

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 February 10, 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.

January 14 Highlights at First Congregational

January 15:	Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration	p. 13
January 16:	Wine and Word.....	p. 10
January 17:	Social Singles Chatters	p. 10
January 17:	Intergenerational Musical Read-through.....	p. 11
January 17:	“All-Call” Women’s Choir!	p. 11
January 17:	RESCHEDULED Middle School Mission Trip Info meeting.....	p. 13
January 20:	Movie with the Mouse!.....	p. 13
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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 February 11.

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, January 12	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Trish Behm	
Sunday, January 14	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Rachel and Jim Edwards	Pat Streur
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk	Carolyn Frederick	Carolyn Frederick
Lay Readers	Sue Detienne	Susan McFadden
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Tim Hanna	John Aaholm
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, January 15	Rose Heinz	

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 14, 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.*

PRELUDE

(Please sign the registration form on the end of the pew, pass it down the row, and then return it, 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 AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship God,

People: Who creates us and loves us;

Leader: Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

People: Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Leader: Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

People: To seek justice, share power, and live together in love and equality;

Leader: Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

People: and whose presence, grace, and love sustain us in our living.

Leader: We gather to worship our God, who will not keep silent.

People: We lift our voices and sing: to God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (bulletin p. 6)

Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

SALZBURG

OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

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

(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 Center or return to the pews to worship with their families.)

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear My Prayer

Moses Hogan

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN (see bulletin p. 7)

O God Beyond All Praising

THAXTED

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Shout Glory!

Byron Smith

*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

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 62:1-4 (OT p. 847)

Leader: On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him,

Women: *"They have no wine."*

Leader: And Jesus said to her,

Men: *"Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."*

Leader: His mother said to the servants,

Women: *"Do whatever he tells you."*

Leader: Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them,

Men: *"Fill the jars with water."*

Leader: And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them,

Men: *"Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward."*

Leader: So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from

Women: (though the servants who had drawn the water knew),

Leader: the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

MEDITATION

"A Matter of Time"

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

*CLOSING HYMN #481

Lift Every Voice and Sing

LIFT EVERY VOICE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

8:45 AM Sanctuary Choir; Alex Quackenbush and Clover Austin-Muehleck, *soloists*

10:30 AM LU Music Scholars; Erik Nordstrom and Bea McManus, *soloists*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 21, 2018	Third Sunday after Epiphany	8:45 and 10:30 AM
"Jesus Cleanses the Temple"		Rev. Steve Savides
Scripture readings:	John 2:13-25	
Music:	8:45 AM Women's Choir	
	10:30 AM Women's Choir	

Church School Schedule- 8:45 AM

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

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

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, January 19	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Trish Behm	
Sunday, January 21	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Rose Heinz	
Bridge Greeters	Kathy and Steve Hermsen	Midge Mosher
Welcome Desk	Kathi Seifert	
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Janet Scheibe
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, January 22		





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
Jill Anthony's neighbors, John and Katie
Jill Anthony's sister and brother-in-law
Family of Lloyd Baeten on his death
Katie Behl
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade
Dena Collier
Rick Detienne's brother Tom
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, especially during times of increased violence
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
Evelyn Platt, Todd Platt's mother
Paula Chandler's son-in-law, Tim Radtke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Cindi Ritcey Fox's granddaughter, Brytni
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Margaret Schomisch
Jim Schwantes
Kathy Smudde, sister of Lyle Van De Hey and Janice Schmitz
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees
Jack Vanden Boogard
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

January 14, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 2

Pastor's Message

Making Magic Happen

This week's gospel lesson tells the story of a miracle. Jesus, his mother, and the disciples were at a wedding, and the wine ran out. I've been thinking a lot this week about how Jesus draws on resources close at hand to breathe life back into the party. He instructs the servants to fill some jars with water. They do as he says, and somehow when the chief steward takes a sip of it, it's the best wine he's ever tasted.

As I scan the online preacher blogs this week, I see lots of pastors scrambling to figure out how Jesus did it. I'm more interested in *why* he did it, and what happened as a result. It's a strange miracle, really. No one is raised from death or healed of a seemingly incurable disease. Jesus takes water, a couple of jugs, some willing servants, and in the end – people have a good time. This miracle results in JOY.

