

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

10:45 – 11:30 AM	Children’s Choir Rehearsal – <i>Art Kitchen, Choir Room</i>
10:30-11:15 AM	Plant-a-Row Video - <i>Chapel</i>
11:00-12:00 PM	Advanced Care Directive: Ben Adams – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
4:00: – 6:00 PM	Badger Women’s Choir Concert with guest pianist – <i>Sanctuary</i>
5:15 – 6:00 PM	LU Music Scholars Rehearsal – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
6:30 – 7:30 PM	AA – <i>Common Grounds</i>

We are glad you are here today! Remember that if you feel more comfortable social distancing, you are welcome to worship in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Narthex, where we’re livestreamed.

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 Leigh Grube.

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.

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 visit our webpage and click “[Give](#),” or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 16, 2023

Second Sunday in Easter

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

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight (Dunlap's Creek) Tune by Samuel McFarland
Setting by James Biery (b. 1956)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Nick Hatch

All: God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose as we pray in the words of Jesus...

*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.**

*OPENING HYMN #215

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

PUER NOBIS

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Nick Hatch

** Please Stand in body or spirit*

ANTHEM

The Rune of Hospitality

Alf Houkum (b. 1935)

Text from the Gaelic

LU Music Scholars Jackson Peters, *guitar*

*I saw a stranger yestereen;
I put food in the eating place,
 Drink in the drinking place,
 Music in the listening place:
And in the sacred names of Triune
He blessed me and my house,
 My cattle and my dear ones.
And the lark said in her song:
 Often, often, often,
Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise:
 Often, often, often
Goes the Christ in the stranger's guise.*

SCRIPTURE READING

Sue Detienne

John 20:19-31 from *The Message Interpretation of the Bible*, Eugene Peterson

"To Believe"

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side. ²⁰⁻²¹ The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

²²⁻²³ Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

²⁴⁻²⁵ But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time, Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

²⁷ Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands.

Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

²⁸ Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

²⁹ Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

³⁰⁻³¹ Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

-The Message © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson

MEDITATION

Believe!

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN #424

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

DUNLAP'S CREEK

St. 1 - Choir

St. 2 - 4 - ALL

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

I Know the My Redeemer Liveth (from Messiah)

G.F. Handel

Dana Abbo, *soprano*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

*CLOSING HYMN #493

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

PROMISE

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

POSTLUDE

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day (Puer nobis)

Tune from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582
Setting by David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

LU Music Scholars

Dana Abbo, *soprano*

Jackson Peters, *guitar*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

Today's Children's Ministry Locations

Infants & Toddlers

Childcare Room

Preschoolers

Little Angels Room

K/1st Graders

Science Room

2nd/3rd Graders

Scripture Tent

4th/5th Graders

Art Kitchen

Sunday, April 23, Worship Service

Rev. Peggy O'Connor: Christ's Carbon Footprint

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

April 16, 2023

Pastor's Pen

"A Season for Renewal and Discernment: Pastor Nick Sabbatical"

Pastor Nick is taking a sabbatical? It's true and hard to believe but I am now in my twelfth year of full-time ministry here at FCUCC! What a blessing these years have been in so many ways. I have been challenged to grow professionally, spiritually, and emotionally by our gifted and faithful congregation. Along the way we have created many memories together and witnessed the power of God's transformative love as we sought to minister to one another and the world. And as with every faithful person (including Jesus) there are times where we must pause and renew ourselves to prepare for our next chapters.

It is the policy here at FCUCC that after five years in ministry clergy are eligible for a sabbatical which can be taken as three continuous months away. I am in my fifth year and have presented my sabbatical plans to our Church Council. Here are a couple questions you might have:

