



# 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](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

**In-Person Office Hours:** Cassidy (church admin) in office Thursdays. To meet, please contact her at [cassidy@fcindy.org](mailto: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.**

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Preacher & Worship Leader  
Sean Baker (he/him), Music Director, Video Designer  
Gracelynn Norgaard (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Mayflower Singers  
Sarah Finnicum (she/her), Just Peace Intern  
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician  
Linda Lupton, Liturgist

11:00 AM

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

# WE GATHER

PRELUDE      There Are Some Things I May Not Know      K. Morris

INTROIT                                  Sing Amen                                  Mayflower Singers

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: To know the warmth of love,

**All: To have the assurance that someone cares,**

One: To be confident of our worth.

**All: To be bold to love in return,**

One: To be washed over with grace,

**All: To be accepted as we are:**

One: This is to know a bit of God.

**All: Then let us worship our God.**

|                       |            |                           |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| *SONG OF FREEDOM #599 | Steal Away | <i>New Century Hymnal</i> |
|-----------------------|------------|---------------------------|

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## BLESSING OF THE GIFTS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Norgaard

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 32:22-31

Linda Lupton

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE

Testimonies of Faith

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and co-preacher Sarah Finnicum

SONG OF REFLECTION #570

We Shall Overcome

*New Century  
Hymnal*

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

Savior God Above

D. Ellington

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

Hush, Hush

\*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 #526      We Are Marching in the Light of God  
*New Century Hymnal*

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG                      Sing Amen                      Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE                      This Little Light of Mine

## **Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship & Fun!**

**TODAY: 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.

**TODAY:** Outreach and Service, 12:15 PM

**TODAY:** 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. 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**

**Tuesday, October 21, 10 AM, Library Team Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 21, 12:30-2:30 PM,** Pop-Up Coffee with Pastor Sarah at LuLu's Coffee and Bakehouse

**Thursday, October 23, 11:45 AM,** Women's Lunch

**Thursday, October 23, 1:00 PM, Men's Lunch**

**Thursday, October 23, 7:00 PM,** The Garden's Book Study in the Parlor

**Saturday, October 25, 9:30 AM,** Caring Crafters

**Safe Church- What is It?** You may or may not have heard of the Safe Church Response Committee (SCRC). If you've heard the name, you may have thought- What is it? What do they do? What do they have to do with me? All good questions! We can answer them at the **Safe Church Pitch-In on November 2, 2025 after worship in the Mayflower Room** on the lower floor. We will explain what the committee does, how it came into being and why it is important to our church. We will also answer any questions you might have and discuss when you might think about referring to the SCRC. We will deal with the topic as expeditiously as possible so you can have the majority of your afternoon free. Please come! **The Safe Church Response Committee- Angela Hodges and Sandy Wood**

**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** – 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!

**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!

**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](http://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

## Genesis 32:22-31

In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yabbok River. After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, and he was completely alone. And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled. Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking." Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me." "What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. The other said, "Your name will no longer be called 'Jacob,' or 'Heel-Grabber,' but 'Israel'—'Overcomer of God'—because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed." Then Jacob asked "Now tell me your name, I beg you." The other said, "Why do you ask me my name?"—and blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel—"Face of God"—"because I have seen God face to face, yet my life was spared." At sunrise, Jacob left Peniel, limping along from the injured hip.

(Call to worship: Written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good'. Used with permission)

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



@fc\_indy



FirstCongregationalUCCIndy



FCINDY DOT ORG