Last night, the Mission and Service Team met. We talked about the number of mission partnerships we have in this congregation. Are you aware of how many ways our congregation makes a difference in this community and beyond? We provide meals, build houses, plant seeds, support mental health awareness, present prayer shawls, advocate for justice, make bunk beds, sponsor students, and more. The resources we use might be financial at times, but they also include simple things like work gloves, 2x4's, foil casserole pans, and donated yarn. The most precious commodity might be the hours we give – but that time usually brings as much joy to us, as it does to those who benefit from our gift. We haven't solved homelessness (yet), or hunger (yet), or cured any diseases – but I like to think we're following Jesus' lead in the gospel. We use what we have on hand, to make joy possible for others. Many, many others.

Did you ever think of yourself as a miracle worker? You are!

If you have an interest in making a difference in this community, or even beyond, there's a chance our congregation is already at work making miracles happen, and we'd love to include you in that work. If you have ideas for partnerships we might explore in the future – let us know. The world could use a few more miracles – or at least a little more joy. Thank you, for all the ways you make a difference for others.

Your friend and fellow servant,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Wine and Word

January 16, 2018 • 6:30 PM
Copper Rock, 210 W. College Ave, Appleton

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams.

In April 2015, Archbishop Tutu traveled to the Dalai Lama's home in Dharamsala, India, to celebrate His Holiness's eightieth birthday and to create what they hoped would be a gift for others. They looked back on their long lives to answer a single burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering?

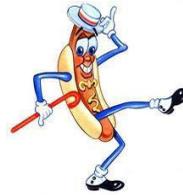
Chrysalis Group

The Chrysalis spiritual formation group will be meeting Tuesday, January 16 at their new time of 1:00-2:30 PM in the Upper Lounge. Our upcoming format is viewing and discussing Nooma's "series of short films that explore our world through the teaching of Jesus. Jesus inspired people, questioned their deeply held beliefs, provoked them when needed, comforted them, and invited them to be a part of God's work in restoring creation." Join our discussion...search, question, and engage on what matters most. For more information contact Trish Brehm at

<http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Trish%20Brehm> or Sheryl De Hart at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Sheryl%20DeHart>.

Social Singles Chatters

Join us for our next Social Singles Chatters event. We will gather for a delicious lunch at Mark's East Side (1405 E. Wisconsin Ave, Appleton, WI 54911) on January 17 at 11:30 AM.



Hot Dog Supper

Wednesday, January 24

Stop by Fellowship Hall anytime between 5:00 and 7:00 PM for a hot

dog supper with your church family. All are welcome! RSVP to Dianne Droster at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Dianne%20Droster>.

Church Women United 2018 Annual Meeting

Friday, January 26
First United Methodist Church
325 E. Franklin Street, Appleton

This year's speaker will be Karen Nelson, Appleton's Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator. She will speak on "Fostering Diversity and Inclusiveness in Our Community." To register contact Marilyn at 920-788-5880 or mdvofkau@new.rr.com or Jayne at plainjayne@gmail.com or 920-246-8569 by January 22.

- 11:30 AM – Registration
- 12:00 PM – Lunch \$10.00
- 12:45 PM – Business meeting
- 1:00 PM – Speaker

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

Membership Exploration Class

Saturday, February 10 • 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Our next class is fast approaching. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393. If you need child care, please inform the church office by noon on January 29. If advance requests are not made, child care will not be available on the day of the class.

The Membership Exploration Class is designed for people who are considering membership with First Congregational United Church of Christ. This class, led by our staff and accompanied by contributions from the lay leadership of the church, explores the history and polity of the United Church of Christ, the history and programs of First Congregational UCC, the faith and theology of the church, discernment of spiritual gifts for serving God, and the meaning of church membership and opportunities to serve the church.

Worship and Music

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

“All-Call” Women’s Choir!

Come rehearse with our Sanctuary Choir women from 7:00-7:30 PM on Wednesday, January 17, to sing in a special women's choir on Sunday, January 21 at both services. Please contact John Albrecht <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/John%20Albrecht> to register.

Save the Date!

The Story of Ruth, our 2018 Intergenerational Musical, will have a read-through and potluck on a **Wednesday this year** so mark your calendars!

Read through and potluck: Wednesday, January 17 from 5:30 - 7:00 pm

Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings 5:30-7:00 PM and Sundays 11:30 AM-1:15 PM

The performances will be Saturday evening March 10 and Sunday morning March 11.

Fun for the whole family - Watch this space for more information in January!

