



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
Mayflower Singers
Sarah Finnicum (she/her), Just Peace Intern
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Sue Chapman, Liturgist

October 12, 2025

11:00 AM

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

The Body Is One

R. S. Sandleberg

INTROIT

Dwell in Unity

Mayflower Singers

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by Rev. Kim Schoelen)

One: In the midst of the mess

Many: Life is meant to be experienced

One: In the middle of our “Not yet” or “after I get my life together”

Many: We are invited by God to live fully

One: From within our bodyminds that unpredictably throw chaos into our lives

Many: God calls us into the fullness of life, NOW!

One: It is a radical act to live well when the world demands our exile

Many: Let us accept God’s invitation

*SONG OF PRAISE #43 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling *New Century Hymnal*

UNISON PRAYER (written by Rev. Kim Schoelen)

God of disabled joy, you meet us in every moment, reminding us that we are not only allowed to experience the fullness of life at any point in time, but we are called to live abundantly wherever we are. May we enjoy robust, complicated, and grace-filled days accordingly. Amen

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 17:11-19 Sue Chapman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE Unity, Diversity, Charity Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

SONG OF REFLECTION #36 The Body Is One *Sing! Prayer & Praise*

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

OFFERING

INTERLUDE Give Thanks to Our God S. Austin, S. Resman

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.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

***SONG OF SENDING** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
(see back page)
(from *The Hymnal of the United Church of Christ* - 1974)

Unison Closing Blessing (by Rev. Dr. JJ Flag)

Beloved, may we leave this place transformed by the example of Jesus' ministry among those whom the world had written off. May we be emboldened to welcome those who've been shut out. Empowered, to be in community with those who are often overlooked and even forgotten. May we live and move, in and with deep gratitude for the invitation and opportunity to partner with God in loving others.

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG Dwell in Unity Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE Called as Partner's In Christ's Service

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!

Outreach and Service meeting after church: 12:15pm!

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.

Celebrate Sandy Wood's 80th, Sunday 10/19, following church! Please plan to join us on **Sunday, Oct 19, in the Mayflower Room** for a light lunch and celebration.

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 – Join our Adult Ed group for thoughtful study and discussion or go to choir practice to rehearse for that morning's singing, all skill levels welcome!



Recently returned from a solidarity delegation to the West Bank in Palestine, Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals and Dr. Susan Birndorf share from their experiences, as well as how what they saw there impacts their respective identities as a Christian and as a Jew. In addition to sharing stories of the people they met while there, they will also share ways that people of faith can help people on the ground in

Gaza and in the West Bank. Rev. Sara Ofner-Seals is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, serving at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne, IN. Dr. Susan Birndorf is a psychologist with her own private practice in Indianapolis and is a member of the Indianapolis chapter of Jewish Voice for Peace. **When? Sunday, October 19th at 3pm. Location: First Congregational Church, 7171 N Pennsylvania St Indianapolis, IN 4624**

Indy Action Coalition (IAC), our interfaith, congregational based community organizing body continues to organize and advocate for justice. We have been making news challenging our Marion County Sheriff, Kerry Forestal, to cancel his contract with ICE detaining for deportation our immigrant neighbors. The next step in IAC's 2025-2026 campaign is intentional engagement with congregations, neighbors and community to identify the issues you are most passionate about and most personally affect you and your family. We invite you to a joint FCC/Garden event!

LISTENING SESSION: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 10:00 AM (ADULT ED HOUR), MAYFLOWER ROOM The next step will be to gather the results from all the listening sessions and decide on a few primary issues for continued research to identify policy solutions and what is winnable now and who we have to influence to bring about change.

RESEARCH ASSEMBLY: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6:30 PM ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 100 WEST 86TH STREET



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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 17:11-19

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!" When Jesus saw them, he responded, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." As they were going, they were healed. One of them, realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan. Jesus replied, "Weren't all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?" Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

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



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Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Second Tune

