

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 – Art Kitchen & Sanctuary
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – Choir Room
4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary

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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 19, 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

Fairest Lord Jesus

Silesian Folk Tune
Setting by Nancy M. Raabe (b. 1954)

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME

MISSION MOMENT Nancy Brown-Koeller

CHORAL INTROIT

This Is My Beloved Son (Matthew 17:5)

Knut Nystedt (1915 – 2014)

Sanctuary Choir Casey Kollman, *soprano*

*OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

O Lord, we are prone to wander. We are easily distracted. We lose our focus. Sometimes, we even lose our way. Latch onto us, in this hour. Take our hands in your hands and catch our gaze. Then help us to remain rooted in your love. Help us to be inspired by the life and message of Christ Jesus. Help us to be riveted by the notion that you so loved the world and each of us, that you gave Him. You released Him. You shared Him, with us.

With grateful hearts, we pray the words he taught 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.**

* Please rise in body or spirit.

***OPENING HYMN #109**

Fairest Lord Jesus

SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: THE BAPTISM OF LILY KRISTINE TUOMENOKSA

Parents: Jenna (Hietpas) & Ryan Tuomenoksap, Godparents: Joe & Meg Hietpas

ADDRESS QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

People: We offer our love, support, and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

Dear God of gentleness and love, once more you have spoken words of hope in the birth of children. We delight in the new gift of life. Let your blessing and strength rest upon Lily and her family. May they cherish her and lead her in the ways of faith. In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306 (Sung by ALL)

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

STUTTGART

SCRIPTURE READING: Faye Binsfeld

John 3:16-21 NT p. 114

MEDITATION

"God's Love in a Quid Pro Quo World"

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

***HYMN #425**

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

ST. MARGARET

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

God So Loved the World (John 3: 16-17) John Stainer (1840 – 1901)
Sanctuary Choir

(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).

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.)

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE

Notre Père (Our Father)

Maurice Duruflé (1902-86)

LU Music Scholars

*CLOSING HYMN #516

O Day of God, Draw Near

ST. MICHAEL

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Shine, Jesus, Shine

Tune by Graham Kendrick
Setting by David Blackwell (b. 1961)

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

LU Music Scholars

Casey Kollman, *LU Music Scholar soprano* John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

No Children's Ministry Today

We'll see you next week!

There IS childcare for infants through two year olds!

Upcoming Worship Schedule

February 22, 2023

Ash Wednesday

Confirmands & Sanctuary Choir

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; LU Music Scholar Soloists

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

Rev. Dr. James Pennington

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

Pastor's Pen

February 19, 2023

"Looking Back Upon God's Hand"

This past weekend thirty of us went on the High School Winter Retreat (formerly just for Confirmands). We visited a Hindu temple, enjoyed time on Michigan Avenue, slept in the UCC Chicago Theological Seminary classroom, and attended worship at Trinity United Church of Christ on the south side of Chicago. Rev. Moss's sermon was geared towards starting Black History month and featured an "in-person" visit from Frederick Douglas a leader in the abolitionist movement. Frederick's escape from slavery was a long series of near impossible circumstances where he almost never came to freedom. It was dangerous and frightening what he endured to make it north and begin his work of fighting deconstructing institutional slavery. He remarked in a memoir that it was not until he had years to look back on his life that "I could see the hand of God" shepherding him through his terribly painful journey. Rev. Moss called this "serendipity": being able to discern God's hand in retrospect working for good.

The Apostle Paul speaks of this "serendipity" when encouraging the Philippians through their hardships and challenges in their work of becoming a church. He says: *Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

Almost like an architect from afar, Paul is watching and speaking to the Philippians in their construction of a healthy and functioning faith community meant to carry on the salvific message of Jesus Christ. It is no easy task, but Paul had watched many of the churches founded during those early days groan under the weight of being attacked, even "imprisoned" by the Imperial Roman empire seeking to oppress their growing power or harness it for the good of the emperor. Only in due time could these faithful disciples have the perspective to look back and see that God was always there, always working, even in greatly painful and frightening times.

To say God is present and at work in any situation, it's a huge claim. To trust that God has never left our side even when we suffer deep hardship, it's a leap some of us cannot make in the moment. And to be able to look back, through hope-filled eyes and know that all along the hand of God has been directing us to the land of milk and honey, well that takes endurance and commitment.

I wonder where, in looking back, you can see the mighty hand of God was at work in your life? Where might we see God's hand at work in this church in this time, directing and sorting, coaching and holding us through this passage?

Let us be assured that The Architect of the Heavens and Earth is here, a firm foundation has been laid, and the Mighty Hand of God is shepherding us to a safer, more justice filled future. We just have to be patient to see that good things are happening all around us; for we can never fathom the greatness of the kingdom which is being built.

Here is to Serendipity!

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, Darryl
 Valerie Bales
 Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara
 Harry Boll's family, upon his death
 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
 Ken Hocking
 Carol Huddleston and family
 Jean Jepson
 Ray Johnson Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's
 Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt
 Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer
 Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
 Tom Salm
 Larry Schiedermayer
 Pat Severin's friend
 Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
 Paul Siket
 Rick Smith and the rest of Jill's family,
 upon her death
 Mark Spindler
 Debra Stoner
 Janet Ann Bond Sutter's family, upon her death
 Gloria Tate
 Jack Thiel
 Peter Thiel
 James Totzke
 Jean Van Wagenin
 Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
 Diane White

Final Listening Session

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

Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

Final Online Session

Monday, February 20 at 6:00 PM

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

Meeting ID: 875 0414 3180

Did you miss a Listening Session or have not yet responded to some of the questions? No worries! You can give your feedback electronically. Please choose which session's questions you'd like to answer below.

