

First Congregational UCC

September 24, 2023

LET THE WHOLE
EARTH BE FILLED
WITH HIS

Glory.

Psalm 72:19



Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25 – 11:35AM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Economic Justice Work Group – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00 – 8:30PM	AL ANON – <i>Chapel</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Alateen – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall/Commons Grounds</i>

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, or Narthex. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month. To schedule a baptism, contact the church office six weeks before your desired baptism date.

Childcare is available for ALL infants – 7-year-olds. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

Communion is gluten free and served the first Sunday of each month. ALL are welcome to join us!

Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton: We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates, checks can be mailed to the church, you can visit our webpage and click “Give,” or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. *Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Flowers: Today’s flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Hearing Loop: Need help hearing our service? Ask an usher. They can help get you in the loop!



Online Streaming and Podcasting are available on Facebook: FCUCCAppleton or Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton.

Open Door Announcements can be shared by emailing opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org or calling the office.

References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

Tune by John Goss

Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION OF LU MUSIC SCHOLARS

John Albrecht

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (*adapted from The Message*)

Psalm 145:1-9

One: I lift you high in praise, my God, O my King!
and I'll bless your name into eternity.

**All: I'll bless you every day,
and keep it up from now to eternity.**

One: God is magnificent; God can never be praised enough.
There are no boundaries to God's greatness.

**All: Generation after generation stands in awe of your work;
each one tells stories of your mighty acts.**

One: Your beauty and splendor have everyone talking; we compose songs on
your wonders.

**All: Your marvelous doings are headline news; we write books full of the
details of your greatness.**

One: God is all mercy and grace; not quick to anger, is rich in love.

**All: God, you are good to one and all; everything you do is soaked through
with grace. We praise your name today and forevermore.**

***OPENING HYMN #19**

Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven

LAUDA ANIMA

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Nick Hatch

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So, they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

SERMON “*The Heart of Being Church: Part 2*”

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

Faith Begins by Letting Go

RATISBON

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

MUSICAL REFLECTION

With a Voice of Singing

Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing, declare ye this, and let it be heard, Alleluia!

Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.

The Lord hath delivered his people, Alleluia!

O be joyful in God, all ye lands, O sing praises to the honor of his name,

Make his praise to be glorious.

With a voice of singing. . . Alleluia!

(c.f. Isaiah 48:20; Psalm 66:1, 7, 8, 18)

Sanctuary Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

**ALL: 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.**

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, or email to a pastor for confidentiality.)

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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, forever. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 474**

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

FESTAL SONG

***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

POSTLUDE

Gigue from Partita No. 1 in B-flat Major

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Nick Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

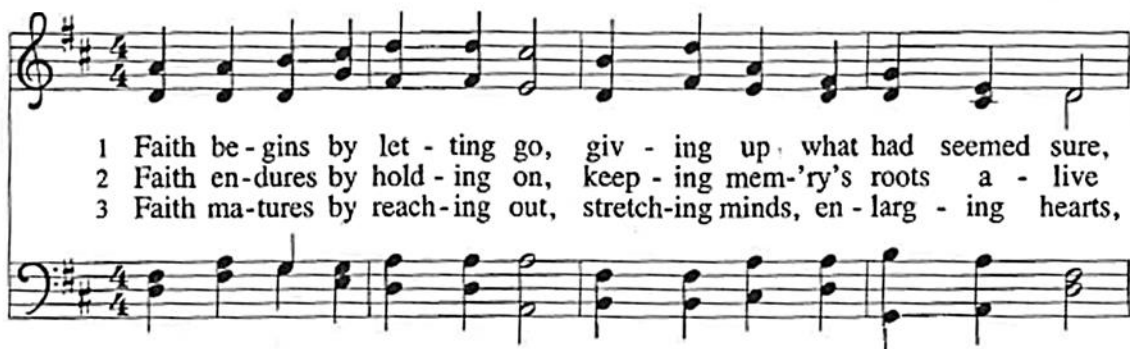
Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

