

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

10:45 AM Interim Curriculum Listening Session
4:30 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary & Choir Room*
6:00 PM First Things First AA – *Common Grounds*

We are glad you are here today! Our service is livestreaming in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Narthex. Remember that if you feel more comfortable social distancing, you are welcome to worship in any of those areas as well.

Donating to First Congregational UCC

We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes and pledge cards are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates. Checks can be mailed to the church. You can also visit our webpage and click "[Give](#)" or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

References to God

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.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We affirm this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Watch our services live on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) or [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

Communion

All are welcome to receive gluten-free communion the first Sunday of each month.

Baptism

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.

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!



Open Door Announcements

Thank you for emailing articles to opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org or calling the office.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 5, 2023

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Associate Minister for Congregational Life

PRELUDE

Thee We Adore, O Savior

Processionale, Paris, 1697

setting by Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

*"Thee we adore, O Savior, God most true, thy glory clothed in bread and wine anew;
our hearts to thee in true devotion bow, in humble awe, we hail thy presence now."*

-St. Thomas Aquinas

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

CHORAL INTROIT

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Kathleen Thomerson

Children's Choir; Anders Schlabach and Abe Slowinski, *soloists*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: If we are created in love, why is there so much hate?

All: If we long for peace, why is there so much violence?

One: If we have enough for everyone, why is there so much competition for resources?

All: If we live in the richest nation on earth why do so many people go hungry or homeless?

One: And if we follow Jesus Christ, how can we be silent?

*OPENING HYMN #500

O for a World

AZMON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Heidi Erstad

Acts 8:29-38

*Please stand in body or in spirit.

MEDITATION

“The Church and Racial Justice”

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

HYMN #476

We Shall Overcome: Stanzas 1-2

MARTIN

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

For Everyone Born

Brian Mann, arr. T. Trenney
text by Shirley Erena Murray

Sanctuary Choir Nancy Kaphaem, *cello*

*For everyone born, a place at the table. For everyone born, clean water and bread. A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing. For everyone born, a star overhead. **And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace, justice and joy!** For woman and man, a place at the table. Revising the roles, deciding the share. With wisdom and grace, dividing the power, a system that’s fair. **And God will delight.** . . For young and for old, a place at the table. A voice to be heard, a part in the song. The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled. For young and for old, the right to belong. **And God will delight.** . . For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be. To work, to speak out, to witness and worship. For everyone born, the right to be free. **And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace, justice and joy!***

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to take your bread individually, and to hold your cup until we partake together.

INVITATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Adoration

Florence Price (1887-1953)

Nancy Kaphaem, *cello*

arr. Elaine Fine

An American classical composer, pianist, organist and music teacher, Florence Price is noted as the first African-American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, and the first to have a composition played by a major orchestra.

UNISON PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN #482

Forward Through the Ages

ST. GERTRUDE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

O For a World

AZMON

Tune by Carl G. Glaser

Setting by Eleanor Whitsett (b. 1931)

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

Nancy Kaphaem, *cello*

Children's Choir: Harlow Cartier, Malin Cartier, Adalea Gingerich, Aralise Gingerich, Vail Hanson, Quinn Knutson, Anders Schlabach, Ingrid Schlabach, Abe Slowinski, Evy Van Thull, Graham Wilson; John Albrecht, *director*; Nathan Birkholz, *piano*.

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Today's Children's Ministry Locations

Infants & Toddlers

Childcare Room

Preschoolers

Little Angels Room

K/1st Graders

Art Kitchen

2nd/3rd Graders

Science Room

4th/5th Graders

Scripture Tent

February 12 Worship, Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Scriptures: Acts 8:29-38

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir;
Youth Handbells; LU Music Scholars

Pastor's Message

February 5, 2023

In Boston there is a convent near our house where people take a vow of poverty. They rely on different churches to supply them with provisions. Sr. Mary Francis told me that she believes in miracles because when the larder is bare, they all pray. One day supplies were low and they all prayed hard for a miracle. She went out the back door the next day and there she found a carton of peanut butter. I always say miracles can be small, even ordinary, but still signs of wonder.

In our Bible Study class last week, we talked about miracles and whether we believe in them. I told the story of the peanut butter miracle. That story always makes me smile. For one thing, I enjoy nuns with a good sense of humor. But I also like the story because it reminds us that God is often seen in simple things. I also like it because we sometimes forget that when we search for miracles, they are often hiding in coincidences no one can explain.

