
 [FirstCongregationalUCCIndy](#)

 [Forward](#)



## e-pistle for the week of May 31, 2018

### **Minister's Message**

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

Rachael Keefe will be a guest worship and discussion leader at FCC this Sunday, including New Creation. In addition to Ms. Keefe's message around mental health concerns, New Creation will also offer a healing service. Anyone who has been touched by suicide or other mental health issues should find this service informative, uplifting, and healing. All are welcome.

This is a full season of new beginnings in our life together! I appreciate the ways our church comes together to do ministry, stepping up and in when there is need for action and leadership. This church is definitely a "can do" congregation. When I began in March, I was happy to learn that our office administrator Cheryl Dillenback stepped up and into the role in the office during a time of transition. Cheryl has provided the church with necessary and important leadership and service for which we are grateful. I want to share with you that Cheryl has been invited to a new opportunity to expand her work at the public library and June 6 will be her last day as office administrator. While I am sad to lose Cheryl in this role in the church office, I am happy that she is able to follow her passion. Please join me in thanking Cheryl for her "can do" attitude and hard work on behalf of the church and congratulating her on this new opportunity. Please add your signature to a thank you card that will be available at church this Sunday.

When Cheryl shared this news with me, I contacted our moderator and we are working with our personnel committee on a transition plan. We will share with you as soon as information detailing the transition is ready to share. We thank you in advance for your patience as our church office experiences this staff transition. Please feel free to contact our moderator Karen Walker or myself with any questions. We ask for your prayers that God would continue to provide the church with a “can do” spirit in this time of change and transition.

I am looking forward to a wonderful next week with you all. This Sunday’s Mental Health focus will be educational and important as we learn from Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe about how the church can be lifesaving, helping to prevent suicide. Please join us for her afternoon workshop at 1pm. For our New Creation service at 5:30pm, we will honor and remember those who have died by suicide. You are invited to bring a memento as a symbol to be shared on the altar as we take time to reflect on the ways our lives have been touched by suicide.

This weekend is also the Indiana Kentucky UCC Conference Annual Gathering, where Dr. Keefe and I will be co-leading a workshop on Friday about how congregations can be WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged) for mental health. There is still time for you to sign up to attend, please see the information further down in the Epistle.

I am grateful to this church family for the ways in which we come together to support one another. I appreciate all the ways you have supported me in my first three months serving with you all. Earlier this week we held our final small group gathering “Get to know Pastor Sarah” and it was wonderful. I look forward to more opportunities in the future for us to gather and enjoy fellowship together.

Thankful for God’s Presence,  
Pastor Sarah

### **Guest Minister on Mental Health Sunday!**

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. Please note that snacks will be provided so people can stay after church for the workshop!

### **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.**

Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe will be the guest speaker. Meet in the library.

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

The message from Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe will be "Embodying Christ; Embodying Love."

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

Rachael Keefe will be a guest worship and discussion leader at FCC this Sunday, including New Creation. In addition to Ms. Keefe's message around mental health concerns, New Creation will also offer a healing service. Anyone who has been touched by suicide or other mental health issues should find this service informative, uplifting, and healing. All are welcome.

## **What's Happening at FCC**

### **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.

### **May 31-June 2: Ignite Church Event**

Don't Miss a Beat!

Don't be sad if you cannot join the 200+ participants at the Igniting Church Annual Gathering! You will have many opportunities to experience plenary sessions, worship services and more through social media:

LIVESTEAMING key elements of our plenary sessions, posting photos of all the action

and video reflections from our participants on **Facebook**. Like our **page** to make sure you don't miss a post!

LIVE TWEETING the best quotes, photos and videos from our gathering. Just use the #IgnitingChurch2018 hashtag to search for what everyone's talking about whether you are in the room or far away. You can also follow **@ikcucc**.

Not sure how to use a #hashtag? No problem. Just **Read This**.

### **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**. Please see the June Colony for all the PRIDE activities during the month.

### **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**.