

FIRST AND CENTER
Pastor's Blog
September 26, 2018



Tomorrow in Washington, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford will testify before a senate committee about her experience of sexual assault by Judge Kavanaugh when they were both in high school. She was 15 at the time.

While I am concerned about who is on the Supreme Court, I am also concerned about the many thousands of women (and some men) watching this unfold and re-living their own experiences, whether long ago or more recent. Many people have not told their stories to anyone for reasons too numerous to name. But they have not forgotten. I pray for those who are in pain this week as the media has a field day with this issue, and the trolls on social media are cruel.

I also have a concern for the young women and men watching this, those in middle school, high school, and college. I fear the message too many give is that what happens when you are young doesn't really matter...that if you abuse someone when you are younger than 21, it is just what guys do, so deal with it. We shouldn't punish someone for what he did when he "didn't know better," as one politician said. Garbage.

He knew better. Everyone should know better. No one gets a pass for assaulting another human being. Ever. Apologies are appropriate for past actions. Forgiveness may, or may not, come forth from the victim, as is their choice. What is **not ever** appropriate is acting like this sort of thing is no big deal. It is always a big deal to the victim.

I am working tomorrow, so will not watch the hearings. But as I work, I will stop regularly for prayer. Please join me.

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
Transitional Minister