

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. To subscribe to a podcast of the sermon audio, please visit www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons/feed and choose an option. Videos are also accessible through our YouTube channel at www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube.

WATCH LIVE: You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on YouTube at www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube or on Facebook at 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 to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more.

February 25 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Vocal Duet Recital	p. 13
	New Members Bios.....	p. 5
	Lost and Found	p. 12
March 10	Intergenerational Musical and Pig Roast	p. 13
March 11	Intergenerational Musical at 10:30 Service	

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 are 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. Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

Members in Service This Week

Friday, February 23	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Sheryl DeHart	
Sunday, February 25	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Jack and Sandra Vanden Boogaard	Jean and Ed Coenraad
Bridge Greeters	LouAnn Graf	
Welcome Desk	Dave and Julie Gamm	
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft March	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Mark Mauthe	Tim Hanna
Multi-Media – video	Sue Mauthe	Shannon Glenn
Counters, February 26	Sue Wisneski	

Church School Schedule – 8:45 AM

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

Kindergarten/1st Grade	Art/Kitchen Room	4th Grade	Computer Lab Room
2nd/3rd Grade	Theater Room	5th/6th Grades	Scripture Tent Room

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

February 25, 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.

RITUAL OF HAND WASHING

As you enter the sanctuary this morning, we invite you to take part in a hand washing ritual to remind you of how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. Go to one of the tables in the front of the sanctuary and allow another to rinse your hands using the pitcher of water and then rinse the hands of another. This expresses the full meaning of Jesus' example: After he had washed their feet... he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you' (John 13:12-15).

PRELUDE

The Glory of These Forty Days

Benjamin Culli

(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

WELCOME

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith.

People: We come seeking the awareness of God's presence as we travel on.

Leader: We come seeking light for our darkness, strength for our weakness.

All: Shine in our hearts, O God, with the light of your love. Make your presence known through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #503

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

BEACH SPRING

St. 1 & 4 - ALL St. 2 - ALL women St. 3 - ALL men

***UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God most compassionate and merciful, we thank you that you have come to us in Jesus the Servant-Christ, whose disciples we are. We confess to you that we have not lived in Christ's Spirit. We have succumbed to self-interest and greed. Presented with opportunities to serve, we have been gripped by fear and despair. We have been lifeless and grumbling, not lively and joyous as we follow Christ's example. Breathe Christ's Spirit into us, that our faith may be active in word and deed, and that others will recognize in us the Servant-Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***LENTEN RESPONSE (see p. 8)**

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

WEARY LAND

Refrain only, sung by ALL

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 return to in the Family Worship Area or sit in the pews to worship with their families.)

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS (10:30 service)

Bill Ritcey, Vice Moderator; Kelly Fenton, Secretary;
Don Hietpas, Treasurer; Sue Wisneski, Vice Treasurer

COVENANT

People: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

ANTHEM

Jesus, My Sweet Pleasure from *Motet III, BWV 227*

J. S. Bach

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Jessie and Zachary Cousineau, Claire Faville, Sandy Gillum, Eunnok Kim, Amy and Mike McGowan, Tiffany Morth and Thea Schneidewend, Barbara Schmidt, Frank and Patricia Severin, Roger Spindler, Amanda and Russ Whipple

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

WELCOME AND RECEPTION (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

*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.**

PRAYER HYMN #410

Just as I Am

WOODWORTH

St. 1 & 4 only

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Prelude on “Beach Spring”

Mark Albrecht

*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

GOSPEL READING

John 13:1-20 (NT p. 131)

MEDITATION

“How to Be a Servant”

Rev. Steve Savides

*RESPONSE HYMN # 459

Jesu, Jesu

CHEREPONI

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Chorale Improvisation on *“Jesu, meine Freude”*

Paul Manz

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Shelley Nulton, *guest choir director*

8:45 AM Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM LU Music Scholars

Bios for new members – February 2018

Jessie and Zachary Cousineau. Jessie and Zachary join us by Reaffirmation of Faith. Jessie grew up in Appleton and Zachary grew up in Wrightstown. They have one son, Zeke (8 months old). Jessie is a landscape architect with Vande Hey Co. and Zachary is an engineer for Kimberly Clark. Together they enjoy camping, canoeing, fishing, raising chickens, gardening, and spending time outdoors.

