

**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



# THE OPEN DOOR

**OCTOBER 21, 2009**

**Issue 21 Volume 09**

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Kara J. Woodford, Director for Children's Ministries  
Maja Glidden, Interim High School Coordinator  
Deb Burich, Director for Volunteer Ministries  
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries  
Jon D. Riehle, Organist

**PATHWAYS HARVEST PARTY SUNDAY  
OCTOBER 25TH 5:00-7:00PM.**

Come one, come all. Dress up in your favorite costume or come as you are. Join us and other families celebrating Autumn with this Harvest Party! It will be fun for all!

- Tricycle Races
- Relay Races
- Wii Games
- Board Games
- Open Mic/Karaoke
- Scavenger Hunt
- Seasonal Crafts
- Pumpkin Decorating
- Pizza and Snacks
- and MORE!

Let me know if you're able to make it! I can be reached at [karths@ameritech.net](mailto:karths@ameritech.net) or you can leave me a message at 475-9076. *Hope Karth*

**ESTHER REMINDER**

Soon you will be hearing about our Fifth Annual Banquet Gathering on Sunday, December 6, 2009. We have much to share, reports on activities of the year, an existence, and an exciting guest speaker. Along with the banquet we'll have our usual Silent Auction so call Joan Jensen (733-5090) if you have anything to donate. It's not too late to buy an ad for the program book or offer gift certificates.

**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

will meet Friday, November 6, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall at First Congregational United Church of Christ.

**SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2009—30<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, CONFIRMATION SUNDAY**

8:45 and 10:45 a.m.

Sermon ..... Rev. Steve Savides  
Sermon Title ..... "Blessed are the Merciful"  
Scripture Readings ..... Matthew 5:7; Mark 10:35-45; Psalm 34:1-8  
Music: 8:45 a.m. .... Children's Choir; LU Music Scholars; John Daniel, *trumpet*; Victoria Daniel, *timpani*  
10:45 a.m. .... The Sanctuary Choir, John Daniel, *trumpet*, Victoria Daniel, *timpani*

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2009—31<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME; HOLY COMMUNION**

8:45 and 10:30 a.m. (Daylight Savings time ends)

Sermon ..... Rev. Jane Anderson  
Sermon Title ..... "Blessed are Those Who are Persecuted"  
Scripture Readings ..... Matthew 5:10; Mark 12:28-34; Ruth 1:1-8  
Music: 8:45 a.m. .... The Sanctuary Choir  
10:30 a.m. .... The LU Music Scholars

**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP IS BROADCAST OVER RADIO STATION WECB 104.3 FM AT 8:40 A.M.**



## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

### “CONFIRMATION DAY: GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”

We will be celebrating Confirmation Day on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, with 20 young people publically proclaiming their faith and becoming members of this congregation. As part of their confirmation process, each of these young people has been required to prepare their own Faith Statement. Rather than organizing their preparations for membership around the Apostle's Creed, the UCC Statement of Faith, or some other historic creed or confession, our confirmation program is meant to equip these new members with the tools to craft their own statement of our shared faith. They do this to honor the distinctive church vision expressed by the Preamble to the Constitution of the United Church of Christ:

*The United Church of Christ acknowledges as its sole head, Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. It acknowledges as kindred in Christ all who share in this confession. It looks to the Word of God in the Scriptures, and to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, to prosper its creative and redemptive work in the world. It claims as its own the faith of the historic Church expressed in the ancient creeds and reclaimed in the basic insights of the Protestant Reformers. It affirms the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God. In accordance with the teaching of our Lord and the practice prevailing among evangelical Christians, it recognizes two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion.*

The preparation of these individual Faith Statements by our confirmands is meant to honor their responsibility to “make the faith” their own “in honesty of thought and expression.” In reviewing their statements, I couldn't be more pleased with how they have accomplished this task.

