

## **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](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.

# January 7 Highlights at First Congregational

<b>Today:</b>	<b>New Church School Rotation .....</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>Today:</b>	<b>Kirsten O'Donnell Recital at 3:00 PM .....</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>January 10</b>	<b>Middle School Mission Trip Discussion in Theater Room .....</b>	<b>p.14</b>
<b>January 16</b>	<b>Wine and Word Book Discussion.....</b>	<b>p. 13</b>
<b>January 17</b>	<b>“All-Call” Women’s Choir Rehearsal .....</b>	<b>p. 15</b>

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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, January 7 and 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](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, January 5</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, January 7</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	Chris Hammerstad	Sharrie Robinson
Bridge Greeters		Midge Mosher
Welcome Desk	The Jahnke Family (Alan, Katie, McKenna)	Carolyn Frederick
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft March	Joan Jensen
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Mark Mauthe	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Sue Mauthe	Kris Behm
<b>Counters, January 8</b>		

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 7, 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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## 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

## CHORAL INTROIT

*Break Forth, O Beauteous Morning Light*

Harm., J. S. Bach

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The Lord God created us and formed us.

**People: We will not fear.**

Leader: God redeems us and calls us by name.

**People: When we pass through waters, God is with us.**

Leader: God protects us as we wade through the rivers.

**People: We will not be overwhelmed.**

Leader: God is with us when we walk through the fire.

**People: We will not be burned.**

Leader: God is our Savior.

**People: We are precious in God's sight.**

Leader: God loves us.

**People: We will not fear, for God is with us.**

Leader: We are called by name and made of God's glory.

**All: Glory be to God!**

**\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see bulletin p. 7)**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)*

ELDERKIN

**UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**As your child, loving God, I want to reflect your glory. Most days it is a foggy image at best. It's unusual for me to clearly and accurately give you the glory you are due. Thank you for knowing that we needed Immanuel who is so totally like you and completely like me that I can experience you through him. Christ makes loving you even more possible; because he lived here, you have become accessible and approachable. It is my hope that by next Christmas I'll reflect even more of your glory; I make this my goal. I recommit myself and pray in Jesus name. Amen.**

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

**\*GLORIA PATRI #36**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end.  
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 Area or return to the pews to worship with their families.)

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**THE BAPTISM OF ELIZABETH MAE BAERENWALD (8:45 AM service)**

Parents: Jennifer and Jeffrey Baerenwald

Godparents: David Baerenwald, Bobbi Jo Stockero, and Kevin McMorro

**THE BAPTISM OF ZEKE LOGAN COUSINEAU (8:45 AM service)**

Parents: Jessica and Zak Cousineau

Godparents: Meghan and Pat Smits

**ADDRESS**

**QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT**

**People: We promise our love, support, and care.**

**BLESSING OF THE WATER**

**ACT OF BAPTISM**

## UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

**Dear God of gentleness and love, once more you have spoken words of hope in the birth of children. We delight in these new gifts of life. Let your blessing and strength rest upon Elizabeth and Zeke and their families. May we all cherish these little lives and lead them in the ways of faith. In the name of your Chosen One, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

Swedish Hymn

Stanza 1- Solo; Stanza 2 - Choir; **Stanza 3, All** (below)

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

## GOSPEL READING

John 1:35-51 (NT p. 112)

## MEDITATION

“Baptism of Our Lord”

Rev. Nick Hatch

### \*RESPONSE HYMN #473

*O Jesus, I Have Promised*

ANGEL'S STORY

## PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### A MUSICAL OFFERING

### \*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

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION & REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

### GREETING

**Leader:** Dear friends, on this day of re-creation we recall Christ's baptism, and we claim and remember our own.

**People:** **We gather at this font of living water to celebrate the gift of God's redeeming grace.**

Leader: For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body – though many – are one body, so it is with Christ.

**People: For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, male or female – and were made to drink of one Spirit.**

Leader: Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

#### COMMUNION PRAYER

#### 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.**

#### RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Leader: Eternal God, you have come to us....

Leader: Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God..... Glory to you, Eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end.

