



Pastor's Reflections

June marks the beginning of the fourth month of our ministry together. In this short time I have been inspired and uplifted by the multitude of blessings that are abundant at First Congregational UCC. In honor of this time of new beginnings and of our upcoming covenant celebrated at the Installation on June 10 at 3pm, I want to celebrate that this faith community:

- * values the power of music to stir the soul, ignite the imagination and warm the heart
- * honors that everyone has gifts to share
- * demonstrates true caring when members are in need of support
- * shows extravagant welcome to visitors
- * provides good stewardship for the resources of the church
- * makes space for experimentation and new ideas to emerge
- * strives to live out the values of Jesus in both word and deed
- * offers diligent leadership that is mission focused and keeps looking forward

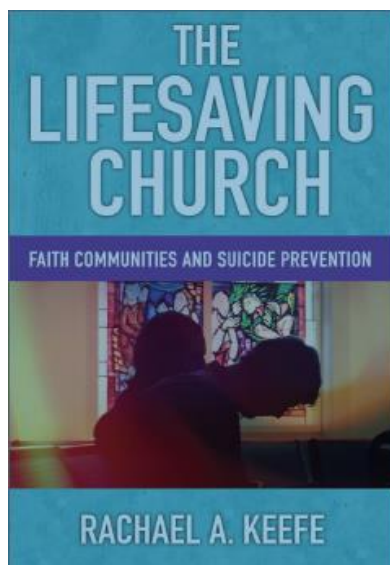
These are just a few examples of how I experience the church in this new season together. Thanks to each of you for all the ways you help make First Congregational truly a place to belong, a place to heal and a place to love.

With hope,

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

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 at 1p.m. with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund.



Installation Date for Pastor Sarah

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.

Bio for Rev. Traci Blackmon

Rev. Traci Blackmon is the Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO.

Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities for 9 years, prior to becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ and installed as the first woman and 18th pastor in the 162 year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ. A registered nurse with more than 25 years of healthcare experience, Rev. Blackmon's clinical focus was cardiac care and in later years her focus shifted to mobile healthcare in underserved communities with the greatest health disparities in her region. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Birmingham - Southern College (1985), and a Master of Divinity degree from Eden Theological Seminary (2009).

As pastor, Rev. Blackmon leads Christ The King in an expanded understanding of church as a sacred launching pad of community engagement and change. This ethos has led to a tripling of both membership and worship attendance over the last seven years, expanding membership engagement opportunities, and the establishment of community outreach

programs. Community programming includes a computer lab, tutoring, continuing education classes, summer programming, a robotics team, children's library and girls' mentoring program, all housed in the church.

Regionally, Rev. Blackmon's signature initiatives have included **Healthy Mind, Body, and Spirit**, a mobile faith-based outreach program she designed to impact health outcomes in impoverished areas. **Sacred Conversations on Solomon's Porch**, quarterly clergy in-services designed to equip local clergy to assess physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual health concerns within congregational life, **Sista SOS Summit**, an intergenerational health symposium for women and girls, and **Souls to the Polls STL**, an ecumenical, multi-faith collaborative that was successful in providing over 2,800 additional rides to the polls during local and national elections.

A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media outlets and a frequent contributor to print publications, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., in Ferguson, MO has gained her both national and international recognition and audiences from the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican. She was appointed to the Ferguson Commission by Governor Jay Nixon and to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based Neighborhood Partnerships for the White House by President Barack H. Obama. Rev. Blackmon co-authored the White Privilege curriculum for the United Church of Christ and toured the nation with Rev. Dr. William Barber of Moral Mondays and Repairer of the Breach, Rev. Dr. James Forbes of The Drum Major Institute and pastor emeritus of The Riverside Church in New York, and Sister Simone Campbell of Nuns on the Bus proclaiming the need for a Moral Revival in this nation.

Rev. Blackmon is a graduate of Leadership St. Louis and currently serves on the boards of The Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, Chicago Theological Seminary, and WomanPreach! Rev. Blackmon is a co-author of the newly released White Privilege curriculum through the United Church of Christ and has received several awards and recognitions, inclusive of:

- The White House President's Volunteer Service Award
- The St. Louis American Stellar Award
- 2015 Ebony Magazine Power 100
- Deluxe Magazine Power 100
- St. Louis University - Community Leader of the Year
- 100 Black Men of St. Louis Community Leader of the Year
- The Coalition of Black Trade Unionist - Drum Major Award
- NAACP - Rosa Parks Award
- Rosa Parks Award - United Trade Unionist
- The Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis Woman in Leadership Award
- National Planned Parenthood Faith Leader Award
- The United Church of Christ - Antoinette Brown Leadership Award
- Honorary Doctorate, Eden Theological Seminary

Rev. Blackmon currently resides in both St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and was named 2017 Citizen of the Year by The St. Louis American and as one of St. Louis' 100 most influential voices as well as . Rev. Blackmon is the proud mother of three adult children: Kortni Devon; Harold II; and Tyler Wayne Blackmon.