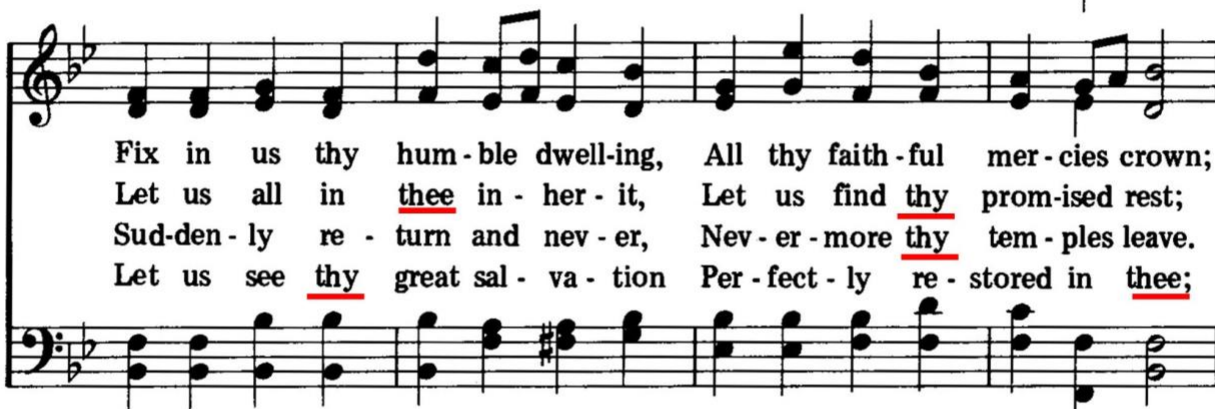
BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.

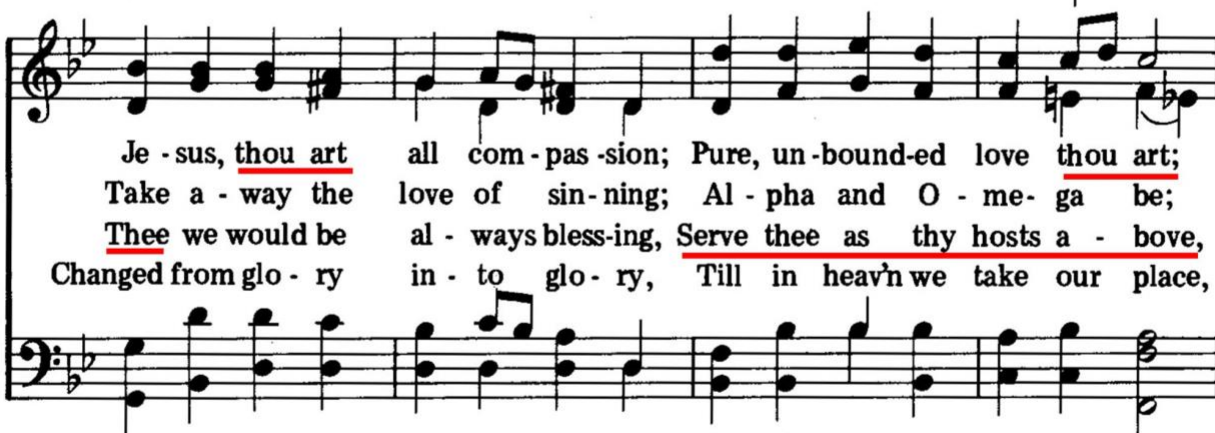
John Zundel, 1870



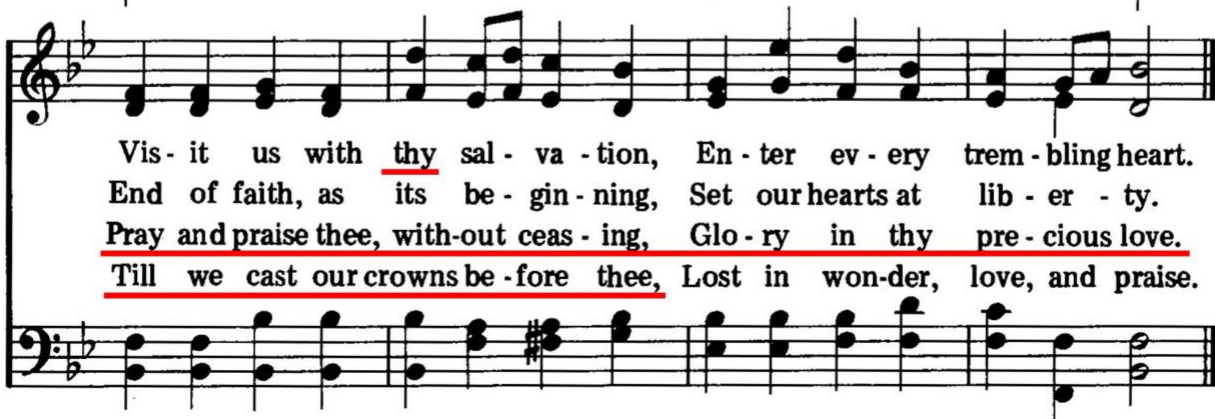
1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down,
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life re - ceive;
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; Pure and spot - less let us be;



Fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;
 Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.
 Let us see thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;



Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,



Vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
Pray and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in thy pre - cious love.
Till we cast our crowns be - fore thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.