

**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



THE OPEN DOOR

OCTOBER 8, 2008

Issue 21 Volume 08

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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, OCTOBER 12, 2008

8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Sermon Rev. Steve Savides
Exodus 17:1-7 (Water from the Rock)

Music:

8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

The Junior Choir of the Appleton Boychoir
The LU Music Scholars, Barbara Boren, Flutist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2008

8:45 and 10:30 a.m.

Sermon Rev. Jane Anderson
John 4:1-30, 39-42 (The Samaritan Woman)

Music:

8:45 a.m. Women's Choir
10:30 a.m. The LU Music Scholars Women

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

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.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET NOVEMBER 23, 2008

Fall is in the air and it's time to turn our thoughts to the holiday season and reflect upon ways to fill the season with the spirit of Christ. For many, this has come to be known as an Alternative Christmas – an alternative to Santa Claus and reindeer.

HOSPITALITY. In keeping with this year's theme, we are looking for spirited volunteers with a variety of gifts to share in creating an air of hospitality for this year's market. Would you like to greet visitors from the community with a traditional Christmas Carol? Contact Tammy Johnson at tamij@newsylvan.com.

Do you have that artistic flair to create a holiday atmosphere? An artificial tree you could loan for the event or baking skills to lend to the aroma of the season? Consider supporting a local or world partner and join with friends or family members to create a booth that will inspire giving. Or perhaps you have great ideas to share. Please watch for sign-up sheets or contact Karen Leigh-Post at leighpok@lawrence.edu.

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

The next photo sessions for the upcoming Pictorial Directory will be October 21-25. If you would like to be a part of this beautiful new directory and have not made an appointment or need to change one, please call Olan Mills at 1-800-866-2263 or go online to olanmills.com. In either case, you will need to know the zip code of the church (54915) or our contract number (30740). Having your picture in our directory helps members to recognize one another and is very useful for new members.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Pilgrimage Ponderings

Dear Friends,

Last Tuesday, September 23rd, the pilgrims returned from France where they visited many sacred sites and had many enriching and enlivening experiences. They were also grateful to return home where sleep, a shower and freshly laundered clothes awaited them. A day by day account of our pilgrimage can be accessed from the church website. It is still being updated with blogs and some of our photos. We invite you to visit our blog and learn about our pilgrimage.

Additionally, we wanted to share with you some reflections of what we experienced—some of the ponderings and insights we gleaned along the way.

Steve Ware writes: "There are many ways to journey in one's faith, none more literal than a religious pilgrimage. It takes much effort, resources and planning, as if to underscore the value of the trip. The value I gained was to "see" the history of the faith as embodied in the great cathedrals and abbeys we went to and worshipped in. The trip made tangible for me the history, the beauty, and the aspirations of those before us, as they struggled with the Christian faith and what it means."

Maureen Ware writes: "Ah, the floors and the ceilings of the cathedrals, the churches, the chapels at which we prayed and worshipped. How many millions of feet over the centuries have worn away the tops of those stones and made them smooth? How many millions of eyes have looked upwards to a ceiling many stories high? How many voices have said the Lord's Prayer (and in so many languages) while looking down or looking up? Do our prayers piggyback, I wonder, on those millions of others? Is there a clearer channel carved out by the intent of those millions as they have projected themselves -- over so many centuries -- toward God? Am I on a different vector than is usual? It FEELS different. It FEELS...what? More complete? More direct? More hopeful? More definitive?"

"Once again I am reminded that all Christians are connected and in many ways. Yes, it is perplexing not to see women clergy at Taizé. Yes, it is annoying not to be encouraged to take communion in Catholic cathedrals. But I am careful to try to

separate that from my understanding of the one great and powerful linkage that holds us all together: Jesus Christ and the love he brings to us all."

Colin Smith writes: "As memory serves to replay the visions of the great cathedrals of Paris, Chartres, and Amiens, or the wonderful simplistic nature of a Taizé prayer service, or the ceremonial liturgies and pageantry of a Catholic pope's visit, the image that continually comes to my reflective eye is the kindness of total strangers - angels, one pilgrim labeled such encounters. One does not need to travel to France for this experience, but France does open one to being a pilgrim in foreign territory - a being outside the customs, routines, and safety of everyday Fox Cities adventures. My quiet time reflection from this First Congregational Pilgrimage is the unexpected kindness of strangers, given to us when we least expected it, yet provided when we needed it the most. Travel and prayer make one aware of what a wonderful creation God has provided for us Earthlings."

