



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

## THE PILGRIM COLONY

January 2019

### Pastor's Reflections

Happy New Year! This is the year First Congregational UCC celebrates 162 years of worship, ministries and mission. Founded in 1857, we have been a spiritually alive, servant community of Jesus Christ worshipping for 8,424 Sundays!

This year we celebrate our 25th anniversary of our Open and Affirming Covenant adopted at the January 1994 Congregational meeting. We are a people of covenant, of promise, of commitment to God and to one another so that we can live into our highest calling: to love God and love one another as we love ourselves.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 27th for a special worship celebration of 25 years of ONA, festive meal, and Congregational meeting where we will, among other important business, vote on our church's new Just Peace covenant. As your pastor, I am thankful that we are a congregation growing in God's love, guided by God's Spirit, and grounded by God's grace.

May 2019 be the year of covenant, coming together as one, in all of our beautiful diversity, so that all who enter may find a place to heal, a place to belong, and a place to love.

Blessings,  
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 am writing this during Advent - such a busy, meaningful time of preparation, in so many ways! Here are a few things that the council has been working on:

Annual Meeting: Sunday January 27th at 12:30!

As our constitution calls for, our annual meeting will be the fourth Sunday in January. It is a wonderful opportunity for us as a congregational church to come together to vote on next year's plans. This will include discussions and votes - on who, what, and how much! The who: electing our officers and board members - we are grateful that these members are willing to give their time and talents in this way, by voting for them we name them representatives for us on church business - they will be discussing and voting through the year on decisions that move our church forward. The what: any motions that require full congregational votes will be dealt with at this meeting - this year it will be the Just Peace Covenant (see article elsewhere in this colony). The rest of the what and how much: of course

voting on our budget! The boards have worked hard to decide how to spread our financial resources to best meet our mission. This meeting is a chance for all voices to be heard and counted in all these discussion and votes. Come for pitch in lunch after church with meeting immediately following.

#### Joyous news!

One of the many facets of our church identity that Pastor Sarah is keenly aligned with is support for members in discernment - those who feel the call to serve God and all people as an ordained Pastor. Lianna Campos came to the council ready to take that step. The council resoundingly supports her as she continues on her journey - and is sending a letter from our church to the denomination (Committee on Ministry) requesting their acceptance and support of her commitment - as required in our denomination. It is an honor to support her in prayer and however we can, we continue to be bless with her loving care and witness and leadership.

#### Resolution supporting victims of sexual violence

Another facet of our identity is justice. The Just Peace team brought forward a resolution from another UCC congregation that is looking for sponsors to bring it to the General Synod of the UCC (6 churches must sponsor it to be considered). If it receives enough sponsorship, a committee will be formed to review it before bringing it to the whole denomination for vote on adoption. The council agreed to become a sponsor for this resolution as a strong fit with our mission. For more details, here is a link to the full resolution and context: <https://breakthesilencesunday.org/2018/11/16/general-synod-resolution/>. Here are the main actions proposed in the resolution, aimed at the denomination for adoption and then to send to all its member churches for consideration - we will be watching to see how this moves forward in the denomination and how our church individually will respond.

"THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 32<sup>nd</sup> General Synod calls upon the national church leadership, Conferences, Associations, and local churches to speak out in support of survivors of rape and sexual violence, offer care to individuals, including silent supportive witness in courtrooms, and advocate for sexual violence prevention education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United Church of Christ adds a yearly observance of Break The Silence Sunday (BTSS) to its calendar with the suggested date of the fourth Sunday of April so as to occur within national sexual assault awareness month;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local churches be invited to participate in a yearly observance of Break The Silence Sunday, honoring within their worship contexts the stories and struggles of survivors of rape and sexual violence, and encourage such an observance in the ecumenical community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the United Church of Christ encourage the education of its clergy and laity on how to support survivors of rape and sexual violence including trauma-informed care, and advocate on behalf of those not yet ready to speak openly so that the voices of survivors do not speak alone;"

Really looking forward to see how our church continues to respond to God's call in 2019!!

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

### **Sunday Adult Class**

In January we will be discussing current events and articles from Christian Century or Sojourners. If you have a recommendation, please get in touch with Nancy Dickinson ([dickinson.nls@gmail.com](mailto:dickinson.nls@gmail.com)).

