

## **Welcome, Visitors!**

Information about our church and ministries is available on the Welcome Table near the main doors. Standing nearby are church members who will be happy to answer your questions. Interested in joining the church? Our next Membership Exploration will be April 11, 2018.

For the convenience of those who need to leave the Sanctuary during worship, the service is video broadcast in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Nursery.

Large-print bulletins are available. Please ask the ushers for a copy.

## **Children in Worship**

Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Children, Youth and Family Center. The Family Worship Area is open during service for children ages 3-10.

## **Sensory Boxes**

First Congregational offers Sensory Boxes for any of our friends on the autism spectrum – adult or child. These boxes are filled with “fidgets” galore, headphones and much more. Please let us know if you or a loved one needs one of these tools.

## **Donating to First Congregational UCC**

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. We encourage members and friends of First Congregational to assist us in planning our budget by pledging each year. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time.

## **Online Streaming and Podcasting Now Available!**

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons). To subscribe to a podcast of the sermon audio, please visit [www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons/feed](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons/feed) and choose an option. Videos are also accessible through our YouTube channel at [www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube).

**WATCH LIVE:** You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on YouTube at [www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/1stCongo](http://www.facebook.com/1stCongo).

## **Online Documents and Information**

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website. Visit [www.firstcongoappleton.org/read-it-here](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/read-it-here) to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more.

# February 11 Highlights at First Congregational

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## Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

## Communion

We celebrate communion the first Sunday of each month. Our communion elements are gluten-free; however, they are made in a facility that also processes wheat products.

## Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sunday is today, February 11, March 18, April 22, and May 13. If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism). Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

## Members in Service This Week

<b>Friday, February 9</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, February 11</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	Doug Robertson and Mike Spurlock	Doug Robertson and Mike Spurlock
Bridge Greeters	Jill Smith	Mary and Jerry Dees
Welcome Desk	Georgia Berceau	Georgia Berceau
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Tori Schultz
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Jill Smith	John Aaholm
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen
<b>Counters, February 12</b>	Jill Anthony	

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 11, 2018

8:45 and 10:30 AM

*Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.*

*Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.*

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**The Childrens Sermon at 8:45 will take place outside in the West entryway this morning. Children are encouraged to bring their coats with them to the worship service.**

## PRELUDE

*Jesus on the Mountain Peak*

Jacob Weber

*Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

Camil Van Hulse

(Please sign the registration form on the end of the pew, pass it down the row and then return it, so that all may know the names of those sharing in worship today. Prayer request cards are collected at the ends of the pews as well.)

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

## YOUTH PRAYER

## WELCOME

## GREETING

## HANDBELL INTROIT

*Song of Joy*

Anna Laura Page

The Youth Handbells

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to our worship.

**People: Welcome to our brothers and sisters in the faith.**

Leader: We come to celebrate God's presence,

**People: And God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.**

Leader: We come remembering Christ's life and ministry,

**People: And the life we are called to live.**

Leader: We come as a pilgrim people searching for ways to live out our faith.

**People: We come seeking the strength to carry on our journey.**

**All: Let us rejoice in God's gift to us!**

## \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see bulletin p. 9)

*O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair*

DEO GRACIAS

## \*INVOCATION

### \*THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 service)

(During the hymn, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School at the 8:45 AM service. At the 10:30 AM service, children may go to the Family Worship Area or remain in the pews to worship with their families.)

### THE BAPTISM OF BELLAMY DIXON CARTIER (10:30 service)

Parents: Megan and Jana Cartier

Godparents: Kirsten Cartier, Kristen Scheuerman

### WELCOME

Leader: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

**People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.**

Leader: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

### ADDRESS

#### QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

**Congregation: We are a community which spans the centuries, bound together by a covenant whose signature is baptism. Today we renew our commitment to live in this covenant with Bellamy, his parents and godparents, and those who bore witness at our own baptism. We praise God for the faithful women and men who have come before us, and pray that God will help us bequeath such faith to those who come after.**

### BLESSING OF THE WATER

## ACT OF BAPTISM

### UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

**Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child in Christ. Give him strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.**

### INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

Swedish Hymn

Stanza 1 and 2, Choir; **Stanza 4, All** (below)

**Baptized in our blest Redeemer,  
Sanctifier, and Creator  
May we serve and love God, solely,  
As we follow Christ, most Holy.**

### FIRST GOSPEL READING

Mark 9:2-8 (p. 54)

### ANTHEM

*This Is My Beloved Son*

Knut Nystedt

8:35 AM: Nicolette Puskar, *soprano* 10:30 AM: Bea McManus, *cello*

### GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

### PRAYER HYMN #109

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

SCHONSTER JESU

### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

#### A MUSICAL OFFERING

*Song of the Earth from Jubilate Deo*

Dan Forrest

#### \*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host:**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Narrator: As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered,

**All: 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.'**

Narrator: When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him,

**All: 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam'**

Narrator: (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask,

Reader 1: 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?'

Narrator: Some were saying,

Reader 2: 'It is he.'

Narrator: Others were saying,

Reader 1: 'No, but it is someone like him.'

Narrator: He kept saying, 'I am the man.' But they kept asking him,

Reader 2: 'Then how were your eyes opened?'

Narrator: He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." Then I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him,

Reader 1: 'Where is he?'

Narrator: He said, 'I do not know.'

**(murmuring, muttering, and mumbling)**

Narrator: They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.' Some of the Pharisees said,

Reader 2: 'This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.'

Narrator: But others said,

Reader 1: 'How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?'

Narrator: And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man,

Reader 2: 'What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.'

Narrator: He said, 'He is a prophet.'

**(murmuring, muttering, and mumbling)**

Narrator: The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them,

Reader 1: 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?'

Narrator: His parents answered,

Reader 1 and 2: 'We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.'

Narrator: His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said,

Reader 1 and 2: 'He is of age; ask him.'

Narrator: So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him,

Reader 2: 'Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.'

Narrator: He answered, 'I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him,

Reader 1: 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?'

Narrator: He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?'

**(murmuring, muttering, and mumbling)**

Narrator: Then they reviled him, saying,

Reader 2: 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.'

Narrator: The man answered, 'Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him,

Reader 1: 'You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?'

Narrator: And they drove him out.

**(murmuring, muttering, and mumbling)**

## MEDITATION

"No Good Deed..."

Rev. Steve Savides

\*RESPONSE HYMN (see bulletin p. 10)

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

AR HYDY NOS

## \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Praise Be to God (Recessional)*

Camil Van Hulse

\*The Congregation Standing

## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

The Youth Handbells, 2017-18: Josh Bellin, Olivia Burdick, Natalie Erstad, Dawson Fish, Bradyn Gentile, Dillon Grade, Sophia Mast, Lily Nichols, Natalie Payette, Avra Taylor, Grace Wauters; John Albrecht, *director*; Cheryl and Rachel Foster, *substitute ringers*.

Luke Honeck, Emily Richter, Alex Quackenbush, *psalm cantors*

8:45 AM The Sanctuary Choir; Nicki Puskar, *soprano*

10:30 AM The LU Music Scholars; Bea McManus, *alto*

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

February 18, 2018

First Sunday in Lent

8:45 and 10:30 AM

"Jesus Raises Lazarus"

Rev. Steve Savides

Scripture readings: John 11:1-44

Music: 8:45 AM: LU Music Scholars; Luke Honeck, *tenor*

10:30 AM: Sanctuary Choir; Annie Mercado, *soprano*

## Members in Service Next Week

<b>Friday, February 16</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Trish Brehm	
<b>Sunday, February 18</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	John and Eileen Hoft-March	Ann Collins
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		Diane Ragus
Lay Readers	Bill Ritcey	Sue Mauthe
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm
<b>Counters, February 19</b>	Rose Heinz	

## Church School Schedule– 8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms after worship today.

<b>Kindergarten/1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	Art/Kitchen	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	East Conference Room
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Grade</b>	Computer Lab	<b>5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Grades</b>	Scripture Tent
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Computer Lab		







## JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

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

**If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified.  
In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.**

