



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), Family Faith Ministry Leader
Sarah Finnicum (she/her), Just Peace Intern
Mayflower Singers
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Maddie Baldwin, Liturgist

September 21, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

Sweet Hour of Prayer

INTROIT Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of Life,

All: you are as near to us as our breath.

One: Touch our eyes,

All: that we may see you in one another.

One: Open our ears,

All: that we may hear your voice in the cries of the oppressed.

One: Enter our hearts,

All: that we may be filled with your love toward all people.

One: Come, O God of life and breath and wholeness.

All: Be with us now. Show us the way to new life and grant us the courage to be people of your Way.

*SONG OF INVOCATION #306 The Church of Christ, in Every Age
New Century Hymnal

Letter of Recognition for Rev. Sheena Hunter Social Justice Award
presented to Pastor Sarah at the IKC Annual Gathering

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 2:1-7

Maddie Baldwin

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Characteristics of the UCC

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION #505 Sweet Hour of Prayer *New Century Hymnal*

WE RESPOND

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

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

SPECIAL OFFERING FOR UCC NEIGHBORS IN NEED

INTERLUDE

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

*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 Rejoice, O Land, in God Thy Might
(see back page)

(from the Pilgrim Hymnal, UCC rooted from the Congregational Church)

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG

Wherever You Go

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Neighbors in Need Offering. Five for Five Offering – September 21, 2025 -

Outreach and Service Board. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

- One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

- Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) for grants awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

This five for five offering will take place on September 21, 2025, at our Sunday Church Service and we welcome your gifts and support. 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 "Neighbors in Need". Thank you.

Today! Youth Group! Join us for Youth Group on September 21, from 12:30-2:30pm!

DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 30TH! Chautauqua Institution in Western New York - applications are now being accepted for a week' retreat there in summer 2026!

SEPTEMBER 30: Next Robin Run Gathering from 1:30-2:30 PM for fellowship, fun, and gathering time with Pastor Sarah.

Children's Faith Formation every Sunday in the sanctuary Playground after worship: After each Sunday's Message for All Ages, the children are invited to go to The Tree House Room on the second floor for faith formation experience for all children led by Gracelynn. Please meet your child in the Tree House Room after worship.

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

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, I urge that prayers be offered for everyone—petitions, intercessions and thanksgivings—and especially for rulers and those in authority, so that we may be able to live godly and reverent lives in peace and quiet. To do this is right, and will please God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to reach full knowledge of the truth. For there is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humankind—Christ Jesus, who was one of us, and who at the proper time sacrificed himself as a ransom and a testimony for all. Because of this I have been appointed to be a preacher, an apostle, and—this is the truth, now, I'm not lying—a faithful and honest teacher to the Gentiles.

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



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FCINDY DOT ORG

Rejoice, O Land, in God Thy Might

430

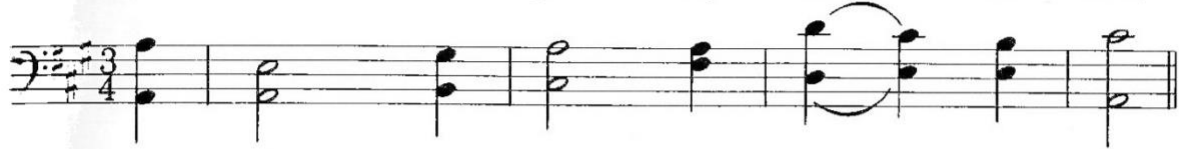
Lyrics: S. Bridges, 1844-1930

WAREHAM L.M.

William Knapp, 1698?-1768



1 Re - joice, O land, in God thy might;
2 Glad shalt thou be, with bless - ing crowned;
3 He shall for - give thy sins un - told;



His will o - bey, him serve a - right;
With joy and peace thou shalt a - bound;
Re - mem - ber thou his love of old;



For thee the saints up - lift their voice:
Yea, love with thee shall make his home
Walk in his way, his word a - dore,



Fear not, O land: in God re - joice.
Un - til thou see God's king - dom come.
And keep his truth for ev - er - more. A - men.