**People: Christ was baptized in the River Jordan and his life was lifted up so that we might live. In his life, your promises of love and care were poured out through our lives in acts of compassion and service, in solidarity with the poor and the oppressed, and with the hungry of this world. For it is in the name of Jesus Christ, your Servant, that we pray. Amen.**

#### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS & REAFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

#### ANTHEM: (See bulletin p. 8)

*Come to the Water*

John Foley

Stanzas 1-3, Choir; **Stanza 4, All**

(As the anthem is sung, those of the congregation who wish are invited to come forward to dip their fingers into the font, put water on their own forehead or bless each other with water from the font, and then return to their pews.)

## UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Renew in us, all the gifts of baptism – 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 make us one. Amen.**

### \*CLOSING HYMN #167

*Arise, Your Light Is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

\*The Congregation Standing

### TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

8:45 AM LU Music Scholars; Annie Mercado, *soloist*

10:30 AM Sanctuary Choir







## Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 14, 2018	Second Sunday after Epiphany	8:45 and 10:30 AM
“Wedding at Cana”		Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Scripture readings:	John 2:1-11	
Music: 8:45 AM	The Sanctuary Choir	
10:30 AM	LU Music Scholars	

### Church School Schedule– 8:45 AM

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

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

### Members in Service Next Week

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

## 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  
Katie Behl  
Gerald and Jennifer Bellin, as they grieve  
the death of Gerald's Father Robert  
Bellin  
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  
Ann Guyon  
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  
Susan Van Lopik  
Lisa Malone

Our country's military around the world  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in-law  
Howard Niblock and Ernestine Whitman, as  
they grieve the death of Howard's father  
The Family of Russell Novcaski on his death  
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  
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  
Sue Wisneski  
The Wittwer Family

# THE OPEN DOOR

January 7, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 1

## Pastor's Message

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### Keep it all in perspective

Each year, after what I lovingly call the “Christmas Carnival” (meaning its just a crazy amount of work to get through all our worship services and a lot of things can go wrong), I take some vacation. This year we celebrated Christmas with my parents here in Appleton then headed to Park Falls to stay in our cabin. So, for vacation, we went where it was even colder and even darker than here! We actually spent a lot of time outside for the three days while we were there. We cleared off a small hill and it turned into a sledding run, we walked on the frozen lake, I gave long rides in the pull behind sled. And we drank hot chocolate; lots of very hot, hot chocolate.

One afternoon, when it was -5 degrees, we walked a couple hundred yards back into the forest to find a new sledding hill. We got a little turned around and the hill ended up being a little too steep and a little too covered in trees. We gave it a go anyway, Elijah sitting in the front of the sled and me in back and down we went, right into a snow bank of deep super-dry and powdery snow that filled his face. It was too cold for such things and the fun was over, his plaintive cry being, “Take me home, I want to go home to Appleton!” Within a few minutes, we were inside our cabin drinking, you guessed it, more hot chocolate, and things started to get better. But, I am sure you can relate to the feelings of “being done” or “being fed up” with the cold or some other abrasive and painful situation that life presents.

We had a dinner this week in confirmation and as we started, we went around in a circle sharing one thing we were thankful for, for the New Year. Students lifted up family, starting sports, upcoming trips; then one student said, “the warm weather” and wasn’t joking. We all kind of laughed and asked if he was sick or having trouble thinking clearly, but then he said, “I mean for the warm weather that will come, because it’s cold now.” But what struck me is the certainty he had when saying “THE warm weather.”

We do have an assurance that in the months to come, the warmth of summer will unfold us. It’s a certainty that can be hard to remember in the coldness of winter. Sometimes we lose sight of it all, like when we get a face full of cold snow and just want to go home-where it’s warm and we feel safe; another certainty for some of us.

I wonder, when life is cold and dark, and we want to retreat, how might our faith provide us a measure of certainty we know in God's love for us? Then, how might God's life-giving promises help us through even our bleakest days?

