



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

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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 9, 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
Carter Lund (he/him), Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Jesus, Lover of My Soul* C. Wesley

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *Make Us One* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 105) Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: O give thanks to the Holy One; call on God's name

All: Make known God's deeds among the peoples.

One: Sing of the Holy One's abiding love, grace, compassion,
and justice

All: Rejoice in the God's redemptive power

One: Seek the Holy One's presence, strength, and wisdom

All: Remember God's wondrous works. Praise the Holy One!

SONG OF PRAISE: *Come to the Waters* Sing! Prayer & Praise #3

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

Loving and Wonderful God, you make a home for us. You provide us shelter and sanctuary. You embrace us and uphold us. You come to us and go before us. We come to you now. We search for your presence in this world, in this community, and in this gathering. Let us connect with you and be reminded of the path of full and flourishing life you offer. Let us connect with one another and be reminded that your kingdom comes in us and through us for your glory. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 14:22-33

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *"The Unrecognizable God"*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *How Firm a Foundation*

New Century Hymnal #407

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *You Are the One*

J. C. Dow, J. J. Page

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

SPECIAL UCC OFFERING: *Strengthen the Church*

INTERLUDE: *Blessed Are You*

M. Crebbin

*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'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

New Century Hymnal #474

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *God's Grace*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Lead On Eternal Sovereign*

LANCASHIRE

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, August 9

10:00 AM - Adult Ed, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM - Worship, Sanctuary

Wednesday, August 12

6:30 PM - NAMI Support Group, Parlor

7:00 PM - Trustees, Zoom

Thursday, August 13

1:00 PM - Book Circle, Library/Zoom

Friday, August 14

10:30 AM - Joyspan Book Study, Parlor

1:30 PM - Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, August 15

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, August 16

10:00 AM – Adult Ed, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

4:00 – 6:00 PM – Neighborhood Block Party

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 14:22-33

²² Jesus insisted that the disciples get into the boat and precede him to the other side. ²³ Having sent the crowds away, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray, remaining there alone as night fell. ²⁴ Meanwhile the boat, already a thousand yards from shore, was being tossed about in the waves which had been raised by the fierce winds.

²⁵ At about three in the morning, Jesus came walking toward them on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water, they were terrified. "It is a ghost!" they said, and in their fear they began to cry out.

²⁷ Jesus hastened to reassure them: "Don't worry, it's me! Don't be afraid!"

²⁸ Peter spoke up and said, "If it is really you, tell me to come to you across the water."

²⁹ "Come!" Jesus said.

So Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw how strong the wind was, he became frightened. He began to sink, and cried out, "Save me!"

³¹ Jesus immediately stretched out his hand and caught Peter.

"You have so little faith!" Jesus said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

³² "Once they had climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

³³ Those who were in the boat showed great reverence, declaring to Jesus, "You are indeed God's Own!"

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

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Welcome back to Shannon, our church administrative assistant who returned to work on Tuesday, August 4. Shannon is in the office on Tuesdays and Friday mornings and works remotely on Wednesdays.

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**](http://www.theTrevorProject.org)