Sunday, October 1, 2023 World Communion-Kenya Sunday

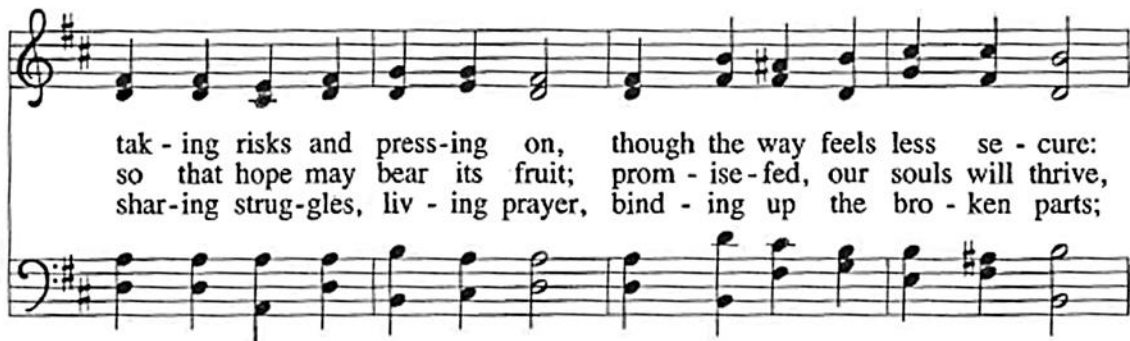
Matthew 21:23-32 "Choices" Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; Victoria Daniel and John Aaholm,
percussion; LU Music Scholar/Sanctuary Choir soloists

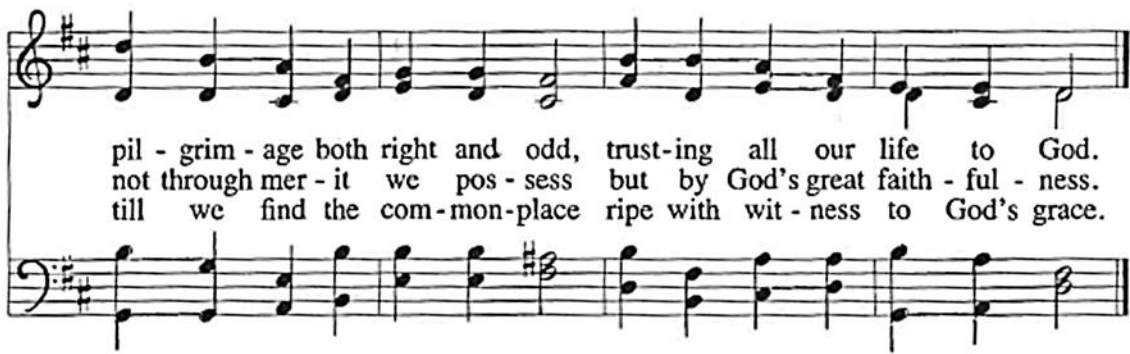
Faith Begins by Letting Go



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,



tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;



pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
Music: J. G. Werner, *Choralbuch*, 1815
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

RATISBON
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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.

Please call Pastor Mary Jo at 715-351-0450 or [email her](#) if you have a new joy or concern you would like us to pray for, as well as any questions and other assistance needed.

In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

<p>Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Don Brittnacher Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober The family of Richard Casperson as they grieve his passing. Brian Chirchir Kiptoo, Kenya student who is living with cancer Beth Detienne's mother Jim Edwards Heidi Mendonca Erstad Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family David Galow Art Gandler Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken Ken Geiger Paul and Leigh Grube's grandnephew, Leo Margaret Hankwitz Judy Hanson JoAnn Helms Shirley Hoft Misty Hofman Phil & Mary Hornseth's nephew, Eric Montross Joan Jenson's son, John Jean Jepson Kathy Lannoye Nancy Kandler McClory family as their son Bobby recovers from surgery.</p>	<p>Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald Anne Planner's brother, Bill Planner Cheryl Reissmann Gretchen Revie Doug Robertson Larry Schiedermayer Frank and Pat Severin Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie Paul Siket Mark Spindler Kinsley Tarr Gloria Tate Jack Thiel Peter Thiel James Totzke Jean Van Wagenin Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya Joe Wells Jake Whisler and his family Diane White Our friends in Kerio Valley: banditry killings have increased in the past few weeks. A member of Liter church, where we have worshipped and stayed, was killed this past week. Prayers for the hundreds of staff and teachers at UW Oshkosh facing layoffs and furloughs and for their families</p>
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The Open-Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events, please see our monthly newsletter [Wide-Open Door](#).