Joan Jensen writes: "While France is a country I have little background in, knowledge, language, etc. it was such a joy to spend two weeks with co-pilgrims to explore and learn. The sights of the beautiful cathedrals along with the history of religion shared after study by my co-travelers was so enriching. The time at Taize showed us a completely different way to worship along with people from all over the world, so moving with the music that brought us together. France has natural beauty along with sophisticated cuisine and we tasted it all. Most felt a need to stay longer, there's so much!"

Steve Hirby writes: "Among many highlights of the trip for us was the warm hospitality of the French to us in hotels, restaurants, on the trains, in the streets. Three guardian angels stand out particularly in our recollection -- people who went out of their way to rescue us from confusion or problems that might have spoiled our pilgrimage. Another delight is the fact that after two weeks of pretty much 24-by-7 contact, we still prize each other's company, feels even more committed to our friendship, and are eager for more opportunities to be together. Finally, we value the sharing and learning that occurred as each of us took responsibility to present a "little talk" to the group on some aspect of the history or culture of the sites we were visiting. This way of

learning from each other fostered our camaraderie, taught us things we had not known, and reinforced our understanding of the journey as a pilgrimage.”

Faye Howell writes: “The first reflection that comes to mind was the opportunity to experience all of my senses each and every day-

*The Sense of Sight-This included the colorful sights of Paris, the calming gardens, rolling hills and French pastures. The majestic views, stained glass windows that told story after story, and cathedrals lit by sacred candlelight are all sights I can still visualize.

*The Sense of Sound-The bells and singing of Taize are still in my mind and heart. The music of grand cathedral organs and the French language that was all around me expressing emotions and feelings of every kind. These are only some of the sounds of France that I will remember.

*The Sense of Taste-The tastes I remember include wonderful new French foods, red wine, and communion in a very different time and place.

*The Sense of Smell- I can still smell the savory foods, beautiful flowers, and the fresh brisk French country morning air.

*The Sense of Touch- The feel of ancient cathedral floors with rich history, the feel and texture of fresh French bread, and a warm handshake or touch between people.

All of this is tied into the concept and observation that there seemed to be time and appreciation present in the French culture. People seemed to be engaged in conversation with each other, living life, valuing and enjoying all that is around them. This was a reminder to me that spirituality comes in many shapes, forms and places and it encompasses many of our senses each and every day. The important part comes in being aware of and open to each moment before us and all that God has created and provided for us.

The second reflection was the contrast in sacred places and worship that I experienced on the pilgrimage. This included the elaborate gold and ornate of some of the huge cathedrals to the simple Taizé service or a prayer of thanksgiving in a small French country church. All were very different and yet there was a common voice, prayer and grace that could be lifted up, felt and received in each of these sacred places of wonder.

The third reflection from the pilgrimage was seeing and experiencing the differences among people and yet realizing we are all much the same. It was an opportunity to look for and see Christ in others whether one of my fellow pilgrims or a stranger that we encountered on our journey. Help, caring, encouragement and kindness were all present and experienced along the way.”

We hope these reflections draw you into the wonder of our pilgrimage and the awe and mystery of God’s power and presence in different times, places and people.

May all of you note the wondrous ways God is being revealed to you on your spiritual journey.

Blessings,

Pastor Jane

OCTOBERFEST

Over \$2,600 was raised at the Octoberfest booth this year! Records show this as the highest total since we began this fundraiser! These funds start off our fundraising efforts for our joint UCC habitat build next year. Thanks to all who volunteered at Octoberfest. Special thanks to Bernie Edmonds and Diana Syverson for coordinating this event.

FESTIVAL CONCERT WITH ORGAN AND INSTRUMENTS

On Sunday, October 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, Neenah will host an Organ Spectacular sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Featured organists are Jeffrey Verkuilen and Naomi Rowley .

**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
Ingrid Fields
Heather Genke Bogacz
David Gabert
Mary Hamlin
Jean Harkins
Ann Melewski
Bill Melzer
Joel Nelson
Tammy Nelson's mother, Jacki Krause
Crystal Weaver and family on the death of her mother
Residents of Creel, Mexico
Residents of Galveston, Texas

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
Joanna Helms
Carol Huebner
Ethel Jesse
Tenley Johnson, mother-in-law of Gene Sinner's son
Judy Kaddatz
Larry Livengood
James Marsh, father of Mae Van Driest
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer
Dan Nisler's brother, David Nisler
Jane Oie
Dennis Oudenhoven
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
John Yonan

MUSIC NOTES

Calling all WOMEN! 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 (Sr. High and beyond) in the congregation. We will rehearse the music two Wednesday evenings, (Oct. 8 & 15) at the beginning of our Sanctuary Choir rehearsal time. (Singers who missed October 8 may still pick up music and join us on the 15th.) Those interested in joining us for this choir should plan to rehearse just from 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. 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.

