



# 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

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**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 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, so we use 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 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.

**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 anything else you need!

**Pastoral Care:** You may reach out to Pastor Sarah for pastoral care, including home visits, hospital visits, home communion, prayer, and conversation. You may reach her by text or phone at (386) 478-9012 or by email at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).

**In-Person Office Hours:** Scott (church admin) works in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may contact him at [scott@fcindy.org](mailto:scott@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.**

April 12, 2026

11:00 AM

## We celebrate today's worship leaders:

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

Please speak **bold** words aloud. Stand as you are able for asterisked (\*) songs.

## WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Pass It On*

Kaiser

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *New Life*

Mayflower Singers

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people asked Jesus, "What is the greatest commandment?"

**ALL: Jesus said that each one should love God with all their hearts and with all their souls and with all their minds.**

One: Jesus has shown all of us the path to faithful discipleship.

**ALL: Jesus added something to the commandment that they had counted as unimportant.**

One: Jesus said that the disciples should also love their neighbors as they loved themselves.

**All: It's not always easy to love others, but it is vitally important.**

One: Thanks be to God who gives us compassion and courage to love.

**All: Open our hearts, God, today that we might truly follow these commandments to love.**

## MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES & PRESENTATION OF BIBLES

Gracelynn Norgaard

*Bibles to be presented today to Madeline Ann Baldwin, James Harper Hodges, Alden Denison Ladd, and Cora Eleanor Ladd*

\*SONG OF PRAISE: *Morningstar*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #2

## SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

## UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

**Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God, to love our neighbors and to love ourselves. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, and we turn away from people who need our love. We ask forgiveness for our judgement, foolishness, and stubbornness. Give us the courage to be people who show compassion, kindness, and care for others. Help us dedicate our lives to loving our neighbors. Thank you, God, for your amazing grace and love for us. AMEN.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 22: 34-40

Wendy Baldwin

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *The Loving Eye*

Hugh Weatherly

\*SONG OF REFLECTION: *A New Commandment* (Bulletin page 9)

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *Spirit, Fill Me*

Dyer

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: *I Will Choose Christ*

Booth

\*DOXOLOGY: *Song of Thanks*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

## **WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM**

\*SONG OF SENDING: *Pass It On* (Bulletin page 10)

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Because He Lives* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *By Gracious Powers* Traditional

# Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

**Interested in becoming a member of First Congregational?** Talk to Pastor Sarah about making First Congregational your church home. Joining the church as a member is a way to grow closer to one another and to God in the spirit of love.

**Seeking Gifts for the Acts of Kindness Fund:** This is a special fund for our church members facing temporary financial setbacks. Can you make a special gift to the fund that will help individuals in our church family? Contact Wendy Baldwin with questions.

**Worship Refreshment Hosting:** On Sundays, our custom is to provide snacks and beverages before and after worship in the Parlor. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or you can contact Wendy for 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 food 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!



**Thank you for your financial gifts!** Our current Covenant Outreach focus is related to our Just Peace Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: Exodus Refugee Immigration, the Peace Learning Center, and Family Promise. Gifts of single dollars and 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: 800-950-NAMI (6264). **The Trevor Project hotline** offers support for LGBTQIA+ youth and families struggling with mental health challenges: 866-4-U-TREVOR (488-7386) and [www.theTrevorProject.org](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)

# **TODAY'S SCRIPTURE**

## **Matthew 22: 34-40**

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees speechless, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert on the Law, attempted to trick Jesus with this question: “Teacher, which commandment of the Law is the greatest?” Jesus answered: “You must love the Most High God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.’ That is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: ‘You must love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments the whole Law is based – and the Prophets as well.”

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

## A New Commandment

D Bm Em A

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you

D F#m Bm G Em/G A D F#m

love one an-oth-er as I have loved you, that you love one an-

Bm Em A7 D G A A/G

oth-er as I have loved you. By this shall all know that

D/F# F#m Bm G D Gmaj7 3

you are my dis - ci - ples, if you have love one for an -

A D G A A/G D F#m

oth - er; by this shall all know that you are my dis-

Bm G D/F# Gmaj7 3 A D

ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

1. It on - ly takes a spark to get a fire go - ing,  
 2. What a won-drous time is spring when all the trees are bud - ding,  
 3. I wish for you, my friend, this hap - pi-ness that I've found—

and soon all those a - round can warm up in its glow - ing;  
 the birds be - gin to sing, the flow - ers start their bloom - ing;  
 on God you can de - pend, it mat - ters not where you're bound;

that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it:  
 that's how it is with God's love, once you've ex - per-i-enced it:  
 I'll shout it from the moun-tain top, I want my world to know:

you spread God's love to ev - ery - one, you want to pass it on.  
 you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.  
 the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.