ALL who are affected by violence  
David Adams and family  
Debbie Adams' brother Jim  
Marla Anderson and Mike Killoren and family grieving the death of Mike's mother Carol  
Jill Anthony's neighbors, John and Katie  
Jill Anthony's sister and brother-in-law Katie Behl  
Arlene Beyer  
Mark and Sue Black on the death of their son Teak  
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade  
Dena Collier  
Jim and Rachel Edwards  
Margitta Furnner  
Esther Gehrt  
Ken Geiger  
Evelyn Gelbke  
Ivo Geurts  
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen  
Mary Guenther  
Maggie Hendrick  
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen  
Nancy Jones, mother of Linda Jones Pierron  
Our Kenyan partners and students  
Eunice Klemp  
Joy Kubiak  
Dianne Lang  
Lisa Malone

Carrie McClory, daughter of Brenda & Phil Gabrielson  
Our country's military around the world  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in-law  
Ellie Olson  
T. J. Ott, brother of Tom Ott  
Families and children of Palestine, those who work for peace in challenging times  
Evelyn Platt, Todd Platt's mother  
Paula Chandler's son-in-law, Tim Radtke  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt  
Jim Schwantes  
Kathy Smudde, sister of Lyle Van De Hey and Janice Schmitz  
Amanda Spindler  
Syrian refugees  
Jean Van Wagenin  
Our veterans and their families  
Carol Voskuil, sister-in-law of Mary and Jerry Dees  
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle  
Jennifer Wild  
Elden Willing  
The Wittwer Family

# THE OPEN DOOR

February 11, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 6

## Pastor's Message

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Last month, Pastor Kathryn and I sent a letter to our Christian partners in the churches of the Kerio Valley in Kenya in response to a comment from our President denigrating the people and nations of Africa. The following is a note we recently received in response from our Kenyan partners:

*Dear Friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ,  
Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We heard about your president's remarks and also an animal farm in Wisconsin where somebody was highlighting, saying that the people who are working in the animal farm are those from other nations. The person was stressing much on what will happen or who will be working in those farms if those people are sent away. We were indeed worried about the visitation but our hearts are relieved now after receiving your e-mail. Thank you very much for your concern and for the way you have been holding us in your prayers because of the problems of insecurity in the valley.*

*It is through your prayers and others that we are safe. We are very excited to meet you all in April and we really love to sleep in your homes and share ideas and experiences together. The blood of Jesus Christ that has bound us together as friends and as well as partners is so great and nothing can separate it. Please know that we hold all of you in our hearts and prayers.*

*Yours in Christ  
Jeremiah Kibor, Chairperson  
Mildred Chepkonga, Secretary  
Kerio Valley*

The Psalmist writes, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers and sisters sit together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1). Jeremiah and Mildred, our Kenyan brother and sister in Christ, remind us that through Christ that we are granted such unity. The words and actions of others might seek to divide us, but the binding force of Christ's love is stronger. The despair and resignation of those who have given up and given in might seek to disengage us, but the persistence of Christ's Spirit fills us. The greed and violence that bedevil us in all nations may seek to defeat us, but the victory won through Christ's Resurrection will not be denied! We praise God for this reminder from our friends in Christ from Kenya. And we look forward to "sitting together in unity" when they visit us here in April.

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Steve Savides

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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## Social Singles Chatters

The next Social Singles Chatters meeting will be at Butch's Pizza, 510 W. Kimberly Ave in Kimberly on February 21 at 11:30 AM. Please R.S.V.P to Sue Ahrens at (561) 531-3211. Thanks!

## Wine and Word

February 20 • 6:30 PM

Please join us to discuss *Lab Girl*, described by reviewers as "illuminating debut memoir of a woman in science; a moving portrait of a longtime friendship; and a stunningly fresh look at plants that will forever change how you see the natural world." We will be meeting at Appleton Street Sports Bar & Grill, 124 N. Appleton St., Appleton.

## Fun, Fellowship, and Food

We want to organize a group of people to meet for evenings of enjoying dinner and being together three to four times a year. The dinners would be held at members' homes. Each home would host a group of seven to eight people and the group would prepare a planned menu. The cost would be shared equally; we expect that to be \$13-15 per person. If this sounds interesting, please contact one of us: Dan and Cheryl Nisler at 540-6046 or Doug and Pat Nelson at 731-4693 or the church office at 733-7393. We'll plan an

organizational meeting, probably sometime in March.

