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Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor

Jane B. Anderson, Co-Pastor

Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus

Gene Sinner, Church Administrator

Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Jon D. Riehle, Organist

Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries

Lyssa Fish, Director for Youth Ministries

## SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2008

**9:30 a.m.**

Sermon..... Rev. Steve Savides

Music ..... Kristin Eggen, *trumpet soloist*

The LU Music Scholars

Steve and Emily Savides, *vocal duet*

### SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2008

**9:30 a.m.**

Sermon..... Rev. Steve Savides

Music ..... Mark Yonan, *soloist*

## SUMMER RADIO BROADCAST

Our Summer worship schedule will begin June 8<sup>th</sup>, with one service only offered at 9:30 a.m.

We will continue to broadcast our worship service, however, from 8:45-9:45 a.m. every Sunday morning on WECB 104.3 FM, but it will be done on a one-week delay. In other words, we'll record our 9:30 a.m. service one week for broadcast the following week at 8:45 a.m.

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, the broadcast will consist of a special pre-recorded Time of Meditation by Rev. Steve Savides. Beginning June 15<sup>th</sup>, the broadcast will be a recording of the previous week's worship service.

## E-MAIL GLITCHES

The church office recently received a batch of e-mails from about a month ago, e-mails that apparently were caught up in some hiccup of the server. If you find yourself expecting an e-mail

reply from church staff and wondering why it hasn't come, it may be due to a server malfunction. Please contact us again to let us know that you haven't yet received a reply. Then we'll get back to you promptly. Thank you!

## PASTOR STEVE IN CHICAGO

**JUNE 16 – JULY 3**

Pastor Steve will be in his last three weeks of residency for his doctoral studies from June 16 through July 3<sup>rd</sup> as part of the ACTS DMin in Preaching program. This is the same program Rev. Kevin Gregory was enrolled in while he served our church. In fact, it's now the Rev. Dr. Kevin Gregory as he received his DMin from Chicago Theological Seminary this Spring. Congratulations to Kevin!

## TRIP TO KENYA – JUNE 2009

The Kenya Partnership team is tentatively planning a trip to the Kerio Valley next June. Trip participants will be asked to become actively involved in the partnership. If you are interested in participating, contact Deb Burich and/or attend the Kenya Partnership team meeting June 16 at 6:30pm.

## PICTURE THIS

After many years a new church photo directory will be undertaken this fall (September 23 – 27 and October 21 – 25). The church has been able to secure an additional date on July 29 to take pictures of those families who have children in college that will not be here in the fall. Please sign-up in the narthex or call the church office as soon as possible.



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



### “JESUS’ NAME FOR GOD”

What do you call the man who is going to marry your mother? That was the question facing some adult children of a woman who was planning to remarry. She and her fiancé told me about it. “*Step-father*” is too formal, they thought. “*Father*” or “*Dad*” seems presumptuous. Besides, those titles are already being used, even if by a man who left the family years ago and whose relationship with his children is still rather uneasy and unsettled. But they didn’t want to just call him by his first name. That wouldn’t recognize the specialness of the relationship. They tried out several different words before finally settling on “*papa*.” When I talked to their “*papa*” recently he told me that these children of the woman he’s going to marry asked him if they could spend Father’s Day with him. As he told me about it his eyes filled with tears.

What do you call the man who is married to your grandmother? That was the question facing the grandchildren of my sister-in-law. My brother has no blood relationship to these little tots but they love him. They see him all the time and they know he loves them. “*Grandfather*” or “*granddad*” is filled, twice over in fact. The parents of the little ones, my brother’s step-children, didn’t step in and tell their little children what to call my brother, a man they regard as more father to them than the man who is their biological father. I can’t tell you how little children make such decisions. I don’t know how they come up with names to give the people they love. But I can tell you that these little ones did indeed come up with a name to call my brother. They call him “*Pop-pop*.”

What do you call the one who is the source of your life? The one who loves you completely and without condition? The one who is more than father or mother to you, who is also a part of who you essentially are? The one from whom you came and to whom you are going? That was the question facing Jesus. He too came up with a word, a name, a title to describe this relationship he had with God. The name he came up with is not “*father*,” though that’s how we most often translate it. The name he

came up with is “*Abba*.” *Abba*, in Jesus’ native tongue, is a toddler’s word for a particularly beloved adult, like “*Da-da*” or “*Pop-pop*.” It can also be an adult child’s name for an older man who is not a biological father but who is deeply loved and respected, like “*papa*” or like the word “*grandfather*” as it is used in some Native American traditions.

