

*Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.
Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.*

Donating to First Congregational

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

You are also invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Land Acknowledgement

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

Online Streaming and Podcasting

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on Facebook.com/FCUCCAppleton or at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream

Video recordings of our live stream services can be found at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/

Written transcripts of the sermon can be downloaded at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/

Hearing Loop



There is a color-coded map by the AV desk at the back of the Sanctuary if you'd like to find out where you can get the best reception using our hearing loop.

If you have any questions, ask one of the ushers to help you.

January 8 Highlights at First Congregational

- TODAY:** Listening Session after Worship..... p. 5
- TODAY:** Children’s Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 AM (CYF Art Kitchen/Choir Room)
- TODAY:** Confirmation Class, 10:30 AM (Fellowship Hall)
- TODAY:** O.F.F. / IPAC at Trout Museum p. 11
- TODAY:** LU Scholar Rehearsal, 5:00 PM
- January 11:** Middle School and High School Groups
- January 11:** Youth Handbells, 5:45 PM (Amistad Room)
- January 11:** Sanctuary Choir, 7:00 PM (Sanctuary/Choir Room)
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Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Communion

All are welcome to receive communion the first Sunday of each month. We currently use TrueVine prefilled communion cups and gluten-free wafers.

Baptism

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month. The next Baptism Sunday is January 15.

If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism. Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 15, 2023 Second Sunday after Epiphany Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell
Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; LU Music Scholar soloist
Scripture: II Samuel 12: 1-15

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 8, 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

When Jesus Came to Jordan (King's Lynn)

English Folk Tune
setting by David Cherwien

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

*WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Long ago, the Wise Ones would study the sky for a sign.

All: Today, we look to the heavens too.

One: Long ago, the Wise Ones were prepared to journey in faith.

All: Today, we are ready to follow a star.

One: Long ago, the journey of faith led them to Christ Jesus.

All: Today we, too, seek the Holy One. As we gather for worship let us keep our gaze upon the star.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin p. 6)

Brightest and Best

MORNING STAR

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 3:13-17 (NT, p. 3)

MEDITATION

"What Does It Mean to be Baptized?"

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

BAPTISM RENEWAL

One: Take us to the water, Lord;

All: And refresh our souls!

One: Take us to the water, Lord;

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

All: Satisfy our thirst!

One: Take us to the water, Lord;

All: Let us celebrate our baptism. Let us be baptized, not just once or twice but over and over again. Let us be baptized for the work ahead in this New Year. Let us be baptized for the journey of life.

Come to the Water (see bulletin p. 7)

John Foley

St. 1 – 3 – Sanctuary Choir St. 4 – ALL

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Deep River & Shall We Gather at the River

African American Spiritual & Hanson Place by Robert Lowry
setting by Sylvia Oines

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

(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).

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

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.**

***CLOSING HYMN #310**

Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed

HESPERUS

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Brightest and Best (Morning Star)

tune by James P. Harding
setting by Wayne L. Wold

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

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.

Listening Sessions Begin Today

Following worship today, you are invited to remain in the sanctuary for the first of our four Listening Sessions as we begin our Interim Curriculum.

Today's topic is "What Do you Love about First Congregational Church? The programs will begin in the Sanctuary and then flow to break-out rooms for more conversations.

We should be done by noon but if you need to leave earlier, feel free.

Help Needed:

Pastor Susan is looking for some volunteers to work on the Sundays when we prepare for the Sacrament of Communion. We need a team to prepare the juice baskets and bread cubes, as well as clean up after worship. This is rewarding work that allows us to share the Lord's Supper together.

Please send an e-mail to Pastor Susan at scartmell@firstcongoappleton.org

Brightest and Best

Reginald Heber, 1811; alt.

