spears into pruning hooks;

one nation will not raise the sword against another,

and never again will they train for war.

Luke: 19:41-44

Coming within sight of Jerusalem, Jesus wept over it and said, “If only you had known the path to peace today! But now it has been hidden from your eyes. Days will come upon you when your enemies will encircle you with a rampart, hem you in and press you hard from every side. They'll wipe you out, you and your children within your walls, and won't leave one stone on top of another within you, because you failed to recognize the time of your visit from God.”

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



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Down by the Riverside

Leader *Response*

1. Gon - na lay down my sword and shield, down by the riv - er - side,
2. Gon - na lay down my bur - den, down by the riv - er - side,

Leader

down by the riv - er - side, down by the riv - er - side; gon - na
gon - na

Response

lay down my sword and shield, down by the riv - er - side, gon - na
lay down my bur - den, down by the riv - er - side, gon - na

stud - y war no more. I ain't gon - na stud - y war no

more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y

This system contains the first two staves of the musical score. The treble staff features a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more, I ain't gon-na

This system contains the next two staves. The treble staff includes a whole note chord followed by eighth notes. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

stud-y war no more, ain't gon-na stud-y war no more.

This system contains the final two staves of the musical score. The treble staff concludes with a whole note chord. The bass staff provides the final accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller, Jill Jackson

C Am Dm⁷ G¹³ C C/E Gsus⁴ G

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;_____

9 C B⁷ Em B⁷ G⁷

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be._____ With

17 Am Em C⁷ F G⁷ C

God our cre - a - tor,_____ chil - dren all are we._____

25 Am⁷ D G Am⁷ D¹³ G G⁷

Let us walk with each oth - er in per - feet har - mo - ny.

C Am Dm⁷ G¹³ C C/G Gsus⁴ G⁷

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now._____

41 C B⁷ Em B⁷ G⁷

With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:_____ to

49 C C+ F F^o D⁷

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

56 Fm⁶ C/E E⁷ F C F C/E D⁷ G⁷ Gsus⁴ Ċ

_____ Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.