

The image shows the interior of a tomb, likely the one in the Garden of Gethsemane. The walls are made of rough, textured stone. A large, heavy stone door is rolled away to the left, revealing a bright, sunlit exterior. Sunlight streams through the opening, creating a strong lens flare and casting a warm glow on the interior floor. In the foreground, a stone slab is partially visible, with a piece of light-colored, folded fabric resting on it. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and resurrection.

HE IS NOT HERE

for he is risen

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

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt – *CYF Side of the Building*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM AA – *Common Grounds*

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 Cindi Ritcey Fox.



Hearing Loop

Need help hearing our service? Ask an usher. They can help get you in the loop!

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.

Open Door Announcements

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

APRIL 09, 2023

EASTER SUNDAY

8:45 & 10:30 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

Salvation Is Created

Paul Tchesnokoff
arr. D. Giardiniere

LU Conservatory Brass Quintet

Christ lag in Todesbanden

Tune by Martin Luther and Johann Walter
Setting by Georg Böhm (1661-1733)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Rejoice!

Raymond David Burkhart
LU Conservatory Brass Quintet, Organ, and Percussion

OPENING SENTENCES

CHORAL INTROIT

Alleluia, laus et gloria

Orlando di Lasso

LU Music Scholars

*Alleluia! Praise, glory and power to our God,
Because God's judgments are true and just. Alleluia!*

Rev. 5:13

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ has risen.

*Please rise, in body or in spirit.

People: Christ has risen indeed.

Leader: Jesus's week of trial has ended.

People: Justice has been done.

Leader: His torture is finished. Death has no grip on him.

People: A new day is dawning.

Leader: God snatched victory from the jaws of defeat.

People: Death has lost its sting.

Leader: God's kingdom has prevailed. God will always have the last word.

People: Death cannot harm us. On this day of resurrection, we celebrate God's victory. We rejoice in our faith. Our joy knows no bounds.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #205**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

arr. James Biery

***UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

As Mary entered the garden long ago, we come hoping to meet you too, Holy One.

We arrive expecting to find you in all the usual places.

Surprise us with your presence where we least expect it.

We arrive, assuming we know what Easter is all about.

Surprise us with questions that challenge our assumptions.

We arrive, sure of ourselves. Bring us to our knees.

Lead us on a new journey of faith.

Make this sanctuary your garden today. Inspire our own new life.

We pray in Jesus' name and with his words, we say...

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.

WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(After the Children's Message, the children will return to the pews to worship with their families.)

ANTHEM

Antiphon from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Sanctuary Choir and Brass

Brass setting, A. Ligotti

*Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.
The heavens are not too high, His praise may thither fly.
The earth is not too low, His praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.
The Church with Psalms must shout, no door can keep them out.
But above all the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, My God and King.*
Poem by George Herbert

EASTER GOSPEL READING Sara Companik 8:45; Heidi Erstad 10:30 John 20:1-18 (NT p. 140)

MEDITATION

“Mary Magdalene’s Hope”

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

*HYMN #209

Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er

VICTORY

Please note that the opening “Alleluias” will be sung again after stanza four to conclude the hymn.

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

Contrapunctus V

J. S. Bach

Transcription, Robert King

LU Conservatory Brass Quintet

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*EASTER DOXOLOGY

Sung to the tune of *All Creatures of our God and King (Lasst Uns)* arr. R. Lehman

**All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness.**

O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

And praise the Spirit, Three in One,

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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 to a pastor for confidentiality.)

*CLOSING HYMN #214

Thine is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS
arr. John Ferguson

*COMMISSION AND BLESSING

Leader: Take the good news of Easter and live by it.

People: We have seen the living Christ, today, and felt His presence.

Leader: Take the message of Easter and trust that God works through all things for good.

People: We have met the Living Christ here. Hope is born again in us.

Leader: Take this story of Mary and remember how she found her voice on Easter and went out to change the world.

People: By God's grace we will go forth too- to tell the good news that Jesus Christ is risen. Alleluia! Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The congregation will please remain standing and join the choir in singing the "Hallelujah" Chorus.

The music is found in the back of the hymnal.