Adult Volunteers Needed: The high school youth group is in need of some adult volunteers who would be willing to help out for an hour on a few Wednesday evenings during this school year. Right now, the youth group is scheduled to meet just once a month, and having some adults help out would let the group meet on a more regular basis as they have in the past.

Our high school youth group is made up of kids from many different high schools and districts, and they really look forward to time together. There are not many spaces in a teenager's life where they can safely express their faith, so youth group is truly important to them. If you think you could help out for an hour on a Wednesday evening so the youth group could meet more often, please talk to Sarah Wilterdink. Thank you very much. -Sharon Clothier (along with her high schoolers - Henry and Will)

E2F (Empty to Full): This fall members of the congregation will once again have an opportunity to participate in the E2F (Empty to Full) Pans program. Empty pans are handed out to willing participants. Each one includes a grocery list, recipe for preparation & a prayer. The cost for groceries is approximately \$13. The person taking the pan purchases the groceries and assembles the recipe to fill the pan. All of the recipes are easy and require very little cooking. The assembled pan is frozen or kept cold until returned to church, on the date shown, for delivery to the recipients.

Hand out: Sunday, **October 15** from 10:30-11:00AM (after worship)

Collection: Sunday, **October 22** from 9:30-10:00AM (before worship)

If you are unable to return the pan on the given day, please call the church to make sure there is access to the church for drop off the week before. Please call Cindi MacSwain 920-606-6699 or email cmacswain@new.rr.com if you have concerns about pick up or drop off. Thank you for your generous service in this adjusted ministry!

NOAHH Requests: A mother unifying with her 1-year-old daughter needs: age-appropriate toys, blankets, clothes for a 1-year-old, diapers, wipes, baby gate and a stroller. Other items still needed from previous requests are: counter stool, small kitchen table with 2 chairs, broom and dustpan, coffee table, baby gate, couch to fit 5 people, dressers, kitchen table (any size), gas cards, grocery cards, king and full mattress, and 2 queen mattresses. Please call Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 to arrange for pick up. Thank you, Sue Ahrens, Missions and Services

Join these book studies beginning October 1:

Book Study for Parents: Join us on Sunday mornings beginning **October 1** for a Small Group Book Discussion covering *Woven – Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From* by Meredith Miller. We will read a chapter each week, and then meet for a discussion facilitated by Andy and Jackie Burton. The book can be ordered wherever books are sold. Meet in the High School Room after worship service – **CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE!** Contact burton.jackiem@gmail.com with any questions.

Economic Book Study: Starting **October 1** for five Sundays. Please register for this book study online with this link [Covenant Economics Book Study](#), in-person, on the sign-up sheet in the narthex, or by calling the church office.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Today - September 24: An Economic Justice Work Group informational session will be held today from 10:45–11:45AM in the Upper Lounge.

September 28: Creating Hope - Confronting Dementia with Meaningful Action from 9:00AM–3:00PM at Jacob's Well Church, 989 122th Street, Chippewa Falls. Visit www.adrcevents.org or call the ADRC at 715-839-4735.

October 1: World Communion Sunday and Kenya Sunday at First Congregational UCC 9:30AM; **Middle School & High School Youth Apple Picking and Apple Crisp Making** 10:30AM–2:00PM

October 7: Walk in Our Shoes, refreshments at 8:30AM, the event is 9:00AM-12:00PM at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 803 E. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911.

October 7 & 8: 2023 Central Wisconsin Indigenous People's Day POWWOW & Native American Art Market at the Central Wisconsin Convention & Expo Center, Rothschild, WI.

October 13-14: Creation Care Retreat, register here [Daycholah Retreat October 13-14](#).

October 14: NAMI Walk, 9:00–11:00AM at Fox Cities Stadium. For questions contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

October 15: ESTHER/WIVEC Advocacy Workshop from 1:00-4:30PM, FCUCC Fellowship Hall. Register here at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/myvoice>.

October 18: Community Living Room from 5:00-8:00PM at First Congregational UCC.

October 27-29: First Congregational UCC Women's Retreat at Daycholah Center. Register here [Women's Retreat 2023](#), or if you have questions contact Chris Calhoun at (920) 540-1560 or ChristineCalhoun902@gmail.com.

