



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, 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.

Office Hours: Scott (temporary church admin) may be contacted 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.

June 21, 2026

11:00 AM

We celebrate today's worship leaders:

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

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

Ben James (he/him), Media Technician

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Gracelynn Royer (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader

Mayflower Singers

Linda Lupton, Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Great Is Your Faithfulness*

Chisholm, Runyan

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

VISION MOMENT

INTROIT: *Be Still and Know*

Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me

All: Let there be peace on Earth, the peace that was meant to be

One: With God our Creator, family all are we, let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony

All: Let peace begin with me let this be the moment now; with every step I take let this be my solemn vow –

One: To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally

All: Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with ME!

*SONG OF PRAISE: *The God of Abraham Praise*

New Century Hymnal #24

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Royer

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER (by Siddur Sim Shalom) Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask your blessings for our country – for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from your words, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom, may forever abide in our midst. Creator of all flesh, bless the inhabitants of our country with your spirit. May people of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our country. May this land under your providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom – helping them to fulfill the vision of your prophet: “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more.” And let us say, Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: *Genesis 21:8-21*

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Hoosiers Honoring Abrahamic Faith Traditions*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

(see back page)

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

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: *Be Not Dismayed*

Martin

*DOXOLOGY

**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: *God Be with You*

New Century Hymnal #81

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Be Still and Know*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

Sternhod, Watts

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Genesis 21:8-21

⁸ The child grew, and on the day of weaning, Sarah and Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah noticed the child that Hagar the Egyptian had borne for Abraham, playing with her child Isaac. ¹⁰ She demanded of Abraham, "Send Hagar and her child away! I will not have this child of my attendant share in Isaac's inheritance." ¹¹ Abraham was greatly distressed by this because of his son Ishmael. ¹² But God said to Abraham, "Don't be distressed about the child or about Hagar. Heed Sarah's demands, for it is through Isaac that descendants will bear your name. ¹³ As for the child of Hagar the Egyptian, I will make a great nation of him as well, since he is also your offspring." ¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham brought bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar. Then,

placing the child on her back, he sent her away. She wandered off into the desert of Beersheba. ¹⁵ When the skin of water was empty, she set the child under a bush, ¹⁶ and sat down opposite him, about a bow-shot away. She said to herself, “Don’t let me see the child die!” and she began to wail and weep. ¹⁷ God heard the child crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven. “What is wrong, Hagar?” the angel asked. “Do not be afraid, for God has heard the child’s cry. ¹⁸ Get up, lift up the child and hold his hand; for I will make of him a great nation.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went to it and filled the skin with water, and she gave the child a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became a fine archer. ²¹ He made his home in the desert of Paran, and his mother found a wife for him in Egypt.

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

This Week at FCC

Sunday, 6/21 at 4:00 PM: VBS, Mayflower Room

Tuesday, 6/23 at 10:00 AM: Library Team Meeting

11:30 AM: Staff Meeting, Zoom

1:30 PM: Joint Covenant Team, Library

Wednesday, 6/24 at 6:00 PM: Open Table Dinner, Mayflower Room

Thursday, 6/25 at 11:45 AM: Women’s Lunch Bunch, Original Pancake House, 1518 W. 86th Street

1:00 PM: Men’s Lunch

Friday, 6/26 at 1:30 PM: Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, 6/27 at 9:30 AM: Caring Crafters, Parlor

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Intergenerational Messy Adventures with Moses: Moses — From the Nile to the Promised Land! June 21st and 28th from 4:00–6:30 PM

Messy Adventures with Moses is designed to be truly intergenerational. Instead of separating everyone by age, we will learn side by side, building meaningful connections across generations as we discover how God's faithfulness speaks to every stage of life. Through music, storytelling, crafts, games, hands-on activities, and shared meals, we will experience the power of community and the joy of growing in faith together. Each week will focus on a different part of Moses' journey. Whether you are 5 or 95, there is a place for you at Moses Messy Adventure. Come be part of this special journey as we learn together that God is our Protector, Provider, and Guide.

Open Table Dinner on June 24th from 6:00-7:30pm, Mayflower Room, registration required (signup sheet in narthex)

Members of The Garden and FCC are invited for dinner, conversation and an opportunity to widen the circle of those you know in both congregations. Many of us remember church dinners when we were growing up. Come join the fun! This will be a monthly opportunity so mark your calendars for the 4th Wednesday of every month.

From the Foundation Board: The Garden Church will host Glen Howell, Director of Development for the United Methodist Foundation, at 10 a.m. on Sunday June 28, 2026 in the Mayflower Room. He will speak about charitable giving and endowment. FCC members are invited to attend.

