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 Prayground 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 Prayground 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 Tuesday and Friday mornings. 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.

October 25, 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
Alice Rutherford, Liturgist
Jacob Smith, String Bass
Mike Kessler, Percussion

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *Pass It On* K. Kaiser

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *Make Me a Servant* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: What commandment is first of all?

All: You shall love God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

One: What is the second great commandment?

People: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these.

One: Praise the God of Love!

People: The God of Love be praised.

*SONG OF PRAISE: *There Is a Name I Love to Hear*
New Century Hymnal #52

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 love, you have asked us to keep your commandments. Thank you for the life of Jesus who demonstrated the power of love to effect healing, redemption, and hope. Help us to be people of love. Bless us with a sense of your divine presence and help us to be courageous and truly be kind and loving people in this world. Grant us grace as we seek to live one day at a time as we seek healing for our minds, hearts, and spirits. We place our lives and our trust in you, O God of Love. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 22:34-46*

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE — Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *The Compassionate Life* — Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *I Will Choose Christ*
Sing! Prayer and Praise #148

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: *Amazing Grace* arr. S. Baker

*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: *Pass It On* (see back page)

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Make Me a Servant* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* arr. B. Carter

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 22:34-46

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had left the Sadducees
speechless, they gathered together, 35 and one of them, an expert
on the attempted to trick Jesus with this question: 36 "Teacher,
which commandment of the Law is the greatest?" 37 Jesus
answered: " 'You must love the Most High God with all your heart,
with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 "That is the greatest and
first commandment. 39 The second is like it: 'You must love your
neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments the whole
Law is based—and the Prophets as well." 41 While the Pharisees
were gathered around him, Jesus asked them this question: 42
"What do you think about the Messiah? Whose descendant is the
Messiah?" They said, "David's." 43 Then Jesus asked, "Then how is
it that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls the Messiah 'Sovereign'?
For he says, 44 'The Most High said to my Sovereign, "Sit at my
right hand until I place your enemies under your foot."' 45 "If David
calls the Messiah 'Sovereign,' how can the Messiah be a
descendant of David?" 46 No one could reply, and from that day on
no one dared ask him any more questions.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, October 25

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

Tuesday, October 27

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting, Zoom

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

Wednesday, October 28

11:00 AM – Mental Health Team, Zoom

6:00 PM – Open Table Dinner, Mayflower Room

Thursday, October 29

11:30 AM – FCC/Garden Leadership Lunch, Library

1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

Friday, October 30

1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, October 31

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

9:30 AM – Caring Crafters, Parlor

10:00 AM – On Earth As It Is In Heaven, Library

Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

Open Table Dinner - October 28, 6:00PM: 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! There is no cost to attend.

New Art Gallery: Did you know that First Congregational will be providing art gallery space? The patio hallway and Parlor are being transformed to allow us to display works of art, beginning with an exhibit in November, featuring the quilts of Linda Lupton. Each month will feature a different artist.

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 October 25th includes Pop-Up Coffee at Lulu's on October 27 from 12:30 – 2:00PM. 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.
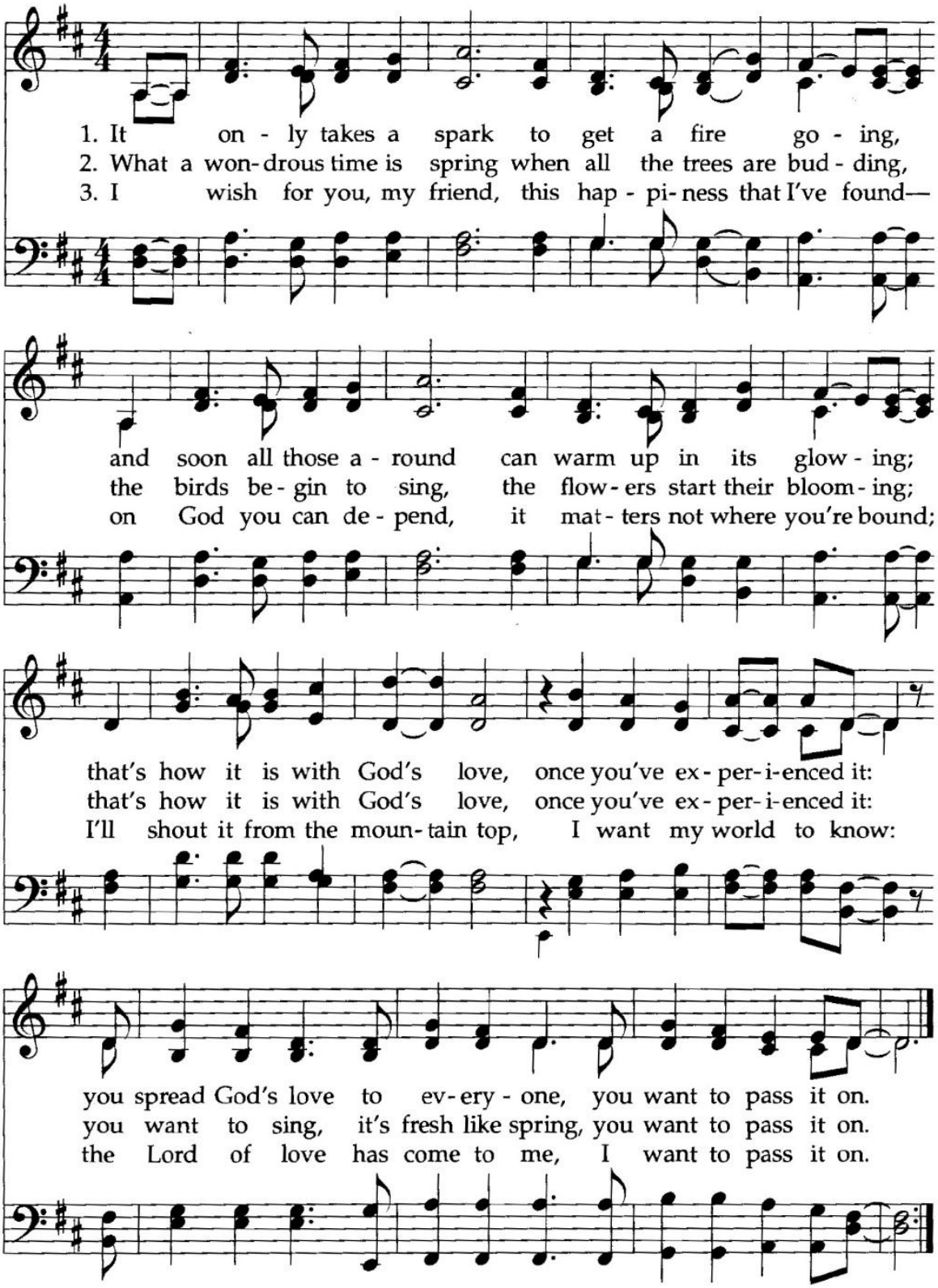
Thank you for your financial gifts! Our current Covenant Outreach focus for September to December is related to our WISE Covenant and includes support for the following organizations: UCC Mental Health Network, Gender Nexus, and Indy Action Coalition. Gifts of single dollars and those designated to Covenant 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**

Pass It On 477



WORDS and MUSIC: Kurt Kaiser, 1969

PASS IT ON
Irr.

© 1969 Bud John Songs, Inc.