



**F I R S T**  
**CONGREGATIONAL**  
**UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

*We are a  
progressive,  
inclusive,  
spiritually alive  
servant community.*

## e-pistle for the week of June 14 , 2018

 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)

[Calendar](#)

### **Minister's Message**

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

What does the Lord require of us now? That's the paraphrase of Micah 6:8 that we heard from the preacher Rev. Traci Blackmon on Sunday at the Installation service. We heard words of affirmation, made mutual promises of support and experienced the prayers of our extended faith community. Over 40 clergy participated in the processional...from different denominations, traditions and creeds. I loved seeing the "rainbow" diversity of God's people joined together. What a joyful experience of God's love for us!

I want to thank the planning team: Karen Walker, Wendy Baldwin and Pat Larracey for their guidance and support. We are blessed with many gifted leaders at our church and all these gifts were celebrated through this experience. Thank you to all who participated, provided music, refreshments, helped with logistics, decorations, and attended the celebration.

Thank you to the congregation for the Installation gift of the beautiful red stole. I will always wear it with joy, remembering our glorious day together on June 10 celebrating God's calling us to partner together at First Congregational as pastor and people.

What does God require of us now? To do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. With God's help, I believe that is just what we will do.

With a joyful heart,  
Pastor Sarah

## **Worship for Sunday**

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

The theme this Sunday will be "The Parable of the Talents" (Matthew 25:14-30). Meet in the library.

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

The message from Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will be "Who Will Tend to the Harvest?"  
A Men's Chorus (made up of men from the congregation) will offer a special anthem in honor of Father's Day. Any men in the pews are welcome to come up during the service to sing an easy, well-known hymn: "This is the Day that our God has Made," Hymn 84. No rehearsal is needed - just come

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

Summer seems like a good time to kick back, try something new, and have some fun. So that's just what we've planned for New Creation this Sunday. Come join us as we have some fun with scripture as part of our worship with our beloved community. And stay tuned for what's coming in New Creation worship this summer!

### **Administrative Assistant Search and short term office expectations**

We are interviewing candidates, and hope to identify a new administrative assistant soon. In the meantime, volunteers will continue the work as we can. If the search stretches beyond a few weeks, we will reevaluate.

- We will monitor the church phone messages daily
- We will monitor the church office email each weekday – please continue to send email to the same address

- We will pick up the mail at least 3 times a week
- We will have reduced weekly printed bulletins and announcements
- We will publish epistles as we can, but might not be as regular
- We will NOT be creating a July Colony

## What's Happening at FCC

### June 24th - Guest Preacher at 11 AM Service

While Pastor Sarah is teaching a Mental Health seminar at another church next Sunday we will have a special guest preacher. Nathan Wilson is an ordained Disciples minister currently serving as director of communications at Christian Theological Seminary and coordinator of the Faith & Values section of The Indianapolis Star.

### June 24th - Movie Night at 7:00 PM

Join us for "Eyes of Tammy Faye" - movie and discussion of the life and work of Tammy Faye Bakker in the Mayflower Room.

### In the News!

Tuesday's Indianapolis Star had a front page article championing the expanded work of Meals on Wheels for people with HIV or AIDS and featuring their project manager - Nick Fennig! Much deserved publicity for very important work!

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/2018/06/12/meals-wheels-expands-service-people-hiv-aids/678071002/>

### FCC Solar Project!!!

The First Congregational Green Team is pleased to announce the start of a fund drive to install solar panels. Solar power is clean, renewable and affordable. We've calculated that solar panels would pay back our initial investment at an annual rate of roughly 8% by reducing our church's electrical bills (based on current power consumption). It's not often that doing the right thing for the planet aligns so neatly with doing the right thing for our wallets, so it makes abundant sense for us to take this step.

We're planning to raise \$60,000 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. To give this effort a boost, Rich Gibson has pledged to match all contributions, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000. Our tenant, the Meridian Hills Cooperative Preschool and Kindergarten, is collecting pennies from all the children to pitch into this effort.

It's easy to contribute: Simply write "solar panels" on a check you slip into the collection basket. If you'd rather pledge, or even donate shares of stock or mutual funds, we can accommodate that, too. Please contact Rich Gibson, [hoot eagle@me.com](mailto:hoot eagle@me.com), 770-548-5217 (cell) or 317-735-2895 (home) for details. Thanks!

### **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.

### **Pantry Items of the Month**

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

### **Pastoral Care**

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

### **This Week at First Congregational**

<b>Sunday, June 17</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Class – Parable of the talents
<b>Sunday, June 17</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service
<b>Sunday, June 17</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Wednesday, June 20</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Witness & Welcome Meeting
<b>Wednesday, June 20</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation Planning
<b>Sunday, June 24</b>	<b>9:45 a.m.</b>	Adult Class - Biblical Hope for Justice in Public Policy.
<b>Sunday, June 24</b>	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Traditional Service – guest preacher Nathan Wilson
<b>Sunday, June 24</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	New Creation
<b>Sunday, June 24</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	Movie Night - Eyes of Tammy Faye