



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 13, 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

Carter Lund (he/him), Liturgist

Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott (he/him), Worship Leader & Guest Preacher

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Let Us Hope when Hope Seems Hopeless*

Deebe, Diemer

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *My Hope Is Built*

Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: God of Hope

All: **We come to worship today open to receiving good news,**

One: To engage with stories of faith, mental health, hope. and love.

All: **We know that despair, fear, and hatred are everywhere and impacts all of us.**

One: Shape us into loving, hopeful people:

All: Fill us with your love that passes all understanding.

We pray this together in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

***SONG OF HOPE:** *Hope of the World* New Century Hymnal #46

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. Chad Abbott

Caring God, we acknowledge before you our fears; we acknowledge before you our anxieties; we acknowledge before you our vulnerabilities. Help us to recognize in the depths of our being that we are not alone, but that you are truly present in our times of loneliness, pain, and despair. We pray that you might ease our burdens by the assurance of your companionship, by the knowledge of your abiding love, and by the hope we share in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 103:1-5

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Blessed Hope*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
& Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Banner of Hope*

Sing! Prayer and Praise #75

WE RESPOND

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: *Give Thanks for Life*

*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: *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*
New Century Hymnal #82

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund
& Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott

BLESSING SONG: *My Hope Is Built*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *By Gracious Powers*

Bonhoeffer, Hobbs

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Psalm 103:1-5

- ¹ Bless YHWH, my soul!
All that is in me, bless God's holy Name!
- ² Bless YHWH, my soul,
and remember all God's kindnesses!
- ³ The One who forgives all your sins
is the one who heals all your diseases;
- ⁴ the One who ransoms your life from the Pit
is the One who crowns you with love and tenderness.
- ⁵ The One who fills your years with prosperity
also gives you an eagle's youthful energy.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, September 13

- 10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room
- 11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary
- 12:00 PM – Author Book Signing, Parlor
- 12:30 PM – Outreach & Service, Library
- 4:00 PM – Trustees, Zoom

Tuesday, September 15

- 10:00 AM – Library Team
- 11:30 AM – Staff Meeting
- 1:30 PM – Robin Run Gathering, RR Cafe

Wednesday, September 16

- 7:00 PM – Church Council, Zoom

Thursday, September 17

- 1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

Friday, September 18

- 1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

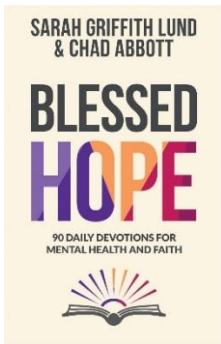
Saturday, September 19

- 8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, September 13

- 10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room
- 11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary, with guest preacher,
Rev. Richard Brendan
- 3:30 PM – Youth Group, Mayflower Room

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!



Blessed Hope book signing – TODAY!

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.

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. Please contact any of us with any questions - Karen Walker, Linda Lupton, Carol Sowle, Pastor Sarah Lund.

Invitation to connect to Pastor Sarah for Pastoral Care, Presence, and Ministry: During the week, Pastor Sarah invites conversations and connection. From Tuesday through Friday (Saturday and Monday are sabbath days), Pastor Sarah works both at the church office for office hours and also works for the church remotely (home office, out in the community, and pastoral visits). Everyone is encouraged to reach out to Pastor Sarah to schedule a visit by emailing pastorsarah@fcindy.org or calling (386) 478-9012. Pastor Sarah's in-church office hours for the week of September 14 includes Tuesday, Sept 15 from 9:30am—12:30pm in the church office and then from 1:30-2:30 pm at Robin Run Assisted Living Center Cafe. Pastor Sarah looks forward to connecting with you!

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