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

It has been a very full couple of months. Somehow it seems very fitting that it is culminating in Pastor Sarah's Installation on June tenth. In the weeks leading up to her installation, she has been serving us faithfully across the spectrum of pastoral care - with visits, not just to those in need but in small groups with every one of us. She is leading us in worship, including messages for ALL ages, we are welcoming new members (including her), celebrating sacred lives at funerals, and she will be officiating at a wedding. We have hosted Family Promise and will be just finishing Pride festivities – two of our largest participatory missions – all of this before her installation! And this is in the second year of our governance restructure which we are still growing into. These activities deeply involve and impact our whole church family and I am inspired by and grateful for the devotion so many have shown in doing God's work. I hope everyone will be at the installation where we can celebrate God's call to be in covenantal relationship with each other, Pastor Sarah and the UCC – and our commitment to this new chapter. And then maybe we can also discern God's call for rest and reflection and summer vacations....Peace.

- 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!

Specific class plans are as follows:

June 3 - - Guest Speaker Author Rachel Keffe: *The Lifesaving Church: Faith Communities and Suicide Prevention.*

June 10 - Called to Be a Good Neighbor

June 17 - Biblical Hope for Justice in Public Policy

June 24 - The Parable of the Talents

Call to Service

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

Mission of the Month, Strengthen the Church

Our mission of the month for June is Strengthen the Church. This offering supports exactly what its name implies. It strengthens the church in many different ways. It goes to seed new churches that minister to people on the margins who would never be reached by a church. It helps established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants. It also funds creative ideas experimenting with new ways Christian millennials are gathering. Your support of this offering will fulfill our commitment to creating a more just world.

-Betty Schnur

Pantry Items of the Month

During June, we are collecting the following items: pudding, Jell-O mix, canned vegetables, soup and toothpaste.

Save the Date! Church Picnic – Saturday, August 25

The Board of Care & Connections asks you to please reserve your calendars for Saturday, August 25, 4-7 pm. We will be having a picnic at the church with good food and fun activities for all ages. We anticipate that it will be a great time for interactions and community building, and hope that you will plan on coming. Please contact Wendy Baldwin if you have questions.

"Good Morning", "Welcome", and "Glad to See You!"

First Congregational could use a few more Sunday morning greeters at the door to welcome one and all. The task usually begins about 10:40 and you will be finished by the end of the first hymn.

Just greet each person as they enter, have guests sign the register and make a name tag for each guest to wear. And be sure to invite them to coffee hour after worship.

A list of all summer Sundays will be posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up for one or more as you are available. For more information, please see Bob Cook. THANKS!

Our Food Donations to the Northside Pantry

Thanks for your donations! They make a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged, and are appreciated. Please keep them coming! While specific donations are suggested each month, other nutritious non-perishables are always welcome. Items from your garden are welcome too, and upon harvesting should be taken directly to the pantry.

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.

JUNE 2018 - - FULL of PRIDE!

First Congregational has several PRIDE events scheduled for the month of June. Help celebrate our extravagant welcome to LGBTQ community of Indianapolis.

Thursday, June 7 - We will be hosting members of the Indianapolis PRIDE community as we present "CASE CLOSED!" in the Mayflower Room beginning at 7p.m. This is Sean Baker's original script depicting a courtroom drama that examines the bible passages that are used to condemn members of LGBTQ community. Come learn the facts and real meanings behind these passages

Saturday, June 9 - Join us in the PRIDE parade from 9:30 a.m. – noon as we celebrate over 10 years of participating in this event. Watch the bulletin and e-pistles for specific information regarding our meeting location for the parade.

Saturday, June 9 - Noon to 6 p.m. we will host a booth at the PRIDE festival. Two - three volunteers are needed for each of the 2 hour shifts. This is a great opportunity to share the

extravagant welcome of First Congregational and talk with festival attendees about what FCC has to offer.

Sunday, June 24 at 7p.m. - We will be showing the film "The Eyes of Tammy Faye" which discusses her life as a televangelist with a conservative national audience. She was known to bring gay men on her show for interviews and insisted that guests be treated with dignity and respect. We will have a discussion following the film.

Come join us in the PRIDE celebrations.

- Bob Cook

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

IKC Annual Gathering 2018 - June 1-2, 2018 with Education Day May 31, 2018 Friedens UCC, Indianapolis

What ignites the church for you: Passionate faith? Mission? Prophetic Witness? Worship? Connect with laypeople and clergy from across the conference to share your passion for ministry and learn more about the fiery ministries in churches across the conference.

