



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 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.

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 28, 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

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

Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader

Mayflower Singers

Performers: Rich Anderson, Sean Baker, Jessica Fordice, Alice

Rutherford, Konnie Schlechte, Scott Semester, Sandy Wood

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *What A Wonderful World*

Weiss, Thiele

SONG: *All Things Bright and Beautiful* (verse 1)

New Century Hymnal #31

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

VISION MOMENT

OPENING PRAYER

One: Holy God, creator and lover of us all, we celebrate that we are all loved by you and we greet your rainbow covenant with joyous praise. Through fearful nights and problem-laden days, you are our refuge through all times of change and challenge.

All: When the world seems harsh and strange, we followed your lead even when the path was obscured, the way to grace hidden behind fear.

One: O God, we witness the violence of the world and too often we callously dispensed against the most vulnerable. Too often our world targeted black, Latinx, indigenous, and queer siblings.

All: You, O God, deliver us from a world filled with inequities. We pray, O God, that you would forgive us for breaking our covenants.

One: Forgive us, God, for the moments when we stayed silent instead of speaking truth to power.

All: Forgive us, God, for the times when we witnessed harm and did not intervene.

One: Forgive us, O God, for the moments when we forgot to act in ways of love for one another.

All: O God, we celebrate that you have blessed us with so many gifts here on heaven and earth together as one and today we are called to proclaim your divine love, O God of light.

One: Today, O God, may all your people reaffirm our rainbow covenant in your name.

All: May we all pledge to move through the world as allies, as disciples, as friends, as queer, as weird, and as free,

**free and committed to the way of your rainbow child,
Jesus, the way of love. Amen.**

SHARING THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

WE ENCOUNTER

GOD LOVES ALL – CASE CLOSED
by Sean Baker with Rev. Michael Montgomery,
Alice Rutherford, and Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
Inspired by “The Children are Free”
by Rev. Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley

ACT I

SONG: *De colores (verse 1)*

New Century Hymnal #402

ACT II

SONG: *You Are Welcome Here (verse 2)*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #26

ACT III

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Royer & Sean Baker

ACT IV

WE RESPOND

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.

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING: *Amazing Grace* (verse 1)

New Century Hymnal #547

*OFFERING AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE: *Firework*

Katy Perry

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE STUDIES

2 Corinthians 5:17

"A New Creation"

Genesis 19

"Inhospitallity"

Ezekiel 16:49-50

"The Sin of Sodom"

Jude 7

"Strange Flesh"

Leviticus 18:22
"Abomination & Holiness Code"

Romans 1:21-28
"Unnatural"

1 Corinthians 6:9 & 1 Timothy 1:10
"Malakoi & Arsenokoitai"

2 Samuel 1:26
"Jonathon & David"

Acts 8:26-40
"Ethiopian Eunuch"

Matthew 8:5-13 & Luke 7:1-10
"Honored Servant"

Matthew 19:4-11
"Born That Way"

Genesis 9:16
"The Rainbow"

I Corinthians 15:40, II Corinthians 5:1
"Spiritual Bodies"

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, 6/28, at 4:00 PM: VBS, Mayflower Room

Tuesday, 6/30, at 11:30 AM: Staff Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, 7/1, at 7:00 PM: Personnel Committee, Zoom

Friday, 7/3, at 1:30 PM: Senior Councilors, Zoom

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Intergenerational Messy Adventures with Moses: Moses — From the Nile to the Promised Land! June 28, 4:00–6:30 PM

Messy Adventures with Moses is designed to be truly intergenerational. Instead of separating everyone by age, we 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 experience the power of community and the joy of growing in faith together. Each week focuses on a different part of Moses' journey. Whether you are 5 or 95, there is a place for you at *Messy Adventures with Moses*. Come be part of this special journey as we learn together that God is our Protector, Provider, and Guide.

Ann & Steve Leatherman's 50th Anniversary Party – Ann and Steve invite our church family to stop in at an open house at the church celebrating our 50 years of marriage on Saturday, July 11, from 2:00 to 5:30 PM. RSVP by text to Ann at 317-752-3109 if you plan to attend. No gifts please, just the pleasure of your company.

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 Open & Affirming Covenant that includes support for the following organizations: the UCC Open and 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.



DAMIEN CENTER

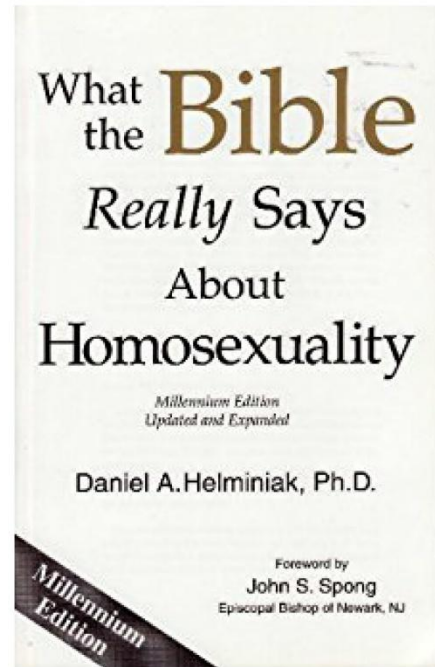
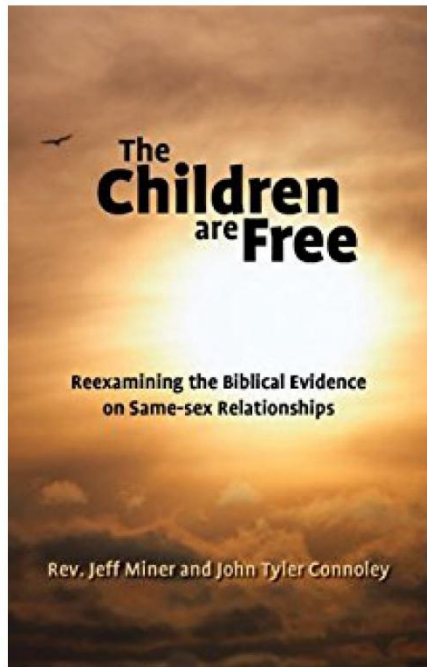


Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational’s operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org.

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**

For Further Reading



The Children are Free: Reexamining the Biblical Evidence on Same-sex Relationships by Rev. Jeff Miner and John Tyler Connoley.

A comprehensive yet easy-to-read examination of the biblical evidence regarding loving same-sex relationships and God's attitude toward them...this book belongs in the library of any Christian questioning the role of Scripture in the lives of LGBTQ+ people, or the role of LGBTQ+ people in the Church.

What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality by Daniel A.

Helminiak, Ph.D. The Bible has been used to justify slavery, inquisitions, apartheid and the subjugation of women. Now, in this book, which has sold over 100,000 copies, read what the Bible really says about homosexuality.