



### **Pastor's Reflections**

Dear First Congregational Church Family,

I've enjoyed hearing from many of you stories about your "sacred pauses," an intentional time of doing less so that you can be more present. In one of my sermons this summer I encouraged all of us into this spiritual practice of sacred pause. After my sermon, one person helpfully pointed out to me that sometimes a sacred pause turns into something more, perhaps a new understanding or awareness that some activities are good to let go of and to stop doing. I appreciate this feedback that yes indeed, all too often we really do too much. Perhaps there are some things that are ready to be stopped. It takes courage to stop an activity that we routinely do out of habit or out of expectation.

One thing that I am going to try to stop doing is working on my Sabbath days of rest. Sometimes it cannot be helped, for example an emergency hospital visit or funeral. Yet, for many pastors it is a slippery slope. For example, because of the Colony deadline, I am writing this note on my Sabbath day, on a Monday. For several Saturdays in a row, also a Sabbath day for me, I am also working because...well because of an especially busy time in the church of change, transitions and celebrations. All of this to share that we all probably have things we need to do less of or stop doing. I am going to try to honor the Sabbath by protecting that time to nourish relationships with my family, and to do whatever brings joy to my spirit, health to my body, and peace to my mind.

Now just when you think September is the time when things get busy, my message to you (and myself) is different. Let's try to get un-busy. Instead of starting up everything, let's pray about what God is inviting us to stop doing. What is God asking us to let go of? It could be that as we enter the autumn months, we really could benefit being more like the trees around us. Like the trees letting go of their leaves, in order to flow in the cycles and seasons of life, what would happen if we did the same?

With courage to let go,  
Pastor Sarah  
(386) 478-9012 or [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

### **Moderator's Reflections**

*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*

I have taken Pastor Sarah's recommendation for a 'sacred pause' to heart - and with all our family travel this month, have nothing prepared for the colony this month. I hope everyone has been enjoying the summer and really look forward to sharing food and fellowship at the picnic on September 8th!

Karen Walker  
317-319-8950 or [Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com)

## Sunday Adult Class

Sept 2 – No class due to holiday weekend.

Sept 9 – Worth Hartman will lead discussion on the article/statement "Reclaiming Jesus" (copies available in the Narthex).

Sept 16 – Rev. Michael Neuroth will lead discussion on Just Peace Church

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

## New Creation Worship

"Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good...." Most of us are familiar with these words from the first verses in the first chapter of the first book in the Holy Bible. We're also familiar with the waning of daylight as fall progresses. But even as daylight shortens we can see in the autumn light reflecting on brilliantly colored leaves just how good God saw the light to be. Through September and into October New Creation worship will be centered on the radiance of God's light in our lives. Light that heals, light that nurtures, light hidden in shadow, light leading to peace are just some of what we'll explore and experience throughout this series. We also hope to be celebrating the installation of solar panels at FCC during this time – another point of our focus on light. All are invited to join us in worship, praise, and gratitude for this wondrous first element in God's Creation.

Also, any thoughts and ideas to contribute to our worship design for this series are welcome. Feel free to share your thoughts with any member of the New Creation Team – Sean Baker, Nancy Dickinson, Wendy Harrison, Nathan Howard, Ann Leatherman, Pastor Sarah Lund, or Alice Rutherford.

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.

## Call to Service

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

## September Mission of the Month – UCC Mental Health Network.

Founded in 1992, the network works to reduce stigma and promote the inclusion of people with mental illnesses/brain disorders and their families in the life, leadership and work of congregations. It envisions a future in which:

- People with mental illnesses feel welcomed, supported, valued and included seamlessly in the life, leadership and work of their congregations.
- UCC congregations have eliminated stigma, and their members offer true compassion and support for people with mental illnesses and their families.
- UCC churches are collaborating with other faith communities to widen their welcome to people with mental illnesses.

The values on which the Mental Health Network is based:

- Jesus has shown us the way to embrace those who are marginalized by society and advocate with and for them.
- Every person has value and worth and deserves love, dignity and respect.
- All people, regardless of mental health or disability status, have something to contribute to the life, leadership and work of their congregations.
- Community matters. A sense of belonging is important to us all, whether we face mental health challenges ourselves or not.
- True compassion in ministry and relationships is based on equality.

As First Congregational explores becoming a W.I.S.E. Church (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, Engaged), this is an opportune time to support the UCC Mental Health Network, which provides resources to congregations to reach those goals and to do so by embodying the love of Jesus in the process. During the month of September your loose dollar bills in the

offering plate or larger amounts in the Mission Offering envelopes marked "Mental Health Network" or checks with that notation will go to support its work. Thank you.

### **Underneath It All Follow-Up**

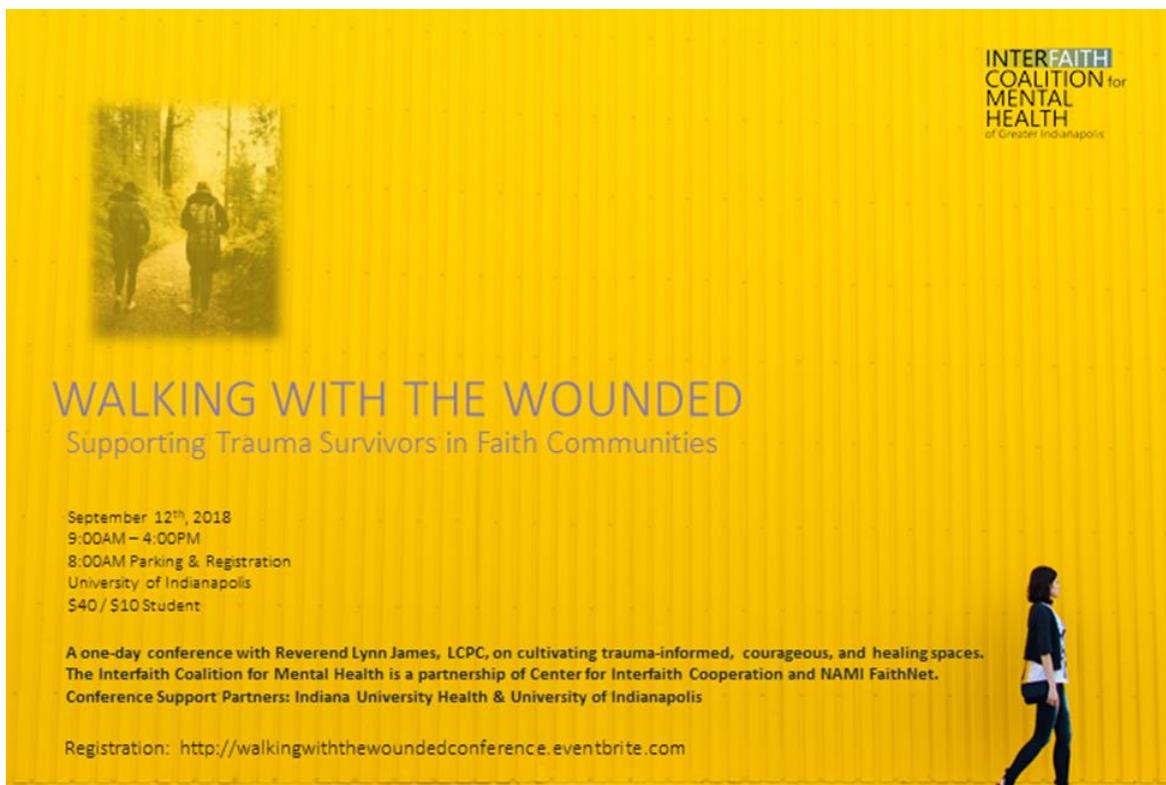
Your kind donations of money, underwear, and uniform shirts and pants gave 24 children a new uniform with which to start the new school year. Your generosity and commitment to this ministry is amazing! Thanks again from Family Promise, the families, and Sandy Wood.

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

During September, we are collecting the following items: soup, beans and rice, macaroni and cheese, paper towels and body wash. - Betty Schnur

### **Disabilities and Mental Health Justice**

Pastor Sarah serves the wider church and is on the national staff of the UCC as the Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. This is a part-time position that Pastor Sarah was called to last spring. Most of the ministry includes being in conversation with and offering support to lay leaders, pastors, and Conference Ministers in the UCC on topics related to disabilities and mental health ministry. This work also includes supporting the UCC Disabilities Ministries Board and the UCC Mental Health Network Board. This fall, Pastor Sarah will give the keynote at the WISE (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) for mental health training in Andover, MA (click here to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wise-congregations-for-mental-health-conference-september-29-2018-registration-48396751988>) and in November she will give the sermon at the closing worship and lead communion for the Widening the Welcome Conference in Niagara Falls, New York (click here to register: <http://www.moredomainsforless.com/wideningthewelcome/index.htm>). First Congregational is a special partner in this ministry with Pastor Sarah as she serves the wider church while being firmly rooted in the faith, hope and love of First Congregational UCC. What a blessing to the United Church of Christ that we can partner in this important ministry together. To learn more about this ministry, please contact Pastor Sarah.



### **Crop Walk**

Looking for a WALK to help stop hunger locally and around the world and get your steps in? Outreach and Service Board has an opportunity for you! Come one, come all to help stop hunger by walking and/or donating to CROP WALK on Sunday October 21, 2018. You can register and/or donate at [www.crophunger/walk.org/indianapolisin/FCindy](http://www.crophunger/walk.org/indianapolisin/FCindy)

More details will be announced later. If you have any questions, please email me at [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com) or call 317-446-2853. - Sally Coombs, Outreach and Service Board

## **Donations to the Northside Food Pantry**

First Congregational's food donation in July was again below its average. That's not surprising since the summer months often have decreased participation in various activities. However since the need for food doesn't take a holiday, we'd like to get our contributions back up. Please contribute if you can, and "Thanks" to all who participate. Disadvantaged northside residents need and appreciate our support.

- The Board of Outreach and Service

## **Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly**

Pastor Sarah shared with us that Micah 6:8 is a powerful verse of scripture that has shaped her ministry from her ordination in 2002 to her installation as our senior pastor in 2018. In honor of God's faithfulness in calling Pastor Sarah to journey with us and God calling us to journey with Pastor Sarah, she is going to lead the congregation on a spiritual pilgrimage with this scripture verse Micah 6:8, exploring in-depth between September and Easter these transformative themes of: Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly. These themes will be the lens for viewing the lectionary scripture readings and will inspire sermons at the Traditional worship service as we journey together now through Easter, walking united in Christ and growing together in God's love.

## **JUST PEACE Sunday Celebration September 16 with Guest Rev. Michael Neuroth**

The United Church of Christ is a JUST PEACE denomination and First Congregational is learning more about what it means to become a JUST PEACE church. Sunday, September 16 is JUST PEACE Sunday in the UCC and to celebrate we will host Rev. Michael Neuroth for a time of education, inspiration and empowerment. Rev. Neuroth will be with us leading Adult Education at 9:45am, preach at the 11am Traditional Service and lead a BUZZ conversation about the Justice Ministry of the UCC, nationally and globally, as well as how First Congregational can become a JUST PEACE church. The BUZZ and pitch in luncheon will be following the Traditional Service. Read more about Rev. Neuroth here:

Michael is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and serves as the Policy Advocate for International Issues in the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries' office in Washington DC. Prior to joining the staff of the UCC, Michael worked with various ecumenical and interfaith organizations including the World Council of Churches, Church World Service, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, and the Parliament of the World's Religions. His current work on international justice focuses on coordinating the UCC's work and witness as a Just Peace church and related international peace, human rights, and economic justice issues reflected in UCC policy. He also currently serves as the co-chair for the board of Jubilee USA. Michael holds master's degrees in divinity, theology, and social work from Princeton Seminary and Rutgers University. He currently resides in Washington D.C. with his wife, Amber, and their two boys.

# **Wisdom cries out!**

Just Peace Sunday | September 16, 2018



The Thirtieth General Synod called on the congregations of the United Church of Christ to mark the Sunday preceding September 21 (which the United Nation recognizes as the "International Day of Prayer for Peace") as Just Peace Sunday.

Observe Just Peace Sunday on September 16, 2018: Wisdom Cries Out!

Just Peace is not a destination, but a path requiring awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves, our families, our communities, our institutions, and our world. This path requires non-violence when possible and even when impossible to engage in love and restraint. Just Peace envisions a renewed, vibrant, diverse, and sustainable world free of violence.

Just Peace is grounded in God's activity in creation; God's covenant patience and provision in the wilderness; in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ; in the presence of the Holy Spirit; and in the community of reconciliation. Shalom is the vision that pulls all creation toward a time when weapons are made into ploughs and all creatures lie down together without fear; where all have their own vine, fig tree, and dwell secure from want. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: Peace is possible!

### **Pastoral Transition Team**

As Pastor Sarah continues to serve the congregation in her first six months, the church has a Transition Team to offer guidance, support and to ensure open and transparent communication between the pastor and the congregation. The members of this team are Randy Walker, Liana Campos, Jim Rutherford and Nancy Dickinson. Please feel free to be in touch with the Transition Team with any feedback, concerns, or comments that you wish to be addressed during this important time of transition and new beginnings.

### **Church Social Media/Website/Design Team Update**

We are blessed by a talented team of volunteers who help with church social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter), Website and design. Team members include Sean Baker, Angela Edwards, Josh Cody, and Pastor Sarah. Pastor Sarah leads this team and is the primary contact for members wishing to share church information on social media and the website. Thank you for helping to spread the good news about the mission and ministry of the church through the website and social media. These are popular platforms for people to first learn about our church and where most of our visitors find information about us. We want to hear from you, so please contact Pastor Sarah with your social media and website updates.

### **The First Congregational Church Foundation**

The Foundation Board held its quarterly meeting in July and held two planning meetings as well. Members reviewed the Foundation's structure and operations, finding them to be consistent with the Congregation's historical wishes but in need of minor tweaking. Plans were made for the needed "tweaks" and to encourage legacy giving by members of the congregation. We are all encouraged to remember the church in our wills in order to help to assure its long-term financial strength. Individual current gifts to the Foundation are valuable as well.

Questions? Feel free to contact Board members, Bill Gillette, Judy Fletcher, Randy Walker and Pastor Sarah.

### **Chautauqua Grant**

Have you seen the bulletin board or previous announcements about the Chautauqua Grant? If you're eligible, please fill out an application and give it to Shannon. We're accepting applications through September 30<sup>th</sup>!

Please contact Rich Gibson, Nancy Dickinson, Worth Hartman, Chuck Kiphart, or Pastor Sarah if you have any questions.

## **Green Team Tip: Plant a Tree**

The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The next best time is now. We've actually learned quite a bit about tree planting in the past twenty to thirty years.

Choose the right tree for the right place and find the root flare. The rest is simple. The root flare is where the trunk tissue turns into root tissue. You can see this well on old naturally occurring trees. The trunk "flares out" at the base where it goes into the ground. If the tree looks like a telephone pole going into the ground, it will not live to its full potential. Before digging a hole, find the root flare. It may be several inches below the top of the ball or pot, dig down to it and clear all that soil on top away. Dig the hole just so the root flare is at or a little above ground level. Place the tree in the hole and tease the roots on the side of the ball. Roots need to come away from the trunk like the spokes of a wheel. We don't want circling roots - anything growing back towards the trunk or around in circles should be removed. Make sure the tree is vertical in the hole and back fill, gently compressing the soil as you go, making sure the trunk stays vertical. I like to slice through the backfill soil with the shovel or spade rather than stomp on it, which helps to settle it in. The backfill goes in the hole, not on top of the ball. You spent time removing it from the top, don't put it back. Mulch however, can go on top in a two to three inch layer, staying away from the trunk. Create a saucer of mulch to hold water. To water your new tree, fill the saucer with water slowly and deeply. It will need more water than you expect, a couple times a week for the first growing season, once a week the next couple years. Three 5-gallon buckets may be enough each time that first year, two buckets the next few years.

I highly recommend volunteering at a Keep Indianapolis Beautiful tree planting. They do an excellent job of training while increasing the tree canopy of Indianapolis. It's fun too!

- Katie Booth, ISA Certified Arborist, on behalf of the Green Team

## **Solar Panel Funding Campaign Update**

As of August 17, the Green Team had collected over \$40,000 toward its \$60,000 goal! Adding to this are funds on their way (pledged and other) of about \$12,400, for a grand total of about \$52,000. We're almost there. If you haven't given yet, there's still time. Please write a check or make a pledge today. Rich Gibson will be happy to answer any questions.

## **Church Picnic & Sing-along on Saturday, Sep 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-7 pm**

Kick off the fall at FCC with fun, faith, food, friends, and even a singalong! Weather-permitting, we will be outdoors. In preparation, please think of a song that you would like us to sing together. The picnic is a pitch-in, so indicate your song and food ideas on the sign-up sheets in the Narthex, or contact Care & Connection Chair, Wendy Baldwin.

## **Circle IV Book Discussion**

Circle IV will kick off their book discussion with *The Name of God is Mercy* by Pope Francis at our September meeting. We will be discussing the first half of this short book (through page 73). We will be hosted by Marion Harcourt and will meet at Marquette Manor on Tuesday, September 18th at 1:30. Although typically attended by the women of the church, all are invited. Please RSVP to Marion if you are able to attend by September 14th, ([marion.harcourt@icloud.com](mailto:marion.harcourt@icloud.com), 317-251-4436).

## **One Month A Year Is Not Enough!**

Some of us want to learn about, reflect on, and honor our Black brothers and sisters a lot more often than just during February, Black History Month. A member of the congregation has provided us with a subscription to *The Indianapolis Recorder*, one of the nation's oldest African-American newspapers- running for 120 years. This intriguing newspaper is placed on

the coffee table in the parlor so that it can be read each week by members wanting to be updated about local, state, and national African-American issues.

## The Truth About Scorpions

During FCC's July 8<sup>th</sup> 11 AM worship service, the topic of scorpions came up repeatedly: First, during her "Message for All Ages," Pastor Sarah proclaimed that scorpions were on Noah's ark. Perhaps more than one of us visualized a couple of giraffes, tigers, Grizzlies, and kangaroos keeping their distance from the arachnids until flood waters receded and the scorpions slowly led the animals, two by two, out of the ark.

Second, July 8's worship leader Wendy Baldwin read Ezekiel 2:1-7, which included God's words to the prophet Ezekiel: "you live among scorpions" (Ezekiel 2:6 NRSV).

Next, Pastor Sarah pointed out many intriguing facts, such as scorpions are on every continent except Antarctica. Moreover, she even referred to FCC's possible expansion to an FCC branch in Antarctica.

Repeatedly my mind zoomed to April 2000 when 16 of us were on FCC's first mission trip to Nicaragua, where, according to *Moon.com*, "scorpions (*alacrán*) are common [...] especially in dark corners, beaches, and piles of wood." Fortunately, the same article reveals that "Nicaraguan scorpions look nasty—black and big—but their sting is no more harmful than that of a bee [...]." (Dobrzensky, Amber, "Things That Bite and Sting in Nicaragua," *Moon.com*, February 5, 2013, <https://moon.com/2013/02/things-that-bite-and-sting-in-nicaragua/>).

Maybe that factoid makes some readers, more than others, feel relieved. Stay tuned for a future Colony article with more about scorpions during FCC's first mission trip to Nicaragua in 2000.

- susanna-judith rae

## New Indiana-Kentucky Conference (IKC) Website

The Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the UCC supports the affiliated associations and congregations within the geographical borders of Indiana and Kentucky in bringing justice and love to all.

Their new website is up and running. Check it out at [www.ikcucc.org](http://www.ikcucc.org), and share your news, prayer requests, resources, etc.

## Save the Date: Faith in Action Project



Faith & Action Project  
Fall Event with NYT Best-selling Author  
**Michelle Alexander**

The New Jim Crow

Register Here Free!

# Poverty: Examining Roots, Working Toward Solutions

## Save The Date: Tuesday, October 23, 7 PM, Clowes Memorial Hall

The Faith & Action Project kicks off its third year with **Michelle Alexander**, author of the bestseller, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Plan to join us for a discussion of poverty in Indianapolis, its root causes and our hope for the future.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/poverty-examining-roots-working-toward-solutions-tickets-48658471799>

### Meridian Hills Cooperative School

As we partner together with Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School and Kindergarten, a new part of our monthly newsletter will be sharing some of their news with you.

#### **Some Things Old Are New Again**

As we begin our 58<sup>th</sup> year of teaching children and parents at MHCNS&K, this recently republished 1993 article in the August 2018 *Cooperatively Speaking* newsletter for PCPI (Parent Cooperative Preschools International) lists the reasons why I have long maintained a core belief in cooperative preschools.

**Lest you turn away from the “old” 1993 advice, (ha!), please read on.**

I know we sometimes miss these marks because after all we are human, but we at MH strive to incorporate and live what we espouse:

#### **Everyone is Included**

*It's never assumed that someone won't be interested, always extend the invitation to all.*

#### **Honesty Prevails**

*Feelings, concerns, and motivations are discussed openly.*

#### **Participation is Universal**

*People are encouraged to contribute in whatever way they can: there are guidelines but also some flexibility. Members are comfortable enough to participate beyond their responsibilities. There are MANY ways to engage within the MH community, some of those are required (ex. classroom participation, group meetings, committee work, workdays), but others are social and educational in nature, (ex. general playdates, parent education nights). Plus there will be many fundraising opportunities (ex. auction, t-shirts, annual fund, Read-a-Thon, profit-sharing), but it is expected that you participate as you are comfortable.*

#### **Understanding is Encouraged**

*Everyone tries to focus on issues, not personalities; to look at the other side; to be prepared to consider others' priorities and feelings. Another way to look at this is that we strive to be non-judgmental in our quest to make all children and parents learn and grow with teachable moments.*

#### **Appreciation is Obvious**

*Group members, board members and staff recognizes each other's contributions, and there is tolerance for mistakes and other methods. I have frequently advised that in a board leadership position often as a first time volunteer, you may fall but you will “fall soft” because helping hands will be there to reach out and lift you up.*

#### **Support is the Norm**

*Once a decision is democratically made, regardless of initial disagreement, it is supported. There is support for each other, the board, and the teachers and his/her program goals. Definitely more absent than present these days in our political climate, but is this not*

one of the foundations of democracy? We encourage open discussion and while we don't always agree, we respectfully discuss, vote, and work with the majority.

### **Resolution is Key**

*Conflicts are dealt with. There is a problem solving process.* You will notice in this coming school year a re-emphasis on daily, end-of-class conferences with the teacher and that day's participating parents. Five minutes of what our family dinner conversation used to call "pits and cherries" will help your understanding and growth in conflict management within the classroom and on the playground. My goal is to lessen the unhelpful "parking lot chatter."

### **Communication is Effective**

*Opportunities abound for communication. Productive meetings, social occasions, newsletter, bulletin boards, and opportunities for two-way communication. Links and friendships have opportunities to form.* I would also add constant! You will hear weekly from your teachers and regularly from board leadership and committee chairs on Rallyhood. Pictures that will make you smile will be posted in abundance. You will also hear from me in a monthly blog that will appear in Rallyhood, on Facebook and be posted on the MH website.

### **Enjoyment is Crucial**

*There is time, motivation, and opportunity for enjoyment and the establishment of good member relations.* My 3 point philosophy for volunteers is: 1) your volunteer time is valuable, so we will start and end meetings on time; 2) you will learn new skills; and 3) you will enjoy your time with us. If these don't materialize for you, you may choose one of the many other preschools in Indianapolis, but I would rather keep you here learning, growing and sharing the joy of our little school.

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year at Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten!

Best in parenting,  
Ginny Hacker, Director

## **Announcements**

### **October Colony Submission Deadline**

Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### **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 September 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977walker@gmail.com](mailto: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, September 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. For any questions or for information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or at [carolsuech@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolsuech@sbcglobal.net).

### **Family Promise Week**

Our week of hosting families currently experiencing homelessness begins September 16. Please join us in this participatory ministry. It takes a village to care for the children and their adults. We have all kinds of opportunities to volunteer. Contact Katie Booth or Ann Leatherman, we'd love to chat.

### **Songs at 7171!**

Jazz, Latin, pop, classical, rhythm & blues – you name it and our own Sean Baker and Julie Houston can play and sing it. So they, along with a string bassist, will be presenting an evening of their professional repertoire at a concert in our sanctuary on Saturday,

September 29, at 7:00 PM. This concert will benefit our Special Music Fund, so please plan to be generous. The Special Music Fund allows us to bring high-quality music presentations to FCC on a regular basis, for both Sunday worship and special occasions.

### Save The Date

Family Promise Fall Clothing Drive is October 5-21. More info will be in the October Colony.

## Financial Update

*When We Give, We Reach Out With Helping Hands*

Here are the financial results through July 31, 2018.

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	7/31/2018 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>145,905</b>	<b>126,842</b>	<b>19,063</b>
M. Unrestricted Contributions	145,905	126,842	19,063
M.01 Pledged Offerings	114,164	111,591	2,573
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	11,420	14,378	-2,958
M.02.a Plate_Usher Counted	1,570	1,750	-180
M.02.b Contributions	8,995	12,045	-3,050
M.02.c Miscellaneous	855	583	272
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-737	-737	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	0	0
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	18,920	0	18,920
M.06. Transfer from Youth Fund	1,610	1,610	0
M.07 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	528	0	528
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>149,024</b>	<b>154,151</b>	<b>5,127</b>
A. Pastoral Leadership	71,912	70,760	-1,152
B. Worship & Faith	21,023	22,719	1,696
C. Care & Connections	429	340	-89
D. Witness & Welcome	339	504	165
E. Outreach & Service	12,041	12,667	626
F. Trustees	57	158	101
G. Administration & Operations	8,927	14,765	5,838
H. House & Grounds	31,148	28,578	-2,570
I. Miscellaneous	3,147	3,660	513
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>-3,119</b>	<b>-27,309</b>	<b>24,190</b>

### Highlights:

For the first six months, expenses exceeded unrestricted income by \$3,100. This deficit is actually smaller than what we projected in the budget, as explained below.

- **Unrestricted income of \$145,900** is \$19,000 better than budget. This is entirely due to timing - an earlier-than-planned draw of \$18,900 from the Minister Fund at the FCC Foundation. Excluding this, income is running essentially right on budget.
- **Expenses of \$149,000** are \$5,100 below budget, primarily due to major savings in Administration and Operations.

**Adding it all up**, we projected a budget deficit of \$27,000 through July; our actual deficit, excluding the timing benefit of the early Foundation draw, is \$22,000. The 2018 budget calls for a \$56,000 deficit, to be closed by draws from the FCC Foundation. If we can continue to meet or beat our income targets and manage expenses well, we should be able to balance our budget with a smaller Foundation draw, which will place FCC on a firmer foundation for the future.

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

Jim Lootens, Treasurer  
lootens.jb@gmail.com