

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 AM – 11:30 AM Children’s Choir – *CYF Kitchen & Choir Room*
11:00 AM-12:00 PM Entering the Passion of Jesus, Ch. 2+ 3 - *Chapel*
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*
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.

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.

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

March 19, 2023

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

Sarabande from French Suite in G Major, BWV 816

J. S. Bach

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

INTROIT

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

PASSION CHORALE

Setting by Sandra Eithun

Youth Handbells (ringing Tone Chimes and Handbells)

*OPENING PRAYER (in unison) Psalm 86:5

One: God of mercy, as *we* count the people who have come through these “open doors,” remind us that you are not calculating.

All: O God, you are good and forgiving.

One: As we count the times that our siblings and friends have wronged us, whisper in our ears, “Peace, be still.”

All: O God, you are good and forgiving.

One: As we foolishly hold old grudges in our un-forgiving hearts, nudge us to model your mercy.

All: O God, you are good and forgiving.

One: We join our voices asking you to forgive us for the times we have sinned against one another and to forgive us for all that we have left undone.

All: O God, you are good and forgiving.

One: Holy One, you keep no records; you never cease forgiving us. You reach out in steadfast love to all who call on you.

All: We give you thanks and praise as we offer to you our intent to forgive one another as you have forgiven us.

*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.**

*OPENING HYMN # 401

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING for One Great Hour of Sharing

At this time, 4th and 5th graders will walk the aisles with tin buckets. Please toss any loose change you have into the buckets. The joyful noise that is made by the coins hitting the buckets will help the children hear and feel the power of being part of a community that works together for a common good.

The traditional offering will still take place later in the service. You can give your envelopes and cash at that time.

SCRIPTURE READING *Kris Henke*

Matthew 18:15-22 CEB

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ¹⁷ But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?" ²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times."

MEDITATION

Forgive Us Our Debts, Sins and Trespasses

Paster Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

DETROIT

605 Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive

Chords: Dm F Dm Gm Dm

1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you
 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the
 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the
 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and

Chords: Bb F Am Dm Am Bb Dm C

taught us, Lord, to pray; but you a - lone can
 un - for - giv - ing heart that broods on wrongs and
 truth we dim - ly knew: how tri - fling oth - ers'
 bid re - sent - ment cease; then, by your mer - cy

Chords: F Am F Gm Am7 Dm

grant us grace to live the words we say.
 will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
 debts to us; how great our debt to you!
 rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

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

Kyrie

John Leavitt

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us.

Sanctuary Choir

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 # 442

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ERIE

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

POSTLUDE (PIANO)

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Converse/Erie)

Tune by Charles C. Converse

Setting by Glenn Wonacott (1955-2015)

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

Youth Handbells: Ross Erstad, Elena Eubanks, Avery Gentile, Celia Gentile,

Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton Piepenburg,

Eva Schmidt, Chase Wahl; John Albrecht, *director*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

Sunday, March 26, Worship Service

Sunday Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

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

Today's Children's Ministry Locations

Infants & Toddlers

Childcare Room

Preschoolers

Little Angels Room

K/1st Graders

Scripture Tent

2nd/3rd Graders

Kitchen

4th/5th Graders

Theater

March 19, 2023

Pastor's Pen

“What is that Bird Doing on a Stick?”

Maybe when you were singing the first hymn you noticed something over your head sailing through the air. Maybe you have seen Cameron Gabbey holding the bird expertly and waving it so it never hits anyone, and even the red ribbon stays aloft. (That's harder than it looks.) Maybe you have been wondering why we do this, or what it means. Maybe you did not know who to ask.

I brought the bird from Boston. When I was going to be installed in a church outside of Boston in early 1998 I was aware that no women had yet been called to become senior ministers of larger churches in New England. Many have done it since, but it just happened that when I was called to lead a church with 875 members in 1997, no other women had assumed a responsibility like this. So when the time came for my installation I wanted to add an extra festive touch because I knew a lot of my colleagues and friends would be there that day.

I came up with the idea of a dove that would float above the congregation leading the clergy procession. I ordered the dove from a kite maker, and the extension pole from a flag shop and put them together. This dove served us well, for Pentecost other installations and ordinations.

But then one summer day before we had air conditioning in the church, a bird flew in the open window during the first hymn. It spent the hours circling the chancel and then departed on the final hymn. Though it might have been attracted by the organ vibrations, it was so odd and wonderful that I have always thought it carried significance. It served to remind us that God's spirit does descend like a dove, from time to time, when you least expect it, as the Bible says.