Patricia (Pat) Daniels. Pat joins us by Letter of Transfer from Parfreyville United Methodist Church in Waupaca, WI. Pat grew up in Oshkosh and now travels between Appleton and Waupaca. Pat has two grown children; Matthew (a current member of First Congo) and Rebecca. Pat is a retired special education teacher. She also did some work for Big Brothers/Big Sisters. She currently is a caregiver for her 94-year-old mother who is in assisted living at Bethany Pines in Waupaca. In her spare time Pat enjoys reading, music, and spending time with her family.

Claire Faville. Claire joins us by Affirmation of Faith. Claire grew up in Greenbush and Plymouth, WI. She works as a substance abuse/mental health counselor at Casa Clare in Appleton. Claire has several adult children; Corrie, Emily, Katie, and Sarah. Claire's hobbies include walking, cooking, baking, reading and gardening.

Sandra (Sandy) Gillum. Sandy joins us as an Associate Member. Sandy grew up in Indiana and her late husband, Don grew up in Los Angeles. Sandy has been in the area for two years after moving from Eagle River, WI. Sandy is a retired microbiologist from Abbott Laboratories and also a retired avian ecologist from WDNR. She has two grown children: Jane Gillum Larson (48) and Bradford Thatcher Gillum (51). Sandy enjoys cycling, prairie restoration, kayaking/canoeing, hiking, fly fishing, wood carving, natural photography, gardening, and woodworking.

Eunnok Kim. Eunnok joins us by Affirmation of Faith. Eunnok was born in France. She then lived in South Korea until she and her husband Mitchell Nichols moved to the area 3 years ago. They have a 21-month-old child named Reign. Eunnok is currently enjoying being a stay-at-home mom. She also enjoys traveling and learning new cultures.

Amy and Michael McGowan. Amy and Michael join us by Letter of Transfer from Plymouth Congregational Church, Coconut Grove, FL. Amy is a facilities design manager for Schneider. Mike is an e-commerce project manager for DHL. They have 3 children; Evelyn (3rd grade), Sophia (7th grade), and Gavin (9th grade). Amy enjoys camping, traveling, hiking, paddle boarding, and doing anything creative working with her hands. Mike enjoys soccer and mountain biking. Together they enjoy skiing and kayaking.

Tiffany Morth and Thea Schneidewend. Tiffany joins us by Affirmation of Faith. Thea joins us by Letter of Transfer from St. Paul Lutheran in Neenah, WI. Tiffany grew up in Menasha/Neenah. She is the executive director of Parkside Senior Living (Neenah) and Lakepoint Villa in Oshkosh. Thea also grew up in Neenah. She currently works as a sales associate at Kohl's. Before Kohl's she was a cook for a nursing home and a dining service coordinator for an assisted living facility. Between them, Tiffany and Thea have several children: Paxton (6), Bradley (10), Drewthea (11), and Hunter (14). Together they have a 10-week-old daughter, Adalyn. In her spare time, Tiffany enjoys taking trips, and loves spending time with the kids. Thea enjoys singing, writing and spending time with the family.

Barbara Schmidt. Barbara joins us by Letter of Transfer from St. Katherine Drexel Parish in Kaukauna, WI. Barbara grew up in Manitowoc and Mishicot. She was with the Bay Settlement Sisters ages 14 through 25. She has lived in Kaukauna since 1970 when she and her late husband were married. Barbara is a retired elementary school teacher. She has several grown children; Andrew (current member at First Congo), Margaret (Maggie), and Sarah. She also has 12 grandchildren. Hobbies of Barbara's include gardening, cooking/baking, reading, sewing, knitting and crocheting, bird-watching and jigsaw puzzles.

