

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

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## **TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON**

10:30 AM Children's Choir – *Art Kitchen & Choir Room*

10:30 AM "The Bee Movie": Childcare for Listening Session – *CYF Theater*

10:45 AM Listening Session – *Sanctuary, Etc.*

4:30 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

*We are glad you are here today! Our service is livestreaming in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Narthex. Remember that if you feel more comfortable social distancing, you are welcome to worship in any of those areas as well.*

## **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 also visit our webpage and click "[Give](#)" or 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!



# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 22, 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

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## PRELUDE

*Community of Christ (Leoni)*

Jewish melody, 17<sup>th</sup> Cent.  
setting by David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)  
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

## RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

### \*WELCOME

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: May God create a clean heart in each one of us, this day.

**All: Let our souls wake up in God's light.**

One: May Jesus meet us in the hour.

**All: Let our spirits rise to meet Christ.**

One: May God's Holy Spirit inspire us to put our faith into action.

**All: Let us enter God's house determined to live with integrity and do the things we say we believe.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #502

*Community of Christ*

LEONI

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SOLO

*Where'er You Walk* from *Semele*

Georg Frederic Handel  
arr. Clair W. Johnson

Andrew Schmidt, *euphonium*

## SCRIPTURE READING

I Kings 21:1-16

## MEDITATION

“Greed: The Root of Injustice”

Rev. Susan Cartmell

## HYMN #509

*What Does the Lord Require for Praise and Offering?*

GRAECEN

St. 1 - Sanctuary Choir **St. 2 & 3 - ALL**

## 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

*Our Love Can Mend a Broken World*

Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

Text by William Penn and Tom Trenney

Sanctuary Choir

The world seems so eager to threaten, but love remains patient and kind.  
The world strives for wealth, might, and power, but love longs for soul, heart, and mind.

The world plays a loud, clanging cymbal, but love sings its still, small voice.  
The world delights in bearing false witness, but love, in the truth will rejoice!

*Refrain:* Let’s see what love can do to mend a broken world.

The world makes our genders unequal, but love treasures every design.  
The world lets our colors divide us, but love makes the rainbow its sign.

The world harms with guns and with weapons, but love gives the captive release.  
The world often hungers for violence, but love always thirsts for our peace.  
*Refrain.*

The world shuns the immigrant’s hunger, but love feeds the poor refugee.  
The world argues, “They’re not my children,” but love says, “My child, come to me.”

*Refrain.* Our love can mend the world.

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## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

## GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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 #515

*This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*The Only Son From Heaven*

Tune from Enchiridion, Erfurt, 1524

setting by Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

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TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Andrew Schmidt, *euphonium*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

**Today's Children's Ministry Locations**

Infants & Toddlers

Childcare Room

Preschoolers

Little Angels Room

K/1<sup>st</sup> Graders

Science Room

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

Theater

4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Art Kitchen

**January 29: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell: *What Power We Have*

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

## Pastor's Message

### **Our Founding**

Our founders were, literally, pioneers. Yankees from New England and New York, they came to the frontier for many reasons: some as land speculators, some as merchants or industrialists. The early members of our church primarily came as idealists: preachers, professors, and visionaries who wished to bring the blessings of Christianity, education, and civilization to a rough and tumble frontier village. They left behind the comforts of Boston, then worked diligently to make Appleton a bit of Boston in Wisconsin. They were not a party crowd! No drinking, no cussing. Hard work and personal discipline shaped their lives and their church. They brought ideals of social justice and equality, and quickly came to embrace the cause of abolition. They were quite different from the present congregation in many regards, and perhaps too easily confused "being civilized" with "being faithful." But like us today, they were very mission-driven - by the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century they were deeply engaged with outreach to the working poor of the "Bloody" Fourth Ward, particularly its children. If we would like to think of our present-day congregation as adventuresome, we need to admit that we cannot hold a candle to those who first brought all their worldly goods to a remote wilderness to begin a new life and found a church.

### **The Move to South River Street**

The congregation had a problem. Their beloved building was in poor shape, inadequate for the life of the congregation, locked in by surrounding properties so that there was no way to expand or park cars. Add to this that the city planned to demolish it in the near future to build a new bridge. We had a great deal of identity invested in being a downtown, Big Steeple church. Make that THE downtown, big steeple church. But there were no lots available to build a new church downtown. Pride and vanity are powerful forces, and we were forced to come to terms with them.

It required a bold new vision! We would "leave the city" (many saw it in those terms) for, of all places, the bloody fourth ward! But the new vision, unusual in the mid-sixties, included working with the land - acquiring a ravine property but not engaging in the common practice of filling in the ravine. It included a bold architectural vision, reinterpreting the classic New England "meeting hall" design, where worshippers would see one another and therefore the presence of Christ in each person. It included trading in traditional stained glass for a visual gateway to God's creation.

There was resistance. There were battles. There were setbacks. There were compromises. But finally came the Sunday when worship began in the old Red Brick Church and ended in the new building (which did not yet have pews or an organ).

Yes, we have long been adventuresome and unafraid of the new. Although conservative in many ways, particularly in matters of finance, and understanding ourselves as prudent people, we have been willing to take great risks for the sake of Christ.