Of course the responsibility doesn't just belong to them; it belongs to all of us. All of us are called to the task of making the faith our own. While the faith of historic Church is unchanged – “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!” - the words with which we express that faith need to remain fresh and

contemporary. Some have noticed the ways in which the worship leadership of this congregation will introduce new words and new songs into our worship service. This is never meant to permanently “exile” beloved and historic pieces of liturgy. It is meant to honor our calling to “make the faith our own” in contemporary expression. Concerns over violent metaphors, exclusive language, and patriarchal images were largely unknown in the “historic” church, yet they are deep and lively concerns for many today. How do we respect the language of the past while honoring our calling to “make the faith our own” in this time and place? This is the question we struggle with together. We may answer that question differently in different circumstances, but never forget that it is our responsibility to undertake the struggle. If God is still speaking in this day and time, what is it we should say in response?

Together let us celebrate our new members, these twenty young people joining our congregation through confirmation of faith. Together let us give witness to the faith that comes to us as a gift from our mothers and fathers, from those who have come before us. And together let us give fresh expression to the faith so that new generations will join us in praise and thanksgiving to our still-speaking God.

Your friend and fellow minister,  
Rev. Steve Savides

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE  
OF THE OPEN DOOR IS 9:00 A.M. ON  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2009.**

### **STATISTICAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2009**

#### **BAPTISMS**

Isabella Kate Bauman, daughter of Eric and Lori Bauman, on September 13  
Jordan Jeffry Krause, son of Thomas and Kirstin Krause, on September 27

#### **WEDDINGS**

Lyssa Fish and Andrew Schmidt on September 5  
Jessica Probst and Scott Craft on September 12

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

**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.**

Judy Bowman  
Linda Breitzman's mother  
Monk Elmer's mother, Joan  
Ingrid Fields  
Alden Grade  
Paul Grube's sister-in-law, Connie  
Carol Huebner  
Mary Hamlin  
The Karth family on the death of Hope's father  
Pat Klarner, sister-in-law of JoAnn Shropshire  
Patti Nieuwenhuis' mother, Jan Van De Kreeke  
Donald Phillips, father of Rick Phillips  
Ruth Reineck  
Trina Reynolds  
Phyllis Trunk

### CONTINUING PRAYERS:

Dee Abts' mother  
Katie Behl  
Cheryl Benzschawel's father  
David Easty serving in Afghanistan  
Evelyn Gelbke  
Heather Genke Bogacz  
Steve Furstenberg  
Ken Geiger  
Tony Grade's father  
Sue Hasz's nephew  
Barry Helms  
Jean Harkins  
Ethel Jesse  
Sam Johnson  
Judy Kaddatz  
Tammy Nelson's mother, Jacki Krause  
Richard Miller's son-in-law, Rick Kramer  
James Marsh, father of Mae Van Driest  
Carla and Dennis Oudenhoven  
Bette Schmidt  
Joyce Spurlock  
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle  
Melba Webster, grandmother of Rhonda Vanden Boogaard  
Helen Wright

## **MUSIC NOTES**

*From Director For Music Ministries, John Albrecht*

Rehearsals are underway. . . come join us!

Our Family Handbell Workshop is coming – what a glorious sound our English Whitechapel Handbells create! The Fall Handbell Workshop Ringers will again be featured in the services for Thanksgiving Sunday, November 22. Please come and enjoy a time of ringing as we share techniques and prepare between services on November 1, 8, and 15 from 9:45 to 10:25 a.m. New Ringers, experienced ringers, family groups, church family members of all ages are welcome to experience the fun of ringing. Interested? Please call the church office or contact Beth Vercoouteren at 735-0741 for more details.

## **ADULT EDUCATION OFFERING**

### **Writing The Sacred**

**Tuesday Evening, November 3**

**7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Facilitator: Ray McGinnis

If you want to write, even if you have never put pen to paper but were curious to try, *Writing the Sacred*, a Psalm-writing and poem-making workshop may be just the thing you've been looking for. Veteran workshop leader, Ray McGinnis, has a knack for drawing bursts of imagination out of people who might not know they had it in them.

