



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 23, 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
Linda Lupton, Liturgist
Jacob Smith, String Bass
Mike Kessler, Percussion

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: <i>How Great Thou Art</i>	arr. S. Baker
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
INTROIT: Glory Be to the Creator	Mayflower Singers
CALL TO WORSHIP	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: God created each of us as unique individuals.

All: Although we are different, we are all important parts of the body of Christ.

One: God intentionally made us different and unique.

All: Today, let us celebrate the diverse ways God is reflected in each of us!

*SONG OF GATHERING: *Come, My People*

Sing, Prayer, and Praise #12

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Judy Fletcher

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

Creator God, you have composed the world of differing elements and celebrated its goodness. Open our hearts and minds to discover the vast diversity of your creation and to find our place of belonging. Open our eyes to see your divine image reflected in the faces around us. Open our spirits to honor and praise you. In the Spirit of Love we pray, amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:1-8

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: Diversity in Unity

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *God of Change and Glory*

New Century Hymnal #177

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

H. Mancini

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: *Come O Fount of Every Blessing* arr. S. Baker

*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: *Wherever You Go*

Sing! Prayer and Praise #213

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Glory Be to the Creator* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name* arr. S. Baker

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Romans 12:1-8

¹ Sisters and brothers, I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. ² Don't conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your minds, so that you can judge what God's will is – what is good, pleasing and perfect.

³ In light of the grace I have from God, I urge each of you not to exaggerate your own importance. Each of you must judge yourself soberly by the standard of faith God has given you. ⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members – and these members don't have the same function – ⁵ so all of us, in union with Christ, form one body. And as members of that one body, we belong to each other.

⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to each of us. ⁷ If your gift is prophecy, use it in proportion to your faith. If your gift is ministry, use it for service. If you are a teacher, use your gift for teaching. ⁸ If you are good at preaching, then preach boldly. If you give to charity, do so generously; if you are a leader, exercise your authority with care; if you help others, do so cheerfully.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, August 23

7:00 PM – Mysticism Study, Parlor

Tuesday, August 25

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

Wednesday, August 26

6:00 PM – Open Table Dinner, Mayflower Room

Thursday, August 27

11:45 AM – Women's Lunch Bunch

7:00 PM – Concert, Sanctuary

Friday, August 28

1:30 PM - Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, August 29

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

9:30 AM – Caring Crafters, Parlor

Sunday, August 30

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

7:00 PM – Mysticism Study, Parlor

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Open Table Dinner on August 26 - 6:00-7:30pm, Mayflower Room

Let's gather again for dinner! Members and friends of The Garden and First Congregational are invited for dinner, relationship building conversation and a program. Here is an opportunity to widen the circle of those we know in both congregations. Dinner will be provided through funding from our grant. Reservations required at tinyurl.com/26-08-opentable or on the sheet in the Narthex. Help spread the word that getting to know folks is meaningful 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: The Senior Council welcomes your questions and feedback! You can send it to askus@fcindy.org or fill out a form and put it in the box in the coat room. Thanks, Wendy Baldwin, Steve Coomer, Jimmy Hodges, and Pastor Sarah

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 Narthex, 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.



DAMIEN CENTER



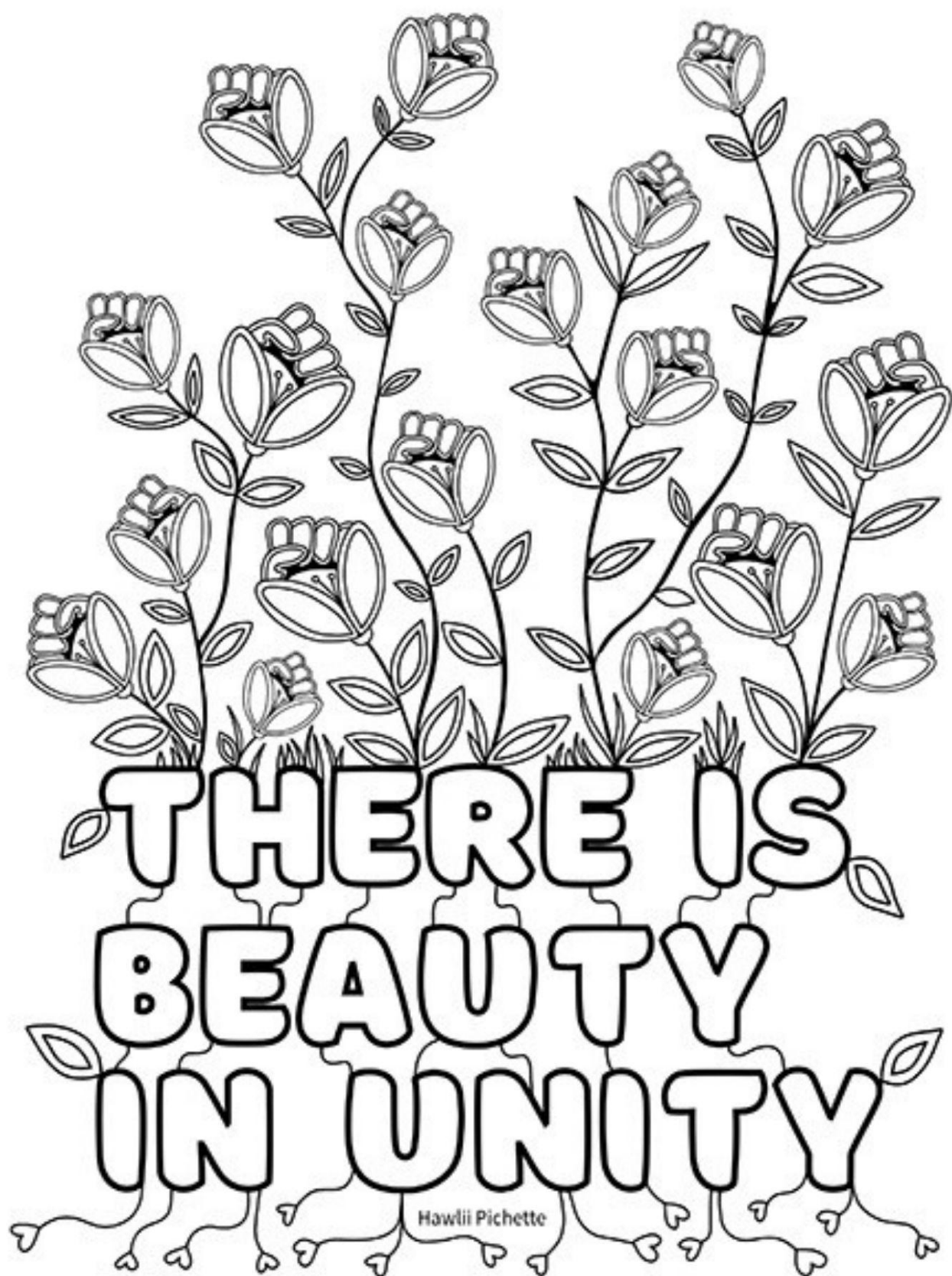
Also, your pledge or undesignated gifts are greatly appreciated to support the mission and ministries funded by First Congregational's operating budget. You can place gifts in the offering plate, mail in a check to the church, or give online at www.fcindy.org.

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



Hawlii Pichette