



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE PILGRIM COLONY

October 2018

### Pastor's Reflections

One of the greatest joys of ministry is discovering where our deepest joys connect to the world's greatest needs. This concept comes from Frederick Buechner who wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Ever since I heard this, I have allowed this wisdom to guide me over the years as I continue to discern my calling in ministry. I invite our congregation to be led by this idea that the place God is calling First Congregational is the place where our deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.

As we are led by God, we are invited to consider what brings us gladness as the body of Christ. When we focus on what brings us gladness, then we are connected to a life-giving stream of energy. Led by our gladness, we see where the world's deep need connect to what brings us joy. That is the sweet spot of ministry, for individuals and for a congregation.

In this season of new beginnings, of change and transformation, let us discern together:

1. What brings us deep gladness?
2. What is the world's deepest hunger?
3. Where do our deep gladness and the world's deepest hunger meet?

To be on this journey of faith with you brings me great joy. I continue to pray with thanksgiving that God guide us as we seek to be the beloved community together.

With gladness,  
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*

We find ourselves continuing in the midst of change, even as we hope things 'settle down'. My mother used to tell me often - if only things would settle down a little, I could get caught up, get my bearings, etc.

AMP is this month! That stands for Annual Ministry Planning – and Party! It will be on Saturday, October 20, from 9:30-12:30. This is a time to celebrate our ministries and look forward to next year. Our statement of mission is not quite 2 years old – and this is our opportunity to all have a voice and share input and feedback into setting our priorities for 2019.

While we have taken great strides, we are still finding our way – not only is our constitution less than 2 years old, but I realize ALL of our salaried staff have been in their position for less than 2

years. Our new council and board structure is also in its second year. The council and boards have done some work on strategic direction and priorities, and in this congregational church we want all voices included. We will take time to recognize the steps we have taken and also to discern where those steps might lead us next year.

Part of that discussion that day will be focused on Family Promise – we support that ministry in many ways, one of which is hosting for 2 weeks every year. Reducing homelessness and its impacts is a passionate calling for many members, and hosting at the church is also a serious stretch of our resources. We will be talking about how we best meet that challenge – whether it be continuing hosting or other opportunities.

Our starting point for discussions of our future is always our statement of mission – First Congregational UCC is called by Jesus to be a transforming presence for God in the world. By this we mean that:

- propelled by God's grace, we strive to welcome and love everyone;
- seeking to hear God's voice in today's world, we worship, learn, and grow in faith individually and as a community;
- responding to God's call for compassion, justice, and care of the earth, we equip and empower each other to make a difference in our lives and in the world.

There is a lot to consider in this statement and where God is sending us – where do you feel that call for our church for 2019?

Karen Walker  
317-319-8950 or Karen.e.d.walker@gmail.com

### **Sunday Adult Class**

Join us as we discuss "Reclaiming Jesus: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis."

October 7 – Civil Discourse and Followers of Jesus

October 14 – Jesus is Lord: A Confession of Faith in a Time of Crisis

October 21 – Made in God's Image and Likeness

October 28 – We are One Body

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

### **New Creation Worship**

Through most of October we're continuing our exploration of God's Radiant Light and its potential to rain down peace and comfort on nations, our neighbors, and ourselves. At the end of the month we'll transition into considering "What shall we bring?" as we explore several different angles of stewardship through November. 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"*

### **October Mission of the Month – Neighbors in Need (NIN)**

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering. Information on specific NIN projects can be found online at: [http://www.ucc.org/nin\\_stories](http://www.ucc.org/nin_stories)

## Pantry Items of the Month

During October, we are collecting the following items: Bread, baking mixes, canned vegetables, soup and deodorant.

- Betty Schnur

## Family Promise Fall Clothing Drive - October 5-21

Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis will hold a clothing drive to collect gently used clothing in all sizes for children and adults from Indianapolis area congregations. **Please do not include shoes or household items.**

Here's how it works:

- Members collect gently used clothing and place them in white plastic kitchen trash bags. You can use the white trash bags supplied in the narthex or cloakroom.
- Members bring bags of clothing to church during the weeks of Friday, October 5 through Sunday, October 21 and deposit in large white laundry hampers in the narthex.
- During the week of Monday, October 22 through Saturday, October 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., volunteers from Outreach and Service deliver all collected clothing bags to the Family Promise Day Center at 1850 N. Arsenal Ave.
- Goodwill Industries will pick up the bags of donated clothing from the Day Center. Based on the number of bags received, clothing vouchers are donated to Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis for guests to use in selecting clothing from a Goodwill Store.

