



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 27, 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
Sandy Wood, Liturgist
Jacob Smith, String Bass
Mike Kessler, Percussion

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Come O Fount of Every Blessing* Robinson, arr. Baker

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *On Eagle's Wings* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Praise God for seeds and sunshine!

All: Praise God for weeds and rainfall!

One: Praise God for singing birds and crawling bugs!

All: For towering trees and wispy clouds!

One: As these sunflowers stretch their roots downward and
their necks skyward, Yearning to follow the arc of the sun,

**All: So too we yearn to deeply ground ourselves in, and
follow the Divine!**

One: Bless us with your radiance Holy One...

All: Shine upon us in this time of gathering and worship....

One: Hold us steadfastly rooted in your love,

All: Lead us to flourishing, growth.

*SONG OF PRAISE: *By Gracious Powers*

New Century Hymnal #413

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES

Gracelynn Royer

PEACE MOMENT POEM

Lorelei Guenther

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -
That perches in the soul -
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops - at all –

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -
And sore must be the storm -
That could abash the little Bird
That kept so many warm –

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -
And on the strangest Sea -
Yet - never - in Extremity,
It asked a crumb - of me.

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, Seed Planter, Soil Tiller, Growth Giver....

We sometimes forget the scope of our potential. We see our limitations rather than our possibilities. Our inabilities, rather than our capabilities. Help us to imagine wildly, to act courageously as we work together in co-creating your kin-dom come one earth. Where justice and reconciliation are concerned, move us from passive to passionate, That we may reflect the love and the Way of Christ. Help us to lay aside our judgement of others...And see instead, the roots which connect us. Nurture us to grow alongside those who are different and honor each person's dignity. Unite us in the Spirit of Love. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 40:12-31

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE

Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Fly Like An Eagle*

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

New Century Hymnal #408

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *To God Be the Glory*

Crosby, Doane

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

SPECIAL OFFERING: Neighbors in Need

INTERLUDE: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* Scriven, Converse

*DOXOLOGY: *Song of Thanks*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts!

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

WE GO FORTH AND PROCLAIM

*SONG OF SENDING: *God Be with You*

New Century Hymnal #81

BENEDICTION

Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *On Eagle's Wings*

Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

arr. Baker

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 40:25-31

²⁵ “To whom can you liken me? Who is my equal?” says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes and ask yourself who made these stars, if not the One who drills them like an army, calling each by name? Because God is so great in strength, so mighty in power, not a single one is missing.

²⁷ How can you say, tribe of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, “My destiny is hidden from YHWH, my rights are ignored by my God?” ²⁸ Do you not know? Have you not heard? YHWH is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. This God does not faint or grow weary; with a depth of understanding that is unsearchable.

²⁹ God give strength to the weary, and empowers the powerless. ³⁰ Young women may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and fall, ³¹ but those who wait for YHWH find a renewed power: they soar on eagles' wings, they run and don't get weary, they walk and never tire.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, September 27

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

12:15 PM – Buzz Pitch-In, Mayflower Room

Tuesday, September 29

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting, Zoom

7:00 PM – Shalom Zone, Mayflower Room

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 PM – Open Table Dinner, Mayflower Room

Thursday, October 1

1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

Friday, October 2

1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, October 3

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, October 4

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

2:00 PM – Crop Walk

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

TODAY! UCC Five for Five Offering – Neighbors in Need: Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. This special offering will take place on September 27 during worship, and we welcome your gifts and support. You can fill out a special offering card at the service or make an online gift. Please indicate on your check, offering card, or online gift that it is for “Neighbors in Need.”

TODAY! What’s the Buzz Pitch-In: Please join us for a pitch-in following worship on Sep 27 for fellowship and food. It's a time for updates, and to discuss and answer questions you have about life at First Congregational. Send us an email ahead of time at askus@fcindy.org about what you would like to talk about! See you there - Senior Council

OPEN TABLE DINNER, September 29 at 6:30PM (FREE): Come and enjoy a delicious dinner, delightful conversation, and soul nourishing activities. The September and October Open Table Dinners will feature Art For All classes. Eat some great food and create some great art while you get to know the folks from in and around the church!

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.

The Greater Indianapolis Crop Hunger Walk - Sunday, October 4, 2026

The Indianapolis Crop Hunger Walk is scheduled for Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 2:00 pm at the InterChurch Center, 1100 West 42nd Street, near the Butler Campus. There is parking at the InterChurch Center. The walk is a little over 3 miles around the Butler Campus neighborhood.

For the next 3 Sundays there will be a person from the Outreach and Service Board at a table in the Narthex to sign up walkers and collect donations in person.

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. In-church office hours for the week of September 28 includes Tuesday, Sept 29 from 9:30am—1:30pm. 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.

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 subscribe at www.centerforbelonging.org.



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.

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

