



Race Reflections

A Message from Dr. Sharon Watkins:

Telling the truth about racism in the United States, for a white person, it turns out, can be a challenge. Debby Irving in her book (which many at Central have read) *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, explains it well. Growing up in a white bubble surrounded by family, friends, television shows, book illustrations, ads, and history all full of white people means that most Euro-Americans don't know that racism still exists.

The video "White Privilege Glasses" by Chicago Theological Seminary students illustrates differences between living inside and outside the bubble. In the video, the young white man puts on the glasses at random encounters with different people. Each time, the lenses filter out his white privilege – helping him to see outside the bubble, as a person of color might. Through the glasses, a smiling young mom clutches her small child and quickly crosses to the other side of the street at the sight of him. The nodding shop keeper's face turns to suspicion. The friendly police officer's face shows fear as he grabs his gun. The implicit bias for white people and against people of color adds up to privilege for Euro-Americans. It is part of the truth of ongoing racism that needs to be told. Naming it is the first step in solving it. See the video [here](#).

Implicit bias at an interpersonal level is only part of the story, however. At a more pervasive societal level, recent studies show that race, especially for black men, is the major determining factor of economic outcomes. "Black and white boys have very different outcomes even if they grow up in two-parent families with comparable incomes, education, and wealth, live on the same city block, and attend the same school." (Quote from Chetty, Raj and Nathaniel Hendren, "Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: Executive Summary." See it [here](#).)

More hopefully, the study also indicates "Our results show that the black-white gap in upward mobility is driven primarily by environmental factors that can be changed... Initiatives whose impacts cross neighborhood and class lines and increase upward mobility specifically for black men hold the greatest promise of narrowing the black-white gap. There are many promising examples of such efforts: mentoring programs for black boys, efforts to reduce racial bias among whites, interventions to reduce discrimination in criminal justice, and efforts to facilitate greater interaction across racial groups." The truth about personal and structural racism needs to be told.

The National Council of Churches, through its A.C.T to End Racism initiative, calls upon all its members, including Disciples, to learn the truth about racism in ourselves, in our country, and in our churches. Only when we know the truth and tell it, can we begin to correct it. We need to Awaken. Confront. Transform.

Note: The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has been struggling against racism for many years under the leadership of Reconciliation Ministry, currently headed by the Rev. April Johnson. Many helpful resources can be found on their web site [here](#).

A Note from Linda

Dear friends,

I returned from vacation late Wednesday, grateful for time to spend with my family, to relax, to play, to soak in the beauty of our natural world. Thank you for making this possible!

On my first day back, I (along with two others) recorded an interview for the radio program "No Limits" on our public radio station, WFYI. We discussed dog whistle politics and the research that Faith in Indiana (formerly IndyCAN) has done on how to communicate with our neighbors on issues of race and class – issues that are being exploited by some to divide us for their own gain. As people of faith, we believe we can join together across racial and class differences and work together to make life better for everyone. The good news from our research is that most Hoosiers agree with this! But many are also caught between conflicting narratives, one that views talking about race as necessary and desires racial fairness, and another that considers conversations about race problematic and pulls them toward racial resentment. It's been enlightening to me to learn more about how racism has been used as a political strategy, and I'd recommend the book [Dog Whistle Politics](#) by Ian Haney Lopez for those interested in this topic. (The "No Limits" interview will air this Thursday, August 2, at 1pm on 90.1 or [wfyi.org](#).)

After my week in the north woods of Minnesota, Psalm 19's opening words ("The heavens recount the glory of God and the sky is telling God's handiwork") are resonating mightily. If we had a screen in the sanctuary, I'd show you the amazing sunrise I saw on Wednesday morning! Hope to see you on Sunday to experience this psalm and our beloved community together.

Blessings,
Linda

This and That

Don't forget to wear your **name tag** on Sundays so that we can continue to learn each other's names!

Youth are invited to join other youth in the region for a **conversation on race**. The event will be held here at Central **tomorrow/Saturday, July 28**, from 1:00-3:30pm.

Year end **contributions statements** will be available for pick up in fellowship hall on Sunday.

A Summer of Stories

During the summer we are sharing stories from Central's history during worship. We will reprint them in eConnections so that all can read them. Here is a story about the journey to becoming Open and Affirming, as told by Kerry Armstrong on July 22.

THE BEGINNING

At this point in the life of our community, we often think of our Open and Affirming status as larger than just a welcome to the LGBTQ+ community. But while we were on this journey it was clearly and specifically addressed as welcome to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons.