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

## Call to Service

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

### January Mission of the Month – The Open & Affirming Coalition



In 1972 the first openly gay minister was ordained in the United Church of Christ. Soon after that historic event the Gay and Lesbian Caucus was formed with the challenge to work toward the acceptance and justice for its LGBTQ and same-gender-loving members. Today that caucus is known as the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

In 1986 The Coalition helped to lead the first congregation to adopt an Open and Affirming Covenant. During the week of December 10, 2018, churches #1482, #1483 and #1484 joined the ranks of congregations who identify as Open and Affirming. Today ONA is the fastest growing LGBTQ-welcoming movement within the Body of Christ.

In addition to assisting churches in the ONA process, the Coalition has advocated for LGBTQ equality by introducing resolutions at General Synod for the civil rights of LGBT citizens to the church's historic affirmation of marriage equality. The Coalition has been an effective agent for change not only with our churches but in society as well.

Andy Lang has been the Executive Director of the Coalition since 2010 and is currently working with several churches in Indiana as they work through the discernment process of becoming ONA. In the 21st century, the Coalition faces continuing challenges. LGBT youth still face the threat of bullying and suicide in communities across America. Transgender citizens are still denied basic civil rights. Powerful and well-financed groups are mobilizing to enact new legislation to grant broad "religious exemptions" against discrimination in employment, housing and public services. And ONA congregations need support as they seek new ways to reach and minister to the LGBT community.

The Coalition works closely with the UCC's national offices and other settings of the church but it depends on individual tax-exempt gifts and financial contributions from current ONA churches to support the movement. FCC invites you to support the Coalition through this month's Mission of the Month.

- Bob Cook

### Pantry Items of the Month

During January, we are collecting the following items: Bread, Soup, Applesauce, and Shampoo.

- Betty Schnur

### A Way We Can Help

It's not a secret that some of our neighbors are living on the edge in spite of a good economy and a robust jobs market. We can help in several ways, one of which is to donate nutritious food. Our donations are taken to the Northside Food Pantry where the staff sorts and distributes the food to those in need. In November we donated about 80 pounds of food and requested nonfood items. If you have been donating, a big THANKS! If you have not been donating, please consider doing so, placing the nonperishable food in the baskets in the narthex. Our donations are valuable and appreciated.

- The Board for Outreach and Service



## Our Letters Have Made a Difference: A Report from Bread for the World



**breadfortheworld**  
HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

The week of December 9, Congress sent the president a bipartisan farm bill that protects and strengthens the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and makes key improvements to international food aid programs.

The Senate passed the bill 87 to 13. The House passed it 369 to 47. In a year that has too often been divisive, we celebrate that members of Congress worked together to pass a bipartisan bill.

This success would not have been possible without Bread members' faithful advocacy — your letters, phone calls, emails, and persistent encouragement for a farm bill that helps end hunger made a difference. (Both Indiana Senators and all nine Representatives voted in favor!)

In addition to SNAP, this bill includes funding for nutrition incentives and produce prescriptions that will improve access to healthy foods and connect individuals and households to jobs. It has international impact, too — changes to food aid that will make these programs more efficient and expand their reach to more people.

This farm bill will put the United States on track to end food insecurity and hunger in our country and save millions of lives overseas. Thanks be to God!

- Sue Chapman

### Epiphany



Epiphany is celebrated twelve days after Christmas on January 6<sup>th</sup>, and commenced as a recognition of the Eastern churches of the coming of Christ to the Gentile world. It celebrated the arrival of the magi, traditionally from Eastern lands, to the manger. It also became known as "Three Kings' Day" with the custom in middle Europe of dramatizing the story of the magi by processions of young boys dressed as kings followed by the parish children marching through the streets and back to the church. In some

traditions, parishioners share a king's cake or a *gâteau des rois* with hidden symbols which designate fortunes for the coming year.

Plan to remain after worship on Epiphany Sunday to sing the last carols of the season and help to dismantle the Advent/Christmas decorations. Kings' cake with its hidden symbols will be served.

- Nancy Dickinson

### Proposed Change in Foundation Financial Support

The First Congregational Church Foundation board has been working this past year to evaluate Foundation strategy, policies and practices. One area of change we have been considering is a revised practice that merges effective management of our Endowment funds with stable long term use of those funds for meeting funding needs of our church.

Our investment advisors from Goelzer Management, Inc. presented to us effective strategies based on their wide experience. In addition, Pastor Sarah surveyed several other churches to investigate what they are doing to accomplish objectives similar to ours.