Frank and Pat Severin. Frank and Pat join us by Letter of Transfer from Faith Lutheran Church in Appleton, WI. They married almost 17 years ago. Pat has 2 adult children, Kerrie McKay and Tim Marsh and two 11-year-old grandchildren. Frank has an adult son, Marcus. Frank moved to this area in 2000 and Pat has been in the area since 1976. Both Frank and Pat are retired. Frank spent 10+ years in the Navy. He was also a pharmacy tech at Copps Pharmacy and Theda Clark Hospital. Pat was an elementary 1st and 2nd grade teacher, worked at the Appleton Library and also as a graphic artist.

Roger Spindler. Roger joins us by Letter of Transfer from the Congregational United Church of Christ in Neenah/Menasha, WI. Roger grew up in Kiel, WI. He's lived in this area for 25+ years. Roger and his late wife Lois Ann have several adult children: Mark, Pamela Ann, and Todd. Roger also has three grandchildren. Roger is a retired music teacher of 36 years. He also ran his own business of All Star School Tours taking over

100 bands and choirs on their music tours until 2017. Besides music, Roger also enjoys traveling and sports.

Amanda and Russ Whipple. Amanda and Russ join us by Letter of Transfer from St. John’s UCC in Appleton, WI. Amanda is a realtor for Keller Williams Fox Cities. Russ is a pipe fitter/plumber for Local 400. They have four children; Brittnee (4k), Lacie (1st grade), Brianna (7th grade), and Logan (8th grade). The family enjoys scrapbooking and geocaching.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

March 4, 2018	Third Sunday in Lent	8:45 and 10:30 AM
“Peter’s Denial”		Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Scripture readings:	John 18: 12-27	
Music:	8:45 AM: LU Music Scholars	
	10:30 AM: Sanctuary Choir	

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, March 2	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy House, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, March 4	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Janet Scheibe	Nancy Bodway
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O’Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen and Jonathan Steffen	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, March 5	Rose Heinz	

Did You Know?

If you are feeling stressed or depressed or are worried about a family member’s mental health, check out myConnectionNEW.org. You’ll find a free depression survey you can take on-line, a library of information regarding diagnoses and medications, and most importantly, links to Fox Cities area service providers. Your mental health is important, and there are places you can turn for support.



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, especially those who live in the Kerio Valley of Kenya
Family of Roger Ackerman on his death
David Adams and family
Debbie Adams' brother Jim
Jill Anthony's neighbors, John and Katie
Jill Anthony's sister and brother-in-law
Katie Behl
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
The family of Marie Johnson on her death
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Nancy Jones, mother of Linda Jones Pierron
Our Kenyan partners and students
All those affected by plant closures, especially KC
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
William Robert Platt, infant son of David and Alexis
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
Family of Marilyn Stroud on her death
Syrian refugees and Syrians affected by violence
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
The victims of the killings and their families in Parkland, Florida
Carol Voskuil, sister-in-law of Mary and Jerry Dees
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle
Mike Weaver
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
The Wittwer Family

THE OPEN DOOR

February 25, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 8

Pastor's Message

The Legacy of Billy Graham

Billy Graham liked to tell of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, *"If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to Heaven."* *"I don't think I'll be there,"* the boy said. *"You don't even know your way to the post office."*

I'm sure your prayers join with mine for Rev. Graham to have found his way to heaven as he died this past week at age 99. It was estimated that he preached to over 215 million people over his career, introducing so many to the basics of Christian faith. And he did so without a breath of the scandal or financial self-interest that has afflicted so many "televangelists" in the last seventy years. That is and should be the main legacy of Rev. Graham's distinguished and faithful career.

We should also acknowledge that in our UCC tradition, we have had some struggles with Rev. Graham's theology, particularly through Reinhold Niebuhr, the distinguished scholar, preacher, and teacher. As Graham's influence began to spread in the mid-1950's, it became clear that the two men had very different interpretations of sin: Niebuhr focused on the complexities of individual and social sin, while Graham focused almost exclusively on individual sin. Niebuhr had little patience for what he referred to as Graham's "pietistic individualism," which asserted that the solution to the world's problems was individual regeneration. Graham, Niebuhr believed, provided "simple answers to complex questions of social order and justice."

While celebrating Graham's amazing ministry, it's also worth noting that Rev. Graham was completely absent from the Civil Rights marches of the 1950's and 60's, was a tacit supporter of the Vietnam War, was revealed as a cozy confidant of President Nixon through the Nixon tapes, made no positive mention of women's rights in his sermons in the 1970's and 80's, and clearly opposed civil rights for people in the LGBTQ community. Could Billy Graham's theological blind spot to issues of social sin and justice have contributed to what many in our UCC tradition would consider as his failures in religious leadership?

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Steve Savides

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Church Women United 2018 World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 2, 2018
St. Bernard Catholic (rear entrance)
1617 W. Pine St., Appleton

This year's speaker will be Jackie Draws who is currently serving as Interim CEO/President to Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin. Her talk will be focused on "Environmental Stewardship - Going Green for Good." To register contact Jayne Henrich at (920) 246-8569

- 9:00 AM - Registration - Coffee and Snack
- 9:30 PM - Program

We will also be collecting items for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Items needed include bathroom tissue, paper towels, 39-gallon garbage bags, toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, belts (new or used), razors, and laundry detergent.

Fun, Fellowship, and Food

Are you looking for ways to connect with other First Congo members? We are too! What better way to get to know each other than at the dinner table. We're organizing a "dining fellowship," where members would meet in each other's homes three to four times a year, in groups of seven or eight (adults only this time). Everyone would contribute some portion of a pre-planned menu; cost would be shared

equally among participants. Sign up in the gathering area if you want to know more or contact Dan and Cheryl Nisler at 540-6046 or Doug and Pat Nelson at 731-4693 or the church office at 733-7393. An organizational meeting will be held the evening of Friday, April 6 at the home of Doug and Pat Nelson (125 E. McArthur St., 54911). Bring an appetizer and a beverage, and we'll see you there! There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

Tuesday Yoga (All Levels)



This class has been led by Bev Payne for the last 3.5 years. It offers traditional Hatha Yoga that is slower and more meditative, focusing on building and strengthening muscle, increasing joint mobility and increasing bone. You will experience a level of mindfulness which allows for a deeper connection and appreciation for your body, improves mood and improves sleep. Yoga is for everyone and all levels are accepted. The cost is \$42.00 for a 6-week session or a \$10.00 drop in rate. A yoga mat, strap, and block are required. **FIRST CLASS IS FREE.** This happens every Tuesday from 4:15-5:15 PM at First Congo in Fellowship Hall.

First Congo's Documentary Project



Jonathan Steffen, our Technology Coordinator, is creating a documentary about First Congo's building for its 50th anniversary! If anyone has any fun stories,

cool photos or videos, or any information to share on the history of the building, feel free to reach out to Jonathan at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Jonathan%20Steffen> Thanks!

Administration

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 one more week but then will be donating the items. Thanks!



Realm Stats - So Close!

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

- There are 418 members who have activated their Realm account
- There are 128 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.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

First Congo Church School News

It is hard to believe, but we are already in the 4th rotation of Church School! Last week the children helped in the creation of prayer flags that were used in the Ash Wednesday service. A special lesson focusing on the different types of prayer introduced the concept of prayer flags to them and then they settled in to create individual works of art. They took the project very seriously and did wonderful work! This week they will begin to learn about the Parable of the Talents. Lessons will also weave in elements of the Olympics, but the focus will be on learning about all different types of talents and ways to use them to serve God. Many thanks to the fantastic teachers who are volunteering their time to teach for the next four weeks.

Winter Beach Party - Thank You!

Both young and young at heart could be found playing beach volleyball, eating delicious food and sharing in fellowship at First Congo's annual Winter Beach Party on Wednesday, February 21. The aroma of charcoal grilled burgers and hotdogs filled Fellowship Hall as youth took pictures, made a snow cone or some cotton candy, and played



games together. The CYF staff would like to thank the volunteers who helped pull off this amazing event! We hope to see you all again next year!

Worship and Music

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

Vocal Duet Recital - TODAY!

Mother and daughter Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider will perform a vocal duet recital in our Sanctuary today, 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. A reception will follow.



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.

Mission and Service

Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice.

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.

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.** We will also accept cash donations, which will be used to buy gift cards for the agencies to buy hygiene products. 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 or contact Heidi Prahl at

heidip@thefamily.net or (920) 749-9364.
Thank you!

Pine Ridge Reservation Intergenerational Mission Trip, August 10-17, 2018

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is located in one of the poorest and neediest counties in the US. Re-Member, a non-profit located on the reservation, has been making a difference family by family for almost twenty years. Re-Member organizes volunteers to participate in work projects to improve the quality of reservation life and to rebuild homes and relationships. Work projects include: insulating mobile homes, constructing bunk beds, making outhouses, building accessible entries to homes, and roofing homes. Volunteers get on-the-job instruction (most volunteers have little or no experience as handy persons) and considerable time getting to know Pine Ridge residents and the Lakota culture.

We have reserved spaces for a mission trip scheduled for August 11 to August 18. Re-Member asks that we confirm attendees before April, so please let us know if you are thinking of going on this intergenerational mission (children 12 or older may attend with a parent or guardian).

Need more information? There will be an informational meeting between Sunday church services on March 4 in the chapel. You may also contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu or 920 735-0166.

Calendar for February 25–March 3

Sunday, February 25

- 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*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 10:30 AM – 11:45 AM **Service Project/Bake Cookies for the Church** – *Kitchen/River Room/Fellowship Halls*
- 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** – *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Duet Recital: Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider** – *Sanctuary, Reception in Narthex*
- 4:15 PM – 5:15 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 26

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals**- *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** – *Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

Tuesday, February 27

- 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 – 8:00 PM **Church Council Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*
- 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **ESTHER Expo Fox Cities** – *Chapel*
- 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, February 28

- 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Children's Choir rehearsal** - *Choir Room*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM **ESTHER Finance Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*

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

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM **Youth Handbells Rehearsal** - *Amistad Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Middle School Classes** - *Theater/Scripture Tent/Art/Kitchen*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room, Sanctuary, Chapel, East Conference Room*

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

Thursday, March 1

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*

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Clergy Development Group** - *Upper Lounge*

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

Friday, March 2

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, March 3

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



A free-will
donation to
benefit our
Music Ministry.

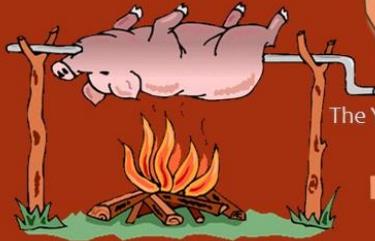
Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider Vocal Duet Recital

with pianist Anthony Padilla

February 25 • 3:00 PM

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

First Congregational UCC | 724 E. South River Street, Appleton WI | (920) 733-7393 | www.firstcongoappleton.org



You're Invited!

The Youth Mission Trip participants cordially invite you to a

Pig Roast Dinner and Silent Auction

March 10, 2018

5:00-6:30 PM

Menu:

- **Fresh Apple Cider infused Hickory Smoked BBQ Pig**
- **Scrumptious sides**
- **Beverages**
- **Delicious desserts**

Tickets sold at the door for \$20/person OR \$50 for a family of 3 or more.