Children's Choir (gr. 2-6) rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays at 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. This choir is open to all children wishing to share music, fellowship and fun. More singers are still welcome. Please register by phone or at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org

Youth Handbells (now for middle school and high school students) rehearsals have resumed on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. in the Amistad Room. Some instrumental background is helpful, but not required. More youth are encouraged to come see what bells are all about! Please register by phone or at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org

Our Family Handbell Workshop Ensemble, under the direction of Beth Vercouteren, will rehearse in the Amistad Room (lower level) from 9:45 – 10:30 a.m. on Sundays Oct. 26, November 2, 9, and 16. A dress rehearsal will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, (time TBA) and the ensemble rings in worship on Sunday, Nov. 23. All are welcome! Please contact Beth at 735-0741 with any questions and to register.

African Partnership Sunday, October 26, will include the premiere of an anthem arrangement by our own Dr. Jack Harris, based on a Kenyan hymn taught to Jack by Dr. Kip Elolia. Come celebrate with us!

Don't forget the All Saints' Day Festival of Music on Saturday, November 1, at 6:30 p.m. in our sanctuary, featuring a silent film accompanied on our organ by Frank Rippl, and joined in recital by Carol Jegen and Mary Kay Easty. Refreshments will be served following the performance.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are still in need of adult volunteers to help in the **Infant room** on Sunday mornings at both services. Several of our infant parents are either in the choir or are teaching in the Pathways program. Please give prayerful consideration to this important ministry in our church.

The following Sundays are still in need of help:

<u>8:45 service</u>	<u>10:30 service</u>
Nov. 23	Oct. 26
Nov. 30	Nov. 2
	Nov. 16
	Nov. 30

Please contact Kara Woodford or Carolyn Frederick at 733-7393 if you can help.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF AIC KAPSOWAR HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL

The nursing school in Kapsowar opened September 13, with 20 students enrolled! Among the guests attending the celebration ceremony were Former President, Daniel Moi, Bishop A.I.C. Kenya Rev. Silas Yego and representatives from Samaritans Purse. Part of the celebration also included a special collection to help complete the nursing school – with kshs 7 million still needed. (approx. \$ 103,000). This project is a testament to the dedication, courage and foresight of Philemon Kaino, the director of the hospital who visited First Congregational UCC in Oct. 2006. We rejoice with them and give thanks!

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.

MARRIAGE STUDY

A BIG thank you to everyone who picked up the marital satisfaction surveys on September 28. Just a reminder that those can be filled out at your convenience and dropped in the mail whenever possible. Anyone over the age of 18 and married who would like to receive a packet of self-report questionnaires on marital satisfaction, bonding, and faith can contact Kelly Everson at keverson@chi.stu.argosy.edu. Your continued help is greatly appreciated!!

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION CLASS

Visitors that are interested in exploring membership in First Congregational UCC are invited to a meeting scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please call the church office to register for this event. New members will be received Sunday, November 16, at both services.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008.

PHONES CALLS WHEN THE OFFICE IS CLOSED

The church office is staffed from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is no one in the office to answer the phones on evenings, Saturdays or Sundays. We do not want to miss any important calls at these times from members or friends of the congregation, so we are reminding you of this information. Please listen carefully to the confidential and personal extensions listed on the answering machine for each staff member. You can select these numbers at any time during the recording. These messages will be left on the phones of the staff person that is directly related to the information you wish to communicate.

Messages regarding last minute substitutions for teaching or child care on Sunday mornings can reach Kara Woodford directly. Any prayer concerns can reach Pastor Steve or Pastor Jane. Music information can be directed to John Albrecht.

STAFF PHONE EXTENSION NUMBERS

Pastor Steve.....	Extension 224
Pastor Jane	Extension 225
Gene Sinner.....	Extension 223
John Albrecht.....	Extension 230
Kara Woodford	Extension 233
Lyssa Fish	Extension 229
Deb Burich	Extension 223
Jeanne Zoesch.....	Extension 221
Michele Rupp.....	Extension 238
Carolyn Frederick	Extension 235
Bert Poi	Extension 231

HOME MEETINGS

As part of our hospitality theme this year, as well as an effort of our Stewardship Committee to help educate our Congregation's members, we are holding home meetings with church members. These meetings are hosted mostly by Church Council members and are intended to explain the activities and operations of our church. Because it is impossible for us to reach everyone right now, we hope to have a general meeting, probably at church, at some time in the near future for those who have not attended a home meeting. Please watch *The Open Door* newsletter and the bulletin for an announcement.

STAFF E-MAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor Steve ssavides@firstcongoappleton.org
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John Albrecht..... jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org
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