

First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 22, 2023

LET THE WHOLE
EARTH BE FILLED
WITH HIS

Glory.

Psalm 72:19



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

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 – 12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	E2F Pan Collection – <i>Narthex</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
11:00 – 12:00PM	Covenant Economics Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
11:30AM – 1:00PM	Trunk or Treat – <i>CYF Parking Lot</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	AI-Anon – <i>Chapel</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Alateen – <i>Upper Lounge</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 and toddlers. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

Communion: The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Communion elements are gluten free. 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.

Sunday School: Our PreK - 5th graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 22, 2023 9:30 AM
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Repton (How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord)

Tune by C. Hubert H. Parry
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

JESU, MEINE FREUDE
harm., J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Sanctuary Choir

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP – Adapted from Psalm 96

Leader: Sing God a brand-new song! Earth and everyone in it, worship God!

All: Shout the good news from sea to sea; take the news to one and all!

Leader: For God is great, and worth thousands of Hallelujahs!

All: We bring gifts and celebrate. We bow before God and know that God treats everyone fair and square.

Leader: Let's hear it from Sky, with Earth joining in; and a huge round of applause from Sea.

All: Let the wilderness turn cartwheels, animals, come and dance. Put every tree of the forest in the choir.

Leader: An extravaganza before God who is setting everything right on earth.

Sing God a brand-new song!

All: Earth and everyone in it, worship God!

*OPENING HYMN #247

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

LIEBSTER JESU

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Church School.)

ANTHEM

O Salutaris Hostia

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-85)

*O Redeeming Sacrifice, which opens the gate of heaven:
Enemies threaten wars; give us strength, send aid.*

LU Music Scholars

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:15-22, The Message

Sue Wisneski

That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece. "This engraving – who does it look like? And whose name is on it?" They said, "Caesar." "Then give Caesar what is his and give God what is his." The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

SERMON "After Church"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN #413

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

REPTON

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

Jesu, Joy of My Desiring

J. S. Bach

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

All: 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 (see bulletin page 5)

Take My Life, That I May Be

TOMA MI VOLUNTAD

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccatà in D, BWV 565

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

LU Music Scholars

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Take My Life, That I May Be Toma, oh Dios, mi voluntad



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na - da más;
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;



to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón y tu tro - no en él ten - drás.
take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.



1 *Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té* con - sa - gra -
1 Take my hands and let them move at the im -
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on -
4 Take my will and make it thine; it shall be



da a ti, Se - ñor; que a mis ma - nos pue -
pulse of thy love; take my feet and let
would I with - hold; take my in - tel - lect
ly for my King; take my lips and let
no lon - ger mine; take my heart, it is



da guiar el im - pul - so de tu a - mor.
them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.
them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
thine own; it shall be thy roy - al throne.

2 *Que mis pies tan sólo en pos
de lo santo puedan ir,
y que a ti, Señor, mi voz,
se complazca en bendecir.* Estribillo

3 *Que mis labios al hablar
hablen sólo de tu amor;
que mis bienes dedicar
yo los quiera a ti, Señor.* Estribillo

4 *Que mi tiempo todo esté
consagrado a tu loor;
que mi mente y su poder
sean usados en tu honor.* Estribillo

Children's Ministry Locations for Today		
<i>Upstairs, to the Left</i>	<i>Upstairs, to the Right</i>	<i>Downstairs</i>
Childcare Room	Nursery	Little Angel's Room
Theater 2 nd & 3 rd Graders	Art Kitchen	Science Room 4 th & 5 th Graders
Scripture Tent K & 1 st Grade		Middle School Room



TRUNK OR TREAT TODAY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

11:30AM - 1:00PM

CYF PARKING LOT



Sunday, October 29, 2023 Worship Service

"This is a Test" Preaching, Derek Elkins

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir;

John Daniel, *trumpet*; Victoria Daniel, *timpani*

Guidelines for Worship Service Announcements

- Requests for announcements must come to both pastors a week in advance (not the week or day of the service). These must be submitted in writing and less than 100 words; these are brief announcements!
- We have a maximum of three announcements a week; first come first serve at the discretion of the pastors. Multi week announcements are discouraged.
- Generally, the pastor leading the worship service that week makes the announcement themselves. Exceptions are made.
- If the pastor cannot fit this request into worship, it will go into the bulletin and the one making the request notified as time allows.



