



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.

May 3, 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
Rev. Worth Hartman (he/him), Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Let Us Break Bread Together* Trad.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *Praise the Name of Jesus* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Welcome to your spiritual home, people of God.

All: We have come to find refuge in the shelter of God's care.

One: Come into this beloved community. This is room for everyone in God's house.

All: We gather to be nourished by God, by music, by prayer, by one another, and by the word.

One: We are God's people and are precious in God's sight.

**All: We have come to give thanks for God's faithful love.
Amen!**

*SONG OF INVOCATION: *This is a Day of New Beginnings (v 1-4)*
New Century Hymnal #417

SHARING THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

We are here today O God, in the shelter of your healing love. Fortify us as living stones and build us into a spiritual home where all are welcome. Change us into the likeness of Jesus. Help us to love ourselves and our neighbors. Help us to create a caring community for all. In the name of Christ, our foundation and cornerstone, we pray, Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: John 14:1-4

Rev. Worth Hartman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE:

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

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *How Great Thou Art* (See back page)

WE RESPOND

INVITATION

COMMUNION

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: *Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray*

L. H. Bristol, Jr.

*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: *Peace I Leave with You*

Sing! Prayer and Praise #217

BENEDICTION

BLESSING SONG: *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Lead On Eternal Sovereign*

Trad.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE **John 14:1-4**

“Don't let your hearts be troubled.
You have faith in God;
have faith in me as well.
In God's house there are many dwelling places;
otherwise, how could I have told you
that I was going to prepare a place for you?
I am indeed going to prepare a place for you,
and then I will come back to take you with me,
that where I am
there you may be as well.
You know the way that leads to where I am going.”

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

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 for May to August is related to our Open & Affirming Covenant and includes support for the following organizations: UCC Open & Affirming Coalition, Damien Center, and Indiana Youth Group. 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

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.

Welcome (Back), Shannon Abbott!

We are happy to share the good news that on May 1, we welcomed back to First Congregational staff the Rev. Shannon Abbott, as our part-time Administrative Assistant. She was the Office Administrator at First Congregational from 2018-2021 before beginning pastoral ministry in a local congregation. In addition to her role at FCC, Shannon also serves as the part-time Senior Pastor of Westview Christian Church.



Her formal education includes degrees from Greenville University (BA), Princeton Theological Seminary (M.Div), and Rutgers University (MSW).

Shannon lives on the southeast side of Indianapolis with her husband, youngest daughter, and two dogs. She has another daughter in college. She is a lifetime lover of rocks, music, nature, and the mystical spirit of faith. She finds joy in time spent with loved ones, playing the violin, painting with watercolors, raising butterflies, sipping herbal tea, and tending to the wonders of nature in her garden.

How Great Thou Art

Stuart K. Hine

F7 Bb Eb E°7

Al - might - y God, When I in awe - some won - der, con - si - der
When through the woods, and for - est glades I wan - der, and hear the
When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion and take me

3 Bb F7 Bb F7 Bb Eb

all the worlds your hands have made; I see the stars, I hear the rol - ling
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees. When I look down, from lof - ty moun - tain
home, what joy will fill my heart. Then I will bow in hum - ble a - do -

6 E°7 Bb F7 Bb

thun - der, your pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played.
gran - deur and see the brook, and feel the gen - tle breeze.
ra - tion and then pro - claim, my God, how great Thou art!

REFRAIN

9 Bb Fm Eb Eb° Eb Bb

Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to Thee: How great Thou

12 F7 Bb Fm Eb Eb° Eb

art, How great Thou art. Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God to

15 Bb Cm F7 Bb

Thee, How great Thou art, How great Thou art!