McGinnis, a journal writer, poet and psalm enthusiast has taught over 9000 people how to write poetry, prayers, diaries and autobiographies, guiding them to bring their whole heart, mind and spirit to the process.

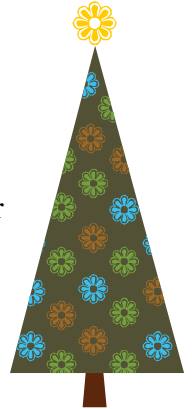
According to Mr. McGinnis "written by the Hebrews, the Psalms are raw emotive, even uncivil. But they can also serve as a catalyst for helping us express emotions and ideas that may have lain dormant. Many of the poetic elements present in the Psalms reveal the timeless human longing to articulate and honour our soulfulness. They stir within us our longing to connect with our Creator through the aliveness of language."

Please call the Church Office if you would like to sign up for this offering.



## THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET

First Congregational will be setting the tone for the season of giving one week earlier this year. Hold November 15, 2009 for Alternative Christmas Market!



The Alternative Christmas Market (ACM) provides an opportunity to shop for alternative gifts. Put down that tie rack and department store bauble and stuff your stockings with a pair of chicks or a life rescued from slavery. Steer your family from Santa's sleigh and gather together to design a booth! Your children's faces will beam with pride when they see the tally numbers rise in support of a life-giving cause.

Alternative Christmas Market changes lives every year. Our 2008 Market raised nearly \$12,000 in support of rebuilding homes after Katrina, providing assistance in Kurgan, planting trees in Malawi, restoring sight in Cambodia, providing school supplies for the world's children and food and shelter for those in need right here in Appleton.

See <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/missions/ACM>

How can you join in the celebration?

All you need is

- a friendly smile to greet visitors from the community.
- an artistic flair for creating a holiday atmosphere.
- baking skills to add flavor to the season.
- a desire to help. Support a local or world partner with a booth to inspire giving.
- an hour or two on Saturday, November 14, between 9-noon to help set up the displays.
- computer skills to tally.
- promotional skills for generating a brochure or news release.
- a love for shopping the ACM way.

**VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP.** Add your name to the volunteer sign-up sheets in the Narthex, sign-up on the Web at <http://online.firstcongoappleton.org/ACM/signup>, or contact Karen Leigh-Post at [leighpok@lawrence.edu](mailto:leighpok@lawrence.edu).

Thank you from your ACM team,

Steve Hirby, Deb Burich, JoAnne Shropshire and Karen Leigh-Post

**BACK BAY MISSION TRIP  
OCTOBER 31 to NOVEMBER 8**

Seventeen people will be travelling to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi to rebuild homes. Yes, there still are homes that need to be rebuilt from Katrina damage.

Although it has long since passed from the newspaper headlines, Katrina's aftermath will exist for a long time. Work groups in Biloxi and New Orleans bring new energy each week as new groups arrive. They also bring HOPE. Please keep the people of the Gulf Coast and those traveling there to help in your prayers.

Participants: Benji and Pam Benzschawel, Jim and Ruth Park, Len and Joyce Hanstedt, Stephanie Strzalka, Ron and Cheryl Reissmann, Kathy Lannoye, Paula DeSmidt, Jim Brygger, Julia Rhodes, Holly Green, Ken Park, John Park and Deb Burich

**A GIFT OF TIME**

Giving of your time is one of the most rewarding of gifts. The Salvation Army needs help with the Christmas Toy Shop, Adopt a Family program, and holiday food baskets. More details are available on the Mission and Outreach bulletin board in the Narthex.

**SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**

Bell ringing begins Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, and runs through Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 p.m. Ringing takes place Mondays through Fridays, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. (hours may vary at some locations).

Sign up online at [www.safoxcities.org](http://www.safoxcities.org) or call 920-955-1225. Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, is Thrivent Foundation Red Kettle Match Day!