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# Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

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## Lasagna Supper

February 14 • 5:00 PM-6:45 PM

Join us for a lasagna supper in Fellowship Hall before the Ash Wednesday Service on February 14. We'll serve from 5:00 PM until 6:45 PM and then attend worship at 7:00 PM. This is a beautiful, meaningful service lead with the help of our church youth. What a wonderful way to show love for God and love for neighbor on this St. Valentine's day.

If possible, please let us know you are coming to the supper (and, for those interested, if you can help with preparation, serving, and/or cleaning afterwards). Sign up in the Narthex, or call the church office, or send an email to [didroster@gmail.com](mailto:didroster@gmail.com). Thanks!



## Winter Beach Party

February 21 • 5:30-7:30 PM

You're invited to a winter beach party at First Congo! Join us for a fun night of games, beach volleyball, music, cookout food, "carnival" treats and many other fun surprises. This fun event will take place in the Fellowship Hall. The movie *Finding Dory* will also be playing in the Common Grounds. Come in your "beach wear" (Hawaiian shirts, shorts,



flip flops, etc.) as we will be turning up the heat! Everyone is welcome! Bring your friends! RSVP to

<http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Jennifer%20DeWitt> if you plan to attend so we know how much food to prepare! If you are able to help with set-up, grilling, serving, or cleaning up please let Jennifer know! Thanks!

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## Worship and Music

*A diverse community practicing faith,  
finding spiritual connection and experiencing  
the Holy through artful sound.*

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### Wherever You Go: The Story of Ruth – Save the Date!

The cast is busy rehearsing for this year's Intergenerational Musical, *The Story of Ruth*, on Wednesday evenings and Sundays after worship services. You will be able to see the results of their hard work on Saturday evening, March 10 at 7:00 PM or Sunday, March 11, during the 10:30 AM worship service.

On Saturday evening before the performance our high school mission trippers will host a Pig Roast Dinner to help them raise funds for their trip to Pine Ridge, SD. Come enjoy an Apple Cider Hickory Smoked Pig, live Bluegrass music and a silent auction. The dinner starts at 5:30 PM and will be served until 6:45 PM with the performance starting at 7:00 PM.

## Vocal Duet Recital

Mother and daughter Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider will perform a vocal duet recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 PM. Pianist Anthony Padilla of the LU Conservatory Faculty will join them. The program will include music of Mendelssohn, Reger, Delibes, Offenbach, Puccini, and Mozart. Save the date!



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## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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### Back Bay Mission Trip Items Needed

Those of us headed to Back Bay Mission in March would like to take some things we think their clients could use. Please help us fill the box in the narthex with donations of **nutrition/protein bars** and **travel-sized toothpaste**.

On previous trips to Back Bay Mission, we personally saw a big need for nutrition bars (e.g. Balance, Special K, or Power bars – the types with protein) and travel-size toothpaste. Clients of the day shelter come in in the morning and receive a snack while waiting for a shower. The “snack” is probably the only food they have until lunch – which is a two-mile walk away. And the folks just aren't able to carry a full-size tube of

toothpaste around. So we would like to emphasize those - but we will gladly take anything on the Back Bay Wish List posted on the box. Please bring donations by March 14. P.S. If you have a Thrivent account and have not earmarked your Action Grant for something this year, that \$250 could help us collect even more items for Back Bay Mission. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller for questions about a Thrivent Action Grant.

### **Adult and Family Wilderness Survey**

Part of Pastor Nick's Sabbatical will be spending time outdoors preparing to put together an outdoor and wilderness ministry for families and adults. This will be a 5-7-year rotation of experiences meant to deepen one's spirituality in an outdoor setting. If you have any interest in canoeing, backpacking, or adventuring from a lodge or retreat center, please take a few minutes to provide information to Pastor Nick through this survey, listed at the end of the article, anytime during the month of February. The results from this survey will greatly influence the location and configuration of future outdoor and wilderness ministry opportunities.