*Reverend John McFadden*



## 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.

**In addition, please let the office know if anyone's names should be changed or removed. Thanks for helping us keep this up-to-date.**

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  
Nicholas Breitzman  
Family of Clair Brown upon his death  
Breitzman family  
and multiple health challenges  
Don Brittnacher  
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother  
Dick Casperson  
Steve Chapin  
Lynn Cook  
Jessica, friend of Dick and Kathy DeVries  
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  
Family of Sharon Radke upon her death  
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  
Family of Dave Williamsen, upon his death

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# Listening Sessions

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## TODAY

"Trip Down Memory Lane"  
Childcare: *The Bee Movie*

## February 5 at 10:45 AM:

"Changes and Disappointments:  
What challenges shaped us and  
informed our journey?"  
Childcare Movie: *Cars*

## February 19 at 10:45 AM:

"What Are You Hoping For? What Do  
We Seek in a New Senior Leader?"  
Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

We had a wonderful time learning "What You Love About First Congregational Church" last Sunday, with 68 members in attendance! Please join us for the continuation of our Interim Curriculum's listening sessions. 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 [scarmell@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:scarmell@firstcongoappleton.org).

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# Youth and Families

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*Faith, fun and service*

## **TODAY: *The Bee Movie***

Childcare will be available during each listening session. Children will have the choice of a movie and popcorn in the Theater or playtime in the Childcare Room. Singers who go to Children's Choir can finish the movie with us  
11:30-12:00!

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# Worship and Music

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

## **We Will Have 2 Easter Services**

8:45 AM & 10:45 AM

## **Taize Services Continued!**

We are continuing to gather for Taize Services 6:00 – 6:30 PM in the Chapel. We will consider spiritual practices through scripture, prayer, silence and chant. This Thursday:  
*Coming Into God's Presence*

## **Come Serve in Music Ministry!**

Please join us by contacting John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*,  
[jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org)  
920-851-8097

### Sundays Rehearsals

Children's Choir & LU Music Scholars

### Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Handbells & Sanctuary Choir



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## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice*

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### 2023 Back Bay Mission Trip

The 2023 Back Bay Mission Trip is scheduled for March 26 - April 1. Please register with the church, [e-mail](#) or call 920-427-5996 Katie Janke. She will be available after worship service this Sunday to answer questions. The cost of the trip, \$250 per person, is due when we arrive on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There are additional costs for food and travel to get to Biloxi, Mississippi.

### Donations to Support Back Bay

We need donations for our auction! In commemoration of Back Bay Mission's 100th year of service on the Gulf coast, we are raising funds to stock their food pantry and build five tiny homes. Please drop off auction donations at the church office before February 19. **Gift baskets, individual items, gift or service certificates are appreciated donations.** Thank you for your support! Questions? [E-mail](#) or call 920-731-2620 Sheryl De Hart.

### Thank YOU From NOAHH

Thank you for being a contributing partner with NOAHH! As one of our twelve NOAHH partners, you made it possible for us to help *10 families* in 2022!



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## Administration

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Thank you for emailing articles you would like in the Open Door to [opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org). This new email address is already making a difference in our ability to organize requests.

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## Congregational Life

*Embracing God,  
welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves*

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### 2023 Spring Women's Retreat

Mark your calendar! We are excited to announce Julie Garber will again be our retreat leader at our **Spring Women's Retreat Friday, April 21, through Sunday, April 23, at Moon Beach!** Housing, rides, and the cost (\$170) will remain the same. More information and registration coming soon. In the meantime, [email Barb Uehling](#) or call 920-475-2212 with questions.

# First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

## Monday, January 23

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

**Fox Valley Flute Choir** - *Sanctuary*

## Tuesday, January 24

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**Strong Bodies** - *Fellowship Hall*

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

**Chrysalis** - *Chapel*

6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

**Church Council Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Living Sober AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

**Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

## Wednesday, January 25

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

**Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

**Youth Handbells** - *Amistad Room*

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

**Child Care** - *Toddler Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Middle School & High School Youth Groups** - *CYF*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Susan's Bible Study** - *Chapel*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Sanctuary Choir** - *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

## Thursday, January 26

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

**Strong Bodies** - *Fellowship Hall*

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

**AA - Search for Serenity Group** - *Common Grounds*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

**Taize Worship** - *Chapel*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

## Friday, January 27

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Bulletin Assembly** - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**AI-Anon** - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**NA** - *Common Grounds*

## Saturday, January 28

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

## Sunday, January 29

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**Worship, Children's Ministry, Childcare**

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

**Confirmation** - *Fellowship Hall*

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Economic Justice Book Study** - *Chapel*

# Taizé Prayer Service

with Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

6:00 - 6:30 PM in the Chapel



## SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHERN COMFORT FOOD BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 10:45AM

FUNDRAISER FOR BACK BAY MISSION

GUEST OF HONOR, REV. JAMES PENNINGTON

# Valentines on the Bridge

Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:30AM



**Children of All Ages:**

Come create Valentines right after the service.

Meet us on the bridge!



Led by Our Very Own Middle School Youth!

# **Listening Session – January 22, 2023**

## **Trip Down Memory Lane**

### **How Has our History Shaped Us as a Church?**

Members of First Congregational Church have been some of the founding families of Appleton, and some of the thought-leaders in the Fox Valley. From its beginning, First Congregational Church has been shaped by its close connections to Lawrence University. As a result, the congregation included civic leaders, faculty families and entrepreneurs. The church has been known for its intellectual fervor, its excellent worship and programs, and its worldview. Grounded in the traditions of our faith, our church has also been forward-thinking and committed to the welfare of all the people in the Fox Valley.

This is a church that takes seriously our faith in the Bible, our commitment as Christ's disciples and our aspiration of many decades, to serve other in the community and the wider world.

What are the things about the church's history that make you proud?

What do you appreciate most about the history of this congregation?

Are there things about the Church's history that you don't appreciate or think we can improve upon as we experience the present and look to the future?