



724 E. South River Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Office (920) 733-7393

Fax number (920) 733-7022

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org

Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Gene Sinner, Church Administrator
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries

Jane B. Anderson, Co-Pastor

Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist
Lyssa Fish, Director for Youth Ministries

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2008

8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Sermon Rev. Steve Savides
Luke 9:36-41 (The Way of Hospitality)

Music: 8:45 a.m.

Vocal Quartet; Karen Leigh-Post, *soloist*; Barb Boren, *flute*; Wanda Gauger, *cello*

Music: 10:30 a.m.

The Sanctuary Choir; Karen Leigh-Post, *soloist*; Barb Boren, *flute*; Wanda Gauger, *cello*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2008

8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Sermon Rev. Steve Savides
Genesis 12:1-9 (The Journey begins)

Music: 8:45 a.m.

The Sanctuary Choir; Steven Paul Spears, *guest soloist*

Music: 10:30 a.m.

Steven Paul Spears, *guest soloist*

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS
BROADCAST OVER RADIO STATION WECB
104.3 FM AT 8:45 A.M**

hope for high participation in the new directory which should be available early in 2009. This Sunday the 14th of September is the last time sign up sheets will be in the narthex. We hope with the church schedule in full swing that you will stop by and sign up to have your photo taken. Photo sessions are: Tuesday-Friday, September 23-26 and October 21-24 from 3:00-9:20 p.m. and Saturdays, September 27 and October 25 from 10:00 a.m.- 4:40 p.m.

Online sign up can be accomplished by going to the church website: www.firstcongoappleton.org and clicking on the pictorial directory link in the right column.

Carolyn Ahrens

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Many of you are aware of our Prayer Shawl Ministry and the comfort that shawls have brought to those who have received them-often in times of sorrow or health issues. But sometimes they convey other "comforts" as well. I am aware of several times when a shawl was given by a high school graduate to a good friend who would attend a different school and wanted the shawl to bring comfort and a reminder of their friendship. Also, we have been knitting/crocheting some shawls specifically for children because The Samaritan Counseling Center has asked for some children's shawls. So if any of you find that you would want to give a shawl to a child for either a joy or a concern, let me know. Some of our Prayer Shawl members especially enjoy making the smaller and often brighter colored shawls that we have made for the Center so if we find a need in our congregation we will expand that aspect of our ministry.

Helen McKean

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

It was 2004 when the last pictorial directory was undertaken here at First Congregational Church. There have been many changes in the life of this church and its members. The staff and committee

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria? (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.'

John 4:14

Dear Friends,

Yesterday marked the beginning of a new school year, and probably one of the hottest on record. No doubt in those school buildings that do not have air conditioning, students and teachers were very uncomfortable, hot, and thirsty. I would imagine that there were many requests to leave the classroom to get a drink of water.

I remember my daughter's first day of school in Appleton. It, too, was a warm and humid day. Anna-Marie left the classroom several times in search of a cool drink of water, but couldn't find the 'water fountain.' She asked one person after another, "Where can I get a drink?" And each one responded, "The bubbler is down the hall to the right." Off she would go in search of a drink of cool water, but her search was fruitless; as she couldn't understand the directions others were giving her. Frustrated after several failed searches, she resorted to cupping her hands in the restroom sink to get a drink.

Anna-Marie had never before heard the word 'bubbler.' She didn't understand that it was a different word for the same thing, a 'water fountain.' Anna-Marie had encountered the first of many differences between her life in Wisconsin and New York. She not only noticed the differences, but others did as well—differences in dress, the way she spoke, the ways she handled things. It made her feel like an outsider in the community she now lived—a feeling that didn't go away for a long time.

Whenever we come in to a new community we cross language and cultural borders even within our own country. I am constantly amazed by how many words we have in the English language for the same thing. Water fountain, bubbler, drinking fountain. Sub, hoagie, grinder. Milk shake, frappe, milk mixer. And isn't it interesting how some of our

words have morphed in meaning—bad can also mean something that is good, fat also mean something that is great and good for you. Freaky doesn't necessarily mean something that is scary and weird, but 'cool and righteous.' It's no wonder we misunderstand one another, fail to communicate, even when we are speaking the same language. We can get easily frustrated and want to give up in trying to understand one another. As we search to find what we need, the meaning of what we seek often gets lost in translation.