Recital Supports Endowment Fund

Last Sunday's voice recital by Scholar graduate Kirsten O'Donnell and pianist Seth King-Gengler raised over \$400 in

support of our Music Scholars' Endowment Fund. Thank you to all who attended in support of these rising artists, and in support of future young artists in our LU Music Scholars program!

A/V and Technology Volunteers Needed

The Church's technology needs your help! Recently the Church's technology has grown, and we are looking for volunteers to assist our Technology Committee this program year. Additionally, our Audio/Video capabilities in the Sanctuary have grown and volunteers are welcome to this opportunity as well. If you are interested in helping with the Church's technology or A/V, or both, please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393. Have questions? Contact Technology Coordinator Jonathan Steffen at (920) 915-7974 or email <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Jonathan%20Steffen>.

Stewardship

Putting faith into action with our time, passion, skills and financial gifts.

Journey to Generosity Update

We are very encouraged as we approach the very end this year's Stewardship campaign. Donations on average are up and we are pleased that we've added 18 new donors during our Journey to Generosity.

Because this is a transition year into the new Realm system, we want to be sure that these changes are not causing problems for any of our donors. If you're a former auto-giver or have had a problem establishing a Realm account at the church, making your donation could be challenging. That may well account for many of the over 70 former donors who've not pledged in our current campaign.

To help make things as easy as possible, we plan to reach out to many of you by phone starting Monday, January 15. This truly is not intended to "chase" any of you, but to provide whatever assistance you might need to complete your congregation member set-up in REALM, and hopefully finalize your support for First Congo during a year of significant change in how we manage our pledge process.

Many thanks to those who have already made your generous commitment. And thanks also to those who are ready to step forward with their pledge at this time. We look forward to talking with you soon.

Blessings to you all,

Bill, Rick & Janice
Your Joyful Stewardship Team

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Middle School Mission Trip

Are you in Middle School? Do you want to have an amazing time this summer while serving others here in Wisconsin? Are you looking for a chance to grow your faith and build deeper relationships with your friends? If you said yes to any of these questions, join us **January 17** from **7:45 - 8:15 PM** in the Theater to learn more. During our time together, we will share the location of our 2018 Middle School Youth Mission Trip, see photos, hear some stories about the last trip, and discuss what our middle school mission trips are like! I hope to see you there! If you have any questions or cannot make it, please contact Joel at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Joel%20Morien>.

Ringing in the New Year with Church School!

Church school will resume with a whole new rotation of lessons. Children will be learning about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Workshops feature art activities, games and other interactive ways to learn about this inspirational story. This rotation will run through February 4. A big thank you to those who volunteered to teach! If you see these people, please thank them for serving in the teaching ministry: Shari Mitchell, Amy Bowman,

Kristina Smits, Dana Mattingly, Micki Heimer and Jolene Scribner

Mark Your Calendars for Movie with the Mouse!

Please join us for Movie with the Mouse on January 20 from 3:00-6:00 PM. We will be viewing the movie Ratatouille, the charming story of a determined little rat named Remy, who follows his dreams. After the movie, we will enjoy pizza and more! Hope to see you there. Please email Colleen Berry at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Colleen%20Berry> by January 17 if you plan to attend.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Fox Cities Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Monday, January 15, 2018, 6:30 PM
*Lawrence University Memorial Chapel,
510 E. College Ave., Appleton*

Mark your calendar for the 27th annual Fox Cities Celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year's theme is *Those Who Have Been Left Out*. The keynote speaker for this year is Aly Wane. Music will be performed by Anthony Gonzalez and Lawrence University's B-Lilly and the Soul Bros.

The event is open to the public at no charge.

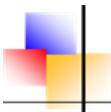
Fox Valley Warming Shelter Volunteer Opportunities

The holiday season reminds us how much we all have to be thankful for every day of the year. We will have another opportunity during the bitterly cold month of January to open our hearts and hands to those in need.

The Fox Valley Warming Shelter provides homeless adults a hot meal and a safe place to sleep. We can offer **hope** by providing and/or serving an evening meal and giving back to those who are disadvantaged. The Fox Valley Warming Shelter is counting on our support in January. Sign-up sheets are now in the Narthex for January 17, 27, 29, 30 and 31, 2018.

Feel free to call Amy Lewis, (920) 205-1091, or Leigh Grube, (920) 851-3531, if you have any questions.