1. *What will we do without Nick?* Don't worry! In collaboration with our Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Pastor Mary Jo, and our Director of MS Youth Children's Ministry Sarah Wilterdink, we established a plan for pastoral and programmatic coverage while I am away. This includes bringing in Summer Intern, Derek Elkins, Director of Spiritual Life and Chaplain at who is a FCUCC member and Chaplain at Thank you, Derek)! You are in good hands.
2. *What will Nick be doing?* The stated purpose of my sabbatical is to renew and re-energize myself for pastoral ministry to be a supportive and encouraging colleague. This is especially important given that we anticipate welcoming two new clergy into our community very soon. I will also take time to discern how best to use my gifts and talents in our community of faith, First Congregational United Church of Christ Appleton.
3. *When will Nick be gone?* I plan on being away June 19-September 9th. My sabbatical proposal includes rest, study, and renewal. A portion of this time will be formal education. I will be engaging in individuality in a month-long bible study on the Book of Psalms I will attend a 4-day Celtic Spirituality retreat with John Philip Newell in Connecticut. Here we will pray using ancient Celtic chants meant to re-center ourselves upon the Spirit. I will also investigate and put together a continuing education plan for the next 5-7 years that can help feed me and our church through outside study and retreat. Another portion of my sabbatical will be renewal and healing. I will enjoy spending time in creation, having some wilderness time, making cherished memories, re-connecting with myself, and having space to be creative. Lastly, my sabbatical time will literally be to rest, work out, eat well, and focus on my sleep habits.

After a long sequence of difficult transitions and leadership challenges, this sabbatical will be a time for me to nurture my spiritual and emotional health. The timing of this works well to welcome new colleagues and new forms of ministry. I hope the near future will bring a new sense of stability to our community, our relationships, and our special purpose to be a progressive Christian voice in the Fox Valley.

In Christ, Pastor Nick

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	Carol Huddleston and family
Valerie Bales	Jean Jepson
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Ray Johnson
Cheryl Benzschawel	Nephew of Phil & Mary Hornseth,
Don Brittnacher	Eric Montross
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Dick Casperson	Kathy Lannoye
Jim Edwards	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Gretchen Revie
Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's
David Galow	Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt
Ken Geiger	Larry Schiedermayer
Margaret Hankwitz	Frank and Pat Severin
Judy Hanson	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
JoAnn Helms	Paul Siket
Ken Hocking	Mark Spindler
Tim Hoff & Family, as they grieve their	Peter Thiel
daughter-in-law, Kimberly Krause	The family of Chuck Eggenberger in their grieving and remembering Chuck

The Open Door

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Women's Spring Retreat

Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23
Moon Beach, St. Germain

The Women's Retreat is in 2 weeks.
Registration is closed. If you would still
like to attend, please call
Barb Uehling at 920-475-2212 as we may
have a last-minute cancellation.



Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand (NOAAH)

There is a request for 2 high-top type stools for a grandparent who has disabilities. These stools will help with food prep, paperwork, as well as provide her grandson with a place to sit to complete his homework.

There is also a request for a toddler bed and mattress for a grandchild who currently sleeps in a bunk bed with her sister. A baby gate will also be of great help for this grandparent.

If you have any questions about this article, please call Sue Ahrens at 561-531-3211.

Workers will pick up these items at your residence, so there is no need for drop off. Please call Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 for pick up.



Youth and Families

Faith, fun, and service

Eagle Scout Awards



Luke and Logan LaViolette will each be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout on April 22nd at 2:00 PM at a Court of

Honor held in our Church Sanctuary. At that time, their projects will be recognized with special dedications. Each of the projects enhance the outreach of our church.

Luke's project addressed the landscaping in the Labyrinth with appropriate debris removal, pruning, and plant labeling. Restoring it to a quiet contemplation area in a lovely natural setting.

Logan built and installed a kiosk at the base of the church property along the river walkway. The kiosk holds an informational poster about the Native Americans upon whose land the City of Appleton was built. Folks who use the river walk have been drawn to the kiosk and are already asking when a new poster will arrive in the kiosk with additional educational information.

Everyone is invited to join Logan, Luke, and their family at these dedications. A light luncheon will follow. If attending the luncheon, please RSVP by phone or text to Elizabeth Melchert 920-450-5935.

Let's Stay Connected

Picnics, fellowship, volunteering...

There are neat spring and summer events in the works. We don't want you to miss out!

-Please call the church office if you do not receive CYF emails.