*Abba* – that’s Jesus name for God. And that’s the name he taught us to call God. *Abba*. *Papa*. *Pop-pop*. *Grandfather*.

Sometimes I think we ask too little of folks, asking them to believe in God. We ask folks to accept God as a supernatural being, as an ontological reality, as a divine being that really does exist. If that’s all that faith was about, then a good name for God would be the Unmoved Mover, as Aquinas named God in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century. Or we could picture God as Divine Watchmaker as Thomas Jefferson and the other Deists did in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Or maybe we’d talk about the One Who Pushed the Button on the Big Bang as some 20<sup>th</sup> Century scientists did.

That’s not how Jesus pictured God. Those aren’t the kind of names Jesus gave God. Jesus called God *Abba*. *Papa*. *Pop-pop*. *Grandfather*. And by giving God this name, Jesus invited us to something much deeper than simple belief. Jesus called us into relationship.

In certain parts of the Christian faith, it’s all about belief right now, about dogma and proposition and orthodoxy and creed. But I believe Jesus invited us to walk down a more difficult path. Jesus invited us into relationship with God, a relationship filled with ups and downs, tough patches and moments of supreme joy, changing feelings and transforming thoughts. Believing in God really isn’t that tough. Having a relationship with God, however, demands fidelity, trust, hard work, and persistence. And having a relationship with God transports us into a life of love and service, the only kind of life worth living.

How is your relationship with God? How close do you feel to God right now? Close enough to call God *Abba*?

Your friend and fellow minister,  
Rev. Steve Savides

## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

If you have particular joys or concerns that you would like lifted up, please call Pastor Jane Anderson.

### Those who need our prayers:

Katie Behl  
Amy Bowman  
Trish Brehm's father  
Philip Buchanan  
Bobby Carlson  
Janice Carroll's father, Sylvester Sawicki  
Arlene Danz  
Beth Detienne's mother  
Arline Emrich  
Susie's Fitton's niece, Cheryl Tan  
Steve Furstenberg  
Ken Geiger  
Kris Glenn's mother, Diane Otto  
Tony Grade's father, Tom  
Joyce Hanstedt  
Barry Helms  
Carol Huebner  
Ethel Jesse  
Judy Kaddatz  
Hope and Nate Karth  
Elizabeth Keggi  
Theda Knaack  
Larry Livengood  
Susan McNeely, sister of Van Smith  
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer  
Greg Niewenhaus  
Dan Nisler's brother, David  
Jane Oie  
Gely Platt's mother, Alicia Cotera  
Rev. Cathey Rennick  
Susan Robertson's nephew, Mark Andre  
Mike Ross  
Tom Rued  
Bette Schmidt  
Sue Schroeder  
Joyce Spurlock  
David Strom  
Jim Tarr  
Jennifer Wade's brother, friend of Mark Yonan  
Sue Wisneski  
Kevin Worm  
Helen Wright

## MUSIC NOTES

*John Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries*

Summer is upon us. . . a great time for youth and adult musicians who might not be able to participate in the regular season to share their gifts in worship. Please call me at 733-7393, ext. 230, or e-mail me at [jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org) to discuss worship readiness, appropriate repertoire, and calendars. College students -- back in the area for the summer -- are encouraged to participate, too.

Our Sanctuary Choir completed its regular season on Sunday, June 1, singing sacred jazz settings by Bob Chilcott. My thanks to this talented and dedicated ensemble for their weekly rehearsal and Sunday commitment throughout the year (regardless of sleet, rain or SNOW!), preparing a broad range of repertoire. As we look to the fall, new members are welcome in all sections. Contact me with any questions you might have; our Sanctuary Choir is open to all who wish to sing and share in worship leadership (no audition required.)

