



724 E. South River Street
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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, JULY 20, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Sermon.....Rev. Steve Savides

Music Claire Burke, *vocal soloist*

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2008

9:30 a.m.

Sermon.....Rev. Jane Anderson

MusicVicky Daniel, *percussion soloist*

Our summer worship service is broadcast over radio station WECB 104.3 FM at 8:45 a.m. on a one week delay.

NOTES FROM THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

- ❖ Counters are still needed for the last part of the calendar year. Counters help us maintain proper cash handling procedures in the church, and it only takes about an hour each Monday morning. We have vacancies from August onward, so please volunteer for this worthwhile ministry. Sign-up sheets are located in the Narthex. Thank you for your generosity of time and talent.
- ❖ When writing a check for special events, special donations, memorials or other occasions, please make the check out to First

Congregational UCC and then in the memo portion indicate what the check is for.

- ❖ Contribution statements were mailed last week. If you have questions regarding these, please contact our Church Administrator, Gene Sinner at 733-7393.

PICTURE THIS CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

In less than two weeks the special session for families with college students will take place. That's Tuesday, July 29th.* Photo sessions are at 10 minute intervals between 3:00 and 9:30 p.m. Photos will be taken in the Chapel, followed by immediate viewing of the proofs. The whole process should take less than an hour.

*There are a minimum number of sessions that are required in order for the church to offer this additional date for families with college bound children. **Because there are only a few families that have chosen to take advantage of the July 29th session, we are opening this date up to anyone in the congregation who would like to have their picture taken in July .** Sign up in the narthex or by calling the church office.

Carolyn Ahrens

THANK YOU ANNA EGGEN, KRISTIN EGGEN AND SHERYL DEHART!

These volunteers cleaned and re-felted the chair legs of several hundred chairs in our fellowship hall this past week. ☺

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Thank you, thank you, thank you for your loving support of my studies! I've been in Chicago the last three weeks doing my last of three residencies, taking classes towards my Doctor of Ministry degree. This DMin. in Preaching program is offered through a consortium of Chicago theological schools. My degree (God willing) will be granted through Chicago Theological Seminary. What remains for me in my degree program are the last two (of eight) projects, the writing of my doctoral thesis, my advisor-director rewrites, the oral examination, and then, hopefully, next May I will receive my degree.

I missed all of you while I was away. I missed this church that has so quickly become home for me and my family. And I was filled with an overwhelming sense of gratitude for all of you and for the privilege of serving you. Because my studies have focused on preaching, I am especially grateful that you grant me the privilege (and responsibility) of filling the congregation's pulpit Sunday after Sunday. The Christian people have been reading and reflecting on our scriptures and stories of faith for nearly two thousand years. What a privilege and responsibility it is to offer my own thoughts where so many others have offered theirs: Augustine and Aquinas, Julian of Norwich and Martin Luther, John Calvin and Anne Hutchinson, Jarena Lee and Martin Luther King, Jr., William Sloane Coffin and Oscar Romero, and John McFadden and Jane Anderson.

Most importantly, however, I am privileged to join my thoughts alongside all the women and men of faith, no matter their title or degree, who have turned to the sayings of Jesus to face old difficulties and meet new occasions. When we speak of the communion of the saints, they are who we are speaking of. In fact, we are

speaking of you, of all of us who continue to find guidance and comfort, bread and life in the stories and scriptures of our faith. I look forward to many more years of celebrating this communion with you here at First Congregational United Church of Christ of Appleton.

Thank you again for your support and for your friendship!

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:

Royal Becker, father of Gwen Salonen
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
Joyce Hanstedt
Barry Helms
Carol Huebner
Ethel Jesse
Judy Kaddatz
Hope and Nate Karth
Elizabeth Keggi
Larry Livengood
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer
Dan Nisler's brother, David
Jane Oie
Dennis Oudenhoven
Gely Platt's mother, Alicia Cotera
Tom Rued
Bette Schmidt
Sue Schroeder
Joyce Spurlock
David Strom
Helen Thiel
Van Smith's sister, Susan McNeely
Jennifer Wade's brother, friend of Mark Yonan
Sue Wisneski
Helen Wright
John Yonan

John Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Our fine organ continues to be a gift to our community. Thank you to all who support the summer organ series with your attendance, including attending the recitals we hosted here at First Congregational on July 9th and 16th. Special thanks to Mary Kay Easty for her recital, and to Frank Rippl for coordinating the series. Upcoming recitals are listed in Sunday bulletins and *The Open Door*. . . if you haven't attended yet, put them on your calendar!

Our summer worship offers a broad variety of music, with contrasting offerings each week. Upcoming Sundays will include numerous solo voices presenting diverse repertoire, instrumental soloists (percussion, viola, organ), the Pride of the Valley Barbershop Chorus, youth singers and instrumentalists, traditional hymns with organ, and a Sunday where we include contemporary congregational song with a song leader. I ask that you continue to welcome the sons and daughters of our congregation sharing their diverse gifts, as we celebrate our faith together!

**FOX CITIES WORKFORCE HOUSING
PUBLIC EVENT II**

Tuesday, July 22, 2008
1:00—5:00 p.m.

Paper Discovery Center
425 W. Water Street, Appleton
www.paperdiscoverycenter.org

Cost: \$5 per person to cover materials
and hospitality.

Register by calling: 725-2828

You are invited to:

- View examples of workforce housing
- Hear about vehicles & tools to encourage the building of workforce housing.
- Explore and share Public Policy issues with community leaders that will enhance more building of affordable workforce housing.
- Help community leaders build a community in which all are included, in which diversity is the norm in every neighborhood and every school.

Maynard Beemer

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008.**

SUMMARY, CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING, JUNE 24, 2008

The By-Laws of First Congregational United Church of Christ authorize the Church Council to act on behalf of the congregation between annual meetings. Council would like to keep members informed about its work, so we plan to include a brief summary of decisions and discussion each month in *The Open Door*. Readers who are interested in knowing more or providing feedback are encouraged to contact the Moderator, Jann Kostecke.

Decisions made:

- Council reviewed, revised, and approved a new covenant for participants in youth mission trips.
- It approved the expenditure of \$975 (from the Claire Gehin Trust), to provide need-based scholarships for participants in the up-coming youth mission trip to Cass Lake, MN.
- It endorsed the Mission and Outreach Team's proposal that our congregation, joining with twelve other UCC churches, should lead in sponsoring the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house in the Fox Valley in 2009. The participating churches will need to raise approximately \$75,000 toward the construction cost. A steering committee has been formed and planning is underway.

Other topics discussed:

- Revenue so far in 2008 year is about \$40,000 behind budget, mostly due to insufficient income from pledges, while expenses are approximately even with budget – resulting in an operating deficit at this time. Several options for addressing the problem were discussed. Meanwhile, funds will be transferred temporarily from the capital projects reserve to the operating account in order to cover short-term cash needs.
- The Stewardship Team reported on its plans to hold information meetings in members' homes in the fall to raise awareness of the many ministries and programs of our church (“what we do”); discuss the church's financial resources (“what we have”); and invite reflection on future growth and new directions (“what we need”). More information on these gatherings will be coming soon.
- Council brainstormed about programs and activities related to the 2008-2009 hospitality theme.
- Deb Burich discussed the newly developed program at the Redgranite Correctional Institution where some of our members will offer worship services; she reviewed her efforts to find host churches so that some of our members can travel to Iowa to help with rebuilding after the floods; and she noted that a project is under way to clarify the membership status of adult children of some of our members.

For more information on any of these topics or to provide input about them, please contact the Moderator, Jann Kostecke.

Steve Hirby
Church Council, Secretary



LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

(Six remaining recitals)

July 23, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Blake Doss

First Presbyterian Church

200 Church Street, **NEENAH**

July 30, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Mark Paisar

First Presbyterian Church

200 Church Street, **NEENAH**

August 6, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Dr. Paul Weber

First English Lutheran Church

326 E. North Street, Appleton

August 13, Wednesday, (12:45)

John Skidmore

St. Joseph Catholic Church

404 W. Lawrence Street, Appleton

August 20, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Dr. Daniel Steinert, AAGO

Zion Lutheran Church ELCA

912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton

August 27, Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.

Marillyn Freeman, AAGO

St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

200 N. Commercial Street, **NEENAH**

VITAL STATISTICS

BAPTISMS:

GRANT THOMAS HARDY, son of Chad and Jennifer Hardy, on February 24th

CARTER JOSEPH SKALMOSKI, son of Corey and Jacklyn Skalmoski, on March 16th

TEAGAN JAYCE MASSEY-PLAMANN, daughter of Pamela Massey and Tracy Plamann, on March 30th

WILLIAM JEFFREY GOSSE, son of Jeffrey and Cara Gosse, on June 8th

TYLER JACOB LINDSEY, son of Jenna Herman, on June 8th

JAKEINTH TERRY WEGNER, son of Michael and Kathryn Wegner, on June 15th

WILLA MAYME ZAUG, daughter of Cary and Sara Zaug, on June 22nd

ADULT BAPTISMS:

MATTHEW WILSON on February 24th

SANDRA, ALEX and ANDREW VANDEN BOOGAARD on April 26th

KIERSTEN BENTLEY on May 18th

ALICE BRANDT on May 18th

JACQUELINE REYNDERS on May 18th

DEATHS:

SARAH PAUL – May 10th

JOHN HAYNES – June 11th

WEDDINGS:

JOHN ELLENBECHER to MARY DEXHEIMER on February 29th

ADAM SKALMOSKI to MARIE FLAMINGO on March 29th

MATTHEW WILSON to MILLAINE WELLS on April 19th

MICHAEL BOGACZ to HEATHER GENKE on June 13th

SEAN BREITZMAN to STEPHANIE BLEIER on June 20th

TRAVIS THIEL to RENEE SMITH on June 21st

DENNIS SKALMOSKI to DEBRA MANDICH on June 21st

BIRTHS:

WILLA MAYME ZAUG, daughter of Cary and Sara Zaug, on February 22nd

ABIGAIL ELIZABETH KARTH, daughter of Nathan and Hope Karch, on April 18th

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED BY THE RITE OF CONFIRMATION ON MAY 18th

Kayce Anderson

Slaten Behm

Kiersten Bentley

Gina Berceau

Alice Brandt

Johnathon Coenen

Quinn Elmer

Melissa Flesch

Christopher Goree

David Grube

James Herman

Aurelia Hoft-March

Adam Mani

Grace Miceli-Wink

Mitchell McNutt

Andrew O'Neill

Jacqueline Reynders

Nicholas Rogers

Paul Savides

Jake Shropshire

Tyler Smith

Lara Steinike

Alex Vanden Boogaard

Justin Wettstein

Megan White

Kimberly Willems

Cooper Witt

Alexander Woodford