



Pastor's Reflections

One of the highlights of my first 60 days as your new settled pastor is connecting more deeply with members during small group "get to know you" sessions. The format is simple: we introduce ourselves, share how we first connected with the church, then share our hopes and dreams for the church as we begin a new chapter. Thanks to all who have hosted and who have participated! We will plan more small group gatherings for May, so stay tuned.

I want to lift up some hopes and dreams from these small groups: expand our diversity, grow in membership, become known as a healing place, install solar panels, update our church branding, connect more with the families in the school and the neighborhood. These are just some of our hopes and dreams for the church. What do you dream and hope for our shared ministry?

I believe God is preparing us for something great. God is inviting us to discern together what this next chapter will look like and what our focus will be as we live into God's vision for us. I am excited to be here with you as your pastor. I invite you to be a part of what God is doing at First Congregational in whatever way is life-giving for you. We are stronger when we all come together. You are an important part of the church.

Every person matters and every person counts. That's one of the things I appreciate about the way Congregational churches are organized...it's about the people, it's about you and me and all of us, following what we believe is God's desire for us. That's a pretty beautiful, if sometimes messy, thing. And I am grateful to be part of what God is doing in and through this congregation. I look forward to formalizing our covenant at the installation service next month on Sunday, June 10th!

With hope,

– Pastor Sarah Lund
(386) 478-9012 or pastorsarah@fcindy.org

Memorial Services this Month

The Memorial Service for Carolyn Horst will be held on Saturday, May 12 at 2:00.
The Memorial Service for John Staton will be held on Sunday, May 13 at 2:00.
A reception for the families will follow each service.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
AND
THE SOUTHEAST ASSOCIATION
OF THE
INDIANA-KENTUCKY CONFERENCE, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Invite you to the
INSTALLATION SERVICE
of
REV. DR. SARAH LUND

As
Senior Pastor

With guest preacher the Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness for the
United Church of Christ

To take place at First Congregational United Church of Christ

7171 North Pennsylvania Street, Indianapolis

Sunday, June 10, 2018

At 3:00 PM EDT

The Clergy are invited to wear robes and red or rainbow stoles. Please gather in the room off the
sanctuary and be ready to process at 2:45 PM.

A courtyard reception will be held immediately following the service.

New Creation Worship

First Congregational's New Creation Worship service at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday evenings will focus on the
different ways we respond to Jesus through our discipleship. These services are interactive with music
led by our New Creation Ensemble. Every Sunday is different!

New Creation worship will continue its exploration of how to be good disciples of the
Resurrected Christ in today's world. Watch for details in weekly e-pistles. All are welcome to
participate in this casual but authentic worship experience.

From the Moderator

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a
time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted. - Ecclesiastes 3:1-2*

Spring brings excitement of growth and freshness of the season which we are experiencing
at church. At the same time, in the fullness of life, the recent deaths and injuries and illnesses
of long time members and cherished friends brings us up short and we need to stop and

hold them and each other up, nurturing our beloved community as God calls us to do. I recently heard a motto that I very much appreciate: "Now. Here. This." We are blessed to be in community together.

- Karen Walker
317-319-8950
Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

Sunday Adult Class

All classes meet in the Library (room 212) at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

"Doing Justice" is the general theme through June. Specific class plans are as follows:

May 6 - - "Bread for the World" issues for 2018. This session will give background for our annual writing of letters to alleviate hunger through Bread for the World.

May 13 - Writing our letters to be sent through Bread for the World

May 20 - Doing Justice: "An Open Table"

May 27 - Doing Justice: "Uttering Truth"

Call to Service

"Here am I; send me!" Isaiah 6:8"

Mission of the Month, Bread for the World

May 13 is Mother's Day, but here at FCC it will also be Bread for the World Sunday. It seems appropriate to combine the two since the focus of this year's Offering of Letters to our members of Congress is on issues that relate especially to the needs of mothers and their children. The President's proposed budget for fiscal year 2019 includes deep cuts --\$2.5 billion in cuts—to programs that help people struggling with hunger and poverty. These cuts are unacceptable so our letters will urge restoration of these vital funds to the budget.