Ever since that experience, I have had a keen sense that the Holy Spirit hovers over us, and mediates the holy intersection at the heart of worship. When I saw the height of our sanctuary at First Congregational I thought the dove would remind us of God's presence in worship. It is comforting to remember that the Holy Spirit is especially present in times of change and transition. It also reminds us that whenever we gather in God's house we are met by this benevolent force that draws us onto holy ground.

That's why we have that dove in our worship services. I'm glad some of you asked.

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.

Sue Ahrens and family, as they grieve their son, Lyndee Aleman

Chuck & Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew

Valerie Bales

Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara

Nicholas Breitzman

Don Brittnacher

Christ Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober

Dick Casperson

Jim Edwards

Heidi Mendonca Erstad

Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family

Ester Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken

David Galow

Ken Geiger

Margaret Hankwitz

Judy Hanson

JoAnn Helms

Ken Hocking

Carol Huddleston and family

Jean Jepson

Ray Johnson

Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Kathy Lannoye

Betty Masaros

Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer

Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald

Gretchen Revie

Tom Salm

Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's

Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt

Larry Schiedermayer

Frank and Pat Severin

Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie

Paul Siket

Mark Spindler

Debra Stoner

Gloria Tate

Jack Thiel

Peter Thiel

James Totzke

Jean Van Wagenin

Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya

Diane White

The Open Door

New Member Class!

Join Pastor Susan in the Chapel after worship on March 26 and on April 23 for a New Member Class.

Come to one or both sessions from 10:45- noon.

Get to know Susan and learn more about the church.

Childcare will be available.

CYF

Fun, Faith, and Service

Buy Your Stock Sales Today

Come one, come all to the 2023 High School Youth Mission Stock Sale! Visit one of the tables in the Narthex today, March 19th before or after worship. When you buy stock, you help offset the cost of sending twenty five youth and adults to Cass Lake Reservation this June. We will partner with Youthworks for different kinds of community service. Youthworks has been serving at the invitation of the tribal council on location for over twenty years. You may not be able to attend in person, but your donation is a way to accompany us on this journey of understanding and bridge building. Cash or check accepted.

Today Joyful Noise Offering

Next week is the UCC's *One Great Hour of Sharing*. To participate in the joy of giving to others as part of a larger community, our 4th – 5th graders will lead us in a Joyful Noise offering. After the children's message, children will go around the pews collecting coins in tin cans – making *joyful noise* as adults drop quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies into their tin cans.

We will still have out typical offering time for all other contributions.

You can learn more about [One Great Hour of Sharing on their website](#).



Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*

Toward One Wisconsin

You are invited to join us Tuesday, April 25th – Wednesday, April 26th in Appleton for Wisconsin’s leading equity, diversity and inclusion conference. Toward One Wisconsin brings together leaders, professionals, and advocates from a broad range of sectors. The conference features a variety of speakers including Rev. Traci Blackmon Associate General Minister of Justice and Local Church Ministries for the United Church of Christ. All three of your pastors (Mary Jo, Nick & Susan) will be leading a delegation as an extension of our mission to be the Church of the Open Door.

Just follow these three steps:

1. Get online and register YOURSELF at the Toward One Wisconsin 2023 website (<https://inclusivity-wi.org>). You will pay your registration fee yourself via that website. Talk to Pastor Nick if you need a scholarship, we just want you to come and grow with us!

2. Once Step One is done, let us know by completing the sheet in the narthex or by calling the church office. We will keep a list of participants and communicate with our group via that list.
3. Check your email! Pastor Nick will email you 1-2 weeks in advance with information.

Hope to see you there! *Pastor Nick*

2023

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. You will find time to rest and reflect and to truly get to know other women in the church. It is at Moon Beach, our favorite Wisconsin UCC camp near St. Germain. We have many women who come many years (over 20!) to Moon Beach--the north woods camp is beautiful--the food is great--sleeping is so peaceful.

Our retreat leader is Julie Garber. She led our October 2022 retreat. The women felt so comfortable with her. We are excited she is coming back. The retreat will be centered on “Exploring what connects us and sustains us in creation, our relationships and our faith.” It is reflective and will be guided

by the wisdom of Diana Butler Bass in her book "Grounded."

You are NOT required to read the book. The church office does have copies of the book available for \$4.00.

Please register ASAP as we need a minimum of 20 people to hold this date. Scholarship funds are available--contact Pastor Mary Jo or Barb Uehling. Register and pay \$170 in the Realm Event "Women's Spring Retreat April 21-23 2023". Or send a check to the church office.

Pastor Mary Jo will be joining us again for this retreat.

Contact Barbara Uehling with any questions. buehling@gmail.com 920-475-2212.



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Help us Fill the Box!



