



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.

In-Person Office Hours: Shannon (church admin) works in the church office on Tuesdays and Fridays. You may contact her at shannon@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.

July 12, 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
Gracelynn Royer (she/her), Family Faith Ministry Leader
Ben James (he/him), Media Technician
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader
Mayflower Singers
Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey (he/him), Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *The Garden of Prayer* E. Broughton

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *This Is a Day of New Beginning* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Gather, O people, for now is the time to worship God,

All: We answer God's call to give seed to the sower and bread to the hungry.

One: Listen, O people, for the word of God,

All: Growing trees in the desert and fruit in the wilderness.

One: Listen O people, for the word of God,

All: Planting faith in the weary and hope in the despairing.

One: Listen O people, for the word of God,

All: And worship God with gladness.



SONG OF PRAISE: *Clap Your Hands Sing! Prayer & Praise #49*

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Royer

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

God of grace, in the story of creation, you made the earth a garden and entrusted it to us to till and to keep, a place of peace and beauty where we could walk with you. In the story of redemption, the one who died for the sake of love was buried in a garden, and there you raised him up to greet us with new hope and risen life. In the story of the Church, you tend us as a garden, a place of careful pruning and abundant harvest, where we can work with you. Meet us, we pray, in all the gardens where we go for nourishment, refreshment and prayer. In the Spirit of love, amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Where Is Your Soul Planted?*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

New Century Hymnal #433



WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *Night Flower*

H. Mancini

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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: *You Are the Seed*

Gabaraín, Chávez-Melo

*DOXOLOGY: *Song of Thanks*

**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: *I Come to the Garden Alone*
New Century Hymnal #237

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *God's Love Endures Forever*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Wonderful Words of Life*

P. Bliss

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, July 12

12:15 PM Outreach & Service Board
2:00 PM Garden/FCC Grant Team
7:00 PM Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, July 14

1:00 PM Foundation Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

7:00 PM Church Council

Thursday, July 16

6:30 PM Garden Film Gathering: "Join or Die" Documentary

Friday, July 17

1:30 PM Senior Councilors

Sunday, July 19

12:15 PM Worship & Faith Board



TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

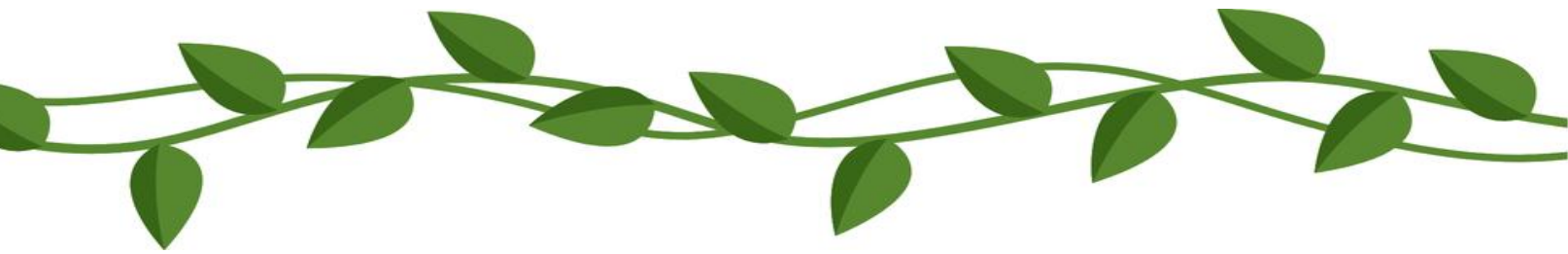
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Later that day, Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake shore. Such great crowds gathered that he went and took a seat in a boat, while the crowd stood along the shore. He addressed them at length in parables: "One day, a farmer went out sowing seed. Some of the seed landed on a footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground, where there was little soil. The seed sprouted at once since the soil had no depth, but when the sun rose and scorched it, it withered away for lack of roots. Again, some of the seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. And some of it landed on good soil, and yielded a crop of thirty, sixty, even a hundred times what was sown. Let those who have ears to hear, hear this!"

...

"Now listen to the parable of the sower. When people hear the message about the kingdom of God without understanding it, the Evil One comes along and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path. Those who received the seed that fell on rocky ground are the ones who hear the word and at first welcome it with joy. But they have no roots, so they last only for a while. When some setback or persecution comes because of the message, they quickly fall away. Those who receive the message that fell among the thorns are the ones who hear the word, but then worldly anxieties and the lure of wealth choke it off, and the message produces no fruit. But those who receive the seed that fell on rich soil are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop that yields a hundred, or sixty or thirty times what was sown."

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



Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

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!

We Want to Hear from You

At First Congregational, we are in the midst of many changes - a time when communication is more important than ever. Communication is a two-way street, so the Senior Council would like to hear from you. What's on your mind? What do you want to know more about? This will help us know how to better serve you and our church. Look for the "Ask Us" box in the Narthex for written submissions, or email askus@fcindy.org.

Or have a conversation with Wendy, Steve, Jimmy, and/or Pastor Sarah. The Senior Council meets on Steve Coomer's Zoom every Friday at 1:30 PM. If you would like to join us at 2:00, let us know so we can send the link to you.

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.

Open Table Dinner and Fellowship: All members are invited to attend an Open Table Dinner at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 22. A main course will be provided, and you can bring anything else you would like to share for a pitch-in. This will be a fun social activity along with members from The Garden.

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.

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.





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.

A New Community Newsletter

Introducing "The Neighbor," a newsletter featuring FCC and Garden happenings at 7171 N. Pennsylvania Street. Pick up a paper copy on Sunday or check it out online. You can find it at www.centerforbelonging.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



