



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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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, 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 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 Prayground 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 Prayground 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.

In-Person Office Hours: Scott (church admin) works in the church office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You may contact him at 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 26, 2026

11:00 AM

We celebrate today's worship leaders:

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund (she/her), Worship Leader and Preacher

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

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Wendy Harrison (she/her), Liturgist

Hugh Weatherly (he/him), Just Peace Intern

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *God Is My Shepherd*

J. L. M. Bain

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *New Life*

Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather together to worship God, the Good Shepherd of our souls.

All: The one who has created us,

One: The one who sustains us,

All: The one who redeems us,

One: The one who walks beside us in good times and bad,

All: The one who calls us to follow.

One: In the Spirit of Love we gather to worship.

All: Let's worship God together!

*SONG OF PRAISE: *This Is the Day*

New Century Hymnal #84

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Loving God, You guide us in paths of peace. You lead us in the ways of righteousness, yet sometimes we allow our anger, our rage, our greed, and at times even hate, to direct our paths. We have overreacted, we have taken more than our share, we have despised others that seem to have it all. Forgive us, God, for not following Your ways of kindness and compassion. Guide us back to Your path of peace, guide us to loving You and loving our neighbors. Help us to unclench our fists and lend out our hands in hope and healing, forgiveness and love. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: Psalm 23

Wendy Harrison

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE: Psalm 23

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE:

Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past (Part One)

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

New Century Hymnal #247

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

OFFERING

INTERLUDE: *Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows*

Mayflower Singers

*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

BLESSING OF JUST PEACE INTERN, HUGH WEATHERLY

*SONG OF SENDING: *Father, Almighty, Bless Us*

New Century Hymnal #518

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG: *Because He Lives*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

Traditional

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: MAY 17, 2026, AFTER WORSHIP

At its April meeting, the Church Council agreed to call a congregational meeting for our members to consider and vote on the following:

The W.I.S.E. Mental Health Team, having received the support of both the Trustee Board and the Church Council, is asking the congregation to support our next step: submitting an application to UCC Disabilities Ministries to become an A2A (Accessible to All) church of the United Church of Christ (UCC). If approved, we will enter into a relationship with the national UCC to engage in an ongoing A2A process, making reasonable and continuing efforts to accommodate people with disabilities. This is a process, not a one-time designation.

The congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, following worship. By applying to become an A2A church, First Congregational will be committing to an attitude towards accessibility, both through our physical structure and our practices. For more information about A2A, go to: www.uccdm.org/a2a. Questions – contact Senior Councilors Wendy Baldwin, Steve Coomer, and/or Jimmy Hodges.

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.

Sunday Morning Refreshment Hosting: 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 are 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.

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

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Psalm 23

YHWH, you are my shepherd—
I want nothing more.
You let me lie down in green meadows;
you lead me beside restful waters:
you refresh my soul.
You guide me to lush pastures
for the sake of your Name.
Even if I'm surrounded by shadows of Death,
I fear no danger, for you are with me.
Your rod and your staff—
they give me courage.
You spread a table for me
in the presence of my enemies,
and you anoint my head with oil—
my cup overflows!
Only goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in your house, YHWH,
for days without end.

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