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.

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.

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**

Dear Lieutenant Governor Beckwith,

We the undersigned as authorized ministers in the United Church of Christ write to you in response to your recent comments about our siblings in faith in the Muslim community. As clergy from Indiana and Kentucky, we are deeply concerned with the divisive and harmful rhetoric you used in reference to our Muslim neighbors, referring to them as a “demonic death cult.” Further, you declared to “hate Islam” while encouraging Americans to be given “permission to hate again.” We as faith leaders condemn these Islamophobic statements as incompatible with the teachings of Jesus and stand with our Muslim neighbors in Indiana in saying no to hate.

We are clergy of an expansive table representing nearly every demographic in the states of Indiana and Kentucky. We are local church pastors. We are chaplains of all kinds. We are middle judicatory and seminary faculty and staff. We are

full time clergy and bi-vocational clergy. We serve in urban settings, rural communities, small towns, suburban settings, and college towns. We accompany ministry settings where people of every political framework are represented and we seek to engage their unity beyond partisanship. Some of us serve in contexts where our Muslim neighbors have been partners in serving our community and where Imams continue to be deeply valued clergy colleagues in this sacred work God has given us. While we ourselves hold to the teachings of Jesus to guide our faith and life, we honor and respect the freedom our country affords for our neighbors to practice other faiths as sacred reflections of the Divine. The insistence that other faiths such as Islam must become Christian, reflects a commitment to a Christian nationalism that we not only reject, but stands in direct opposition to Jesus' commandment that we love our neighbor as ourselves.

To be clear, hate is not a Christian or biblical value. The value that most reflects that of Jesus is one of love of neighbor when he said, "A new command I give you: love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." Jesus' disciples are not known by hate, but by love. The invitation to hate not only stands in stark contrast to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but it has the potential for a ripple

effect of violence and harm to an already vulnerable population in the state of Indiana. We acknowledge the worth and dignity of all persons as made in the image of God and who have the inherent right in this country to worship God as they see fit without the interference of government or its weaponizing one particular faith over another.

As faith leaders, we publicly invite you to consider steps towards healing and repair. The divisive rhetoric you have shared further divides Christians who share a wide range of beliefs about the use of religion in the public square and this needs your attention to heal. Members of the undersigned and our other siblings in Christ within Indiana would welcome time to talk directly with you about how we heal ourselves and learn more deeply what it means to love and serve like Jesus. What is more, we invite you to retract your statements about hate as a framework for faith and specifically seek out members of the Muslim community for intentional conversation about how to step towards a more just and humane conversation around religious diversity in our state.

Any religion that expresses hatred as a value is a step away from the primary foundation of faith itself: love. After all, St. Paul did declare, "Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love." It is profoundly disappointing to experience

a public servant such as yourself, whose role it is to serve and respect all Hoosiers, encourage hatred and depict an entire religion as demonic. Our Muslim neighbors deserve better. All Hoosiers deserve better. Followers of Jesus deserve better than this form of leadership. Walking in the way of Jesus, we stand with our neighbors of other faiths, especially our Muslim neighbors in this moment, and work for the day when hatred and bigotry has no safe harbor in our midst. May it come soon and we pray for your willingness to join in walking that journey with us.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott,
Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky
Conference, United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Izzy Harbin
Project Director/Senior Pastor, Indiana Kentucky
Conference, Elkhart United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Cassidy Hall
Digital Minister, Indiana Kentucky Conference,
United Church of Christ

Rev. Dr. Monica Ouellette
Associate Conference Minister, Indiana Kentucky
Conference, United Church of Christ

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Sy Miller, Jill Jackson

C Am Dm⁷ G¹³ C C/E Gsus⁴ G

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;_____

9 C B⁷ Em B⁷ G⁷

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be._____ With

17 Am Em C⁷ F G⁷ C

God our cre - a - tor,_____ chil - dren all are we._____

25 Am⁷ D G Am⁷ D¹³ G G⁷

Let us walk with each oth - er_____ in per - fect har - mo - ny._____

C Am Dm⁷ G¹³ C C/G Gsus⁴ G⁷

Let peace be - gin with me, let this be the mo - ment now._____

41 C B⁷ Em B⁷ G⁷

With ev - 'ry step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:_____ to

49 C C+ F F^o D⁷

take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly._____

56 Fm⁶ C/E E⁷ F C F C/E D⁷ G⁷ Gsus⁴ Ċ

_____ Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.