Bell ringing is a wonderful gift you can give to those in need, as well as a wonderful way to volunteer as a family.

**CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED**

Children's books that are in good condition are needed for the "Read to Me" program at Redgranite Prison. Inmates are taped reading segments of the books and then the book and tape are sent to their child as a gift. **Multi-cultural books are especially needed.** Donations are also accepted to purchase books.

Several members of our church have been participating in the restorative justice program at the prison, as well as offering worship services there.

A book donation box is located under the Mission and Outreach table in the Narthex.

**THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH  
OUR OCTOBERFEST FUNDRAISER FOR  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Proceeds this year were \$2,376! These funds helped us exceed our goal of \$10,000 for the home our UCC churches just completed for the Yang family.

JOIN US!!

The Congo reads....

***Same Kind of Different As Me*  
By Ron Hall and Denver Moore**

Meet Denver, a man raised in plantation-style slavery in the south in the 1960's; a man who escaped, hopping a train, homeless, for 18 years on the streets. No longer a slave, Denver's life was still hopeless until God moved in. First came a faithful woman, and then her husband, Ron, an international art dealer at home in a world of Armani suits and a fortune of money.

*Same Kind of Different As Me* is the emotional true story; a telling of pain and laughter, doubt and tears, friendship and forgiveness. You will never forget this tale once it has been read.

Please join us in a book discussion group. Copies of the book are available in the Church Library if you would like. Discussion dates are as follows:  
Wednesday, December 2 – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, December 9 – 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

# *The Open Door*

## *Special Stewardship Edition*

*OCTOBER 21, 2009*

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**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



*Pledge Sunday*

*November 8, 2009*  
*8:45 and 10:30 a.m.*

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October, 2009

Friends in Christ:

Fall greetings from your church's Stewardship Team!

As we approach Stewardship Sunday on November 8, please join in the spirit of this year's theme based upon John 1:16: "From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." Perhaps more in 2009 than for many years, we are mindful that God is the source of all our resources, and that Christian stewardship requires us to be responsible and accountable to each other.

First Congregational UCC-Appleton is weathering this difficult year quite well. As you know, the Church Council "tightened our belts" in several ways, which has involved sacrifices so that our key programs and mission could be sustained. Our members have faithfully responded with strong financial and sustained volunteer support. Through September the church's Pledge Revenue is actually slightly higher than for the same period in 2008. Many committed volunteers have increased their pledge of time and talent in support of our reduced staff and budget limitations. Thank you for your faith and support!

Our members are called to give generously again in the coming year. Please join in the joy of sharing God's blessings by completing a pledge for 2010. A pledge card is enclosed, and you can complete and submit it on Stewardship Sunday. We are particularly appreciative of members who, even in these challenging economic times, continue to "tithes" by returning 10% of their income to God. At First Congregational, this discipline of faith is often manifested by giving 5% to our church and an additional 5% to other community needs in the name of Christ. We know that some members are best able to contribute their time and talent, and these gifts are extremely important and gratefully honored. But we need as many members as possible to give of their treasure at the tithing level.

We can continue to thrive even in these challenging times. With your generous participation and with God's continuing blessings, all is possible! Thank you.

Jeff Riester  
Stewardship Team Member

# First Congregational United Church of Christ 2009 Stewardship Campaign

## AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL OPTION IS AVAILABLE

Automatic withdrawal is an easy and convenient way to pay your pledge without writing a check! Your pledge payments can be automatically taken out of your checking or savings account each month. Contact the Church Office or Gene Sinner, Church Administrator, for more information.

## ONLINE PAYMENT OPTION

Just click on the "contribute" button for a secure and convenient way to donate. This option is also available at the church's website: [www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org).

## GIFTS OF STOCK

You can make your gift to the church in the form of appreciated stocks. As the donor, you will be credited with the full market value of the shares you gift to the church while avoiding capital gains tax on their appreciation. Contact the Church Office or Gene Sinner, Church Administrator, for more information.

## CHURCH ENVELOPES


If you would like offering envelopes for your 2010 pledge payments, please indicate that on your pledge card. New envelopes for 2010 will be distributed before the end of this year.

## MAKING YOUR PLEDGE

- On Pledge Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, pick up your 2010 pledge card at the tables in the Narthex before the service. During the service, please fill in your amount of giving for 2010 and your mode of payment (weekly, monthly, or yearly).
- Be sure to indicate if you would like offering envelopes, if you would like to use automatic withdrawal to pay your pledge, or if you would like to pay your pledge with a stock contribution.
- Completed cards will be collected during the service so that we may dedicate them to God's service. There will also be a box in the Narthex should you prefer to place your pledge card there.

**Printed Below Is A Pledge Card That You Can Cut Out, Complete, And Return To The Church Office, If You Are Unable To Attend Worship On November 8<sup>th</sup>.**

✂ Cut along dotted line.

<p><i>"From Jesus' fullness we have all received, grace upon grace."</i> <i>Johans 1:16</i></p>		<b>FOR YOUR RECORDS</b>
<b>FOR CHURCH RECORDS</b>	Envelope # _____ <small>(for office use)</small>	Date: _____
Name _____		With others in my congregation, I commit myself to give in proportion to what I have for the ministries of the church and the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ.
Address _____		I plan to give _____ beginning _____ <small>(date and year)</small>
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____		Each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month
I plan to give beginning _____ \$ _____ each <input type="checkbox"/> week <input type="checkbox"/> month <small>(date and year)</small>		Annual Total _____
for an annual total of \$ _____		
I understand that this commitment can be changed at any time by giving notice to the appropriate church officer.		God is still speaking, <b>UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST</b> SCN301
<input type="checkbox"/> I would like to talk with someone about including the church or church-related institution in my will.		
Signed: _____ Date: _____		
 Published with support from Our Church's Wider Mission by the Stewardship and Church Finances Ministry for use in local churches of the United Church of Christ.		

**WEEKLY PERCENTAGE GIVING GUIDE**

Amount of Giving (rounded to nearest dollar) if Percentage Is:

Annual Household Income	1%			2%			3%			4%			5%			10%		
	wk	mo	yr	wk	mo	yr	wk	mo	yr	wk	mo	yr	wk	mo	yr	wk	mo	yr
15,000	3	13	150	6	25	300	9	38	450	12	50	600	14	63	750	29	125	1,500
20,000	4	17	200	8	33	400	12	50	600	15	67	800	19	83	1,000	38	167	2,000
30,000	6	25	300	12	50	600	17	75	900	23	100	1,200	29	125	1,500	58	250	3,000
40,000	8	33	400	15	67	800	23	100	1,200	31	133	1,600	38	167	2,000	77	333	4,000
50,000	10	42	500	19	83	1,000	29	125	1,500	38	167	2,000	48	208	2,500	96	417	5,000
60,000	12	50	600	23	100	1,200	35	150	1,800	46	200	2,400	58	250	3,000	115	500	6,000
70,000	13	58	700	27	117	1,400	40	175	2,100	54	233	2,800	67	292	3,500	135	583	7,000
75,000	14	63	750	29	125	1,500	43	188	2,250	58	250	3,000	72	313	3,750	144	625	7,500
100,000	19	83	1,000	38	167	2,000	58	250	3,000	77	333	4,000	96	417	5,000	192	833	10,000
125,000	24	104	1,250	48	208	2,500	72	313	3,750	96	417	5,000	120	521	6,250	240	1,042	12,500
150,000	29	125	1,500	58	250	3,000	87	375	4,500	115	500	6,000	144	625	7,500	288	1,250	15,000
175,000	34	146	1,750	67	292	3,500	101	438	5,250	135	583	7,000	168	729	8,750	337	1,458	17,500
200,000	38	167	2,000	77	333	4,000	115	500	6,000	154	667	8,000	192	833	10,000	385	1,667	20,000