Seven Habits of Highly Depolarizing People



January 25 • 6:15–8:30 PM
Menasha Public Library, Company
E Room
440 First Street, Menasha

Please join Stronger Together Fox Valley, ESTHER and Fox Cities Evangelical Ministerial Fellowship at this workshop as they build capacity in our community for respectful dialogue about important issues. Space is limited so please register today at strongertogetherfv@gmail.com. Your registration will enable them to send you the Seven Habits article to read and

practice issue background to review before the gathering.

A \$10 donation at the door is suggested to support their collaborative community-building work.

Power of Grace, a play



January 27 • 6:30 PM
Fox Valley Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship

In this performance, women formerly incarcerated in Illinois share their thoughts and feelings about the experience in order to break down stereotypes and encourage awareness regarding the U.S. criminal justice system. The play is a window into the personal experience of incarceration and represents a ritual of self-liberation. Presented by ESTHER and Fox Cities EXPO (Ex-Prisoners Organizing).

For the soul of a nation, no deportation

January 28 • 3:00–4:30 PM
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2600 E. Phillip Lane, Appleton



What does deporting immigrants who are fleeing poverty, violence and corruption do to us as individuals and a nation? What do we lose without them? Come and hear stories of immigrants, DACA students and DREAMERS. Stand in solidarity and compassion with our undocumented friends and neighbors. Help us advocate for passage of the DREAM ACT. Presented by ESTHER, UNIDOS Por un

Futuro Mejor, and Winnebago Worship
Group Religious Society of Friends.

Volunteer Needed

Looking for a dedicated volunteer to join a team and be an advocate for our church for the FVWS (Fox Valley Warming Shelter) It involves:

1. Communication with FVWS Volunteer Coordinator for dates and events.
2. Organize days for the Congo members to volunteer meals and shifts.
3. Make announcements in church.

Please inquire: Leigh Grube 920-851-3531
or Amy Lewis 920-205-1091.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

February 7-March 14, 2018

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology
Education Center

3925 North Gateway Drive, Appleton

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six-week series designed to help you, the caregiver, take care of yourself while caring for a relative or friend. You as the caregiver will benefit from this series and learn how to reduce stress, better communicate your feelings, increase your ability to make tough decisions and also locate helpful resources. Class materials are supplied by the FVHO Fight Back Foundation. To register contact Jean Monson at jmonson@fvho.org or 920-702-4816 by February 2.

Point in Time Count

Twice a year, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires each community to assess the degree of homelessness within their community. This consists of those in shelter, as well as any individuals who are homeless and without shelter. These numbers provide us with the data needed to properly plan for support programs to best serve people struggling in this way. We are in need of 60 volunteers to help us the night of January 24 and early in the morning on January 25. If you choose to volunteer, you would be placed on a team of four people including one leader. Each team will drive to designated areas in our community to check for people sleeping outside or in their vehicles. If someone is found, the leader of each team would approach and talk to the person struggling with homelessness, asking for basic information and if there is anything we could do for them right now. If you choose to help, more information will come, as well as training opportunities if interested. We would greatly appreciate it if you could help us with this process this year. Please review the bullet points of information below and thank you for considering:

- Wednesday, January 24
- Held at Salvation Army in Appleton, WI (130 E. North St. Appleton).
- All volunteer sign ups must be done on the sign-up genius link:
<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080548a5a823a5fd0-january>

- Please note that HUD has mandated some time changes. This year the choices for volunteering are 11:00 PM-2:00 AM or 2:00 AM-5:00 PM

- We have scheduled two informational training sessions for people who are interested: Wednesday, January 17 at 5:00 PM and Saturday, January 20 at 9:00 AM. These training sessions will be held at the Salvation Army in Appleton.

Kenya Student Sponsorship- Thank you!

On behalf of the Kenya Student Sponsorship Committee, I want to thank you for your kind and generous contributions that make it possible for Silas Kirokich to continue his high school studies. Silas received a mean grade of C at the end of the 2012 academic year. Silas will now move on to Form Four, his final year of high school.

During previous trips to Kenya our Committee has learned that teachers tend to grade rather low to encourage and motivate students to work harder. Students who receive B's and even C's typically do well on their final exams at the end of high school.

Due to the generosity of this congregation, the Student Sponsorship Program now has 64 sponsored high school students and several sponsored university students. To assure continued success of the program the committee in Kenya has hired a social worker who meets individually with students to monitor

their progress and to provide encouragement for them.

Students in the Kerio Valley have tremendous challenges. Your support and prayers give Silas hope for a much brighter future.