Volunteers from our church will soon be going to Back Bay Mission. While there, we will be making hygiene kits for homeless individuals. We need travel-size bug spray and sunscreen, hand towels, deodorant, disposable razors, small tubes of toothpaste and small rolls of toilet paper.

The Day Shelter needs portable breakfast and snack items such as Balance Bars or Slim Jims. There is also a great need for men's underwear, track pants and "Readers" (non-prescription) glasses. Readers cost \$1.25 at a dollar store and are often the only vision assistance the Mission's clients have.

We're highlighting the above items but will gladly take anything listed on the *Back Bay Wish List* posted on the box. Bolded items are most needed.

Madison Action Day/ ESTHER Fox Valley

Thursday, April 27, 2023 (All day)

We are excited for Madison Action Day 2023 on April 27! We will gather at the Wisconsin Masonic Center and then make our way together to the Wisconsin State Capitol Building.



Community members from all across the state will be coming together for this special event. There will be food, speakers and opportunities to meet with legislators . . . who make the decisions that impact our lives and our state!

Buses will be filling up in the Fox Valley to transport people to Madison.

Now is the time to JOIN US in making your voice heard for issues you care about, whether it be mass incarceration, environmental justice, immigration or so much more!

Register Now at

https://secure.everyaction.com/oP9KT_oR-zkmiZS51-Co88w2

Please register by April 6 so we can begin to organize our visits to legislators. A booklet outlining our budget priorities will be provided to each participant prior to Madison Action Day to help with preparations for our visits.

Each legislator will also receive a copy of the booklet. At each district visit, we need a facilitator and someone to speak for each budget priority. You can volunteer to speak or come along to show support for these recommendation.

Worship and Music

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

Badger State Women's Choir



is proud to present
guest artist
SONYA BACH.

Sunday, April 16
Starting @ 4:00PM
First Congregational
Church

Tickets:

Adults \$23

Students and Seniors (65+) \$15

Tickets will also be available at the door
30 minutes prior to curtain.

<https://www.ticketsource.us/badger-state-girl-choir>

For more information: Kevin Meidl,
Artistic Director 920-729-4753
sing@badgerstategirlchoir.org

Monday, March 20

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, March 21

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 9:15 PM

Wednesday, March 22

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 – 07:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, March 23

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, March 24

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Saturday, March 25

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sunday, March 26

8:45 AM – 10:45 AM

9:25 AM - 11:35 AM

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

10:45 AM – 12:00 PM

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Outreach Ministry - *Zoom*

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting/ Active Shooter Training – *Upper Lounge*

Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*

Wine & Word - *Zoom*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

HR Meeting- *Chapel*

Congregational Life – *Upper Lounge*

Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

Piano Lessons – *Sanctuary*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

Child Care – *Childcare Room*

Wed Night Bible Study - *Chapel*

Youth Groups – *Youth Rooms/Fellowship Hall*

Let's Talk – *Upper Lounge*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*

Creating Hope Webinar – *Upper lounge*

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Taize Worship - *Chapel*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Bulletin Assembly - *Library*

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

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Confirmation Class – *Fellowship Hall*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Sunday Service – *Upper Lounge, Sanctuary*

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

New Member Class - *Chapel*

A Study: "Entering the Passion" by Amy-Jill Levine – *Upper Lounge*

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

Our Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Pancake Breakfast

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6, 7:00PM – 8:00 PM

Good Friday Ecumenical Worship

Friday, April 7, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Emmanuel United Methodist Church, 740 E College Ave, Appleton

Easter Sunday Worship Services

Sunday, April 9, 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM and 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Easter Egg Hunt

9:45 AM on the Bridge

Meet on the Bridge

Please Join Us for Our Massive
Easter Morning Egg Hunt
Between Services at 9:45AM



Bring a Basket if You Can
(We'll have extras.)

Thank our church members
for filling THOUSANDS of eggs!

Infants & Toddlers Only
Search in the Childcare Room

"Big Kid" Search
Throughout Other Rooms



 Worship with us at 8:45AM or 10:30AM Easter Morning, April 9, 2023. 

— The Church of the Open Door —
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915



Gifts of Flowers for Easter

Please consider making a gift to the Easter display in memory or in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special moment in your life. The suggested donation is \$25, and the deadline is **March 30**. Contributors to the display will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. Besides supporting this special season's display, the monies will be used to help fund the Sanctuary flowers throughout next year.



Please place your order and payment in the offering plate today.

Please word the following as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.

Amount Paid \$ _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Given by _____

Please tear this form out.

Place your monetary gift and form in the offering plate, or
place them in the box located in the church office.

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