



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 30, 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  
Lorelei Guenther (she/her), Just Peace Intern  
Scott Semester (he/him), Worship Song Leader  
Mayflower Singers  
Ann Leatherman, Liturgist  
Jacob Smith, String Bass  
Mike Kessler, Percussion

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

## WE GATHER

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: We see light, hope, and joy;

**All: We bring heart, soul, mind, and body;**

One: We share blessings and fears;

**All: We bring faith and doubt.**

One: With all that we are and all that we have, let us worship  
God.

\*SONG OF PRAISE: *This is the Day*

New Century Hymnal #84

### 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

**God of Kindness, help us to live your goodness and kindness each day. Remind us that our actions express who we are even more than our words. May we love as you love. Let us be good to those who wish us harm, forgive those who need forgiveness, and reach out in kindness to all we meet so they can experience the unconditional love of God. Set our hearts on fire for you. Amen.**

## WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Romans 12:9-21

MESSAGE: "Keeping It Simple"

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

\*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Jesus Loves Me!*

New Century Hymnal #327

## WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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.**

OFFERING

INTERLUDE

\*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: *This Little Light of Mine*

New Century Hymnal #524

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

POSTLUDE

# TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

## Romans 12:9-21

<sup>9</sup> Your love must be sincere. Hate what is evil and cling to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with the affection of sisters and brothers. Try to outdo one another in showing respect. <sup>11</sup> Don't grow slack, but be fervent in spirit: the One you serve is Christ. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope; be patient under trial; persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Look on the needs of God's holy people as your own; be generous in offering hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless your persecutors—bless and don't curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Have the same attitude toward everyone. Don't be condescending to those who aren't as well off as you; don't be conceited. <sup>17</sup> Don't repay evil with evil. Be concerned with the highest ideal in the eyes of all people. <sup>18</sup> Do all you can to be at peace with everyone. <sup>19</sup> Don't take revenge; leave room, my friends, for God's wrath. To quote scripture, "Vengeance is mine, I will pay them back," says our God." <sup>20</sup> But there is more: "If your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them drink. For in doing so, you will heap burning coals upon their heads." <sup>21</sup> Don't be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by doing good.

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

## **THIS WEEK AT FCC**

### **Sunday, August 30**

7:00 PM – Mysticism Study, Parlor

### **Tuesday, September 1**

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting, Zoom

### **Wednesday, September 2**

7:00 PM – Personnel Meeting, Zoom

### **Thursday, September 3**

1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

6:00 PM – Debunking the Myths of Grief, Mayflower Room

### **Friday, September 4**

1:30 PM - Senior Councilors, Zoom

### **Saturday, September 5**

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

### **Sunday, September 6**

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!

**Today we welcome our new fall Just Peace Intern from Butler University, Lorelei Guenther.** She is a senior with the College of Education focusing on middle and secondary English Education and Diverse Learners minor. Lorelei will be working with First Congregational throughout the fall semester. Please join us in giving her a warm welcome.

**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.

**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.



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](http://www.fcindy.org).

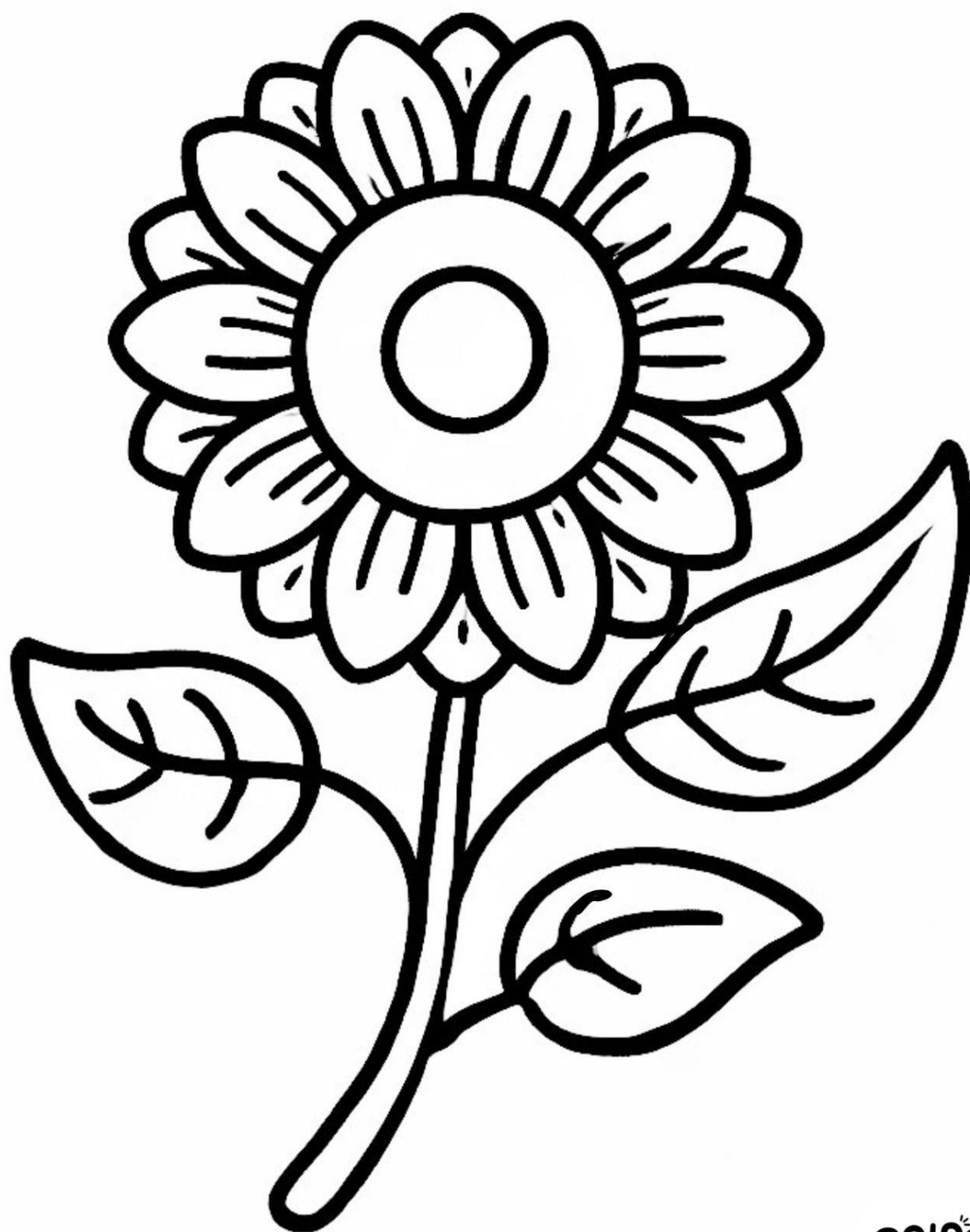
**We Want to Hear from You:** The Senior Council welcomes your questions and feedback! You can send it to [askus@fcindy.org](mailto:askus@fcindy.org) or fill out a form and put it in the box in the coat room. Thanks, Wendy Baldwin, Steve Coomer, Jimmy Hodges, and Pastor Sarah

### **Community Newsletter**

"The Neighbor," is 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](http://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)



Color  
This  
Life