If you haven't already, please consider joining our closed Facebook group entitled First Congregational UCC, Kenya Partnership. We will be posting news and updates regarding our partnership. Periodically, there will be pictures and videos of students.

Many thanks for your kind and generous gift to Silas's education.

Sincerely,
Wanda Van De Hey

Project NOAHH's Needs

Household items such as bikes, double-strollers, dressers and beds are frequent needs for families struggling to improve their quality of life in the Fox Valley. Recently many specific needs have come to our attention.

- **Twin-size bedding** is always needed.
- Parents with two kids just moved into a new home in November. One child has many medical issues. They are looking for twin beds, lamps, and rocker/recliner.
- Family of mom and 3 kids lost all of their things due to being evicted and having no storage. They have been homeless for 4 months and just found an apartment recently. They are in

need of 2 twin beds, loveseat or living room chairs, dishes and cookware.

- A care provider is looking for a dresser for a child she has taken in.
- Parents of 4 children just moved into a home and are in need of 4 twin beds, kitchen table/chairs and bedding.

Note: There are several items that NOAHH cannot accept as donations. These include child car seats, cribs, or high chairs due to current safety standards and/or recalls. Due to size and weight limitations queen size beds, sofas, large recliners and appliances (stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers) also cannot be accepted.

Please make arrangements with Pat Hauser (www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Pat%20Hauser) before bringing donations to the church. Thank you for sharing with those in need!

have done these steps click *Post*. If *Post* is greyed out so that you cannot click on it, you have most likely not placed a title on your post. Go back to the top of the post, add a title where it says *Title* and you should be good to go. If you have any issues with posting, be sure to contact the church office for more information.

Administration

Realm Tip–Posting to a Group

Did you know that you can communicate with members of your group(s) through Realm? When you sign in to Realm you are taken directly to your newsfeeds from the groups you participate in at church. You can also click on Groups (down the left-hand column) and click on the name of one of your groups to see the group's newsfeed. To add a post, you need to click on . Now you can enter a title and text to the body of your message. If you have an attachment, click *Attach Files*. After you

Calendar for January 14–January 20

Sunday, January 14

- 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 **High School Sunday Groups** - *Common Grounds*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM **LU Scholar Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room*
- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **First Things First AA Meeting** - *North Fellowship Hall, River Room*

Monday, January 15

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM **ESTHER Communications** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals** - *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** - *Fellowship Hall, West Conference room*
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **MLK, Jr Service with Mentors** - *Lawrence Memorial Chapel*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

Tuesday, January 16

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Strong Bones** - *River Room*
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones - Winter Session** - *South Fellowship*
- 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM **Staff Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*
- 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM **Communications Meeting** - *Library*
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM **Chrysalis- “Listen Up!” Bible Study series on Luke** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Finance Committee** - *East Conference Room*
- 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM **Wine and Word: “Book of Joy”** - *Copper Rock, 210 W. College Ave*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Horizon Ministry Team** - *Library*
- 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, January 17

- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **Social Singles Chatters** - *Mark’s East Side, 1405 E. Wisconsin Ave*

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*
 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Children's Choir rehearsal** - *Choir Room*
 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** - *North Fellowship Hall*
 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; Womens Choir from 7:00-7:30 PM*
 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Church Mice Youth Group** - *East Conference Room*
 7:45 PM – 8:15 PM **Middle School Mission Trip information meeting** - *Theater*

Thursday, January 18

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*
 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, January 19

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, January 20

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM **Cub Scout Pack 3108– Pinewood Derby** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM **Movie with the Mouse: Ratatouille** - *Theater*
 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

Middle School Mission Trip Discussion

Wednesday
January 17
7:45-8:15 PM
Theater



Learn about the location, see photos, hear stories, and much more!



For more information contact Joel Morien at (920) 733-7393.



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



Membership Exploration Class

February 10, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

**Contact the church office to
register, (920) 733-7393**



The Ministry

All the Members of the church, Minister
Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Spiritual Outreach
Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission
Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist
Colleen Berry, Director for Christian Education
Joel Morien, Director for Youth Ministry
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Christina Trepanier, Communications Specialist
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Jonathan Steffen, A/V Coordinator
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Childcare Provider
Tom Pflugardt, Facilities Manager
Kathy Kennedy, Housekeeper
Tom Ott,, Custodial Assistant
Laura Vanden Hogen Custodial Assistant
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