Thanks for your time!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QSTNT2R>

### **Why I Volunteer at Leaven**

For over 5 years I have been a volunteer interviewer at LEAVEN (limited emergency assistance valley ecumenical network). My role is to gather information

from clients and then assess ways to help them after meeting with a caseworker. I quickly learned how easy it is for someone to need emergency help when a crisis occurs. This may often be because of a loss of employment, medical issues or higher than expected utility bills. Like many of us, I've never had to worry about getting to work because my car broke down, or I can't work because of a medical emergency with me or my children, and not having family to help. Sometimes clients really hate asking for help and are scared and angry. I hope that I am always able to listen to them in a nonjudgmental way, treating them with respect and dignity. It has certainly made me realize how lucky I am.

One of the reasons that being at Leaven is rewarding is because of the dedicated leadership of Mary Persons and all the other people who give their time and talents. The goal is to help clients to work toward being self-sufficient, not just give them a "band-aid." Leaven is working with an ever-expanding network of other agencies to see that there is help from many different resources. All this can be overwhelming but by bringing many of these supportive services together in the new building addition, it is a step toward improving their situation for the long-term. It makes me feel that I am giving a hand-up, not a hand-out and I hope that I am helping in a small way.

-Faith Mauk

## The Wisconsin Council of Churches: Unite to End Racism

Unite to End Racism is both a rally and a call to action, organized by the National Council of Churches. Come prepared for the work of building community. We are looking for people who represent the great diversity of Wisconsin and our faith communities, to build connections across the lines that typically divide us. If you fit this description, then The Wisconsin Council of Churches invites you to join us in a transformational journey. We will be leaving from Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton and Eau Claire on April 3 to travel to Washington DC and join people from around the nation for an Interfaith Service Prayer and Preparation at the Lincoln Memorial and a rally on the National Mall. They also offer a Unite to End Racism + Lobby Day. For more information and to register, please visit: <http://www.wichurches.org/calendar/event-list/unite-to-end-racism/> The registration deadline is March 1.

## Help the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 18-  
March 11, 2018



We will be collecting NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local crisis agencies through The Family radio's annual "Help for the Homeless" hygiene drive being held February 19 - March 12. Please place your donations in the *Help for the Homeless* collection box located in the main

gathering area by March 12. Supplying these items to local shelters will help them direct their limited funds to providing qualified staff, counseling, food and shelter to those they serve. Most urgently needed items are cleaning supplies, laundry soap, garbage bags, dental and hair care, baby diapers, paper products, and feminine care. This drive takes place in 15 communities such as, Appleton/Fox Cities, Chilton, Fond Du Lac, and many others, but **your donations will remain in this community.** Note: Food Share (formerly Food Stamps) does not cover the cost of non-food items such as soap and diapers. For more information, visit [thefamily.net](http://thefamily.net) or contact Heidi Prahl at [heidip@thefamily.net](mailto:heidip@thefamily.net) or (920) 749-9364. Thank you!

## Alternative Christmas Market Raises nearly \$13,000

Thank you to all who participated in our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Alternative Christmas Market! The market raised \$12,837.75 for people in need, including nearly \$750 by the Joyce Hanstedt Memorial Bake Sale. Just Fare's fair-trade market raised approximately \$2,000.

Your generous gifts provide tangible support for organizations that offer hands-on help to people in crisis, both close to home and around the world. Your gifts also inspire compassion and spread the word about these organizations and their work.

It takes a lot of people to make an event like the ACM a success each year, and we

would like to thank everyone who has participated throughout the years as a shopper, volunteer or both. Your ACM team appreciates your commitment to this worthwhile event in the life of the church!

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## Administration

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### Realm Stats - So Close!

We have been using Realm for three months and have put together some stats to share with you:

- There are 412 members who have activated their Realm account
- There are 126 members who have set-up their auto giving in Realm

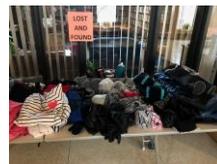
While these stats are awesome, there are 28 members who still need to move their auto giving to Realm. Our goal is to stop using the old system by end of February, so we no longer have to maintain two

systems. If you have not set up your auto giving in Realm by end of February 2018, it will no longer occur. If you have questions, please contact the church office at 733-7393.

Please remember that if your banking information or credit card number changes, including the expiration date, then you will need to log into Realm to update the information. Thanks!

### Lost and Found

Our lost and found bin is overflowing! We have set up a table with all the items on it by the church office. Please look through the items and see if anything is yours. We will leave it out for a couple of weeks, but then will be donating the items. Thanks!



You're invited to a  
**Winter Beach Party**  
Wednesday, February 21  
5:30 to 7:30 PM  
Fellowship Hall  
Cookout Dinner and Family Fun Time

Join us for fun beach games, music and food!  
*Finding Dory* Movie in Common Grounds.  
Dress beachy and bring your friends!

RSVP to [jdewitt@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jdewitt@firstcongoappleton.org) or 920-851-6938

First Congregational UCC | 724 E. South River Street, Appleton | (920) 733-7393  
[www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)

## Calendar for February 11–February 17

### Sunday, February 11

- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Church School** - *Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen, East Conference Room, Computer Lab, 4-year-old Room*
- 9:45 AM – 10:15 AM **Valentines on the Bridge** - *Bridge*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **High School Sunday Groups** - *Common Grounds*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** - *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*
- 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM **LU Scholar Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room*
- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **First Things First AA Meeting** - *North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds*

### Monday, February 12

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals** - *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Technology Team** - *Library*
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** - *Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Prayer Shawl** - *Common Grounds*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

### Tuesday, February 13

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Strong Bones** - *River Room*
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones - Winter Session** - *South Fellowship*
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **Mission and Service Team Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*
- 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Wild Women of First Congo** - *Stone Cellar Brewpub, 1004 S. Olde Oneida Street, Appleton*
- 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **ESTHER Immigration Rights Task Force** - *Fox Valley Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton*
- 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **ESTHER Expo Fox Cities** - *Chapel*

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

### **Wednesday, February 14**

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Wednesday Musicale** - *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Children's Choir rehearsal** - *Choir Room*

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM **Ash Wednesday Dinner** - *North/South Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** - *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, River Room, Kitchen*

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room, Sanctuary, Chapel, East Conference Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Confirmation Class** - *Chapel*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Ash Wednesday Service** - *Sanctuary*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Church Mice Youth Group** - *East Conference Room*

### **Thursday, February 15**

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Strong Bones** - *River Room*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones - Winter Session** - *South Fellowship Hall*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **AA - Search for Serenity Group** - *Common Grounds*

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM **Theology Discussion Group** - *Atlas Coffee Mill and Café on Water Street, Appleton*

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Cub Scout Pack 3108 - Blue and Gold Potluck Banquet/Arrow of Light** - *North/South Fellowship, River Room*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Family/Friends Mental Illness Support Group** - *Upper Lounge*

### **Friday, February 16**

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Bulletin Assembly** - *Library*

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM **N. A.** - *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Al-Anon** - *Upper Lounge*

### **Saturday, February 17**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*



# Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider Vocal Duet Recital

with pianist Anthony Padilla

February 25 • 3:00 PM

A free-will  
donation to  
benefit our  
Music Ministry.

Includes music of  
Mendelssohn,  
Reger,  
Delibes,  
Offenbach,  
Puccini, and  
Mozart.

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91.9 FM Fox Cities



for the

# HELP HOMELESS

## Hygiene Drive

**Feb. 18 – March 11**

**Donate Personal Care Items for  
18 LOCAL Fox Cities Crisis Programs**

*Help ease the financial strain on your local crisis programs and those they serve!*

### Most Needed Items:

- Cleaning Supplies
- Hair Care
- Laundry Soap
- Feminine Needs
- Deodorant
- Kitchen Trash Bags
- Bathroom Tissue
- Dental Care
- Paper Towels
- Diapers/Baby Care
- Body Lotion
- Face/Bath Soap

*Donations Remain in the Communities Where Collected!*



Thanks to our Sponsors! More information at [thefamily.net](http://thefamily.net) or 800-236-9364