"Hallelujah" Chorus from Messiah

G. F. Handel
Brass setting, D. Wolff

Congregation, Sanctuary Choir, Brass, Organ and Timpani

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony No. 5

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Charles-Marie Widor

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Lawrence Conservatory Brass Quintet:

John Daniel, Jamie Waroff, *trumpets*; Ann Ellsworth, *horn*;

Dave Sawall, *trombone*; Martin Erickson, *tuba*

Victoria Daniel, *percussion*

Sanctuary Choir

LU Music Scholars

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

No Children's Ministry for Today.

There IS Childcare Available for Infants & Toddlers in the Childcare Room.

Easter Egg Hunt Between Services Today



Please share the below info with your children before they begin hunting. Thank you!

- *Meet on the bridge, which is to the left when you exit the sanctuary.
- *It's okay if you forgot a basket or bag - we have extra bags.
- *Each person can find 12-15 eggs.
- *There is a toddler-only hunting room.
- *Older children, have fun looking in different rooms instead of grabbing the first dozen you see. Many are "hidden" in plain view because there are so many! 😊
- *All-aged people can hunt for eggs. The young-at-heart are always welcome!
- *Please empty the eggs into your basket or bag before you leave. You keep the goodies but please return the eggs so we can reuse them next year. There are containers on the bridge and by the CYF doors that you can place the eggs in. Thanks!



April 9, 2023

Pastor's Pen

“What Really Happened?”

What Really Happened? One Theory – based on my understanding of the culled wisdom of John Dominic Crossen, New Testament Scholar.

When Jesus started his ministry, he joined the people following John the Baptist. He probably prayed in the wilderness with them, living in a cave and joining with the contemplative sect, known as the Essenes. They believed God would come to save the world; God's arrival would be hastened by people who fasted and prayed. But John the Baptist was outspoken in criticizing hypocrisy. When he criticized Herod, suddenly John was arrested and killed.

No one was more shocked by this than Jesus. They all expected God to save John. Jesus started to question whether God would be coming to save the Jews. He began to believe that we are responsible for bringing God's kingdom to earth, not God. We can't wait for God because God is waiting for us. So, then Jesus started to preach, himself. What did he preach about? justice – distributive justice. He did not preach about distributing land or wealth, but food. His message revolved around food. Jesus thought everyone should have enough to eat. No one should be hungry. When he fed thousands of people Jesus demonstrated that there will be enough when we share.

In the beginning his big meals looked like charity. Nobody gets upset if you give food away. But then, Jesus started to question why people were hungry. He called for distributing food equitably so everyone could eat. He questioned the systems that made some people wealthy while others were starving. Justice was controversial. His crowd grew as people realized he was on to something. Then the Romans started to notice Him. When he entered Jerusalem on a colt, mocking the Roman governor's violent ways of using power, Jesus sealed his fate.

Many Jews still believed that God would come to clean up the mess on earth. Even Jesus' disciples thought you could jumpstart this process. That's probably what happened in the Garden of Gethsemane when Judas betrayed Jesus. I don't believe Judas suddenly turned-on Jesus. They'd gone through a lot together. Judas did not need money. I think Judas was hoping to provoke an armed up-rising. That's why the disciples had swords that night and chopped off the Roman soldier's ear. (Jesus quickly put it back and healed it.) But Jesus wanted no part of instigating a revolt because he did not expect God to intervene. He believed God had a different plan.

The good news here is that Jesus believes in us. He thinks we can heal what is broken. We can work for restorative justice. We have more power than we realize. Jesus believes in us so much he bet his life on us. Now, through the power of the resurrection, the Risen Christ will

meet us whenever we champion the underdog or fight for the poor or find the courage to do what we believe is right. That's the gift of faith that keeps on giving.

Blessings, Pastor Susan

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

The Open Door

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*



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.

Women's Spring Retreat

Friday, April 21 – Sunday, April 23
Moon Beach, St. Germain
It is "good for your soul."

Please join us for the April Women's Spring Retreat at Moon Beach. See the April Wide-Open Door for more info. *Please register ASAP as we need a minimum of 20 people to hold this date.*



A Joyful Spring Ministry Needs Help TODAY

Easter Flowers will be distributed to our elders and others after the second service today, or throughout the week if any are left.

Cards with names, phone numbers and addresses will be on a table in the narthex after second service. Flowers will be in the sanctuary.

- Choose one or more cards
- Pick up the flowers
- Call to make sure they are home!