ESTHER Silent Auction: ESTHER is seeking donations for their 19th Annual Silent Auction, which is their main fundraiser. Do you have an idea for a service you can provide? Do you want to donate a gift basket, gift certificate, or a pre-owned valued item? We need auction donations by **October 15**. Please help to make our auction a success. Contact Sheryl De Hart tdehart@new.rr.com or through Realm or 920-731-2620 for pick up or drop off at the church office. Thank you for joining other voices and efforts to build an equitable and just community in the Fox Cities.



Middle School & High School Youth (Grades 6-12)

It's Apple Picking and Apple Crisp Making Time!!!

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:30AM - 2:00PM

We will ride a bus to Hofacker's Apple Orchard to pick apples, bus back to the church for lunch, then peel apples and prepare apple crisps. We hope you will join us for our annual tradition of fun and service!

Don't forget to turn in your permission slip (available in the narthex) by today, Sunday, September 24.



Moving from Charity to Justice Advocacy Workshop

In Partnership with
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign
ESTHER Affiliate of WISDOM Network

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 from 1:00-4:30pm
First Congregational UCC Church
724 E South River St
Appleton, WI



- Examine our faith roots of Advocacy
- Further our commitment to faith-based social justice
- Training in Nuts and Bolts of Effective Advocacy

REGISTER HERE by Oct 12:
<https://esther-foxvalley.org/myvoice>



wivec.wichurches.org
wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org
<https://esther-foxvalley.org>

QR Code to Register
for 10/15 Event



—The Church of the Open Door—
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
724 E South River Street, Appleton WI



JOIN US FOR A
**HALLOWEEN
TRUNK or TREAT**




Free Sloppy Joe Lunch,
Bounce House & More

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 22

Raindate: Saturday, Oct 28

11:30AM - 1:00PM

How can you help make this a success...

-  Provide a Trunk or Treat vehicle
-  Make a crockpot of Sloppy Joe's
-  Drop off a bag of candy or goodies

Fill out a sign up sheet (found in the narthex), email swilterdink@firstcongoappleton.org or call 920-851-4518. Thank you!

This Week's Schedule

Monday, September 25

6:30 – 8:30PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, September 26

9:00 – 10:00AM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:00 – 7:30PM

Council Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

7:45 – 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, September 27

12:15 – 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

5:30 – 8:00PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

5:45 – 6:25PM

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

6:30 – 7:30PM

MS & HS Group Kick-Off! – *High School Youth Room*

6:30 – 7:30PM

"Blessed are the Crazy" Book Study – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:30PM

Sanctuary Choir – *Choir Room & Sanctuary*

Thursday, September 28

9:00 – 10:00AM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

12:00 – 1:00PM

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

6:00 – 8:00PM

SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, September 29

7:00 – 8:00PM

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:30PM

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, September 30

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, October 1

8:00 – 9:00AM

Neighbors in Need Offering

9:25 – 11:35AM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Sunday Worship/World Communion Sunday/Kenya

Sunday – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Children's Ministry – *CYF Wing*

10:30 – 11:30AM

Children's Choir – *Choir Room*

10:30AM – 2:00PM

Apple Crisp Baking & Delivery – *Kitchen, Fellowship Hall*

10:45 – 11:45AM

Parents' Book Discussion – *HS Room*

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Covenant Economics Book Study – *Upper Lounge*

5:00 – 6:00PM

LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

6:00 – 8:30PM

Al-Anon – *Chapel*

6:00 – 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting – *Commons Grounds*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Alateen – *Upper Lounge*

Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of First Congregational UCC - was the home, hunting, gathering, and farming land of the First Peoples of this territory: the Ho Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation. Other tribes were forcibly re-located to this region by the actions of colonialism. Despite centuries of reprehensible treatment, the peoples of these sovereign nations are robust and enduring among us.

We are truly saddened by the genocide of their ancestors, the seizure of their lands, and the repression of their cultures and languages. We acknowledge that we benefit from the economic and social legacy left by settler colonialism.

We are grateful that many members of these original Nations have honorably served and defended the United States. We strive to honor their cultures and their insightful stewardship of this land and all creatures on it, recognizing our common interest in protecting its air, water, soils, and web of life for all future generations.

We commit ourselves through study and immersion experiences to learn the history and cultures of these peoples and their traditional knowledge.



Welcome to our Home of Homes.

We are "The Church of the Open Door," a welcoming and inclusive Christian community. We're committed to tolerance, justice and exploration - not dogma and rules. So no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