The Holy Land and War

Many of us are deeply impacted by the war unfolding in Israel. The nightly news brings heavier and heavier waves of the mounting humanitarian calamity and unthinkable suffering taking place. Churches around the world are grieving for the terror that is being unleashed in acts of violence. This war plunges us into controversial, and extreme, religious beliefs casting one religion and theology against another. We, as Christians, must remember Christ came for our forgiveness and while radical, showed his faith through acts of non-violence. He was the Shepherd who cared for the entire flock and would seek out even the one lost sheep under his care. So, we must condemn terrorism in all its forms, recognize a history of brutal antisemitism and Islamophobia, and remember that millions of people call modern day Israel and surrounding areas home.

We know that civilians are caught in the crossfire. In the city of Rahat, an Israeli city about twenty miles from the border of Gaza, the tribal reconciliation chief Sheikh Hassan Abu Ghalyun said this to reporters:

"Both sides are losing. Nobody wins a war. People only lose in a war. My heart is bleeding for the ones in the east side or the ones on the west said, all of them are sons of Adam."

And so, we as a people of faith also have hearts that grieve and are bleeding. We wonder: What can be done? How did such hatred develop that people are driven to such unexplainable acts?

First, educating ourselves can be a partial answer to these questions. By seeking understanding into how the cycle of violence and ramification of intergenerational trauma can give us some insight into what we are seeing. NPR has done an excellent job of covering the experiences of war for both Palestinian and Israeli peoples. The Wisconsin Council of Churches under their resources page has an excellent study guide entitled *Loving our Interfaith Neighbors*. As 1 John says: *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. - 1 John 4:18*

Second, advocating is another way that we can respond. I encourage you to visit the website for Churches for Middle East Peace which is a diverse set of partners advocating for an end to violence in the Middle East. This is a coalition

advocating for peace by providing experiences, tools, and resources for political engagement around this work. They also provide Action Alerts for those who wish to be more engaged.

Lastly, we can pray. We pray because the Holy Land is a special, sacred place that many call home. We pray because that ground has been fought over for thousands of years. We pray for some solution that could bring peace. We pray because God's heart breaks for all the people of Gaza and Israel. We pray not only for this war but for all the civil wars that are raging: Ethiopia and Somalia, Syria and Afghanistan and beyond. We pray for those countries with terrorist insurgencies: for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tunisia, and Yemen. For those countries in drug wars such as Colombia and Mexico. We pray for all these countries and peoples in the words of Isaiah that say:

Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
 devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation,
 and your gates Praise.
 The sun shall no longer be
 your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon
 give light to you by night;
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
 and your God will be your glory.

Let us hold all those impacted by this war, the civilians and soldiers, the faith leaders and politicians, those called terrorists and those not, not only in prayer but in our hearts trusting the Lord's hand to be present and doing our part to wage peace in every corner we can. And let us remember that the place we call The Holy Land isn't the only place that is truly Holy: for the Spirit of God is in all the world, in every place and every people alike. In this sense, let our education, advocacy and our prayers be for peace for the entirety of creation and all God's people alike.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Nick & Pastor Mary Jo

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.

Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Jean Jepson
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Kathy Lannoye
John Breitzman	Nancy Kandler
Don Brittnacher	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Brian Chirchir Kiptoo, Kenya student who is living with cancer	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Beth Detienne's mother	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Jim Edwards	Anne Planner's brother, Bill Planner
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Cheryl Reissmann
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Gretchen Revie
Phil Gabrielson	Larry Schiedermayer
David Galow	Frank and Pat Severin
Art Gandler	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Paul Siket
Ken Geiger	Mark Spindler
Margaret Hankwitz	Kinsley Tarr
Judy Hanson	Gloria Tate
JoAnn Helms	Jack Thiel
Shirley Hoft	Peter Thiel
Misty Hofman	James Totzke
Phil & Mary Hornseth's nephew, Eric Montross	Jean Van Wagenin
Joan Jenson's son, John	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
	Joe Wells
	Jake Whisler and his family
	Diane White

