



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 16, 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
Lauren Ladd, Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: <i>As One</i>	C. Aerie
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
INTROIT: <i>Dwell in Unity</i>	Mayflower Singers
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
One: Though we come from different circumstances	
All: God will make us one in worship.	
One: Though we have traveled different paths of struggles and successes	
All: God will make us one in healing.	
One: Though each one of us has struggles and strife, as well as joy	
All: God will make us one in hope.	
*SONG OF INVITATION: <i>Gather Us In</i>	(see back page)
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 God, You have drawn us together this day from a variety of backgrounds, experiences, hopes, and dreams. Be with us as together we experience your presence and your healing love. Open our hearts and our spirits to receive strength, encouragement, and peace. For we ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 133

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: "Living Together in Unity"

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

***SONG OF REFLECTION: *As One* Sing! Prayer and Praise #154**

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *We*

H. Mancini, R. McKuen

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.

PRAYER RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

OFFERING

INTERLUDE: *Psalm 133*

B. Boertje

*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: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

New Century Hymnal #495

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Dwell in Unity*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Called as Partners in Christ's Service* arr. S. Baker

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Psalm 133

¹ See how good, how pleasant it is
for God's people to live together as one!

² It is like precious oil on Aaron's head
running down on his beard,
running down to the collar of his robes.

³ It is like the dew of Mount Hermon,
falling on the hills of Zion.
For that is where YHWH bestows the blessing –
life that never ends.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, August 16

4:00 – 7:00 PM – Neighborhood Block Party

Tuesday, August 18

10:00 AM - Library Team Meeting

1:30 PM - Robin Run Gathering, Café in Assisted Living lobby

Wednesday, August 19

7:00 PM – Church Council, Zoom

Thursday, August 20

1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

7:00 PM – Concert, Sanctuary

Friday, August 21

10:30 AM – Joyspan Book Study, Mayflower Room

1:30 PM - Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, August 22

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, August 23

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

7:00 PM – Garden Mysticism Study, Parlor

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

FCC Foundation Pitch-IN Postponed: The featured speaker from Goelzer has a family emergency and would not be able to attend the pitch-in featuring our Foundation today. Plans are now to postpone it, and a new date will be set up and communicated. Thanks - the Senior Council and the Foundation Board

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

Gather Us In

8



1 Here in this place— new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness
 2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - tery, we are the old who
 3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the
 4 Not in the dark of build-ings con-fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van-ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings
 yearn for your face; we have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
 bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
 now is the king-dom, and now is the day.



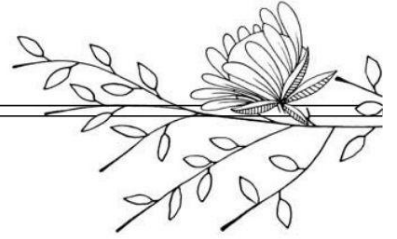
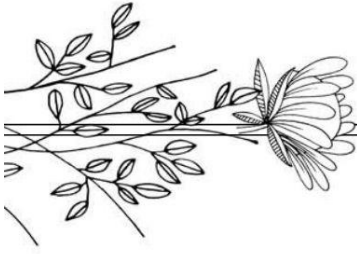
Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pas-sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,
 proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peop-les to-geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire— of love in our flesh and our bone.



HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT
IT IS WHEN GOD'S PEOPLE
LIVE TOGETHER IN UNITY!
PSALM 133:1