In our Bible Study when we all stopped to reflect, many of us had our own miracles, unexplained blessings that turned everything around. We all had stories that gave us pause, stories that brought wonder or gratitude. But it took a discerning eye to appreciate them.

Blessings,
Past Susan

Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community

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, Darryl	Debra Stoner
Valerie Bales	Gloria Tate
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Jack Thiel
Harry Boll's family, upon his death	Peter Thiel
Nicholas Breitzman	James Totzke
Don Brittnacher	Sue Toussaint's father, Ted Healey
Dick Casperson	Jean Van Wagenin
Jim Edwards	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Diane White
Erstad family friend, Silas, and his family	Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer
Ester Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
David Galow	Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober
Ken Geiger	Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt's grandson Aria Arthur Schmidt
Margaret Hankwitz	Tom Salm
Judy Hanson	Larry Schiedermayer
Ken Hocking	Pat Severin's friend
Carol Huddleston and family	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jean Jepson	Paul Siket
Ray Johnson	Mark Spindler
Rick Smith and the rest of Jill's family, upon her death	Helen Wilson's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Fellow Members, I write with a heavy heart this day to share some news that we learned at the church on Monday. Jill Smith, former Co-Counselor for Mission and Service, died suddenly last weekend.

Even in my five short months here, I had grown fond of Jill and so appreciated her voice at the table. Her clarity, her kindness, and her passion for helping others endeared her to me and so many others. Her passion for justice was a gift to all of us. I know you join me in sending sympathy to her husband, Rick, her children Ryan and Chrystal and her whole family, as we will all miss her. This would all be too hard, indeed, if we did not have faith that God has received Jill into heaven's gracious embrace.

I want you to know that your pastors are all here for you this week.

Please take care,
Pastor Susan

IT'S HERE!

Your first edition of The Wide-Open Door!

The Wide-Open Door is a monthly newsletter that we're piloting. In an effort to share as many details as we can while keeping the bulletin at a "quick read" size, we plan to publish a monthly newsletter with longer articles. In addition to your bulletin link, the monthly Wide-Open Door will be attached to each weekly e-mail, so you can easily view it at anytime. We printed copies of The Wide-Open Door for you today. *If you will need a printed copy each month, please let the office know and we'll be happy to print it for you!*

In order to be considered for the next month's edition, articles need to be submitted by the 25th to opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org.

[See the first edition of our "work in progress" Wide-Open Door here.](#)

Did You Donate Stock??

The church received a contribution of stock shares into our broker's account but we have no information on who the donor is. If you donated stock through your broker, please contact the church office to let us know. We want to record it as the proper member's contribution! Thank you.

Listening Sessions

Changes & Disappointments #3

10:45 AM Today

"What challenges shaped us and informed our journey?"

Childcare Movie: *Cars*

Online Listening Session #3

Tuesday, February 7 at 6:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504143180>

Meeting ID: 875 0414 3180

February 19, 10:45 AM, Session #4

"What Are You Hoping For? What Do We Seek in a New Senior Leader?"

Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

Youth and Families

Faith, fun, and service

Valentines on the Bridge: February 12

Children, come join the middle schoolers on Sunday, February 12, as they lead you in fun crafts on the bridge!

Palm Sunday: April 2 Pancake Breakfast

Save the date! Be sure to join us in the Fellowship Hall as our high school and middle schoolers serve a pancake breakfast!



Congregational Life

*Embracing God,
welcoming others, knowing ourselves*

Churches & Mental Health: February 12

Sue Kaiser will be our guest February 12th, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM to talk about how the WI UCC Conference is addressing mental health issues through its Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) initiative. Join us so you can learn how we can each help our church get involved. [Learn more about this very important initiative in the Wide-Open Door.](#)



“LET’S TALK 2023”

A Resource for Sacred,
Transformational,
Conversations
on Race

Beginning February 23, this adult curriculum has been designed to invite UCC members and their guests to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. [More details are in the Wide-Open Door.](#)

Choose when to attend on Realm:
[Tuesdays 1:00 PM via Zoom](#)
[Wednesdays 6:30 PM In-Person](#)
[Thursdays 8:00 PM via Zoom](#)

Find a New Personal Connection in Our Church

Would you like to make a new friend? Would you like to expand your circle at church? Do you feel it’s easier to talk on the phone to someone new, then in a busy narthex? A *Call-to-Connect Ministry Team* member can do just that! If you would like to receive timely personal calls or have any questions, please let one of us know.