-Like our Facebook page -

CYF Connection: First

Congregational UCC, Appleton.

-[Email](#) Sarah, or call the office, to get our *Remind* app group codes.



Cornhole Tournament:

Middle Schoolers & Chaperones

Our middle school youth have had touching conversations around how donations of time are sometimes more 'valuable' than donations of money. In response to their requests to share God's love with others, we will be participating in a Corn Hole Tournament at Touchmark on Prospect! The senior living facility, where some of our church members live, is excited to have us join them the evening of Wednesday, May 3. [Email](#) or call Sarah if you would like to join us as a chaperone, or as a middle schooler!

Worship and Music

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

Music for Food Concert

Students from the piano studio of Lawrence professor Catherine Kautsky will perform on **Sunday, April 30** at **4 p.m.** in **First Congregational UCC's sanctuary**. The program will include works by Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Scriabin, and others.

Also performing on Native American flute is special guest and student from the studio of Professor José Encarnacion, Quintin Wade Fernandez. All free-will donations from this concert will go via Music for Food directly to the Menominee Nation's Food Distribution Program in Keshena, WI.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*



Join Pastor Susan in the Upper Lounge after worship on **April 23** for a *New Member Class* from 10:45 - noon. Get to know Susan and learn more about the church! Childcare is available 10:45 AM-12:00 PM

Congregational Notice:

There will be a Congregational Meeting on April 30, immediately following worship in the sanctuary.

The agenda for this meeting addresses the following topics:

A. Voting on a motion to elect Church Officers and Counsellors for Church Council.

B. Vote on the motion for a one-time suspension of the Church By-Laws to allow the Moderator to succeed her two-year term in office by one year.

All church members are welcome to attend, participate and vote on these two matters.

National Healthcare Decisions Day

Benjamin Franklin famously stated, "In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes". For the past decade April 16, the day after Tax Day, has been dedicated as National Healthcare Decisions Day.

Wisconsin is not a next of kin state, meaning next of kin are not automatically able to make healthcare decisions for loved ones who are 18+. This is why designating who is to make these decisions, if ever you are unable to make them for yourself, is so important.

Join us on TODAY immediately after church in the upper lounge to get

information about Advance Healthcare Planning. Ben Adams, retired elder law attorney, and church members who are trained facilitators, will be there to answer questions and provide the legal forms.

Back Bay Mission Trip

Last week, First Congregational volunteers served direct-from-Wisconsin brats, hamburgers, and lots of cheesy things to the staff at Back Bay Mission. It was wonderful to take a break from work and instead break bread together. We also surprised the Executive Director, Rev. James Pennington (center), by presenting him with a check for \$23,000.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Back Bay from October 2022 to March 2023 through the shrimp sale, or brunch or personal contributions. Those donations were matched by Back Bay volunteers, resulting in the \$23,000 which SURPASSED OUR GOAL to fund five tiny bedrooms.



Indigenous People's Blanket Exercise

The Indigenous People's Blanket Exercise is a participatory exercise designed to help participants understand how colonization of North America affected the Native Americans and the environment cared for by these many indigenous nations. Traditional talking circles will follow the Blanket Exercise to allow participants to debrief.

Lizette Bailey of Waqsecewan Indigenous Catering will serve the luncheon. This meal is not to be missed.

Place: First English Lutheran Church
North Site:

6331 N. Ballard Road, Appleton

Date: May 13, 2023

Time: 9:00AM to 2:00PM

Registration: Esther's Home Page

Cost: \$30



Re-Member Video and Q&A

April 23, Following Church Service
In the Chapel

You're invited to learn about our church's partnership with Re-Member, an NGO that supports the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. Watch a short, looped video describing Re-Member's work; ask your questions about how our congregation has helped meet needs, especially through a summer volunteer trip to the reservation and an FCUCC fundraiser, the Turtle Trek. Sponsored by Outreach Ministries.

Questions? Write Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu



Kenya Sponsors and Anyone Interested!

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after church April 30 from 10:45AM-11:30AM for our Appreciation Reception. Come hear updates and ask questions about our Kenya Scholarship Program.

April

Wide-Open Door

Articles to read more about!

Toward One Wisconsin

[Toward Wisconsin 2023 website](#)

Hope to see you there! *Pastor Nick*

College of Menominee Nation Scholarships

Native American Pow Wows
& Pow Wow Etiquette

[Pow Wow Etiquette Article](#)

Dr. Carol Cornelius:

History of Indigenous Voices During
the 1800's removal era

April 20, 2023 @ 07:00 PM

Summer Job Opportunity! Love to Work With Kids?

This position could be seasonal or continue into the school year, depending on applicant's needs. We are in need of two childcare providers who would work together. Encourage responsible colleagues to apply as well!

[Linked Job Description](#)

[Wide-Open Door Link](#)

Monday, April 17

6:30 – 8:30pm

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

4:00 – 6:00pm

Outreach Ministry - *Zoom*

Tuesday, April 18

8:45 – 10:15am

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*

9:00am – 12:00pm

Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

2:00 – 3:00pm

Chrysalis - *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 8:00pm

Fellowship Team – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30pm

Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*

7:45 – 8:45pm

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, April 19

12:15 – 1:00pm

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

2:00 – 3:00pm

Peabody/Heritage Worship – *Peabody Chapel*

4:30 – 6:00pm

Piano Lessons - *Sanctuary*

5:45 – 6:25pm

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

6:00 – 8:00pm

Congregational Life/ Outreach Ministry Calendar - *Upper Lounge*

6:25 – 8:35pm

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

6:30 – 7:30pm

Youth groups - *Youth Room*

6:30 – 7:30pm

Bible Study - *Chapel*

7:00 – 8:30pm

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary and Choir Room*

Thursday, April 20

8:45 – 10:15am

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*

11:00am – 12:30pm

Finance Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

12:00 – 1:30pm

Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House, Zoom*

12:00 – 1:00pm

AA Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

6:30 – 8:00pm

Family/Friends Mental Illness Support Group - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:00pm

Fox Valley AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, April 21

10:00 – 11:00am

Bulletin Assembly - *Library*

7:00 – 8:30pm

AI-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:30pm

N.A. - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, April 22

9:00am-2:00pm

NE Association Annual Meeting – *Daycholah Center, Ripon*

2:00 – 5:00pm

Boy Scout Court of Honor - *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary*

7:00 – 8:00pm

Fox Valley AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, April 23

9:25 - 11:35 AM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

10:30 – 11:30am

Confirmation Class - *Fellowship Hall*

10:45am – 12:00pm

New Member Class - *Upper Lounge*

10:45 – 11:30 AM

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

10:45 – 11:45am

Plant-A-Row video - *Narthex, Chapel*

5:00 – 6:00 PM

LU Scholars Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

6:30 – 8:00 PM

First things First AA – *S. Fellowship, Common Grounds*

Earth Day Rally & March



Sat. April 22
11:30AM-1:00PM
Houdini Plaza

11:30 gather / demonstrate

12:00 speakers

- Casey Hicks, Wisconsin Conservation Voters
- Rep. Lee Snodgrass, Wisconsin State Assembly
- Kristin Welch, Waking Women Healing Institute

12:45 march to Earthfest on LU campus (1-4PM)

- Featuring music, food, speakers, and tabling by LU students & community groups

sponsored by



Fox Valley Sierra Group



Waking Women Healing Institute



CCL Appleton-Fox Cities



LWV Appleton-Fox Cities



ESTHER - Fox Valley



Citizen Action of Northeast Wisconsin



Wisconsin Conservation Voters



PopEarth



Social Justice Committee



Our Wisconsin Revolution



Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Green Sanctuary Team



Wild Ones Fox Valley Area



Lawrence University Greenfire

We gather in a community of concern for the Earth's natural resources
and to promote environmental justice.

Large-print bulletins are available. Please ask the ushers for a copy.

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.

—The Church of the Open Door—

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



724 E South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
920.733.7393 | **firstcongoappleton.org**
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM