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.

November 1, 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
Wendy Harrison, Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *I Sing a Song of the Saints of God* L. Scott, J. Hopkins

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *There's a Spirit in the Air* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP (Micah 6:8) Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: God has told us, O human ones, what is good,

All: and what does the Holy One require of us

One: but to do justice and to love kindness

All: and to walk humbly with your God

*SONG OF INVOCATION: *Come to the Banquet*
Sing! Prayer and Praise #8 (vs. 1,2,5,6)

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES Gracelynn Royer

PEACE MOMENT POEM Lorelei Guenther

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

Compassionate God, as we gather, we proclaim our allegiance to your kindom as envisioned by Jesus. We hope for and work for the world you created here on earth as it is in heaven. Fill us with power, wisdom, and connection to be your loving people in the world. Let us witness to your goodness and your glory. Strengthen us to live in your radiance and to love abundantly, compassionately, and do the work of justice for all. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 23:1-12 — Wendy Harrison

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE — Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: Partners in Service — Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak*
New Century Hymnal #531

WE RESPOND

COMMUNION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION: *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* T. Chisholm, W. Runyan

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: *O Savior, for the Saints* R. Mant, W. Walter

*DOXOLOGY

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: *For All the Saints*
New Century Hymnal #299 (vs. 1,3,5)

BENEDICTION Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *There's a Spirit in the Air* Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *For All the Saints* W. How, R. Williams

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 23:1-12

1 Jesus told the crowds and the disciples, 2 "The religious scholars
and the Pharisees have succeeded Moses as teachers; 3 therefore,
perform every observance they tell you to. But don't follow their
example; even they don't do what they say. 4 They tie up heavy
loads and lay them on others' shoulders, while they themselves will
not lift a finger to help alleviate the burden. 5 "All their works are
performed to be seen. They widen their phylacteries and wear huge
tassels. 6 They are fond of places of honor at banquets and the
front seats in synagogues. 7 They love respectful greetings in public
and being called 'Rabbi.' 8 "But as for you, avoid the title 'Rabbi.'
For you have only one Teacher, and you are all sisters and
brothers. 9 And don't call anyone on earth your 'Mother' or 'Father.'
You have only one Parent—our loving God in heaven. 10 Avoid
being called leaders. You have only one leader—the Messiah.
11 "The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest.
12 Those who exalt themselves will be humbled, but those who
humble themselves will be exalted.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, November 1

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – All Saints Sunday Worship, Sanctuary

Tuesday, November 3

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, November 4

7:00 PM – Personnel Committee, Zoom

Thursday, November 5

12:00 PM – MHCNS Music Program

Friday, November 6

1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

Saturday, November 7

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

9:00 AM – MHCNS Indoor Workday

Sunday, November 8 – All Saints Sunday

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

12:15 PM – Worship & Faith, Library

Opportunities for Giving, Sharing, Fellowship, and Fun!

What's the Buzz Pitch-In Lunch, Sunday, Nov 15th: Please join us for a pitch-in lunch following worship on Sunday, 11/15. It's a great time of fellowship, updates, and discussion. We will be featuring discussion on the intriguing results of a Vitality Survey that several of us participated in earlier this year for the Vision Team work, as well as a review of the new group covenant between The Garden and FCC. Hope you can be there!

Food Pantry for the Holidays: It's time to beef up our food pantry donations for the holidays. In addition to regular food choices, canned cranberry sauce, canned gravy and Stove Top Stuffings are particularly welcome for holiday meals. Reminder: please no glass jars or fresh food items. Thanks, Outreach & Service

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.

Update on the New Lift: We're waiting for final details but have learned that work on the new lift will begin the week of 11/16, and possibly even the week of 11/9! It will probably take a couple of weeks, so we will need to work around not having a functioning lift during that time. We'll update you as we learn more. - Wendy Baldwin

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 this week will be on Wednesday, November 4th from 1-3PM. 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**