The Open Door Announcements

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

Rally Sunday Thank you: A belated but very sincere thank you to everyone who helped and participated in our Rally Sunday festivities! The Mission and Outreach team knocked it out of the park with the informative display of activities that we offer here. Those that helped plan, prepare, serve and clean up after the event -- you rock! Karma's Mailbox once again provided that great musical backdrop -- we really appreciate your talents! We thank the nearly 175 people that came down and enjoyed the morning -- it was great to hear our halls 'buzzing' with enthusiasm! 'Cheers' to a new church year! -- The Congregational Life Team

The NAMI Walk Thank You: The Mental Health Task Force thanks the members of the Faith, Hope and Love team and those who donated in support of the NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) Fox Valley walk. Our team (see bulletin page 12) was in the top ten fundraisers at over \$1600. What a great first year!

Church Family Handbell Workshops - Come Ring! Church Family Handbell Workshops begin today, **October 22 in the Amistad Room at 10:30AM (right after worship.)** Come experience ringing our refurbished Whitechapel Handbells and have fun learning a variety of techniques under the leadership of Beth Vercouteren! Open to **elementary age through adults; families are encouraged to come ring together!** Workshop rehearsals continue each Sunday morning at 10:30AM (you do not need to attend every week) with a **dress rehearsal on Saturday, November 18** (time TBA, based on schedule of the participants.) We will perform in 9:30AM worship on November 19, with special music that celebrates Thanksgiving. **To register, please contact Beth Vercouteren at (920) 740-3571, or speak with our music staff, John and Nathan.**

FCUCC Mental Health Task Force will meet on Monday, **October 23** at 6:00PM by Zoom. We will be planning educational programs for the coming year. Please contact Mary Sullivan (msullivan623@yahoo.com) if interested to get the Zoom link.

1st Wednesday Night Dinner: Wednesday, **November 1**, 6:00-6:30PM. Dinner is held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be involved in other Wednesday evening activities, you do not need to sign up in advance, and there is no cost (although a freewill offering will be taken.)

"We Are Still Here!" – Indigenous Celebration: Saturday **November 4**, 10:00AM-3:00PM, Fellowship Hall, FCUCC. This intergenerational event celebrates the living legacies of our local Indigenous communities. All are welcome!

- 10:00AM – Welcome, Opening of Native Artisan Tables
- 10:15AM-12:00PM – Indian Story Stick Project (for children & youth, age 5-10 must be accompanied by an adult)
- 12:00PM – Traditional Indigenous food
- 1:00-1:45PM – Youth Smoke Dancers
- 2:15-2:45PM – Native American Storytelling
- 3:00PM – Drawing winners announced

Activities & lunch are free, but please pre-register for Story Stick Workshop at 920-733-7393 or sign up at the Sunday Coffee Table.

Volunteers and Supplies Needed: Volunteers needed for Saturday, **November 4** Indigenous celebration, "We Are Still Here!" From 10:00AM-12:00PM, we need three child-wrangers to help with the Story Stick Craft Workshop. From 11:00AM-2:00PM, we need three volunteers to help in the kitchen. From 1:00PM-3:00PM, we need one or two volunteers to read aloud children's books about Native American heritage to youngsters in our library. Contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu to volunteer.

Supplies for this event: beads, yarn, ribbon, buttons, small scraps of material. Items can be deposited in the church office before November 4.

World Relief Fox Valley is looking to train new Good Neighbor Teams and General Volunteers. World Relief is our local agency that helps settle refugees in the Fox Valley. WR is preparing to welcome 350 new refugee neighbors in FY24 (which begins Oct. 1) For more information about getting involved, please contact: Ann Gain, Mission and Outreach World Relief representative, anngain@gmail.com or 920-540-5830 (call or text)

NOAHH Requests: A mother unifying with her 1 year old daughter needs: a stroller, a baby gate, and appropriate age toys; a family working towards reunification with their 7 year old needs a twin bed and box spring; a family struggling financially needs a king mattress, a full mattress, and fishing items for their son; a family is in need of 2 queen mattresses, a pregnant teenager is moving in with her grandma and her uncle. They had to leave their previous home as well as all their belongings; a mother with 3 boys who are on community long term support needs 2 dressers; a student going to FVTC needs a coffee table; H.H. has been in foster care since 2013. She will graduate from Mauston High School in May 2024. She currently is placed with a non-licensed family who is not getting paid for her care at this time. There is fee of \$85 for her cap, gown and tassels that is due by 10/22/23 that we are hoping to have covered ASAP. Please call Barb Mincheff at Human Services 920-832-5515. Contact Sue Ahrens 561-531-3211