Betty Masaros: (920) 733-1665 or [e-mail](#)
Pastor Mary Jo: (920) 851-9455 or [e-mail](#)

Worship and Music

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

Ash Wednesday: February 22

6:00 PM Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service,
led by our confirmands



Fox Valley Flute

Winter Concert: February 19

The Fox Valley Flute Choir will perform a winter concert in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 PM.

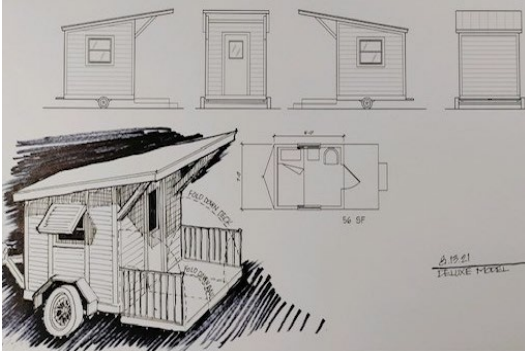
[Read more about this amazing 15-person flute choir here!](#)

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Donations to Support Back Bay

We need donations for our auction!
Please drop off auction donations at
the church office before February
19. Gift baskets, individual items, gift or
service certificates are appreciated
donations. Thank you for your support!
Questions? Call or [e-mail](mailto:sheryl@backbaymission.org) Sheryl De
Hart.



February 26 Back Bay Brunch

Get your tickets today through February
24 after worship services or via [Realm](https://www.backbaymission.org/realms).

Enjoy Cozzy Corner pulled pork,
coleslaw, mac and cheese, green beans,
collard greens, dinner rolls, cinnamon
muffins (GF), peach cobbler, brownies.

James Pennington, Executive Director of
Back Bay Mission, will deliver the
Sunday message and be available for
questions at the brunch. The Mission is
the only UCC ministry in Mississippi
and they need the support of the whole
UCC. We are hoping to deliver \$20,000
to Back Bay Mission – enough to build
five tiny houses. The Silent Auction at
the Brunch will support the food pantry.
Back Bay volunteers began with a
volunteer-funded matching grant pool
last September. Watch the progress on
the bulletin board.

First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

Monday, February 6

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Fellowship Team Meeting - *Library*

Tuesday, February 7

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

6:00 PM -7:30 PM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Congregational Life – *Upper Lounge*

Wednesday, February 8

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

Child Care – *Childcare Room*

Middle School & High School Youth Groups – *CYF*

Susan's Bible Study – *Chapel*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

Thursday, February 9

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Prayer Shawl Group – *Fellowship Hall*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 10

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Bulletin Assembly – *Upper Lounge*

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

NA – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, February 11

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, February 12

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Pick Up Your Lent Devotional!

Worship, Children's Ministry, Childcare

Children's Choir – *Art Kitchen & Choir Room*

What is WISE? Discovery Session – *Upper Lounge*

LU Scholars Rehearsal – *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

The Ministry

Reverend Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor

Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Associate Interim Minister for Congregational Life

Reverend John T. McFadden, Pastor Emeritus

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist

Sarah Wilterdink, Director for Children's and Middle School Ministries

Zaina Gonzales, Temporary Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Kalyn Vander Grinten, Childcare Provider & Temporary Administrative Assistant

Ann Hage, Temporary Administrative Assistant

Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Tim Krause, Weekend Custodial Assistant

Danielle Bruce, Childcare Provider

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org

Valentines on the Bridge

Sunday, February 12th, 10:30AM



Children of All Ages:

Come create Valentines right after the service.

Meet us on the bridge!

Led by Our Very Own Middle School Youth!



SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHERN COMFORT FOOD BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 10:45AM

FUNDRAISER FOR BACK BAY MISSION

GUEST OF HONOR, REV. JAMES PENNINGTON



Easter

SUNDAY

8:45 AM

10:30 AM

Listening Session #3: Changes & Disappointments

“What challenges shaped us and informed our journey?”

What do you wish you could change about the church? Why?

Where do you think the church has made mistakes?

In what ways has the church failed to reach its potential or live out its mission?

What can we learn from these things and what could we do differently in the future?