Thank you for your continued support of this semi-annual clothing drive and your support of Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis.

## Crop Walk

Church World Service presents the CROP WALK on Sunday October 21st. The WALK is a beautiful walk around the Butler University campus and surrounding neighborhood. Will you walk to help stop hunger locally and worldwide? Will you donate and/or sponsor a walker? What a great way to get your steps in and help those in need. Look for the CROP WALK table in the narthex for more information or email Sally Coombs at [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com). You can register and/or donate at [www.crophunger/walk.org/indianapolisin/FCindy](http://www.crophunger/walk.org/indianapolisin/FCindy).

## Donations to the Northside Food Pantry

Our August food donations to the Northside Food Pantry were up sharply from July. First Congregational's members donated 82 pounds of food and 11 pounds of household supplies. Good going! These items will be put to good use by our less fortunate neighbors and are greatly appreciated. As of September 15, the food baskets in the narthex are filling up nicely, so September promises to be a good month as well.

- The Board of Outreach and Service

## Do Justice, Love Mercy and Walk Humbly Theme for 2018-2019

As we continue to explore this invitation by Micah 6:8, we began in September to dig deeper into what it means to "do justice." We have looked at this calling to be a just peace church and explored the Bible's definition of justice. We have heard from the Just Peace team what it means to be a just peace church and how we can be more intentional about just peacemaking as part of our faith journey. We have also learned from the Bible that doing justice leads to joy. Most of all, doing justice is about following God's call to live generously towards others. Doing justice is possible when we give all that we have to God. After a brief interlude exploring the theme of "God Calling Us" for October 21—November 25, we will pick up again in the Advent and continue to explore Micah 6:8 together with the Advent theme of "Love Mercy." This theme will guide our worship experience as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the child of God who shows us how to love mercy. Reflecting on how we can be people who love mercy will lead us to a time of spiritual reflection and growth.

## UCC Disabilities and Mental Health Justice Ministry for October

Pastor Sarah continues to serve the wider church on the national staff as the UCC's Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. In the month of October, Pastor Sarah will be preaching in celebration of Disabilities Awareness month at the UCC's national headquarters in Cleveland at the Amistad Chapel on Wednesday, October 3 at 12:15pm. Pastor Sarah will be giving a keynote lecture for World Mental Health Day at Naples UCC in Naples, FL, on Wednesday, October 9. You can join Pastor Sarah for local speaking events when she speaks at the Inter-Church Center at a luncheon on Wednesday, October 17 and when she speaks at St. Luke's UMC at their dinner program at 6pm on Wednesday, October 24. Thank you to First Congregational for supporting this disabilities and mental health ministry for the wider church. Together we are offering hope and healing to people on the margins. Please contact Pastor Sarah with any questions at [pastorsarah@fcindy.org](mailto:pastorsarah@fcindy.org)

### Join Pastor Sarah for Chapel and lunch at Christian Theological Seminary October 24 at 11:30am



**Rev. Dr. Emilie Townes**, Dean of Vanderbilt Divinity School and leading womanist theologian and ethicist is the guest preacher at CTS Chapel. Join Pastor Sarah for worship at CTS Chapel at 11:30am followed by lunch in the café on campus. Please RSVP to Shannon by Tuesday, October 23.

### 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.

### October 7 World Communion Sunday to focus on Generosity with Buzz Session led by Pastor Sarah and Guest Preacher the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer

We are excited to welcome to First Congregational the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Disciples of Christ minister and director of the Center for Faith and Giving (<https://centerforfaithandgiving.org/>). The new 1857 Society at First Congregational Church is an invitation for members and friends to support the mission of the church for generations to come. In celebration of this new opportunity, we will hear from Rev. Barkhauer about how our faith inspires our giving in meaningful ways.

In addition to Rev. Barkhauer leading us in a Buzz session after 11am worship, attorney and CTS Board Chair Ted Waggoner will also provide guidance for making planned gifts. Please join us for this special opportunity on Sunday, October 7, to learn more about faithful giving, no matter where you find yourself situated financially, faithful giving can happen at any gift level. What matters most is that our hearts are in the right place.

Dear Member or Friend of First Congregational Church,

We are the inheritors of a rich legacy of the faithful and diligent leadership of generations of those who, beginning in 1857, dedicated themselves to building up the Church of Jesus Christ that we know and enjoy today as First Congregational Church. This message is an invitation for individuals to join an exciting new effort that will help ensure First Congregational thrives far into the future.

The First Congregational Church Foundation was established several decades ago by forward thinking members who saw the value of providing a solid financial base that would provide stability and growth of the church even in lean financial times. The wisdom and value of that approach have been clearly shown, as we continue to move forward even in a period of reduced membership.

An important new step is emerging that will further strengthen our future together. All of us are invited to consider how we might lend future financial strength to our church after we are gone. **We ask all friends and members of the church to prayerfully discern your personal legacy and to proactively create ways to continue to support the mission of the church even after the time of death.** An important means of doing that is to include First Congregational in our wills and estate plans. Many of us have considered doing so and some already have included the church in their planned giving.

We are excited to share that the Foundation has now created an opportunity that will encourage, honor and celebrate this faithful decision through the creation of the new "1857 Society," so named in honor of the founding year where we trace the roots of our congregation's beginning in Indianapolis. **We invite every friend and member of the church to consider joining and in this new season, to be part of the inaugural class of the 1857 Society of First Congregational Church.**

We will celebrate this new opportunity together on Sunday, October 7. That morning the Rev. Bruce Barkhauer, Minister for Faith and Giving with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will bring us an inspiring message about how our lives can reflect the generosity of God, and he will stay for a buzz session to share about faith and giving.

All members and friends of First Congregational who include the church in their wills are encouraged to join the 1857 Society. Your legacy support of our church will help far into the future. We look forward to celebrating with you on October 7. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Sarah or other members of the Foundation Board.

With faith in the future,

First Congregational Church Foundation Board Members  
Judy Fletcher Bill Gillette Pastor Sarah Lund Al Moore Randy Walker

### **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.

## Chautauqua Grant Update

Sept 30 was the last day to submit your application for an expenses-paid week in Chautauqua, NY in the summer of 2019. During the month of October, the Chautauqua Team will work with Pastor Sarah to select a lucky grantee. Expect an announcement with all deliberate speed.

### Just Peace Team

Our mission is to help FCC grow in our identity and practice as a just peacemaking church. That means being grounded in a community of reconciliation, a Just Peace Church. Jesus, who is our peace (Ephesians 2:14), performed signs of forgiveness and healing and made manifest that God's reign is for those who are in need. The church is a continuation of that servant manifestation. As a Just Peace Church, we embody a Christ fully engaged in human events. The church is thus a real countervailing power to those forces that divide, that perpetuate human enmity and injustice, and that destroy.

Just Peace is grounded in hope. *Shalom* is the vision that pulls all creation toward a time when weapons are swept off the earth and all creatures lie down together without fear; where all have their own fig tree and dwell secure from want. As Christians, we offer this conviction to the world: Peace is possible. Just Peace is the presence and interrelation of friendship, justice and common security from violence.

### Solar Panel Funding Campaign Update

The funding campaign for solar panels is complete! We raised enough to fully fund an installation! We've signed an agreement with Rectify Solar, who has also installed panels at the very happy St Peter's UCC in Carmel. Installation should begin soon! Keep an ear open for details.

### Rise Up Singing, Sat Oct 13<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm

Please join us at church for fun and fellowship on Saturday evening, 10/13. Using a new songbook, Rise Up Singing, we'll sing a variety of song styles, and there is no need to be an expert singer – this is just for the fun of it! Brian Schmidt, a regular visitor at our church, donated the song books, and the event is based on monthly ones held at his previous church in Massachusetts. Take a look at the song books in the Narthex, and please sign the signup if you think you can come. We are also looking for someone who can play chords on the guitar or a keyboard, to help us with the accompaniment. Questions? Contact C&C Chair, Wendy Baldwin.

### Let's Celebrate!

In January 2019 First Congregational will recognize our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of being Open and Affirming. And we're holding a celebration on Sunday, January 27, 2019. If you would like to help plan this event or have memories of the original vote, please contact Bob Cook. Yes, there will be cake!

### Thank You!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for all your prayers and visits during my recent health challenges. I thank God for such a supportive church family!  
I am slowly getting more strength. We are in the process of purchasing an accessible van and hope to be able to worship with you in a few weeks.  
Please continue to keep us in your prayers.  
Love and Peace,  
Daryl and Anne Greene

## Indiana-Kentucky Conference (IKC) News

Philip Gulley at St. Andrew UCC, Louisville, KY  
Quaker pastor, writer and speaker

Monday, October 15, 2018

7:00 p.m.

St. Andrew United Church of Christ  
2608 Browns Lane  
Louisville, KY

Philip is the author of the *Front Porch Tales and Harmony* series and the spiritual books *If the Church Were Christian, If Grace is True*, and *The Evolution of Faith* to name just a few. He will talk about the subject of his 22nd book, *Unlearning God: How Unbelieving Helped me Believe*, coming out in September 2018.



Philip “explores the process of spiritual growth, especially the reinterpretation of the earliest principles we learned about God, and examines the frightening yet exhilarating experience of having to unlearn the theology we were taught and replace it with something more sustainable and meaningful.” Check out his website at [philipgulley.com](http://philipgulley.com)

Ticket Information:

\$15.00 if purchased by October 14

(visit our website at [saintandrewucc.org](http://saintandrewucc.org) or the church gathering area any Sunday morning)

\$18.00 if purchased at the door the night of the event

\$10.00 per person for a group of 10 or more (call the church for group tickets)

\$10.00 for all students

Questions??? Call the St. Andrew UCC Church office at 502-452-1777.

### Pray, Reflect, and Consider

In September's *Pilgrim Colony*, Pastor Sarah discusses **sacred pauses**, “an intentional time of doing less so that you can be more present,” and invites us to “pray about what God is inviting us to stop doing” and to reflect on what God “is asking us to let go of.”

While praying and reflecting in these ways, my mind suddenly went to a familiar passage of *The Amplified Bible*, a version first published in 1965, mostly a revision of the American Standard Version of 1901. The scripture was one i had been spiritually guided to at least 5 years earlier: “She considers a [new] field before she buys or accepts it [expanding prudently and **not courting neglect of her present duties by assuming other duties**]...” (Proverbs 31:16).

This verse, from the final chapter of Proverbs, emphasizes a realistic and effective approach that i have relied on for years. At such times, i have refused to add yet another item to my long to-do list—an item that would have caused me to put aside a prioritized divine assignment to undertake something which one or more humans had encouraged me to do. The bottom line, i've found, is that my “present duties” are between my Maker and me—and no one else. Many times, though, focusing on what i believe in my heart takes precedence over what others stress, can lead to disagreement from family members, friends, and others. i praise God for the words of *The Amplified Bible*'s Proverbs 31:16, that give me an opportunity to 1) do my best to glorify God, rather than mortals, and 2) reinforce my walk with God and my Maker's nonnegotiable divine assignments that are sometimes challenging to carry out, especially when i've dragged my feet.

- susanna-judith rae

## Meridian Hills Cooperative School

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

### First Anniversary of 2017 Playground Dedication

Here is a bit of history on the rich legacy of Shari Robinson, the former director and a teacher at Meridian Hills Co-op to whom we dedicated our *Reimagined Playground* last September.

Shari was a three decades icon in the cooperative movement in Indianapolis. As a young mother of four children, she taught first in the late 60s at Willowcreek Cooperative (now closed) and was recruited to come to Meridian Hills by Dessie Partenheimer Koch, the founder and then director of our little school. Shari graduated from DePauw University with a degree in early childhood education and Dessie felt it was quite a coup to get her to teach at our school.

Shari taught two of the four MH classes, the Chickadees (3s) and the Redbirds (4s) for 25 years. After Dessie retired around 1980, Shari became the director, and for a few of the intervening years until she retired in 2000, she taught all four of the classes. (Then other class of 3s was called Robins and the other 4s class was Bluebirds.) Shari was very active with the Indiana Council of Preschool Cooperatives as an advisor and a CPT trainer. She wrote for *Indy's Child* and co-taught a class in early childhood at Butler University with the now Dean of the College of Education at Butler University, Dr. Ena Shelley, who was a former parent of hers. She traveled with Dr. Shelley to explore Reggio Emilia schools in Italy when that major early childhood movement came to the forefront, and brought that philosophy back to our little school.

Shari passed away in November of 2015, but no one who ever knew her will forget her giggle, her joy in children, her welcoming manner, her ever-present positive attitude, or her loving way. The cooperative movement in the city of Indianapolis would not have withstood the test of time without Shari's leadership. The mirrors at the entryway landing are a lasting gift from her to reflect on the uniqueness of each of us, and they sparkle in her memory.