Be Ignited by:

- A concert with singer-songwriter and author Carrie Newcomer

<http://www.carrienewcomer.com>

- Worship, workshops with Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund and keynote with Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio <http://worshipdesignstudio.com/>

- Preaching by Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser and Rev. Vince Amlin

- Church vitality and research Education Day with Rev. Dr. Kristina Lizardy-Hajbi

- Opportunities for conversation that will fuel your fire for mission and outreach

In this time of tremendous change and struggle for our churches, we need our covenantal relationships more than ever — to ignite our passion for serving, to gain practical tools for ministry and foster connections that remind us we are part of something much greater than ourselves. Registration is online: <http://www.ikcucc.org/>

PROTECT OUR EARTH WHEN MAKING MAJOR PURCHASES

You Can Have Your Cake and Eat It Too

In the US, we're lucky to have access to a wide variety of major home appliances and cars. We're no longer restricted to buying from just Sears, Frigidaire, General Motors and Ford. But the wide varieties of products make our purchase decisions more difficult. We often imprudently decide by choosing a product whose name is favorable or one that we've had before, or one that's the least expensive.

Products such as stoves, refrigerators, washers, driers, furnaces and cars last us for years, so ongoing costs often are as important as the initial cost. And the model type, freezer on top vs side by side, or sedan vs SUV, may be as important as brand. Country of origin may be important to us as well.

But one major consideration often neglected is effect on the environment, both of the new item and its ongoing use. Which should we choose, a large capacity washer or a smaller one, a full-size car vs a compact, a rider vs a push mower – and the choices go on. The collective quantity and type of materials in the product do matter, and should be a consideration in our purchase. Perhaps more important are ongoing quantities of fuels needed to run the appliance; how much gasoline, natural gas, or electricity. Ongoing costs of fuels are available but obscure and not significant monthly, but become significant over the years.

Relative quantities of fuels needed for cars are known; so long term cost can be pretty well predicted. While miles per gallon (MPG) of gasoline are publicized, the amount of electricity needed to run a refrigerator isn't as obvious. If the difference in electricity needed by two competing refrigerators is multiplied by the months kept in service, the final cost (parallel to the influence on the environment) can be impressive and will get our attention.

To determine the ultimate cost of an appliance, the government designed and regularly updates information on ENERGY STAR, the nonbiased rating system that simplifies our purchase decisions. Appliances that carry the ENERGY STAR rating are superior in energy consumption to those that don't. The planet benefits by our wise decisions and so do we.

- The Green Team

Update from the Rummage Sale

Almost \$200 was raised for solar panels from the Renew - Recycle - Rummage Sale. This does not include what individuals raised for themselves. Thanks to everyone who participated and those who came and helped. We also had a lot of fun, and got rid of church stuff no longer used.

The Green Team

Environmental Justice Art Show

The Hoosier Chapter of the Sierra Club, the largest grassroots environmental movement in the United States, presents the art show **Environmental Justice in Indiana** - at the Indiana Interchurch Center Gallery. The exhibition will run Monday-Friday from May 11- June 29, 8 a.m. -5 p.m.

Over 20 artists from all over Indiana submitted art related to the issues of environmental justice in our state. Their art addresses concerns about the *challenges we face, victories we have seen, and voices we need to activate*. See details on the Indiana Sierra Club website: www.sierraclub.org/indiana/artshow.

- Rita Hummel

Announcements

July Colony Submission Deadline

Please have your submissions sent to me by **Friday, June 15**.

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 June 14 and 28. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or aa28977rwalker@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, June 28 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 the 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.

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."

Highlights:

- **Income** is down about \$11,200 versus budget entirely due to a significant shortfall in pledge income. This is, of course, a matter of some concern. Some of the shortfall is due to timing of pledge payments, and strong results in May are encouraging. We are monitoring this closely to determine if we should expect a shortfall for the full year.
- **Expenses** are about \$7,500 higher than budget. This is **not** a cause for alarm, as it is due entirely to timing of payments – a large payment in April for employee benefits that covers the next several months of benefits. This budget overrun will work itself out over the next 4-5 months. Excluding this, expenses are being well-managed and are generally on or below budget.
- **Cash** – to ensure comfortable cash balance in our bank account, in May the Trustees approved a draw of \$20,000 from the FCC Foundation's Ministers Fund. This draw was authorized by the congregation in January as a part of the approval of the 2018 budget.

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 1/1/2018 through 4/30/2018 Using 2018 Budget B

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	4/30/2018 Difference
INCOME	65,546	76,752	-11,206
M. Unrestricted Contributions	65,546	76,752	-11,206
M.01 Pledged Offerings	57,569	68,946	-11,377
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	8,248	8,605	-357
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	96,641	89,154	-7,487
A. Pastoral Leadership	50,271	39,273	-10,998
B. Worship & Faith	12,514	13,839	1,324
C. Care & Connections	317	215	-102
D. Witness & Welcome	172	288	116
E. Outreach & Service	7,041	7,217	176
F. Trustees	0	73	73
G. Administration & Operations	5,196	8,131	2,935
H. House & Grounds	19,430	18,313	-1,116
I. Miscellaneous	1,700	1,805	106
Net Difference:	-31,095	-12,402	-18,693