Open and Affirming is a ministry of the LGBTQ+ Alliance, or Alliance Q for short. The organization advocates for full inclusion in Disciples of Christ congregations. Open and Affirming Ministries was something that not many at Central knew about in the early 1990's. The first church to become Open and Affirming in Indiana was in 1993 in South Bend. The second Open and Affirming Congregation in Indiana would not happen until 2006. So, it was not surprising when this subject was brought up during General Board meetings of this church during the 1990's, the subject was often changed. It was obvious that Central was on the back side of a huge learning curve that would take time, patience and a learning resource that would come from outside of the congregation.

Continue reading [here](#)

Events This Weekend

Sunday, July 29

- **Bible Study** in the conference room at 9am.
- **Worship** in the sanctuary at 10:30am. Children age 3 through 5th grade will be together during the sermon time.
- **Central Justice Network** at noon.

To see a full monthly printable calendar of our meetings and events, [click here](#).

A Summer of Psalms

Psalm 19 (New Revised Standard Version) – have you tried reading the psalms out loud yet???

The heavens are telling the glory of God;

and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,

and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;

their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,

and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,

which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,

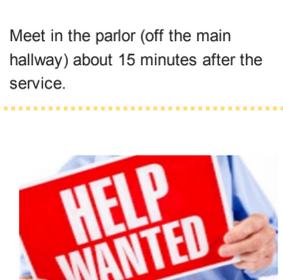
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens,

and its circuit to the end of them;

and nothing is hid from its heat.

Click [here](#) to read the entire psalm.



Pizza with the Pastor

If you are new at Central, please join Linda McCrae following worship next Sunday, August 5.

This monthly event is an opportunity for informal conversation with the pastor and with others who are new to the congregation.

Meet in the parlor (off the main hallway) about 15 minutes after the service.



"Volunteer" is a new spot on the Sign-Up link. This is an Exit Greeter and yes, that is a strange title. The assignment is simply to watch for visitors after worship and help them connect with others. Simply speaking to new comers, or introducing them to some folks, or inviting them to fellowship time are examples. If this post-worship task fits your interests, please go [online](#) to sign up, or talk with Kathy Riester or Dawn Barnes.

Food Pantry Needs

The food pantry needs the following items as we have been having difficulty obtaining them from Gleaners: *Dried beans, low sodium/low salt vegetables and soup, spaghetti sauce, mashed potatoes, and bars of bath soap.* We also need *small packs of peanut butter, crackers, cheese and crackers, and granola/breakfast bars* for our snack bags that are handed out at the office. As usual we will accept any food donations that you would like to give. Please place all items in the grocery cart in Fellowship Hall. We are also in need of paper grocery bags with handles and gallon jugs with lids. Please wash and dry out the jugs before donating. Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the pantry.



We thank those who enriched our worship services on Sunday, 7/15/18:

- Greeters:** Sue Allgood and Aly & Khaya Barnes
- Worship Leader:** Lilia Kozloski
- Children's Moment:** Gina Cerimele
- Children's Sermon Time:** Kathy Ballard and Beth White
- Nursery Workers:** Sarah Murphy
- Fellowship Host:** Brunner/Nickel Family
- Offering Counters:** Chuck Brandenburg and Steve Martz
- Audio Technician:** Rob Hartman

Thank you also to those who have helped in the office this week: Sandy Heidenreich and Bob Riester

CELEBRATIONS

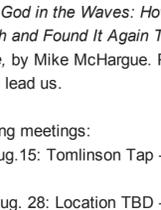
Birthdays and Anniversaries*

July 28
Kathy Knoblauch

Upcoming Preaching Texts

July 29
Psalm 19

August 5
Psalm 8



The next Theology on Tap will be Tuesday, July 31 at the Rineharts' house. We will discuss chapters 3-5 of *Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science*, by Mike McHargue. Pastor Luis will lead us.

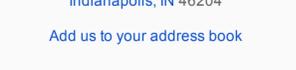
Upcoming meetings:
Wed. Aug. 15: Tomlinson Tap - Read 6-7
Tues. Aug. 28: Location TBD - Read 8-10
Wed. Sept. 12: Location TBD - Read 11-12
Tues. Sept. 25: Location TBD - Read 13-15

Our Reflections on the Psalms Continue

Psalm 8 may invite reflection on some big-picture ideas: divinity majesty, human dignity, humanity's role as caretakers of the earth. Or it may call us to more personal reflections on our own interaction with the universe in the micro and in the macro. What happens when you read the text aloud? Or sing it? Or pray it? Or even rail against it? Give it a try. And then add your notes to the conversation, begun by Alison and Judith and Marti, found on Central's [website](#), as a resource to help us prepare for the sermon on August 5.

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- **Our General Facebook Page** - <https://www.facebook.com/indyccc/>
- **Our Facebook Family Page** - <https://www.facebook.com/CentrallndyFamilies>
- **Our Church Website** - <http://www.indyccc.org>
- **Our Facebook Justice Network** - Central Justice Network
- **Our Twitter Account** - <https://twitter.com/@indyccc46204>



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