FCC has been a covenant church with Bread for the World since 1983, so supporting their annual Offering of Letters is "in our DNA." For our newer members, Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decisions makers to end hunger at home and abroad. Bread equips its members to communicate with Congress and to work with others on advocacy. It educates members on hunger-related issues and inspires members to be legislative activists as a way of putting their Christian faith into action.

Globally, hunger and poverty rates have been cut in half over the past 25 years. But in 2016, for the first time since the turn of the century, the number of hungry people increased, now standing at 815 million. Funding for international hunger programs is under threat, and we must get it back on track.

In the US, 1 in 8 Americans lives at risk of hunger, including approximately 13 million children. Hunger rates have been declining since 2011, yet many Americans still struggle to put food on the table. And yet we know how to end hunger. Food assistance programs such as SNAP (formerly food stamps) and WIC (nutrition program for women, infants, and children) and school lunches keep hunger at bay for millions of vulnerable Americans. Studies show that they help children do better in school and in life. Last year your letters and phone calls and those of other Bread for the World members helped stop devastating cuts to Medicaid and SNAP. Congress fully funded key hunger and poverty programs in the US and around the world, and due to high-level advocacy at a critical time, also provided an additional \$1 billion for famine relief. We must again respond to Jesus' call to help those most in need and urge our members of Congress to restore funding and protect life-saving programs.

Please join the Bread for the World team during the education hour on Sunday, May 6 to learn more about these issues and then on May 13, Mother's Day, write your members of

Congress urging them to support a budget that includes sufficient funding for the programs that do make a difference in combatting hunger. And remember, a budget is a moral document!

-Sue Chapman

Pantry Items of the Month

During May, we are collecting the following items: ramen noodles, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit and laundry detergent.

Our Food Donations to the Northside Pantry

In March we donated 120 pounds of nutritious food to the Northside Pantry. The pantry is affiliated with Gleaners Food Bank. It is housed at Second Presbyterian Church which does a very good job of managing donations and distributing them to Northside residents in need. Our donations do much good and are greatly appreciated – keep them coming!

Church Foundation

The Foundation (FCCF) Board held its quarterly meeting on April 24. We reviewed the performance of our various funds and reviewed where we stand. A new fund is being created, thanks to a generous gift by a church member family. The FCCF is sound and in good shape to help fund the budget as needed. Pastor Sarah Lund and Randy Walker are new Board members, welcome additions. If you'd like more information about the FCCF, feel free to contact any of the Board members – Judy Fletcher, Al Moore, Pastor Sarah Lund, Randy Walker or Bill Gillette.

Important Information Concerning the Gift of Stock

In the past giving the church your gift of stock was a bit confusing. However, the good news is that we have finalized an easy way to complete this transfer! In all situations where you would like to donate stock, you just need to tell your broker to use the following information to deposit those shares into the First Congregational Brokerage account.

Fidelity's Depository Trust Company
DTC No: 0226
Account No: Z50424340

In all situations, Fidelity (our broker) is instructed to sell the stock when transfer is complete and then to move the money to our cash portion of the account. We then move the money to the account that respects the donor's wishes (such as Pledge). If you still have questions, please contact Jim Lootens.

New Member Sunday – Traditional Worship, May 20th

Pastor Sarah will be joining First Congregational as a member on Pentecost Sunday, 5/20. Have you been attending First Congregational, but aren't a member? If you are interested in exploring membership at this time, please contact Pastor Sarah.

PRIDE 2018

PRIDE week for 2018 is scheduled for June 2 - 9 with the parade and festival being on Saturday, June 9. First Congregational will have several PRIDE activities planned for the week and we will need help with planning.

If you would like to help plan our parade participation or plan our booth presentation at the festival, please contact Bob Cook (317-401-4889) or bobcook359@yahoo.com so we can put our best foot forward at PRIDE 2018. THANKS!

- Bob Cook

Plans for a "Prayground"

The Worship and Faith Board is working on plans to include children in worship on Sundays if parents so desire. With the blessing of our pastor who agrees that children should have opportunity to be in the sanctuary, we are contemplating removing the next to last two pews on the north side of the church, putting down rug, mats and/or beanbag chairs, with

quiet toys (like legos) and books, so that parents and grandparents can have children with them in church. Plans are just being developed, and we welcome suggestions for implementation.

Currently, we have a bin of toys for babies who could be on a mat in the parlor, watched by parents or two parishioners. We also have set aside toys for older toddlers once we have both children of that age and people identified, with background checks, to watch them. If you can help with this and have not identified yourself to Worship and Faith (or the Safe Church Policy team), please contact Nancy Dickinson or one of our boardmembers. (Lianna Campos, Sally Combs, Aurelia Hoff-March , Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart)

- Nancy Dickinson

Announcements from the Congregation

May Colony Submission Deadline

Please have your submissions sent to me by **Tuesday, May 15.**

Plymouth Rockers

The Plymouth Rockers will meet at the church at noon on May 22 in the parlor. Following a brown bag lunch we'll have a program by Pastor Sarah Lund on a topic related to her and/or to the church. Plan to come, and feel free to bring guests.

-Bill Gillette

Men's Lunch

This lunch and discussion gathering for men of First Congregational meets at various restaurants in the greater Indianapolis area. They meet every other Thursday at 1 p.m. This month they will meet on May 3 and 17. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977walker@gmail.com for information.

Women's Lunch Bunch

All women of the church are invited to get together once a month for lunch, friendship, and fellowship. This month we will meet on Thursday, May 24 at 11:45 a.m. For any questions or for information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or at carolsuech@sbcglobal.net.

Flower Calendar

The Flower Calendar is on bulletin board by the garden doors. The cost for flowers is \$25.00. Sign up for any occasion and email Cheryl Dillenback and/or Sally Coombs. The flowers can come from the florist, store or your garden.

Coming May 5TH: Annual Reduce-Reuse-Recycle (Rummage) Sale

STUFF: "The Story of Stuff" is the title of a book I'm currently reading. Many of us are being drowned in "stuff" in this country, and we do not need to be reminded that we consume far more than our share of resources. Look around to see what stuff you have and do not need. (No, not just updating by replacing.) Plan to participate on **May 5th** in our "Reduce, Reuse and Recycle" sale. As in previous years, you rent a table (\$10), price your items, sell them and keep the proceeds, and clean up. Begin now to lay aside extraneous items that can be reused by someone else and that you would like to offer for sale to others. As in recent years, the sale will take place on the main level in the narthex and parlor. The deadline for table reservations is April 29.

- Nancy Dickinson

Financial Update

When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands

When we give to the ministries of First Congregational UCC, we are serving those inside and outside our church community. As 1st Peter 4:10 says: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, with whatever gift each of you has received."

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Jim Lootens, Treasurer
lootens.jb@gmail.com

2. Current Year Actual vs Budget - Summary - Last quarter 1/1/2018 through 3/31/2018 Using 2018 Budget B

Category	Actual	Q1 2018 Budget	Difference
INCOME	53,604	60,217	-6,613
M. Unrestricted Contributions	53,604	60,217	-6,613
M.01 Pledged Offerings	47,321	54,335	-7,014
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	6,554	6,681	-127
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-2,409	-2,409	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	0	0	0
M.06. Transfer from Youth Fund	1,610	1,610	0
M.07 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	528	0	528
EXPENSES	59,314	63,040	3,725
A. Pastoral Leadership	25,909	26,986	1,077
B. Worship & Faith	9,270	10,380	1,110
C. Care & Connections	317	170	-147
D. Witness & Welcome	172	216	44
E. Outreach & Service	5,224	5,550	326
F. Trustees	0	45	45
G. Administration & Operations	3,781	5,924	2,143
H. House & Grounds	13,337	12,415	-922
I. Miscellaneous	1,305	1,354	49
Net Difference:	-5,711	-2,823	-2,888