
 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



## e-pistle for the week of May 24, 2018

### **Minister's Message**

#### **Dear First Congregational Family,**

The church welcomed three new members on Sunday and as part of that we renewed our covenant with each other. That word “covenant” is the church’s way of promising to live together in community with love.

Letting love be our guide, as Bishop Curry said in his now famous royal wedding sermon, means that the way we treat people, the way we talk to people and all the action we take comes from a place of love. This means that we humble ourselves, we honor others and we respect each other...especially the ways we are different.

It is the gift that the church can offer the world: a different way of being together, different because we intentionally choose love—above all else. It’s what makes the church a beloved community—God’s love motivates us to do justice, to be kind and to be humble in a world filled with hatred, fear and violence.

As we continue to grow, with more and more new members joining us, we will continue to renew our covenant—to be led by God first and always, and to be led by love.

Thankful for God's Presence,  
Pastor Sarah

### **Save the Date! Mental Health Sunday is June 3, 2018**

You are invited to join us for Mental Health Sunday to celebrate the release of *The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention*, by Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe. Rev. Dr. Keefe will be preaching both worship services, leading adult education and leading an afternoon workshop with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund.

### **CPR Certification**

Our tenant, MHCNS, is offering a CPR course for their teachers and parents. They have graciously offered us the opportunity to participate as well. Those who desire to take the class should complete step 1 below, and notify Cheryl or Pastor Sarah so the nursery school can get a good headcount.

**The two-part certification must be taken in this order:**

- 1) Heartsaver CPR First Aid AED Online is \$30 and registration is at <https://elearning.heart.org/course/9>. The class is a total of 6 hours and easily broken into time modules, but must be completed before the next step;
- 2) June 8, 2018 Skills Class with an instructor is approximately \$70 (cash, check or charge to Joe Martin; actual amount will depend on how many take the class) - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

### **Installation Service for Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund**

Join us at 3:00 p.m. on June 10 for the installation service with guest speaker Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice and Witness for the United Church of Christ. Her extensive biography can be found in the June Colony.

### **Worship for Sunday**

#### **Adult Class - 9:45 a.m.**

This Sunday's theme will be : Doing Justice "Uttering Truth." Meet in the library.

#### **Traditional Service - 11:00 a.m.**

The message from Pastor Sarah will be "Listen to the Spirit."

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#### **New Creation - 5:30 p.m.**

Peace between Israel and the Palestinians seems ever more elusive these days, as the recent violence attests. In New Creation this Sunday we'll be exploring some of the obstacles to Middle Eastern peace from a scriptural perspective. Please join us for this timely and important discussion, especially as we continue our consideration of becoming a Just Peace church.

## What's Happening at FCC

### Mission of the Month, Family Promise

Our congregation has been active with Family Promise for more than 20 years. We participate in the emergency shelter portion, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, housing families experiencing homelessness. All the needs that we have in our daily lives are cared for by Family Promise for around 50 families every year. The van we drive needs gas, maintenance and insurance. Bus passes are provided to the families. IHN helps families find long-term housing. AfterCare helps them keep it by providing supportive services for up to two years. I encourage you to visit their website to see all that they are doing.

“We are Family Promise because we believe in the promise - the potential - inherent in each family that enters our doors. It also refers to our promise to keep a family together, and to help the family succeed, through its most difficult time. Since 1994, our volunteers and congregations have helped over 750 families with children. We will continue with urgency to find ways to meet the needs of more families, always with the goal to one day find we are no longer needed.”

<http://www.fpgi.org/who-we-are/our-story>

This month we are asking for assistance in several ways – physical assistance with hosting, financial assistance, and your prayerful support. Our gifts of single dollar bills and loose change this month will go towards helping the organization fund their operations and programs. Larger donations are welcome and should be noted on the check or envelope  
Family Promise because every child deserves a home.

### Solar 101 Presentation

The Green Team will host a speaker from Rectify Solar to speak on “Solar 101” on Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. The topics will cover the theory and practice of using solar power on churches, businesses and residences, and the particulars of the installation this company is proposing for FCIndy. He will speak for approximately 30 minutes and be available for questions. The Green Team would like to invite all interested congregants, particularly current members of the Board of Trustees and the council. Location is TBD depending on the projected size of the audience, so please RSVP to Rich Gibson, [hoot eagle@me.com](mailto:hoot eagle@me.com)

### PRIDE 2018

Anyone interested in helping to plan FCC's participation in the PRIDE parade and festival to be held June 9, please contact Bob Cook 317-401-4889 or [bobcook359@yahoo.com](mailto:bobcook359@yahoo.com). Please see the June Colony for all the PRIDE activities during the month.

### Pantry Items of the Month

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

**Pastoral Care**

Please contact Pastor Sarah at (386) - 478 - 9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org).