



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.

August 2, 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
Mayflower Singers
Sean Baker (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 Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: O God, whom will you invite into the abode of your Heart? Who will dwell with You in Love?

All: One who moves with integrity, who is in harmony with your Word, and sings the heart's song.

One: Whose tongue speaks truth, judging not others and seeking only the good.

All: Whose eyes behold not the outer garments of the body, but see within the inner robe of Love.

One: Whose own weaknesses are acknowledged, and brought to light in prayer.

All: Who is just in all affairs of life, and does not take advantage of another.

One: One who does all these things, will join the Dance of Life!

All: They will sing the Song of Joy!

SONG OF PRAISE: *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*
New Century Hymnal #42

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

We pray for the dreamers of this life, O God, for those persons who imagine new possibilities, who long for what others cannot perceive, who spin dreams of wonder and majesty in their minds. Defend them from ridicule and harsh criticism, from self-doubt and lack of faith in their dreams, and from abandonment of this call to make things new. Grant that from their dreams may come forth blessings for all humankind to enrich the quality of life and the wonderment of us all; in Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:13-21 Sean Baker

MESSAGE: *Chautauqua: Food for the Soul* Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *The Body Is One*
Sing! Prayer & Praise #36

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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: *Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken*

R. Heber, J. S. B. Hodges

*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. Sarah Lund

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING: *Break Now the Bread of Life*
New Century Hymnal #321

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Let Us with a Joyful Mind*

J. Milton

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, August 2

12:15 PM Worship & Faith Board

Tuesday, August 4

12:30 PM Pop-Up Coffee with Pastor Sarah @ Lulu's

6:00 PM Vision Team

7:00 PM Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School Adult Meeting

Wednesday, August 5

7:00 PM Personnel Committee

Thursday, August 6

1:00 PM Men's Lunch

Friday, August 7

10:30 AM Joyspan Book Study

1:30 PM Senior Councilors

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:13-21

¹³When Jesus heard about the beheading, he left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone. The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot. ¹⁴When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick.

¹⁵As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves.”

¹⁶Jesus said to them: “There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves.”

¹⁷“We have nothing here,” they replied, “but five loaves and a couple of fish.”

¹⁸“Bring them here,” Jesus said. ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. ²⁰All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. ²¹About five thousand families were fed.

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

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!

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.

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.

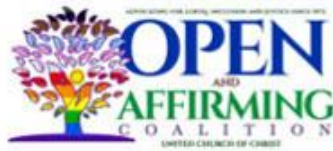
Food Donations to Northside Pantry: Help those with food insecurity by bringing donations of canned or boxed food, and place in the baskets in the Narthex.

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

Jesus Feeds the Thousands

