FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

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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 8, 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
Rev. Worth Hartman, Liturgist

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

WE GATHER

PRELUDE: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* K. Thomerson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

INTROIT: *I Am the Light of the World* Mayflower Singers

CALL TO WORSHIP Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

One: Our ordinary, messy lives are filled with the light and love of God!

All: We celebrate the light of Christ in our ordinary, messy lives!

One: We honor the ways God works in the shadows, even when we cannot see the light.

All: Even in our trouble, uncertainty, and confusion, we choose to follow the way of love.

One We give thanks to God for helping us survive all we've endured, even when we've been thrown down.

All: We give thanks for God's power at work in our ordinary, messy lives. We invite God to shine the light of love within us, around us and through us.

*SONG OF ACTION: *Let Justice Flow like Streams*
New Century Hymnal #588

MESSAGE FOR ALL AGES — Gracelynn Royer

PEACE MOMENT POEM — Lorelei Guenther

Song of Myself (1892 version), by Walt Whitman

I celebrate myself, and sing myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

I loafe and invite my soul,
I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass.

My tongue, every atom of my blood, form'd from this soil, this air,
Born here of parents born here from parents the same, and their parents the same,
I, now thirty-seven years old in perfect health begin,
Hoping to cease not till death.

Creeds and schools in abeyance,
Retiring back a while sufficed at what they are, but never forgotten,
I harbor for good or bad, I permit to speak at every hazard,
Nature without check with original energy.

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 mercy and grace, we thank you for the gift of your loving presence here today. We come to you with our imperfect, messy lives. We acknowledge that messiness is part of life. We ask that through the power of your Holy Spirit, you spiritually bring us healing, not only us, but all who feel anxious, stressed, and overwhelmed. God, we recognize that You bring purpose and beauty out of our brokenness and make us whole. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

WE ENCOUNTER

SCRIPTURE: *Matthew 25:1-13* Rev. Worth Hartman

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE Mayflower Singers

MESSAGE: *Tending God's Light* Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

*SONG OF REFLECTION: *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*
New Century Hymnal #369

WE RESPOND

JOYS AND CONCERNS

MEDITATION

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: *Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts*
W. Vories, W. Boyd

*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: *Carry the Light*
Sing! Prayer and Praise # 192

BENEDICTION — Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund

BLESSING SONG: *Let It Shine* — Mayflower Singers

POSTLUDE: *I Am the Light of the World* — J. Strathdee

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then again, the kindom of heaven could be likened to ten
attendants who took their lamps and went to meet the bridal party. 2
Five of them were wise; five were foolish. 3 When the foolish ones
took their lamps, they didn't take any oil with them, 4 but the wise
ones took enough oil to keep their lamps burning. 5 The bridal party
was delayed, so they all fell asleep. 6 "At midnight there was a cry:
'Here comes the bridal party! Let's go out to meet them!' 7 Then all
the attendants rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones
said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' 9 But the wise replied, 'Perhaps there won't be enough for us;
run to the dealers and get some more for yourselves.' 10 "While the
foolish ones went to buy more oil, the bridal party arrived; and
those who were ready went to the marriage feast with them, and
the door was shut. 11 When the foolish attendants returned, they
pleaded to be let in. 12 The doorkeeper replied, 'The truth is, I don't
know you.' 13 "So stay awake, for you don't know the day or the
hour.

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

THIS WEEK AT FCC

Sunday, November 8

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – All Saints Sunday Worship, Sanctuary

12:15 PM – Worship & Faith, Library

Tuesday, November 10

11:30 AM – Staff Meeting, Zoom

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

Wednesday, November 11

6:30 PM – NAMI Support Group, Parlor

7:00 PM – Trustees, Zoom

Thursday, November 12

1:00 PM – Book Circle, Library/Zoom

1:00 PM – Men's Lunch

Friday, November 13

1:30 PM – Senior Councilors, Zoom

7:00 PM – Philip Gulley Presents, Sanctuary

Saturday, November 14

8:30 AM – Promise Recovery Group, Mayflower Room

Sunday, November 15 – Giving Tree Collection

10:00 AM – Adult Education, Mayflower Room

11:00 AM – Worship, Sanctuary

12:15 PM – Buzz Pitch-In

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!

Philip Gulley: The Things That Give Me Hope, Friday, November 13, 7:00PM - Phil Gulley, a well-known local Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker, will be at First Congregational on Friday, Nov 13, at 7 pm. We are expecting a large crowd and space is limited, so please be sure to register for the event at tinyurl.com/26-philip-gulley. The event will also be live-streamed. If you would like a ride to this event, please contact Karen Walker.

Gratitude Bulletin Board available in November: The Visioning Team created a Gratitude Board for all of us to use to show our gratitude- for people, activities, etc at church or elsewhere. It will be up all month. We'd love your input. There are sticky notes and pencils on the board and tacks to attach the note so it stays put after you put it on the board. - Visioning Team: Elizabeth Price, Gini Coomer, Linda Lupton, Sandy Wood, Steve Leatherman, Scott Semester, Pastor Sarah Lund

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 the week of November 8th includes Pop-Up Coffee at Lulu's on Tuesday, November 10th at 12:30PM. 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**