Shoe Drive: Check your/your kids' closets! Seeking gently used boys' and girls' athletic shoes for youth of all ages. Menominee Tribal Youth Services helps K-12 youth pursue their passion for sports. Sports include football, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, and wrestling. Please put your best foot forward by dropping off shoes in good condition in the box in the narthex Sunday October 22 - Sunday, November 5.



First Congregational crew on the NAMI WALK for Mental Health.



Congratulations to Tom Ott, custodial assistant, for his 1ST Place winning medal for softball!

Esther Gehrt will celebrate her 103rd birthday on November 4! She is the oldest member of First Congregational UCC, and she watches every service on her tablet. She follows news of the church closely and happily stays in touch with several of our members who visit or call often. She would love to receive birthday cards from children and adults in our congregation. Send your cards to the church office, 724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915, and we will get them to Esther for her birthday!



ESTHER 2023 Online Auction [Read More](#)

Date: begins Monday, October 30, 2023, 8:00AM

Location: <https://esther-foxvalley.org/auction>

- Preview begins Monday, October 30, at 8:00AM
- Bidding from Thursday, November 2 at 8:00AM through Sunday, November 5 at 9:00PM

ESTHER 2023 Annual Banquet [Read More](#)

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2023, 5:00PM

Location: Grand Meridian, 2621 N Appleton St, Appleton



Register now to take advantage of early-bird pricing (\$65 per person). Ticket prices increase to \$70 beginning November 2

Habitat Faith Build 2023: A sincere thank you to the volunteers who contributed to a successful workday at the Faith Build in Menasha on September 28. Our construction volunteers and Habitat senior crew installed drywall in the Lor family home. Other church volunteers offered food and beverage which provided nourishment.



Construction work "thanks" goes to Penny Boehlen, Greg Brahe, Susan Forsythe, Doug Gilbert, Eileen and John Hoft-March, Mike Loomis, Chris Mayer, and Chad Shea. The work would not have been complete without a great meal thanks to Carolyn Ahrens, Barb Boren, Sheryl De Hart, Phil and Mary Gay Hornseth, Shelley Nulton, and Sandy Olander. We thank all of them for their representation, willingness and efforts in supporting Habitat and the 2023 Faith Build.

 A woman wearing a traditional Native American headdress and a green and black patterned dress is shown in a dynamic pose, with her hands raised as if in the middle of a performance or story. She is looking upwards and to the right.


 NEENAH HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Native American Heritage Month
Featuring Oneida Storyteller
Debra Morningstar
Thursday, November 16
Neenah Public Library
7pm
 Sponsored by: 

This Week's Schedule

Monday, October 23

8:15 – 10:15AM

1:00 – 2:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

6:30 – 8:30PM

Tuesday, October 24

9:00 – 10:00AM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

6:00 – 7:30PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:45 – 8:45PM

Wednesday, October 25

12:15 – 1:00PM

5:30 – 7:30PM

5:45 – 6:25PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Thursday, October 26

9:00 – 10:00AM

12:00 – 1:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Friday, October 27

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Saturday, October 28

11:00AM – 12:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Sunday, October 29

9:25AM – 12:00PM

9:30 – 10:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

5:00 – 6:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Kenya Trip Meeting-*Upper Lounge*

Fellowship Team – *Upper Lounge*

Mental Health Task Force - *Zoom*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting (Program Development) – *Upper Lounge*

Council Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

MS Youth Group – *MS Youth Room*

HS Group – *HS Youth Room*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship Hall*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

TnT SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Debtors Anon – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Children's Ministry – *CYF Wing*

Children's Choir – *Choir Room*

Parents' Book Discussion – *HS Room*

Covenant Economics Book Study – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

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

Al-Anon – *Chapel*

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*

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.



724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
920.733.7393 | firstcongoappleton.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM