

**COME GROW**  
*with us!*



— *The Church of the Open Door* —

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
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

9:30 – 10:30AM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Fellowship Meeting
6:00 – 8:30PM	Al Anon – <i>Chapel</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Common 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 in the summer 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!



**Land Covenant (new):** see page 10

**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](mailto: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

August 27, 2023

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

*Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries*

*Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Associate Minister for Congregational Life and Outreach Ministries*

---

## PRELUDE

*Plein jeu, Tierce en taille, and Fugue from The First Organ Book*  
Dr. Stephen Ackert, *guest organist*

Pierre du Mage

## WELCOME

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

## CHORAL INTROIT

*Jubilate Deo (Sing Joyfully to God)*

attrib. Mozart

arr. Allan Bullard

Jen, Meredith, Hazel & Veronica, *Plamann/Kosloski Family Singers*

*\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side – let the people now say –

**All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...**

One: Stop and think for a moment about all of the close calls and “what could have beens.” When our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive.

**All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...**

One: Then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us.

**All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...**

One: Then the wildfires would be here and not there; we would seek refuge in a foreign land; our children would fear there is no hope for a future.

**All: If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...**

One: Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped.

**All: God is not only on our side and history remembers what we do in God’s name.**

One: How right you are. God, help us to be agents of hope and a force for good.

**All: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

\*OPENING HYMN #81

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

AUSTRIA

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Derek Elkins

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

THE BAPTISM OF ZANDER RIAD GHALI

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Parents: Alexander and Tanya Ghali

INVITATION

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

**Congregation (when prompted): All: We promise our love, support and care.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

**All: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for Zander, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to befriend this new member of the Body of Christ. Give Zander 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 makes us one. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306

*Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

STUTTGART

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 16:13-20

Debbie Hoogesteger

SERMON *"The Things People Say"*

Derek Elkins

\*HYMN (see bulletin page 4)

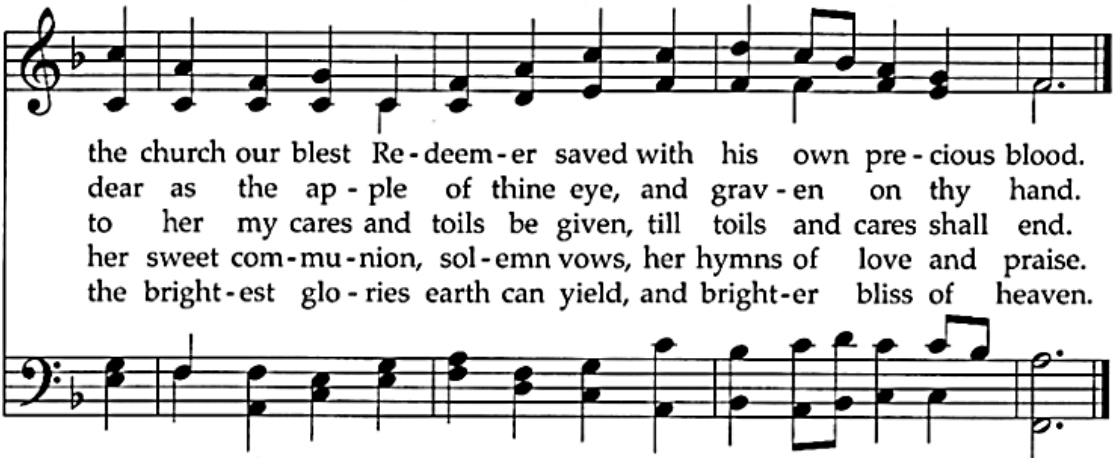
*I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord*

ST. THOMAS

# I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord



1 I love thy king - dom, Lord, the house of thine a - bode,  
2 I love thy church, O God. Her walls be - fore thee stand,  
3 For her my tears shall fall; for her my prayers as - cend;  
4 Be - yond my high - est joy I prize her heaven - ly ways:  
5 Sure as thy truth shall last, to Zi - on shall be given



the church our blest Re - deem - er saved with his own pre - cious blood.  
dear as the ap - ple of thine eye, and grav - en on thy hand.  
to her my cares and toils be given, till toils and cares shall end.  
her sweet com - mu - nion, sol - emn vows, her hymns of love and praise.  
the bright - est glo - ries earth can yield, and bright - er bliss of heaven.

One of the oldest American hymn texts in continuous use, this paraphrase of Psalm 137 was created by a president of Yale University while compiling a popular revision of Watts's *Psalms of David*. The arranger of the tune was the clerk of a Presbyterian church in London.

TEXT: Timothy Dwight, 1800  
MUSIC: *The Universal Psalmist*, 1763; adapt. Aaron Williams, 1770

ST. THOMAS  
SM

## OFFERING

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

### 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

*Come, Gracious Spirit*

O WALY WALY  
arr. Michael Rosewall

*Plamann/Kosloski Family Singers*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

## 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.)

### \*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.**

### \* HYMN # 238

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

### \*BENEDICTION

Derek Elkins

### POSTLUDE

*Basse de trompette*

Pierre du Mage

**All are welcome to linger awhile for coffee hour outside the front doors,**  
or, if you would like to “walk and talk,” meet Pastor Mary Jo in the parking lot.  
Let's take a walk on the walking trail today.

### THANK YOU TO TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Stephen Ackert, *guest organist*

Jen, Meredith, Hazel & Veronica, *Plamann/Kosloski Family Singers*

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, September 3, 2023    Worship Service with Communion

Scripture: Luke 24: 28-35    “Pass It On”    Dianne Droster, Preaching

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ & piano*; Dr. Anthony Padilla, *piano*

## 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  
 Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara  
 Geraldine Benz  
 The family of Gary Bowman as they grieve his passing  
 Don Brittnacher  
 Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober  
 Dick Casperson  
 Tim & Sheryl De Hart and their family as they grieve the loss of Sheryl's mother, Florence  
 Beth Detienne's mother  
 Jim Edwards  
 Heidi Mendonca Erstad  
 Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family  
 Beck Fritsche  
 David Galow  
 Art Gandler  
 Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken  
 Ken Geiger  
 Margaret Hankwitz  
 Judy Hanson  
 JoAnn Helms  
 Shirley Hoft  
 Misty Hofman  
 Nephew of Phil & Mary Hornseth, Eric Montross  
 Jean Jepson

Ray Johnson  
 Kathy Lannoye  
 Nancy Kandler  
 John Koeller, for recovery  
 Rocky Martin's mother, Sylvia King  
 McClory family as their son Bobby recovers from surgery  
 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  
 Gretchen Revie  
 Doug Robertson  
 Larry Schiedermayer  
 Frank and Pat Severin  
 Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie  
 Paul Siket  
 Mark Spindler  
 Debra Stoner  
 Kinsley Tarr  
 Gloria Tate  
 Jack Thiel  
 Peter Thiel  
 James Totzke  
 Jean Van Wagenin  
 Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya  
 Diane White

# The Open Door Announcements

---

## Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
Knowing ourselves*

---

### FCUCC Church Library News:

#### Church Library Grand Reopening!

Come check out the church library on Sunday, September 10 after the service. See the updates we've made and the new materials available during our Open House.



Check it out!  
**Church  
Library  
Remodel**

**WE NEED YOU...**Are you looking for a way to get involved at church and meet new people, but you really don't have much time? Come volunteer in the church library. We're looking for a few people to help check books out of the library on Sunday mornings after church (10:30 - 11:15AM). Involves basic computer skills, and we will train you. Volunteer as often as you want - every Sunday or a few times a year. Training sessions will start in early September. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Sullivan [msullivan623@yahoo.com](mailto:msullivan623@yahoo.com) or 920-740-9452.



### Chrysalis Update: Fall Book Study

Chrysalis will begin meeting again on Tuesday, September 5 at 1:00PM in the Upper Lounge. This fall we'll be studying *Let Go: Leaning into the Future Without Fear* by Matt Miofsky. Books will be available for \$16 at the first Chrysalis meeting on Tuesday, September 5 at 1:00PM. Please contact [trishbrehm@yahoo.com](mailto:trishbrehm@yahoo.com) with any questions.

### Join our NAMI Walk

On Saturday, October 14, 9:00 - 11:00AM, the Faith, Hope and Love team from FCUCC are looking for more members to join us on our walk to support the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of the Fox Valley. It's a 5K with a great group of people and we're raising money to support the wonderful programs offered by NAMI to help those who live with mental health conditions. If you can't walk with us, please consider a donation to help support the cause. Use this link to either donate or join us on the walk <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1374> Remember our team name - Faith, Hope and Love. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan [msullivan623@yahoo.com](mailto:msullivan623@yahoo.com) or 920-740-9452.





## Mental Health Task Force

### Fall Book Study

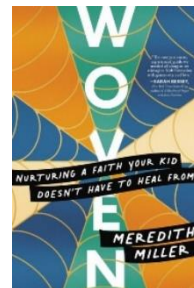
When do you learn that "normal" doesn't include lots of yelling, lots of sleeping, lots of beating? In "Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church", UCC pastor Sarah Griffith Lund looks back at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother and cousin endure mental illness, as well. The Mental Health Task Force is hosting a book study this fall on Wednesdays, September 13 – October 18, 6:30 - 8:00PM. (Note date change.)

Please join us as we learn more about how families experience mental illness. [Register on Realm](#) or call the church office. Read the first chapter before the class starts. Books will be available in the church office or order online at Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/blessed-are-the-crazy-sarah-griffith-lund/1120018298?ean=9780827202993> or Chalice Press <https://chalicepress.com/products/blessed-are-the-crazy> For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan [msullivan623@yahoo.com](mailto:msullivan623@yahoo.com) or 920-740-9452.



## Bible Study for Parents

Starting October 1, 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](mailto:burton.jackiem@gmail.com) with any questions.

---

## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice*

### Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, September 7, 2023



Check out the link to sign up!

[Pillars sign up link](#)

We will be making soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. It's a great way to meet new people and enjoy the fellowship. For questions contact Shelley Nulton, [snulton@att.net](mailto:snulton@att.net) or 920-202-4419.

## Dunlap School for Lunchtime Friendship Circles

Enjoy the Wonder of Mentoring Children?... We Need You! At Dunlap School for Lunchtime Friendship Circles Monday's from 11:30AM to 1:00PM. Dunlap school is a unique and special "Community School" in the Appleton School District with a dedicated Community School Resource Coordinator. They are striving to reduce systemic barriers by making intentional connections and using resources and services to: enhance student learning, strengthen families, support healthy neighborhoods, ensure academic preparation and persistence, and provide a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. Friendship Circles (FC) were born from First Congregational's Racial Equity Group and began to blossom last December. The purpose is to simply be present with kids (identified by teachers) that would benefit from adult mentoring. The children (3rd through 6th grade) eat their lunch while visiting with the adult mentors. FC had a positive impact on the kids last year, and we're preparing to start again in mid-October. Groups are organized with flexibility to accommodate busy, and out of town schedules. If you are (even the tiniest bit) interested in being a small, but important part of a child's community please call or email me. Thank you for considering helping the children at Dunlap School. Judilynn McDermott (920) 205-7146, [jgmcd63@gmail.com](mailto:jgmcd63@gmail.com)



## Book Discussion: *The 1619 Project*

On September 7, 2023, First Congregational's Theology Discussion Group ("Theo Group" for short) will begin discussing its next book, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story* by Nikole Hannah-Jones. 2021. 640 pp. The book builds on *The New York Times Magazine's* award-winning "1619 Project," which reframed our understanding of American history by placing slavery and its continuing legacy at the center of our national narrative. The book substantially expands on the original special issue of the *Magazine*, weaving together eighteen essays that explore the legacy of slavery in present-day America with thirty-six poems and works of fiction that illuminate key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance.

If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality, justice, and growth in faith, we invite you to join us as we begin reading this new book together. Theo Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from noon to 1:30PM, with some participants gathering in-person at Chefo's Pancake House in Kimberly and others taking part via Zoom. For more information about Theo Group, visit <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/projects/theology-discussion-group> or contact Steve Hirby on Realm or through the church office.

## Habitat Faith Build 2023



First Congregational is participating in the annual Fox Cities Habitat Faith Build. The build location is at 530 North Locust Street in Appleton.

Our workday is Thursday, September 28, 2023. We will be installing wall rock and will need eight construction volunteers, a site host to greet and sign in the volunteers and volunteers to provide the noon meal for the workers. Please contact Tim DeHart, Mission and Outreach Habitat representative, [tdehart@new.rr.com](mailto:tdehart@new.rr.com) or 920-731-2620. Please take a look at the Habitat for Humanity information on the bulletin board across from the elevator. Thank you to Sheryl DeHart for the colorful display.

## AAUW Book Sale

Have you seen the AAUW (American Association of University Women) book bin by the church office? It's the perfect place to donate those used novels, non-fiction favorites, children's books, cookbooks, & many more to a good cause! For 86 years AAUW has had an annual used book sale to raise money for scholarships for local women. Just put your books in the bin, & we'll take it from there!

## 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 relocated 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.

## This Week's Schedule

### Monday, August 28

10:30AM - 12:00PM

Congregational Life and Outreach Ministries  
Co-Counselors - *Upper Lounge*

### Tuesday, August 29

10:00 - 11:00AM

Bible for Dummies - *Upper Lounge*

12:00 - 1:00PM

Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

1:00 - 4:00PM

Library Committee - *Library*

6:30 - 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*

7:45 - 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, August 30

12:15 - 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

### Thursday, August 31

12:00 - 1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA - *Common Grounds*

### Friday, September 1

4:00 - 5:30PM

Wedding Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

7:00 - 8:30PM

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge* / N.A - *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, September 2

11:00AM - 4:00PM

Wedding - *Sanctuary*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA - *Common Grounds*

### Sunday, September 3

9:30 - 10:30AM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

9:30 - 10:30AM

Sunday Worship - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

6:00 - 8:30PM

AL ANON - *Chapel*

6:00 - 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting - *Commons Grounds*