Jesus came to the well in search of a drink to quench his thirst. What he encountered was a Samaritan woman whose 'thirst' was greater than his own physical need for water.

Samaritans were considered to be outcasts by Jews. They were considered to be 'unclean,' as they didn't practice the same purity laws set forth by their own culture and tradition. Thus, Samaritans and Jews could not share a common life together, even though they shared a well to quench their thirst. It's no wonder that the Samaritan woman was confused and shocked by Jesus' request of her to give him a drink. Can you imagine her surprise and awe by Jesus' offer to quench her own thirst?

What the Samaritan woman sought, what she thirsted after was far more than water alone could satisfy. This Samaritan woman longed to be recognized, included and appreciated in community. She thirsted after love—a love that saw her as loveable. She longed to be accepted and accepting of the gifts that she had to offer as a child of God—worthy and worthwhile getting a chance to know and be a part of community life—regardless of differences in language, culture and ways of doing things. Jesus noticed the differences between them. But, he didn't let their difference divide them. He risked crossing over their differences and divides. He recognized and embraced this woman for who she was, a beloved child of God. He quenched her thirst by sharing God's love with her, reaching across what divided them and embracing what they held in common.

As we now enter into a new program year in the life of our community of faith, help us to embrace "Hospitality at Heart," our theme for this year. Let us reach out to one another. Many of us, young and old alike, new members and long term members, don't know each other. It's a resounding theme I hear voiced all the time. Our not knowing makes us

feel uncomfortable and isolated. And yet, unless we risk reaching out, crossing over our differences to get to really know one another, we may not ever have our own deeper thirst for community and communion quenched. We need to recognize each other as God's beloved, worthy of getting to know one another, worthy of including and sharing in common life together. We need to embrace what we hold in common as we commune in the fellowship of God's love and life. My prayer this year is that each will become risk takers. I pray that we will see and seek one another out as we share in our common life together. I pray that we will seek to hold 'hospitality at heart' by reaching out to one another in love in our faith community and beyond, meeting and greeting one another and embracing each other as God's beloved, and thereby receive the living water that Jesus' has to offer us.

Blessings,

Pastor Jane Anderson

GOT EXTRA CLUBS?

TAKE A SWING AT KIDNEY DISEASE

If your golf clubs are among those hiding in a dusty corner, dig them out and give them to the National Kidney Foundation. The NKF recently launched the Kidney Clubs program in which golfers can donate gently used golf clubs – and their value in dollars – to the foundation. Donated clubs turn into dollars to support NKF's community services, research, public education, patient advocacy and other programs nationwide that serve kidney patients and their families.

To donate, go to www.kidneyclubs.org, where you can find the fair market value for your clubs as determined by the PGA.com Value Guide. You can either mail the clubs or take them to a National Kidney Foundation golf tournament, event or local office. (The WI Kidney Foundation office is on Bluemound Rd. in Brookfield, WI). The NKF receives needed support and donors receive a tax deduction as well as more storage space at home!

THE OPEN DOOR BY E-MAIL

Church members receiving the newsletter by e-mail have been very pleased with the ease at which they are able to access the newsletter online. If you have not signed up for this feature, please call the Church Office to sign up.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS ARE DUE!!!

Middle School classes begin Wednesday, September 10th, Sunday Church School classes begin Sunday, September 14th, and Confirmation classes begin Wednesday, September 17th. Registration and participation forms are available on our secure web site.

Sunday Church School Registration:

1. Go to: <http://www.firstcongoathways.org> and click on the "Register" link on the left side of the page.
2. Choose the appropriate age level for your child. If you have more than one child, you will need to register each separately.
3. You can find the current K-6th Grade teacher and guide openings by clicking on either the "Teachers" or "Guides" links on the left side of the web site pages. I encourage you to sign up for specific assignments, especially if you are willing to teach or guide during the first session

If you would prefer not to register online, you may print the forms from the website and send them in. Call Carolyn at 733-7393 if you have trouble printing the forms. We will gladly get registration materials to you.

Middle School Registration: Secure Online registration is also available. Please check out the website and register ASAP! Go to: <http://www.middleschool.firstcongoathways.org> and click on "register".

Confirmation Registration: Forms can be printed from the church website:

www.firstcongoappleton.org

BRUNCH BUNCH GATHERING

Brunch Bunch will meet on September 28th at 12:00 noon at Riverview Country Club. This is an opportunity for empty nesters, retired members, new members and others to get acquainted or reacquainted and enjoy informal fellowship. The program will be an overview of ESTHER. The cost of \$10.00 will be collected at the brunch. If you would like to attend, please call the church office to make a reservation.

Summary, Church Council Meeting, August 26, 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 offer each month in *The Open Door* a brief summary of our decisions and discussion. Readers who are interested in knowing more or providing feedback are encouraged to contact the Moderator, Jann Kostecke.

Decisions made:

- Council authorized an offer of employment to Georgia Berceau as Interim Middle School Coordinator.

Other topics discussed:

- It was reported that the Pathways computers had been replaced after inspection revealed that the former units could not be repaired or upgraded to work satisfactorily.
- We discussed the process of consultation and decision-making to be used when changes are proposed in the number, responsibilities, or reporting relationships of staff. A policy proposal is being drafted and will be brought back to Council for consideration.
- Treasurer Jeff Lammers reported that the church's financial picture is holding steady, with revenue still significantly under budget, but no worse than over the last two months, and expenses still slightly under budget. We continue to have adequate cash to meet our obligations. In response to growing awareness of this issue, several members have pre-paid their pledges for the rest of the year. Analysis of the sources of the income shortfall continues.
- The Stewardship Ministry Team has begun a series of gatherings to provide better information to members on the financial underpinnings of our church's mission and ministry.
- Pastor Steve reported on his and Pastor Jane's planning of worship services during the coming program year and noted several special-emphasis Sundays focusing on social-justice issues that are closely tied to our year-long hospitality theme.
- Vice Moderator John Hoft-March reminded ministry teams of the need for nominees to succeed those councilors whose terms will expire at the end of the calendar year.
- Gene Sinner reported on progress on a number of facilities-improvement projects, including the sound system, landscaping, and parking lots. He noted plans to provide CPR and defibrillator training for staff and ushers in the early fall.
- Pastor Jane reported that she will soon be leading a pilgrimage group from our congregation to sites in France with a group from our congregation, noted that Stephen Minister training will be offered in January, and advised that the Adult Education and Spiritual Formation Ministry Team plans to provide small-group leader training this year to help strengthen our small-group ministries.
- John Albrecht reported that he will be directing the Appleton Boychoir's junior choir this year.

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



JOYS AND CONCERNS

OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, continuing support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficult times in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers. Greet them with a loving word when you see them.

PRAYERS FOR:

Dee Abts' father
Heather Genke Bogacz
David Gabert
Jean Harkins
Mel Hechel
Hope Karth's father and mother
Ruth Maigaiter, Maxine Smith's cousin
Tammy Nelson's mother, Jacki Krause
Jean Pooler
John Yonan

CONTINUING PRAYERS:

Katie Behl
Trish Brehm's father
Philip Buchanan
Janice Carroll's father, Sylvester Sawicki
Arlene Danz
Stacy DeSotel, friend of Mark Yonan
Beth Detienne's mother
Steve Furstenberg
Ken Geiger
Joyce Hanstedt
Joanna Helms
Carol Huebner
Ethel Jesse
Tenley Johnson, mother-in-law of Gene Sinner's son,
Hope and Nate Karth
Judy Kaddatz
Larry Livengood
James Marsh, father of Mae Van Driest
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer
Dan Nadler's brother, David Nisler
Jane Oie
Dennis Oudenhoven
Todd Retzlaff
Mike Ross
Bette Schmidt
Sue Schroeder
Joyce Spurlock
David Strom
Cheryl Tan, niece of Susie Fitton
Helen Thiel
Jennifer Wade's brother, friend of Mark Yonan
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian & Lecia Wardle
Emily Wollner, friend of Beth Detienne
Helen Wright

MUSIC NOTES

John Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Our new season is "off and running," with the Sanctuary Choir's rehearsals having resumed and continuing each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. The new season (as outlined in your Program Directory) is filled with a wide variety of music-making . . . come join us! Additional singers (no audition required) are welcome in all sections. Please contact me with your interest or questions, jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org.

Come join us for a special WOMEN'S CHOIR on Sunday, October 19, the 8:45 a.m. worship service. This choral experience is open to all women (Senior High and beyond) in the congregation who enjoy singing. We will rehearse the music on the two preceding Wednesday evenings, (October 8 & 15) at the beginning of our Sanctuary Choir rehearsal time. Additional singers interested in joining us for this choir should plan to rehearse just from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. those two nights. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for this special opportunity, as we encourage singers who might not be able to commit to a full year's choir schedule. You are welcome here!

FOX CITIES "CROP" HUNGER WALK

Wisconsin Walks With the World

Sunday, October 12, 2008

Memorial Presbyterian Church

803 E. College Ave.

Distance: 1, 3, or 6 miles

Registration: 12:30 p.m.

Start: 1:00 p.m.

Communities
Responding to
Overcome
Poverty

Together, we can make a difference!

Join the CROP Hunger Walk or contribute to a Walker. 25% returned to Local Food Pantries

Check out the Fox Cities CROP Hunger Walk on the website www.cropwalkonline.org.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008.**

SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT

A scout from First Congregational UCC's own Troop 8 is doing an Eagle Project on our grounds. Kody Kellner has constructed a nature trail and council ring on our property, just below the Memorial Garden. The trail is 184 feet long and greatly enhances the usability of this wonderful nature space. The council ring will be an excellent place for groups to meet in a natural woodland setting. When you see him, please thank Kody for this wonderful addition to the church's property. We want to thank the Memorials and Special Gifts Committee for funding the materials cost of the council ring. The trail materials were gathered free from our own resources – the railroad ties from the Pathways area, and the wood chips from our earlier tree cutting projects. We hope to further develop the lower ravine area to make it even more usable for our events, our members, and the community in the months and years ahead.

FRANCE PILGRIMAGE BLOG

Our pilgrims leave for France beginning Tuesday, September 9th, and return Tuesday, September 23rd. Please keep them in your prayers. If you would like to learn about their daily encounters and adventures tune in to their blog site which can be accessed directly from the church website: www.firstcongoappleton.org . Click on the link "France Pilgrims Blog." Pilgrims are: Maureen and Steve Ware; Faye Howell and Colin Smith; Pat and Steve Hirby; Pat Goldberg, Joan Jensen, Jane Anderson, and Jan Davis.

ESTHER OPPORTUNITY

Saturday, September 13

9:00 am- Noon

St. James United Methodist Church,

100 W. Capital Drive, Appleton

One-On-One Training

What is "One-on-One" Training?

An introduction to the basic building tool of congregation-based organizing. The "how-to" of intentional conversations with congregational-community members that result in deeper relationships, the discovery of a person's deeper interest/passion, and the building of stronger congregations and organizations.

Why are church members encouraged to participate?

Church members who would like to learn more about working for justice and/or would like to deepen community in their congregation.

Who is the trainer?

Rev. Joseph Ellwanger is a retired Lutheran pastor who helped establish MICAHA, a congregations-based organizing group in Milwaukee in 1988. He is also involved with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Martin Luther King in Birmingham and Selma, Alabama 1963-65.

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO FEED YOUR SPIRIT DAILY?

The United Church of Christ has created an online community called i.ucc. This site has daily devotionals written by UCC folks in congregations across our nation. You can access this site directly from our website. Click on Feed Your Spirit and sign up for a UCC daily devotional to be sent directly to your inbox.