[Session 1 Questions](#)

[Session 2 Questions](#)

[Session 3 Questions](#)

[Session 4 Questions](#)

Worship and Music

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

Fox Valley Flute

Winter Concert Today

The Fox Valley Flute Choir will perform a winter concert in the Church Sanctuary today at 4:00 PM.



Ash Wednesday: February 22

6:00 PM Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall

7:00 PM Service, led by our confirmands and Sanctuary Choir

Congregational Life

*Embracing God,
welcoming others, knowing ourselves*

"LET'S TALK 2023"

A Resource for Sacred,
Transformational,
Conversations
on Race



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

Choose when to attend on Realm:

[Tuesdays 1:00 PM via Zoom](#)

[Wednesdays 6:30 PM In-Person](#)

[Thursdays 8:00 PM via Zoom](#)

Mission and Service

Back Bay Brunch Tickets!

Get your tickets today for the Southern Comfort Food Brunch on February 26 in the Fellowship Hall. A children's activity table and Silent Auction treasures will also be available at the brunch. We will serve until noon.

The funds are for Back Bay Mission's tiny houses for the homeless and food pantry. Mississippi has the largest percentage of people experiencing hunger of any state in the US. This became even worse in 2022 when their food pantry saw a 70% increase in usage. To learn more about Back Bay, the UCC's only ministry in Mississippi, see their website <https://thebackbaymission.org/>. Tickets are available in the narthex after services today, through [Realm](#), or by calling the church office. If you cannot attend the brunch but would like to help Back Bay transform lives through food and shelter, there are envelopes on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Tickets

\$10 age 6-12, Free for 5 and under
\$18 for age 13+, Family maximum \$60



Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday March 2, 2023

First Congregational United Church of Christ is committed to providing and serving the evening meal at the Adult Shelter the first Thursday of every month. Check out the link below to sign up to contribute items for the soup or sandwiches or to help serve the meal.

The clients are very appreciative. Working in the kitchen together has created some great fellowship and is a good way to get to know some amazing people who are part of FCUCC.

For questions, contact Shelley Nulton at snulton@att.net or 920-202-4419.

[Pillars sign up Thursday, March 2, 2023](#)

Children, Youth and Families

Faith, fun, and service



Youth Spreading Love

We hope you received a token to remind you that **YOU ARE LOVED** when you entered church the other week! If not, please pick up a heart from the Welcome Desk this week. Our middle schoolers worked hard to create two hundred hearts as a reminder that **YOU** are thought of and prayed for by our youth.



Sunday Morning Teachers Needed

As we look ahead to spring, we need Children's Ministry teachers. Please [email Sarah Wilterdink](mailto:sarah.wilterdink@church.com) a date or dates that work for you! Thanks for considering.



Thank You

The tradition continues... Please help us fill eggs for our **MASSIVE** egg hunt on Easter morning after the service. Individually wrapped candy, stickers, and any trinkets that fit in a plastic egg are wonderfully appreciated! Thank you to the many helping hands who took a bag of eggs to fill last week! The rest of the bags are now on tables in the narthex.

First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

Monday, February 20

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM Outreach Ministry - *Zoom*
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Virtual Listening Session #4 - *Zoom*
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, February 21

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM VOTING DAY
8:45 AM – 10:15 AM Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Wild Women - *Stone Arch Brew Pub*
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00 PM – 9:15 PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, February 22

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM ASH WEDNESDAY
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*
5:45 PM – 6:25 PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*
6:00 PM – 07:00 PM Ash Wednesday Soup Supper - *Fellowship Hall*
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service - *Sanctuary*
6:25 PM – 8:35 PM Child Care - *Childcare Room*

Thursday, February 23

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*
6:30 PM – 08:00 PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 24

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM Bulletin Assembly - *Library*
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM AI-Anon - *Upper Lounge*
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM N/A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, February 25

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM Back Bay Southern Comfort Food Brunch - *Fellowship Hall*

tickets

\$18 age 13+

\$10 age 6-12

free age 5 and under



Fundraiser for the UCC's
BACK BAY MISSION

"Providing food and shelter
on the Gulf Coast for 100 years"

Guest of Honor

Back Bay Director, Rev. James Pennington



**Southern
Comfort Food
Brunch
Sunday, Feb. 26**

catered by **The Cozy Corner**

First Congregational UCC

724 E. South River St., Appleton

Fellowship Hall

Serving 10:45 to Noon

Open to all, bring friends and family!



Easter

SUNDAY

8:45 AM

10:30 AM



The Ministry Team

Reverend Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor

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

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Associate Interim Minister for Congregational Life

Reverend John T. McFadden, Pastor Emeritus

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist

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

Zaina Gonzales, Temporary Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Kalyn Vander Grinten, Childcare Provider & Temporary Administrative Assistant

Ann Hage, Temporary Administrative Assistant

Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Tim Krause, Weekend Custodial Assistant

Danielle Bruce, Childcare Provider

First Congregational United Church of Christ

724 East South River Street

Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org

Listening Session - February 19, 2023

What Are You Looking for in a New Senior Pastor?

As you consider First Congregational Church's history, its potential and your own commitment to the church what do you seek in a leader for the next chapter in the life of this church?

What character traits, spiritual gifts, or style of leadership would inspire you and increase your excitement about the church's future?

What qualities in the new Senior Pastor would be a disappointment or would test your commitment to the church?



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.



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