1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
2 Cold on the cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing,
3 Shall we not of - fer our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

dawn on our mid - night and lend us your aid.
God's ho - ly Child with the beasts of the stall;
fra - grance of E - dom and of - ferings di - vine,
vain - ly with gifts would we fa - vor se - cure;

Star of the East the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
An - gels a - dore while this ba - by lies sleep - ing,
Gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,

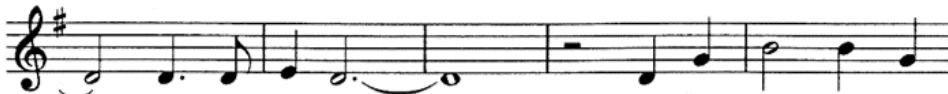
guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Mak - er and Mon - arch and Sav - ior of all.
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

An Anglican priest, Reginald Heber became bishop of Calcutta (including all of India), where he died of exhaustion at age forty-three. His *Hymns* (1827) was the first modern English hymnal arranged according to the church year.

Tune: MORNING STAR 11.10.11.10.
James P. Harding, 1892
The New Psalms and Hymns, Richmond, Va., 1901
Alternate setting: WALKER



1. O let all who thirst, _____ let them come _____
 2. And let all who seek, _____ let them come _____
 3. And let all who toil, _____ let them come _____
 4. And let all the poor, _____ let them come _____



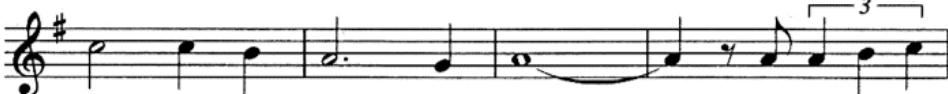
1. _____ to the wa-ter. _____ And let all who have
 2. _____ to the wa-ter. _____ And let all who have
 3. _____ to the wa-ter. _____ And let all who are
 4. _____ to the wa-ter. _____ Bring the ones who are



1. noth-ing, _____ let them come to _____ the Lord: _____
 2. noth-ing, _____ let them come to _____ the Lord: _____
 3. wea-ry, _____ let them come to _____ the Lord: _____
 4. lad-en, _____ bring them all to _____ the Lord: _____



1. _____ with-out mon-ey, _____ with-out price. _____
 2. _____ with-out mon-ey, _____ with-out strife. _____
 3. _____ all who la-bor, _____ with-out rest. _____
 4. _____ bring the chil-dren _____ with-out might. _____



1. Why should you pay the price, _____ ex-cept for the
 2. Why should you spend your life, _____ ex-cept for the
 3. How can your soul find rest, _____ ex-cept for the
 4. Ea-sy the load and light: _____ ? come to the



1. Lord? _____
 2. Lord? _____
 3. Lord? _____
 4. Lord. _____

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.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

Jill Anthony
Jill Anthony's sister
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Scott Baehman
Valerie Bales
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Aidan Bero
Nicholas Breitzman
Family of Clair Brown upon his death
Don Brittnacher
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Jim Edwards
Rachel Edwards
Heidi Mendonca Erstad
Erstad family friend, Silas and his family
Friend of Pat Severin
David Galow
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther
Ken Geiger
Dylan Glick
Norm Goodacre and family
Micki Guyette and her family
Margaret Hankwitz
Judy Hanson
Ted Healey, father of Sue Toussaint

Ken Hocking
Carol Huddleston and family
Larri Jacquart, daughter of Helen Wilson
Jean Jepson
Ray Johnson
Nancy Kandler
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Sharon Radke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Aria Arthur Schmidt, grandson of Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt
Tom Salm
Jan Scheibe
Larry Schiedermayer
Pat Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Paul Siket
Mark Spindler
Cole Stoffel
Debra Stoner
Gloria Tate
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
James Totzke
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Diane White

Pastor's Message

January 8, 2023

“Listening”

I have just returned to Appleton from a trip where we gathered with family at my daughter's house. One of the rituals of our gatherings with several generations is the times after a meal or into the evening when various grownups and kids tell stories. It amuses me that as often as we tell these stories, no one seems to grow tired of them.



Whether they are stories of pranks or mistakes, or lessons learned the hard way, somehow in the telling they have become part of the fabric of our identity as a family. The laughter, the knowing looks and the comfort in these experiences have become, for me, among the most cherished moments in our time together. We all have rituals when the clan gathers. Especially in times of change or transition, these repeats are reassuring.

That is true for churches too. We like to tell the tribal stories. Our church's stories about adversity remind us of our core strength. Our church's stories about courageous decisions remind us of our core sense of adventure. Our stories about our mission and strength remind us how important our church really is to us and to our community.

Part of the work of the interim senior pastor is to lead a church-wide conversation about the church's journey. These rituals at pivotal times in the history of our church, bring us together, remind us who we are, focus us as a people of God and help us claim what makes us special as a congregation. These sacred conversations are an important component in the life of our church, especially as we envision the future and pray for direction.

As I told you in my letter at the end of October, we will be starting the Interim Curriculum now in this new year. So, we have scheduled four Listening Sessions which will be a church-wide conversation in four sessions.

The first Listening Session starts after worship on this Sunday, January 8.

The topics for the sessions will follow this schedule:

January 8: What do you love about First Congregational?

January 22: What is our history and how does it shape us?

February 5: What concerns you most about the church and what regrets do we have?

February 19: What are we seeking in a new Senior Pastor?

We will begin every Listening Session in the Sanctuary with an introduction to the topic. Then we will meet in break-out rooms for group conversations. These conversations will be especially important because these are not surveys. This is not an exercise primarily for collecting information, though that's part of it. This is an opportunity to listen to one another. As a community of faith.

Though all the pastors will be listening to what is said, it is even more important that you hear one another, and hear not only what you say but how you say it, so you can know, first-hand what weight your comments carry.

So, one of the most important parts of this exercise will be the Break-out Sessions in four different spaces around the church: the Chapel, Upper Lounge, Sr. High Youth Room, and Children's Science Room.

We really hope to hear from people of all ages, so we will offer supervised children's programs until noon on the days we have Listening Sessions. We will have space for younger kids to play and we will show the movie "Madagascar" for older kids. Sarah Wilterdink will lead the children to the appropriate areas for them after the Church School lessons are completed so that parents can remain in the sanctuary.

Pastor Nick Hatch will be integrating these Listening Sessions into the Confirmation Curriculum so that confirmands and their mentors can have these vital conversations and so that this moment in the church's history can serve to teach them about congregational life. We value all their ideas and opinions as we consider our future together.

All young adults who are confirmed are encouraged to attend the Listening Sessions

We are eager to hear from those of you who cannot be with us in person and so we are providing the discussion questions in the weekly bulletin and in our Eblast every week. We would like to hear your written responses if you are out of town or unable to join us.

We really hope to see you on Sunday, so you can be part of these sacred conversations.

Blessings,
Pastor Susan

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*

Outdoor Fun and Fellowship and
IPAC present...

**We're O.F.F. to the Trout Museum of Art
Sunday, January 8 at 1:00 PM**

Sunday, January 8 is the last day of the
Reclaiming Identity exhibit, guest curated
by Dakota Mace.

In *Reclaiming Identity*, Indigenous artists
from across the U.S. and Mexico tell
stories of identity and share what it means
to take control and preserve their culture.

Meet in the lobby of the Trout Museum,
111 W. College Ave., at 1:00 PM (\$10 daily
admission or \$15 annual.)

We'll walk to the Copper Rock
Coffeeshouse afterwards to talk about
what we saw and thought.

Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller at
(715) 853-6625.

Worship and Music

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

Come Serve in Music Ministry!

Please contact John Albrecht, *Director for
Music Ministries*, at 920-851-8097 or
jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org
with questions or to register.

Sanctuary Choir (high school - adults)
Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM

Youth Handbells (grades 7-12)
Wednesdays, 5:45-6:25 PM

Children's Choir (grades 2-6)
Sundays, 10:45-11:30 AM

LU Music Scholars (college)
Sundays, 5:00-6:00 PM

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, January 21

The Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists will
present "**Pedals, Pipes and Pizza**" on
**Saturday, January 21, 2023, from 8:30 AM
to 12:30 PM** at First English Lutheran
Church, 326 E Drew Street, Appleton.

This program provides an engaging
introduction to the organ for youth ages 9
to 18. Participants will have the
opportunity to see and play the organs at
both First English Lutheran Church and
First United Methodist Church and are
encouraged to bring one or two pieces to
play on the organ. Previous piano
background is recommended. The
morning will end with pizza for lunch!

**Admission is free, but registration is
required by Saturday, January 14, 2023.**

For questions or registration, please
contact Jeffrey Verkuilen, 920-609-4483, or
by email to jeffverkuilen@new.rr.com.

To register, please provide the youth
participant's name, age, parent/guardian
name, mailing address, phone number,
and email address. Parents and guardians
are welcome to stay, watch, and listen!

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Mental Health Taskforce

Do you or someone you love experience mental illness? Would you like to learn more about welcoming those with mental illness into our church community?

Would you like to share your knowledge about mental health and illness?

Come join the Mental Health Taskforce on **Monday, January 16 from 6:00-7:30 PM.**

Please email Mary Sullivan (msullivan623@yahoo.com) with questions.

Administration

Communication Updates

Effective January 9, the Open Door portion of the Sunday bulletin will be moving to a separate monthly newsletter – the first issue will be published in February 2023.

Articles for consideration should be sent to [**OpenDoor@firstcongoappleton.org**](mailto:OpenDoor@firstcongoappleton.org)

First Congregational has also transitioned to a once-a-week e-newsletter on Fridays only. It will contain a link to the upcoming Sunday bulletin and any other relevant information for upcoming events.

E-newsletters from our Children, Youth and Families programs will continue on a regular basis.

All-Church Listening Sessions

As we look ahead to our All-Church Listening Sessions which constitute the core of the Interim Curriculum, here are the dates which I proposed to the Church Council at their December meeting.

January 8 at 10:45 AM:

"What Do You Love About First Congregational Church?"

January 22 at 10:45 AM:

"Trip Down Memory Lane"

February 5 at 10:45 AM:

Changes and Disappointments
What challenges shaped us and informed our journey?

February 19 at 10:45 AM:

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

Every session will begin with an introduction in the Sanctuary, followed by conversations in groups of 20 in break-out spaces around the building. These sessions will be led by an experienced leader, and we will have a recorder in each room. You will be able to talk together, to weigh in on various questions each time, to listen to others, and to write your responses if you feel more comfortable expressing yourself that way.

If these Sunday times are not good for you, please e-mail me at [**scartmell@firstcongoappleton.org**](mailto:scartmell@firstcongoappleton.org) to let me know, and we will also have some mid-week sessions, and online sessions.

Calendar for January 8 – January 14

Sunday, January 8

9:25 AM – 11:35 AM
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Child Care – *Toddler Room*
Worship – *Sanctuary*
Children’s Ministry – *All CYF Rooms*
Confirmation Class – *Fellowship Hall*
Children’s Choir Rehearsal – *Art Kitchen/Choir Room*
LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*
First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall*

Monday, January 9

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*
Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*
Boy Scout Troop 8 – *Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, January 10

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*
Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, January 11

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 – *Toddler Room*
Bible Study with Pastor Susan – *Chapel*
High School / Middle School Groups
Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

Thursday, January 12

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Strong Bodies – *South Fellowship Hall*
AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
Nominating Committee – *Upper Lounge*
Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, January 13

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

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

Saturday, January 14

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday January 8, 2023

What do you love about First Congregational?

What brings you to First Congregational, and what keeps you engaged?

What are your three favorite experiences at First Congregational Church?

1.

2.

3.

In each case, what made these experiences so special?

How does the Church support you, your family, your faith?