It is fun to visit if agreed upon but totally okay to just drop off with a smile. If errors are found with the information left, please leave a message for the office. It is helpful for us to have the correct information. If you have questions, contact Jean Coenraad (920-810-0014) or for pastoral needs, contact Pastor Mary Jo-(715-351-0450).

Friends in Christ Ministry Team:

You will have separate-colored cards set aside on the table, but you will need to pick out flowers from the sanctuary, unless previously arranged.



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



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!

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.

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 already are 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.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*

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 Sunday, April 16, 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.

QPR Training (Question, Persuade, Refer)

Did you know that [depression](#) is extremely common in the U.S. and has reached epidemic levels? The depression rate for teens and young adults is 17%.

Are there people in your life who struggle with mental health conditions? Do you wish you felt comfortable talking with them about their struggles? Do you wonder if they are considering suicide? How would you ask them? How can you help them?

To learn about these issues, FCUCC Mental Health Task Force is hosting QPR training on Saturday, April 15th, 9:00 AM-11:00 AM in the Upper Lounge. Teens 15 years old and older are invited to attend with parents. If you want more information, [email](#) Mary Sullivan or 920-740-9452. *Please register by April 9th if you need childcare.* Register on Realm or call the church office at 920-733-7393.



College of Menominee Nation Scholarships



In recognition that our church is located on the ancestral homelands of Indigenous peoples, the Indigenous People's Allies

Committee hopes to raise \$2000 a year to be able to give a new, named \$1000 scholarship each semester to a Menominee Nation member, or descendant, who is in good academic standing at the College of Menominee Nation.

The CMN is an accredited Land-Grant institution chartered by the Menominee Nation with a flagship campus in Keshena (1993) and a second campus in Green Bay near the Oneida Nation. Both campuses welcome students from many American Indian tribes and all ethnicities/races. Most students need financial aid. CMN will select a qualified student through their usual vetting process.

To donate to this fund, please send a check made out to FCUCC with *CMN Scholarship Fund* in the notes line or donate through Realm. Our gift for the fall semester is due by June 1st. Any amount is appreciated!

Back Bay Mission Trip

Mid-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.



April

Wide-Open Door

Articles to read more about!

Toward One Wisconsin
[Toward Wisconsin 2023 website](#)

Badger State Women's Choir:
Sonya Bach
Sunday, April 16 @ 4:00PM

**Native American Pow Wows
& Pow Wow Etiquette**
[Pow Wow Etiquette Article](#)

**Dr. Carol Cornelius: History of 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 10

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, April 11

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 9:15 PM

Wednesday, April 12

12:15 AM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 6:00 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

Thursday, April 13

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, April 14

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, April 15

1:30 PM- 5:00 PM

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sunday, April 16

8:45 AM – 10:45 AM

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

10:45 AM – 11:45 AM

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Kenya Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Library Committee – *Church Library*

Wild Women of First Congo – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

Piano Lessons – *Sanctuary*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

Child Care – *Childcare Room*

Youth Groups – *CYF Youth Rooms*

Wed Night Bible Study – *Chapel*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Nominating Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Bulletin Assembly – *Library*

Pianist rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge, N.A. – Common Grounds*

Badger State Women’s Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room*

Pianist rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Confirmation Class

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

Plant a Row video – *Narthex, Chapel*

Advanced Care Directive Planning – *Upper Lounge*

Badger Girl Choir Concert – *Sanctuary*

LU Scholars Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

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

Gifts for the 2023 Easter Display

In honor of:

Rob & Joan Lacey and Win & Jane Hallett
Given by Ben & Heather Hallett



In loving memory of:

Susan Ahern for Brett Philip Edmund Crawford
Given by Karen Crawford

Rev. Dorothy Heckner Mendonca, John Mendonca and Everett Erstad
Given by their children and grandchildren

Carlton and Arlene Beyer

Given by Joan and Steve Hawkins

Adele and John Bowman, Marion and Elmer Gosse

Given by Karen and Dick Gosse

Sharon Radke, beloved kindergarten teacher and friend

Given by her friend and former student

Alicia Ann Arndt Dorn

Given by her best friend who misses her dearly

Rev. Harvey Kandler

Given by His family

Friends Karl and Sandy

Given by Barb Christie

Sarah & Bob Taylor, and Dorothea & Harold Detienne

Given by Rick & Sue Detienne

Gary Wisneski, and the Miller & Wisneski families

Given by Sue Wisneski