The board has unanimously agreed that revising our annual draw process will assist the Foundation in maintaining a healthy growth strategy as well as to provide a more stable amount to use each year to meet the church's budget needs. Our proposal is as follows:

"First Congregational Church may annually withdraw funds from the First Congregational Church Endowment, to the maximum extent of 4% of the Endowment's average market value as of December 31st over the prior 3 years."

What would the impact of this change mean? In the past we have allowed withdrawal of an amount up to that which was earned and realized in interest and dividends over the prior year. Over the past 10 years this has averaged 2.30%. While an increase from 2.3 to 4% might seem like a big increase, over the past 10 years we have had a compounded earnings growth rate of 6.51% in our Endowment account. Thus even using a 4% draw based on the 3-year average ending balance would have seen our endowment account continue to grow significantly. Some other churches use draws of 4 1/2 or 5%.

The Foundation board will request approval of this proposal by the Board of Trustees and Church Council for placement on the agenda for the Annual Meeting in January, with the expectation that our congregation will decide the issue with a vote.

It is noted that the church congregation may change Foundation policies and practices whenever it sees a need to do so. The Foundation board is chosen by the congregation and acts in what it believes are the best interests of the church.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any Foundation board member: Bill Gillette, Glenn Evans, Judy Fletcher, Randy Walker or Pastor Sarah.

- Bill Gillette for the Foundation



### **No True Peace Without Justice For All**

In last month's Colony, the Just Peace team presented a draft covenant that we the congregation may choose to adopt and declare ourselves a Just Peace Church. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Council approved this covenant and will forward it to the entire congregation for a vote at the Annual Meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. To prepare for this, we will convene a Buzz luncheon on January 13<sup>th</sup> for consideration and discussion of what it means to be a Just Peace Church. In the coming year, the team wants to discuss Just Peace during worship services, in regular five-minute (or so) sessions.

Here's the draft covenant again:

**We, the members of First Congregational United Church of Christ, do hereby covenant with ourselves and each other as a Just Peace church to:**

- **Follow the teachings of Jesus in realizing that there is no true peace without justice for all**
- **Seek, through prayer and discernment, to identify opportunities to express and embody Just Peace principles:**
  - o **Within ourselves**
  - o **In our church and community**
  - o **In our state**
  - o **In our nation**
  - o **In the world**
- **Seek God's clear call for ways to bear witness to Just Peace principles in a nonviolent way**
- **Engage as a congregation, partnering with other groups as seems advisable, to do so**
- **Periodically review our actions and those of our partners to ensure that they are effective and in consonance with the principles of Just Peace**

Note that this covenant refers to the principles of Just Peace. These principles are inherent in how to "do" Just Peace, and are large in scope (all might not apply to our local efforts). The adult education class covered them in one session, and it generated more discussion than there was available time. The January Buzz might be a good opportunity to dig deeper into these practices. Following is a short overview:

- Support nonviolent direct action

- MLK, Jr. and civil disobedience. Gandhi and *satyagraha*
- Take independent initiatives to reduce threat
  - Reach out more than halfway
- Use cooperative conflict resolution
- Acknowledge responsibility for conflict and injustice and seek repentance and forgiveness
  - Be vulnerable and open. Paradoxically, strength is there
- Advance democracy, human rights, and religious liberty
- Foster just and sustainable economic development
- Work with emerging cooperative forces in the international system
- Strengthen the United Nations and international efforts for cooperation and human rights
- Reduce offensive weapons and weapons trade
- Encourage grassroots peacemaking groups and voluntary associations

Rich Gibson, Just Peace Church Team Member

## Celebrating 25 Years of ONA



During worship on January 27, 2019, First Congregational will begin a year long celebration of being an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation. At that time we will reaffirm our commitment to our Open and Affirming Mission Statement and celebrate with songs, prayers and visions.

After the worship service, there will be a pitch-in lunch prior to the Annual Meeting and we will have cake and ice cream to top off our celebration. We will also share at that time several events that will occur during the year to keep our ONA mission alive and active in the Indianapolis Community. Some of these

possibilities will be guest speakers, film showings and discussion, training on specific topics relevant to the LGBTQ issues, and perhaps a few surprises.

Sometimes we forget that while we have been ONA for 25 years and much progress has been realized in our community, state and nation, there are still areas of concern such as Hate Crime legislation, equality regarding job and housing opportunities, homelessness among LGBTQ youth just to name a few.

Come join our celebration and reaffirmation on Sunday, January 27.

- Bob Cook

## Green Team



As I write this, we are well into Advent, the season of hope. Hope is indeed something we need to dig deep for, especially when we consider the sorry shape of our nation's efforts to address climate change. Despair can seem a much more appropriate response; it's much easier, and so much less effort. Ah, the dirty, messy comforts of the Slough of Despond! Relax and wallow...

On the other hand, nobody ever promised that following Jesus is easy. The Scriptures are full of His warnings that the way is narrow and dangerous. "Can you drink from the cup that I am about to drink?" he asks two of his more apple-polishing followers, knowing that his way leads to the most agonizing method of death the Romans could devise... Compared to that, working on creation care isn't much of a sacrifice, is it?

And so what if our national leadership is heading in the wrong direction on creation care? Christians have a proud history of being out of step with the way everyone else wants to go. That may be a marker that we're actually on the path Jesus set out for us. Let us act as if we are, truly, the change that we're waiting for. We should live our lives caring as much as we

can, setting an example, letting our lights so shine before others that, maybe, they come around. Carpool. Don't eat beef. Ride a bike if you're able. Turn out the lights when you leave the room. Get solar panels. And don't despair, hope.

So, hope. Hope that your efforts can change a mind or three. Hope that the gradually increasing cycle of damage to our planet wakes a few more people up. Hope that the clear majority of Americans, already believing that climate change is real, begin to act as if they need to sacrifice some of their comfort to do something about it. And as you hope, act. Act as if you're setting an example for those who are not yet ready to act. Challenge a friend to be as green as you are, and ask her to challenge you to be as green as she is. Reach out and build a circle, trading information on best ways to reduce your carbon footprint. Hope!

- Rich Gibson

## Providing Sturdy Support

"[...] and put away from you mortal thoughts; [...] and divest yourself now of your weak nature" ([Old Testament Apocrypha] 2 Esdras 14:14 NRSV).

On October 14, i entered FCC's sanctuary, sat down, and opened the bulletin just handed to me. i was amazed to see this heading across the top of page 2: "OCTOBER 14, 2018 – ACCESS SUNDAY & DISABILITY AWARENESS SUNDAY – 11 AM."

Why did these words amaze me? i call it *déjà vu*. An hour earlier, while backing our Prius out of the driveway to head for church, i looked at our lovely pear tree and reflected on how three years earlier an arborist had saved it. One of the methods the arborist's crew used was to install a cable that provides sturdy support. In a neighborhood where we've seen many similar pear trees destroyed by lightning, winds, and storms, i am grateful for that cable.

While reflecting on the cable, my mind went to a colleague when i was librarian in an Indianapolis Junior College of Business from 1978 to 1989. Why did i think of him? Perhaps merely because his last name was Cable. An instructor of electronics classes, he sometimes took the elevator to the basement and stopped by the library for a quick chat between his classes.

While still in the Prius, my thoughts zoomed to an important lesson he had taught me while venting his frustrations about able-bodied men occupying the men's restroom stall designated for disabled individuals. Since he was a wheelchair-bound paraplegic, he did not appreciate able-bodied people using bathroom facilities designated for disabled persons, and, thus, causing him to wait and to be inconvenienced.

Ever since my friend expressed his dismay about "!!@#\$\$% thoughtless, inconsiderate people," i took seriously that even when restrooms are totally unoccupied when i enter, i should always choose other stalls in the restroom and leave empty the stall designated for people in wheelchairs. Over the years since then, numerous women have fussed at me for maintaining this policy. "It's your turn. Use the handicapped stall. You're being silly not to," they've suggested.

During her October 14<sup>th</sup> 11 AM sermon, Pastor Sarah asked us to consider ways we as a faith community might be more supportive of people with disabilities. Immediately i thought about what my friend taught me back in the 1980s and what i believed my Maker was telling me to write a *Pilgrim Colony* article about.

i'm sad to admit that it's taken me two months to get around to writing this article. i'm also sad to acknowledge that i've neglected, at times, to apply to FCC's one wheelchair-access restroom (on the first floor) the policy which i have consistently used in other public restrooms. Why? i really don't know. The sign on the restroom door clearly states "family" rather than "women." Though i've never seen a male in a wheelchair go in or out of this particular bathroom, i assume the intent of the "family" sign is to state that the bathroom is for the convenience of disabled males and females.

After my October déjà vu experience, i have begun to walk downstairs or upstairs to either the lower level or the second floor women's restrooms so that people in wheelchairs can have quick access to the first floor wheelchair-accessible accommodations.

- susanna-judith rae

# Meagan Johnson

## Alexander Technique for Music & Life



### A Moment of Ease

Have you ever tried something new, and decided "I'm going to work hard to get this right?" Think back to that time - maybe it was a new exercise regimen, or learning to play an instrument. How did "working hard to get this right" go for you? For many people that kind of approach to a new experience - or even a familiar one - leads to tension and stress. Tension and stress can sometimes lead to mental and physical pain; over time, even injury.

Let's conduct a little thought experiment about Effort and Ease. If you like, try repeating the following phrase three times to yourself. You can say it silently, in your thinking, or you can say it out loud, up to you. You might notice what happens in your body as you think this thought experiment:

***I have to do it right, and I have to do it fast. (3x)***

Did you notice anything? Often, the people I work with experience an increase of strain or tension in the neck and shoulders, their breathing may become more shallow, and many report an increased heart rate - *just from thinking*.

Now here's the opposite experiment. Again, try repeating the following to yourself, and notice what you notice in your body.

***I don't have to be right, and I have the time I need. (3x)***

Did you notice anything? Many individuals report a release of tension in the body, a calming of the breath, and a slowing of heart rate. People *also* sometimes express a feeling of disbelief ("There's no possible way that I don't have to be right, and I really have to do this fast!") Notice if that disbelief was part of your response in this thought experiment.

In Alexander Technique lessons, I work with people to observe how they respond to simple, everyday tasks like sitting and standing from a chair, and guide them to discover an ease of mind and body in all the activities of life, from singing to gardening, from yoga to office work. I teach people how to take time - even just a tiny, micro-moment of pause - in the midst of activities, bringing Ease into their movements and thinking. We identify habitual patterns of movement that lead to strain and tension, and use our attention and thought to help unlearn those habits. The result is usually improved freedom of movement and poise, decreased tension and strain, and feelings of lightness and peace.

Ease doesn't necessarily mean *relaxation*. You can have Ease in running a race, or lifting something heavy. For me, Ease means using just the energy I need for an activity, in a way that preserves my poise and peace of mind. Ease in thinking could be synonymous with curiosity or fascination. Rather than "I have to get this right," I try to approach a new activity without any particular end in mind.

The next time you try something new - or the next time you do something routine, like opening a door or turning on the light - remind yourself that you have time. See what you notice!



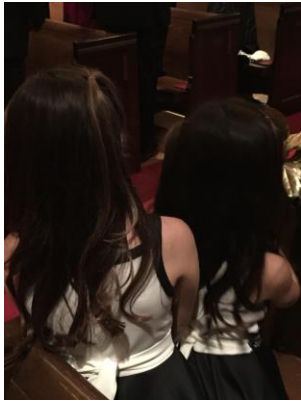
It's not always simple to find Ease, but little moments of Ease throughout the day can make a world of difference.

- Meagan Johnson, Certified teacher of the Alexander Technique and voice instructor

Megan's studio is in the "Treehouse Room" on the second floor of the church, next to the library. You can make an appointment with Meagan Johnson by calling 217-419-6914 or by email: [MJohnsonDirection@gmail.com](mailto:MJohnsonDirection@gmail.com) or visit her website, [www.sound-direction.com](http://www.sound-direction.com).

### **Meridian Hills Cooperative School: Anticipation**

We were recently at a wedding and when we stood for the bride to come down the aisle, I captured this engaging picture of two little girls in the pew behind us "looking with great anticipation to see the bride."



Don't we all feel like this looking for the beautiful bride? This picture seems to sweetly express that feeling of anticipation when looking forward to something special: a birthday, a vacation, a dinner party, an adult-only night out, a family reunion, the end of a hectic holiday season, a new year or in my case, reconnecting with a former Kindergarten student of mine.

Several months ago out of the blue, Elsa Rose found my contact information and reached out to me after moving back to Indianapolis and we enjoyed lunch together at Patchou at the Crossing. Now a practiced mom who home-schools her 6 children ranging from 4-18 years old, you can imagine how complimented I felt when she wanted to reconnect. Her family was one with whom I maintained a friendship for many years as I also had taught her brother David and sister, Maria. Over the years, I lost touch with her mom for whom I had great respect and who I had referenced in an article I wrote in July 2017 well before Elsa Rose called.

Elsa and I had lunch again a couple of Saturdays ago, and I think we could have talked for the entire afternoon. She offered to bring me her "world famous" brownies when our moving process is complete. I look forward to seeing her again AND the chocolate!



Best holiday wishes to you and your families!

Ginny Hacker, Director - Meridian Hills Cooperative Nursery School & Kindergarten

### **Announcements**

**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 **January 10<sup>th</sup>** and **24<sup>th</sup>**. Please contact Randy Walker at (317) 796-2081 or [aa28977walker@gmail.com](mailto:aa28977walker@gmail.com) for information.

**January Buzz: January 13, 12:30 p.m.:** At this month's Buzz, we will discuss our Just Peace Covenant. Please join us for discussion and a light lunch.

**February Colony Submission Deadline:** Please have your submissions sent to Shannon by **Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**Circle IV Book Discussion:** Circle IV will be meeting at the home of Carol Sowle on Tuesday, **January 15<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 pm. We are learning more about the Just Peace plans and considering our next book. All are welcome to join us. Feel free to carpool. For further information, contact Carol Sowle at (317) 496-9732 or [casowle@gmail.com](mailto:casowle@gmail.com).

**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, **January 24<sup>th</sup>**

at 11:45 a.m. For any questions or for information please contact Sue Chapman at 317-259-1806 or at [carolsuech59@gmail.com](mailto:carolsuech59@gmail.com).

**Annual Meeting – January 27, 12:30 p.m.:** Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> for our Annual Meeting and a pitch-in lunch.

**Flower Calendar:** Flowers have a way of bringing beauty to the worship service. 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.

## Financial Update

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

Here are the financial results through November 30, 2018.

### 1. Current Year Actual vs Budget Summary 1/1/2018 through 11/30/2018 Using 2018 Budget C

Category	1/1/2018 Actual	- Budget	11/30/2018 Difference
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>207,106</b>	<b>249,397</b>	<b>-42,291</b>
M. Unrestricted Contributions	207,106	249,397	-42,291
M.01 Pledged Offerings	169,873	169,793	80
M.02 UnPledged Offerings	16,912	22,075	-5,163
M.03 Rollover Prior Year Surplus_D...	-737	-737	0
M.04 Foundation - Endowment Fund...	0	27,600	-27,600
M.05 Foundation - Minister Fund Draw	18,920	30,136	-11,216
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>224,373</b>	<b>240,973</b>	<b>16,599</b>
A. Pastoral Leadership	104,097	111,845	7,748
B. Worship & Faith	34,076	36,308	2,232
C. Care & Connections	520	515	-5
D. Witness & Welcome	620	792	172
E. Outreach & Service	18,857	20,283	1,426
F. Trustees	445	431	-14
G. Administration & Operations	15,731	23,606	7,874
H. House & Grounds	45,285	41,727	-3,558
I. Miscellaneous	4,742	5,466	724
<b>Net Difference:</b>	<b>-17,267</b>	<b>8,424</b>	<b>-25,692</b>

### Highlights:

**November year to date results** - Our finances remain tight. Expenses are exceeding income, but the deficit is smaller than what was budgeted.

- **Income is \$3,500 below budget excluding timing of Foundation draw.**
  - A large draw from the FCC Foundation was budgeted for November but didn't occur until December; thus, the numbers above show an income shortfall of over \$42,000. Excluding this timing issue, income is \$3,500 below budget.
  - Pledges are on budget; other contributions are \$5,000 below budget.
- **Expenses are \$16,600 below budget.** The bulk of the savings is from:
  - Lower than budgeted administrative expenses;
  - Lower than expected medical insurance premiums for Pastor Sarah; and
  - Not having an organist for most of the summer.
- **Our Nov. 30 bank account balance of \$60,000 is comfortable.**
- **Adding it all up** - for the first 11 months:
  - Expenses exceeded income by \$17,250.
  - That deficit is \$13,100 less than budgeted (excluding Foundation draw timing), thanks to our expense savings.

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

Jim Lootens, Treasurer  
lootens.jb@gmail.com