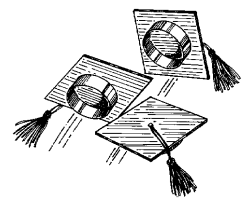
## LITERACY TUTORS NEEDED

Improve lives, build community – volunteer to be a literacy tutor with Fox Valley Literacy Coalition. A literacy student writes: “*I am so happy that I am learning English. Soon I will be able to read books to my baby.*”

Training for new tutors will be held in June at the FVLC office, 103 E. Washington St., Appleton. Orientation: Monday, June 16, 4:00-5:00 p.m. or Wednesday, June 18, 6:00-7:00 p.m. Tutor training: June 23, 25, 30 & July 2, 6-9:30 p.m. Contact Bryana Dunn for more information, 991-9840.

## RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES

First Congregational would like to recognize all of our 2008 graduating students. If you know of someone in our church family who has achieved this distinction, please call the church office with the appropriate information. The next issue of *The Open Door* will contain a listing of all of our graduates.



## IN KENYA

Thank you! \$3,700 was received and sent to Kenya! This money was used by our partners for the emergency needs of “Internally Displaced People” – people displaced due to the violence after the elections. They bought bedding, cooking pots, utensils, medicines and maize and distributed these to 45 households. They had purchased the items to take to the camps and during this time the IDP’s were transported to their homes, so they were not able to distribute at that time. They rescheduled once again after the District Commissioner directed them to distribute the items at their residences. Our partners went to great lengths and travelled long days to help others. I share with you excerpts from their letter:

*“We are really grateful to you and those of your church who contributed to help the needy persons in the IDP camps. Among those who benefited is one of the Pastors who was displaced and others – many of whom were members of Rev. Job Kisang and Joshua Barsiron’s churches. Gladys Elolia (Dr. Kip’s sister) also received bedding, medicine and other personal needs. These people appreciated the assistance. With these foodstuff and household utensils they were able to return to their burnt houses to begin new life. The big challenge they face today in their homes is foodstuff and clothing for what we were able to assist was not enough and currently the country is facing food shortage. All in all we are really thankful for the support on their behalf.”*

*Rev. Samuel Chepkonga, Rev. Job Kisang, Rev. Joshua Barsiron*

As I read that they had helped 45 households & read all the names of the people in the list they sent, I marveled at how they stretched the money so far and tried to help equally those they did. I enclose the names of those people they helped and ask you and your family to pray for each person/family (each name represents a family household), possibly one each day for the next 45 days.

With gratitude and thanks,  
*Deb Burich*

The following are the beneficiaries of the items:

Gladys Elolia	Jonathan Chuma
David Kipchumba	Catherine Kemboi
Nancy Kimaiyo	Linah Kibet
Noele Kisa	Salina Kibet
Betty Wamboi	Julia Joel

Joyce Kakombe	Esther Kitum
Nancy Daniel	Margaret Jeremiah
Peter Kamau	Rosemary W. Kamau
Susan Cherop	Kephar Bera
James Waithaka	Onesmus Kimancha
James Kairu	Sammy Gatheru
Samuel Mwangi	Josphat Muchiri
Wagura Wachira	Joseph Kaqure
Zedekiah Onyango	Paul Kiprono
Raphael Kiptoo	Maaraba Vilis Jesiro
Margaret Cherutich	Sammy K. Kiplagat
Kenneddy Kamanda	Wangechi Macharia
Peter Nduati	Lucas Ochichi
David Kariuki	John Gathagu
Eunice Muthoni	Samuel Wambogo
Bethwel Ondara	Hellen Chemeli

## POST-PENTECOST PICNIC

The Fellowship and Congregational Life Ministry Team extends a very grateful thank you to all who helped make the Post-Pentecost Picnic a wonderful time for food and fellowship. Church members assisted the team on Saturday with set up at the church and food prep at FVTC. Others assisted Sunday with final preparations before the picnic and with serving at the picnic. Senior High youth assisted with games and face painting of our youngest members. Last but certainly not least, thanks so much for those who helped with take down and clean up. This includes the children who helped by taking home all those balloons.

For the delicious picnic meal, our church owes a HUGE THANK YOU to Scott Finley, chef and instructor at the Fox Valley Technical College. Scott planned the menu, ordered the food, and did much of the food preparation for the picnic. His expertise and involvement were invaluable! His family was also involved in this effort: spouse, Carla, daughter Carli, and son, Marcus. It was a delight to work with all of them.

