



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 July 24 to August 1

While Pastor Sarah is serving as the UCC Chaplain of the Week at Chautauqua, the Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey will be available for pastoral care needs July 24 to August 1. To reach him, call (317) 625-6801.

Church Administrator: While Shannon is on medical leave, Scott is filling in as part-time office administrator. You can reach 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.

July 26, 2026

11:00 AM

We celebrate today's worship leaders:

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey (he/him), Worship Leader
Student Pastor Bonnie Bomer (she/her), Guest 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
Gini Coomer (she/her), Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Jesus Be Praised* H. Hanson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

INTROIT: *Nearer My God to You* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Bonnie Bomer

Reader: The Creator has invited us to the Great Banquet,
and we come with gratitude.

**Congregation: Lord, we come to You, hungry for Your
Word and eager for Your presence.**

Reader: Sometimes we choose to ignore the invitation, and
we find our faith faltering.

**Congregation: Remind us, O God, of the blessings of
your kin-dom and the benefits of your nourishing and
inclusive banquet.**

Reader: Through your grace, let us welcome all to our
community!

**All: Together, let us celebrate our diversity and our
Creator's Love!**

*SONG OF INVITATION: *Draw the Circle Wide*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #123

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Royer

SHARING THE PEACE

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

**God of All Peoples, you created us in your image—
diverse, beautiful, and beloved. Yet, in our world and even
in our churches, ableism causes harm and exclusion.
Forgive us for the ways we have dismissed the pain of
others. Open our hearts to stories that are not our own.
Give us courage to confront injustice, even when it is
uncomfortable or inconvenient. We pray for those who
carry the burden of discrimination. We pray that we may
be transformed into people of compassion, humility, and
justice. In the name of Jesus, who broke down walls of
division, we pray. Amen.**

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 14: 13-24

Gini Coomer

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *The Parable of the Great Banquet: Inclusion for All*

Bonnie Bomer

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Come to the Banquet (v. 1, 2, 5, 6)*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #8



WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *A New Beginning*

S. Baker, A. Rutherford

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

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

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

INTERLUDE: *Break Now the Bread of Life*

M. Lathbury, W. Sherwin

*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.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Rev. Dr. Pat Larracey

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING: *Children of God*

Sing! Prayer & Praise #195

BENEDICTION

Bonnie Bomer

BLESSING SONG: *The Peace of the Earth*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *There's Something About That Name*

G. & W. Gaither

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Luke 14: 13-24

¹³“No, when you have a reception, invite those who are poor or have physical infirmities or are blind. ¹⁴You should be pleased that they can't repay you, for you'll be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

¹⁵One of the guests heard this and said to Jesus, “Happy are those who eat bread in the kingdom of God!”

¹⁶Jesus responded, “A landowner was giving a large dinner and sent out many invitations. ¹⁷At dinnertime, the landowner instructed an aide to say to those invited, ‘Come to the feast, everything is ready.’ ¹⁸But they began to excuse themselves, each and every one. The first one said to the aide, ‘I've just bought some land, and I need to go out and inspect it. Please send my regrets.’ ¹⁹Another said, ‘I've just bought five yoke of oxen, and I need to go out and test them. Please excuse me.’ ²⁰A third said, ‘I've just gotten married, so of course I can't come.’

²¹The aide returned and reported all this to the landowner. The landowner became angry and said to the aide, ‘Go into town, into the streets and alleys, and bring in those who are poor or crippled, and those who are blind or lame.’ ²²After doing so, the aide reported, ‘Your orders have been carried out, and there's still room.’ ²³The landowner then said to the aide, ‘Go out and scour the side roads and the back roads and make them come in. I want my house to be full! ²⁴But I tell you, not one of those I had initially invited will taste a bite of my dinner.’”

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

LiveFree Indiana Assembly – Thursday, August 6, 2026. 6:30 PM, Phillips Temple CME Church (210 E 34th St, Indianapolis)

Indy Action Coalition is joining with its partner organizations for a LiveFree Indiana Assembly. Join us as we gather to sustain a presence at the City-County Building during the budget season. We want to ensure continued funding for programs we have initiated such as gun violence reduction, clinical-led crisis response teams, Streets to Homes initiative to address homelessness, community safety plan for immigrant and refugee neighbors, and plans to launch a strong voter program. We need 150 people in the room on August 6. Join us as we organize for justice.

UCC Five for Five Offering – Strengthen the Church: Sunday, August 9, 2026

This year's Five for Five Strengthen the Church Offering will be on Sunday, August 9, 2026. The Strengthen the Church Offering goes towards building up UCC Conferences with funds to support leadership development, new churches, youth ministries, and innovation in existing congregations. One of this year's Strengthen the Church grants will be going to the UCC Indiana-Kentucky Conference for a Church Development Fund. You can fill out a special offering card at the service or make an online gift. Please indicate on your check, offering card, or online gift that it is for "Strengthen the Church."

Neighborhood Back-to-School Event: Please plan to come to this inter-generational event on **Sunday, August 16, 4:00 – 7:00 PM!** It is a joint venture with our church, The Garden, Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School, and the neighborhood, and is the result of "listening sessions" held earlier this year. Funded by the grant, there will be games, crafts, tents with seating, food trucks, drum circle, and music. We are expecting 150-250 people, using the front lawn and playground, and we hope you'll be one of them! You may want to bring a lawn chair or blanket. Volunteers are needed to be hosts in the building and help with traffic flow. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex, or contact Wendy Baldwin if you can help out!

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!

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.

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 for Our Church Family – Please sign the cards on our "card stand", for those celebrating birthdays or in need of prayers.



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

This Week at FCC

Wednesday, July 29

5:30 PM Neighbor's Event in the Parking Lot

Thursday, July 30

7:00 PM Navigating the Storms of Life – The Garden Conversation Series, featuring Michael Atwood from WFYI's *Across Indiana*

Friday, July 31

1:30 PM Senior Councilors

Saturday, July 11

2:00 PM Ann & Steve Leatherman's 50th Anniversary Party

Sunday, August 2

12:15 PM Worship & Faith Board

The Great Banquet

Inclusion for All

