



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.

September 6, 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
Karen Walker, Liturgist
Carol Sowle, Linda Lupton, Worship Leaders

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: <i>We Gather Together</i>	Kremser
WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS	Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
INTROIT: <i>Nearer, My God, to You</i>	Mayflower Singers
CALL TO WORSHIP	Carol Sowle

One: O Sun beyond all suns,

All: O Light of the world, full of grace and beauty:

One: Yours is the day, O God, yours also the night.

All: Let the daylight and the shadows praise you.

One: Let the fertile earth and the swelling seas praise you.

All: Let the winds and the rains, the lighting, and the thunder, praise you.

One: Let winter and summer, autumn and the springtime, praise you.

All: Let all that has breath praise God!

*SONG OF PRAISE: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You*

#4 New Century Hymnal

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

Linda Lupton

God of Love, help us to be thoughtful and mindful that our actions make an impact and our words carry power. May we move gently. May we speak only after we have listened well. Creator of all life, help us regard the world with tenderness. May we honor rather than destroy. Lover of all souls, help to laugh and dance and dream, remembering our many gifts with thanks and looking forward to blessings yet to come. May we welcome your lavish love, and may you grace us with your peace. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 18:15-20

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Gathered in My Name at Chautauqua*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund, Linda Lupton, Karen Walker, and Carol Sowle

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*

#337 New Century Hymnal

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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: *Where Two or Three Are Gathered*

Harding

*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: *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation*
#400 New Century Hymnal

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Make Us One* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Praise, My Soul, the Light of Heaven* Lyte, Goss

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 18:15-20

“If your sister or brother should commit some wrong against you, go and point out the error, but keep it between the two of you. If she or he listens to you, you have won a loved one back; if not, try again, but take one or two others with you, so that every case may stand on the word of two or three witnesses. If your sister or brother refuses to listen to them, refer the matter to the church. If she or he ignores even the church, then treat that sister or brother as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

“The truth is, whatever you declare bound on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you declare loosed on earth will be loosed in heaven.

“Again I tell you, if two of you on earth join in agreement to pray for anything whatsoever, it will be granted you by my Abba God in heaven. Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there in their midst.”

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, September 6

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

12:30 PM – PCRC, off site

7:00 PM – Mysticism Study, Parlor

Tuesday, September 8

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting

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

Wednesday, September 9

6:30 PM – NAMI Support Group, Parlor

Thursday, September 10

1:00 PM – Book Circle, Library/Zoom

Friday, September 11

1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, September 12

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, September 13

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

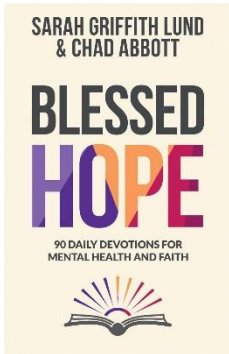
12:15 PM – Outreach & Service, Library

12:30 PM – Author Book Signing, Mayflower Room

4:00 PM – Trustees, Zoom

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Chautauqua: Interested? Curious? September is the month to apply for the grant for 2027! Applications are available on the Chautauqua bulletin board in the hallway between the entrance doors and the narthex. The Chautauqua team is available for questions in the parlor after today's worship service. Please contact any of us with any questions - Karen Walker, Linda Lupton, Carol Sowle, Pastor Sarah Lund.



Blessed Hope book signing - Sunday, September 13

We are glad to welcome Indiana-Kentucky Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott to share in the sermon with Pastor Sarah. Following worship, the Library Team is hosting a book signing party for the release of Blessed Hope, co-authored by Chad and Pastor Sarah. Books will be available for a \$10 donation.

Save the Date – Sunday, Sep 27, What's the Buzz Pitch-In

Plan to join us for a pitch-in following worship on Sep 27 for fellowship and food. We want to hear from you about what's on your mind or any questions and comments you have about life at First Congregational. See you there.

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 September to December is related to our WISE Covenant and includes support for the following organizations: UCC Mental Health Network, Gender Nexus, and Indy Action Coalition. 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.

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

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.

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