We also thank members who supported the event by coming to the picnic and for your monetary donations. We hope you will continue to support our efforts as we enter into this year’s special theme of Hospitality.

*Kristi Clover and Ellie Olson, co-chairs  
Fellowship and Congregational Life Ministry Team*

## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL FAMILY AT WORK AND PLAY**

### **“TO DO LIST!!”**

#### **ASSIST WITH FUNERAL LUNCHEONS**

Volunteers are needed to oversee funeral luncheons. Food is delivered and set up by caterers. Volunteers are needed to make sure that food and beverage containers are replenished and kept full. It would be efficient if we could form teams to contact on a week by week or month by month basis. Please call the church office for more information. We need your help!

#### **DELIVER FLOWERS TO CHURCH MEMBERS**

Individuals or families are needed to deliver flowers after Sunday worship. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring joy and smiles to others! Contact Van Smith for information 731-1839

#### **COLLATE BULLETIN & NEWSLETTER**

The church has a wonderful crew of volunteers that work on Fridays and every other Tuesday putting together bulletin, newsletter and other publications for the congregation. We are looking for a few more people to join this mighty band. Please call the office if you would like to help your church and join in the fun.

**CALL CHURCH OFFICE WITH DIRECTORY CHANGES** Within the next few weeks the church office will be preparing to print the new church programming directory. Included in this publication will be the names and addresses of our members. If you know you will be moving or changing phone numbers or email addresses before August 1<sup>st</sup>, please call the church office with the new information.

#### **ATTEND HABITAT BUILD FOR WOMEN**

First Congo has signed up to help with this year's Habitat for Humanity Women's Build on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We need 10 women to come out and help build, no previous experience required. We also need men to come and help cook lunch that day as well. So if you are interested in helping with either of these activities please sign up in the narthex, otherwise contact Kristy Smits, 265-8011, for questions about the house or Benji Benzschawel, 738-1614, for questions about cooking lunch.

#### **SUPPPORT YOUTH SPONSORED CAR WASH**

**Saturday, June 21, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

A free will offering will be taken and all proceeds will benefit the July Youth Mission Trip to Cass Lake. The Car Wash will take place at Auto Zone on the corner of Richmond and Packard streets.

#### **JOIN THE FUN!!**

NEA's Timber Rattler Tailgate Party, Saturday, August 23, 2008, Fox Cities Stadium, Appleton. The food and fun begin at 4:00 p.m. The game begins at 6:35 p.m. Fireworks after the game. Join your friends from Northeast Wisconsin UCC Churches for fellowship and fun. \$12.00 per person (includes food and game ticket). Please register in the church office by June 29. Payment is due when you register. Checks should be made out to the First Congregational Church with "Timber Rattler Game" in the memo.

### **DONATIONS FOR YOUTH MISSION TRIP**

The youth mission trip this July will be to Cass Lake (Leech Lake Reservation), in northern Minnesota. The Chippewa Tribe is the largest in the state in terms of population, but not in size. Our youth have been called to focus on 2 primary areas of ministry while in Cass Lake: serving the children of the reservation and home improvement. Our work with children consists of hands-on programming such as games, skits, songs and interactive lessons designed to help kids learn about Jesus. The community is experiencing great need in just about all areas and could really use our help. When we asked if there was something our greater congregation could do in addition to our sending a workforce, they gratefully shared with us their most current needs.

School Supplies	Toothbrushes
Backpacks	Hygiene products
Toothpaste	Winter Boots, ages 4-14

Please help us as you can with any donations. There is a box in the narthex that has a sign for the Youth Mission trip, Cass Lake for much appreciated deposits. Thank you and God bless!

### **LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL SERIES**

#### **June 11, Wednesday, (12:45 )**

Dr. Sarah Mahler Hughes  
St. Joseph Catholic Church  
404 W. Lawrence Street, Appleton  
03m, 48rk Holtkamp/Schaefer

#### **June 18, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.**

Jeffrey Verkuilen, AAGO  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
803 E. College Avenue, Appleton  
2m, 31rk Cassavant

#### **June 25, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.**

Mathew Walsh  
Holy Cross Catholic Church  
309 Desnoyer Street, **KAUKAUNA**  
2m, 25rk Wangerin/Taylor

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF  
*THE OPEN DOOR* IS 9:00 A.M. ON  
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008.**