I simply would not be the parent or the person I am today without the influence of Shari Robinson. I did a lot of growing as a young parent and a teacher at Meridian Hills as did many of us, both children and adults, who "grew up" at her hand. We laughed, cried, fell and stood up, played, ran, solved problems, painted, built, cleaned, helped with a snack, solved more problems, climbed, created, experienced and were enriched at this school. All grown up are the hundreds of children who were lucky enough to have Shari as a teacher, and I am always proud when one returns as a parent of a second generation family.

At the Fall Picnic in September 2017, after a very successful fundraising campaign, we proudly dedicated our *Reimagined Playground* as a Nature Explore Classroom in her memory. The fresh cider from the cider press your family will enjoy this weekend at the Fall Picnic was the highlight of many fall field trips to Shari's house and the press was given to Meridian Hills by husband Larry. Restored to mint condition for the Dedication by the chair of the FCC Board of Trustees, Glenn Evans, it belongs to our little school for another generation of children to enjoy.

The marker at the toe of the Welcome Willow Gate says:

*Our REIMAGINED Playground is dedicated to MHCNS&K's  
beloved teacher and director, Shari Robinson.  
Make sweet memories and take them with you when you leave.*

Best in parenting,  
Ginny



## Announcements

### November Colony Submission Deadline

Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by **Monday, October 15<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 October 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977rwalker@gmail.com](mailto: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, October 25<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).

### Flower Calendar

Flowers have a way of bringing beauty to the worship service. There are several empty Sundays on the Flower Calendar located on the bulletin board by the garden doors. Will you sign up for a Sunday? The flowers can be for any occasion and come from the florist, store or your garden. The cost is \$25.00 from our florist. If you have any questions, please email Sally Coombs at [sallysews73@gmail.com](mailto:sallysews73@gmail.com) or call 317-446-2853. You can also let Shannon Abbott know the occasion at [shannon@fcindy.org](mailto:shannon@fcindy.org) or call the church office at 317-257-5397.

### Circle IV Book Discussion

Circle IV will be meeting at Linda Lupton's home, 8749 Carriage Lane, Pendleton, 46064, on October 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm. We will be discussing the remainder of our book "God's Name is Mercy" by Pope Francis (pp. 77 to the end). Feel free to carpool (about 45-60 minutes depending on traffic). Let Linda know if you are able to attend [lkupton@aol.com](mailto:lkupton@aol.com) or 765-778-8333.

### Songs at 7171

Something new is coming to FCC in November! On Thanksgiving Sunday, November 18, we'll be hosting Rhythm Quest, a percussion group extraordinaire. This unique combo of percussionists will be doing a combination drum workshop/drum circle in the afternoon at 3:00 PM. They always have an overabundance of percussion instruments with them, so be prepared to participate. More details will be provided in the November Colony, so save the date!

## Financial Update

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

Here are the financial results through August 31, 2018.

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	8/31/2018 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>163,152</b>	<b>162,007</b>	<b>1,145</b>
M. Unrestricted Contributions	163,152	162,007	1,145
M.01 Pledged Offerings	130,473	125,912	4,561
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	12,358	16,302	-3,944
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	20,000	-1,080
M.06. Transfer from Youth Fund	1,610	1,610	0
M.07 Other Transfers from Restr Ac...	528	-1,080	1,608
<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>164,756</b>	<b>173,746</b>	<b>8,990</b>
A. Pastoral Leadership	79,258	80,358	1,100
B. Worship & Faith	24,123	25,928	1,805
C. Care & Connections	429	380	-49
D. Witness & Welcome	339	576	237
E. Outreach & Service	13,707	14,333	626
F. Trustees	57	226	169
G. Administration & Operations	10,769	16,972	6,203
H. House & Grounds	32,563	30,862	-1,701
I. Miscellaneous	3,510	4,112	602
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>-1,604</b>	<b>-11,740</b>	<b>10,135</b>

### Highlights:

**August year to date results** - Our finances remain tight but we are moving in the right direction:

- **Income is \$1,100 better than budget.** This is certainly very good news. However, for perspective please note that our total unrestricted contributions are actually down a bit from last year.
- **Expenses are \$9,000 below budget,** thanks primarily to savings in Administration and Operations. All the boards are running essentially within or below their budgeted expenses. Great work!
- **Our bank account balance of \$89,000 is very comfortable for now.** The balance will go down in September and October as we make larger outlays for solar panel installation and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter insurance and employee benefits.
- **Adding it all up** - for the first eight months:
  - Expenses exceeded income by \$1,600.
  - That deficit is \$12,000 less than budgeted, thanks to our expense savings and improving pledge receipts.

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 significantly 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