Stay warm in the coming days, and take heart that God has already provided for our futures in the gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nick



## **Kirsten O'Donnell Voice Recital**

**Free-will donation to benefit our LU Music Scholars'  
Endowment Fund**

**January 7 • 3:00 PM – First Congregational Sanctuary**

**Includes music of Bizet, Strauss, H. T. Burleigh, Jake Heggie, Mozart, and  
Adam Guettel**

LU Music Scholar graduate **Kirsten O'Donnell, mezzo-soprano**, will return to First Congregational for a voice recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, January 7, at 3 PM. Kirsten O'Donnell, mezzo soprano, is a first-year graduate student in the Maryland Opera Studio. She graduated with her Associates degree in Vocal Performance from College of DuPage in 2012. She then graduated magna cum laude from Lawrence University with a degree in Vocal Performance in 2015.

Accompanying Kirsten is **Seth King-Gengler**. Seth is a Chicago-based freelance pianist, teacher, and composer. He graduated from Lawrence University in 2015 with a B.M. in Piano Performance with a Jazz Emphasis, studying with Anthony Padilla, Bill Carrothers, and Michael Mizrahi. During his time at LU, he served as rehearsal and pit pianist for The Tender Land, Street Scene, and Drowsy Chaperone. He was awarded with the Marjory Irvin Prize in 2014 for his efforts for accompanying at LU.



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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## 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.

## 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, 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.

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# Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

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## Ring in the New Year with Church School!

Church school will resume today, January 7, 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.

## 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 10** 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>.

## 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.

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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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## Kirsten O'Donnell in Recital, January 7, 3:00 PM

LU Music Scholar graduate Kirsten O'Donnell, mezzo-soprano, will return to First Congregational for a voice recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, January 7, at 3:00 PM. Kristen is currently a graduate student in the Maryland Opera Studio. A free-will offering will be received to benefit our Music Scholars Endowment Fund. All are welcome to attend!

## 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!

### **“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.

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## **Mission and Service**

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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### **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.

### **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.

### **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](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Pat%20Hauser)) before bringing donations to the church. Thank you for sharing with those in need!

## **Volunteer with the Department of Housing and Urban Development**

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 Kirotych 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

## Calendar for January 7–January 13

### Sunday, January 7

- 7:00 AM – 9:30 AM **High Schoolers at Homeless Connections** - *Homeless Connections, 400 N Division St, Appleton*
- 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 – 10:45 AM **Back Bay Info Meeting** - *Chapel*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **High School Sunday Groups** - *Common Grounds*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM **Benefit Recital, Kirsten O'Donnell (3:00 PM Performance)** -*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 8

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **ESTHER Communications** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:00 PM – 5:15 PM **Appleton Boychoir - Ambassador/Concert** - *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Sanctuary*
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals** - *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Sanctuary*
- 5:15 PM – 6:00 PM **Appleton Boychoir - All Family Meeting** - *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Sanctuary*
- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Technology Team** - *Library*
- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Facilities Ministry Area** - *Upper Lounge*
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** – *Fellowship Hall, West Conference room*
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force** - *St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 South Green Bay Rd, Neenah*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Prayer Shawl** - *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

## **Tuesday, January 9**

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*

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

**Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

**Stewardship Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*

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, January 10**

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

**Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM

**Pastors' Meeting** - *Art/Kitchen*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

**Children's Choir rehearsal** - *Choir Room*

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** - *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

**Youth Handbells rehearsal** - *Amistad Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Confirmation Class with Mentors** - *Chapel*

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*

7:45 PM – 8:15 PM **Middle School Mission Trip Info Meeting** - *Theater*

**Thursday, January 11**

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

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

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM **United Church Camps, Inc. (Moon Beach)** - *Upper Lounge*

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

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM **Prayer Shawl** - *Common Grounds*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM **ESTHER Board Regular Meeting** - *River Room*

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM **TnT-SOAR Fox Cities** - *South Fellowship Hall*

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

**Friday, January 12**

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 13**

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

# 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  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
724 East South River Street  
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915  
Phone: (920) 733-7393  
Web Site: [www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)