

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

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM AA – Fellowship, Common Grounds

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, or Narthex. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

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.

Childcare is available in the summer for ALL infants – 7-year-olds. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

Communion is gluten free and served the first Sunday of each month. ALL are welcome to join us!

Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton: We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes 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.

Flowers: The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are in memory of loved ones from the Tatlock family. 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!



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 are available on Facebook: FCUCCAppleton or Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton.

Open Door Announcements can be shared by emailing opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org or calling the office.

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.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 6, 2023

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Here I Am, Lord

Text & tune by Daniel L. Schutte
Setting by Anne Marie David

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

"I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart."

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*OPENING HYMN #314

As We Gather at Your Table

BEACH SPRING

*OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Peggy O'Connor

We come to your table, O Lord.

We come hungry for your Word, and eager to be fed.

We come curious about life's questions and looking for wisdom.

We have partaken of the world's nourishment and found it wanting.

We seek something that will really satisfy us.

Meet us, Holy One, and feed us on the bread of life.

We pray all this in the name of Him whose very life was compared to bread for the world, Jesus Christ. 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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 5:17-26

Heidi Erstad

SERMON *"Take A Chance"*

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

You Walk along Our Shoreline

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo - ple of the earth.
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we cry the king - dom's name;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me.
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth.
 we work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain.

And if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
 We spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
 You call us, Lord, to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

then I will make you fish - ers but of the hu - man soul."
 our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
 to let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Based on Jesus' calling of the disciples (Matthew 4:18-22/Mark 1:16-20/Luke 5:4-11), this hymn notes that their mode of fishing involved nets requiring the participation of more than one person. Likewise, in our work of love and justice we are called to bear witness in community.

TEXT: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984
MUSIC: Johann Steurlein, 1575
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc.

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER HERR
7.7.6.D

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

Salvation is Created

Pavel Chesnokov
Arr. Jicha

Joel Jicha, *bass* John Aaholm, *percussion*

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to take your bread individually, and to hold your cup until we partake together.

INVITATION

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

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.)

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

Joel Richard Jude Jicha, *bass* John Aaholm, *percussion*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #316

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

LINSTEAD

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ (Linstead)

Jamaican folk tune
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

Joel Jicha and John Aaholm, *percussion*

Rev. Peggy O' Connor is our worship leader. She is married to Rev. Cartmell and has served on the communion team throughout the interim year.

Special thanks to Revs. Carol and Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder who served as co-pastors in the UCC Church in Oshkosh and now are members of First Congregational. They have assisted in serving communion since September, and we are grateful for their leadership.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Joel Richard Jude Jicha, *bass* John Aaholm, *percussion*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Sunday, August 13, 2023, Worship Service

Scripture Mark 5: 21-34

Sermon: "Healing Doesn't Hurry"

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

"All-Call" Summer Choir (8:30 a.m. rehearsal, open to ALL, see more info below)

"ALL-CALL" SUMMER CHOIR

All adults, youth & children are invited to sing God's praises in our "All - Call" Summer Choir on **Sunday morning, August 13!** We will gather at 8:30 a.m. in the

Sanctuary to rehearse an anthem and hymns for the 9:30 a.m.

service. Dress is comfortable and casual; all First

Congregational friends & members are welcome; this is an

intergenerational opportunity for you & your family to sing in choir together! And don't forget to bring your picnic lunch to stay for more

fellowship with the BYO picnic after worship that morning! To help with music planning, please let me know that you plan to participate by e-

mailing your contact information and voice-part to

jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or by calling my direct line at church, 920-851-8097.





Scattering Seeds in the Interim

There is a wonderful parable about a Sower in Matthew, Mark and Luke. Jesus tells us that a sower went out to sow, and he threw the seeds in wild abandon. Some of the seeds fell on the path where the birds ate them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground where there wasn't enough soil. Though they germinated, they did not last but withered in the sun. Some seeds fell among thorns where they were choked out. Some fell on good soil where they thrived and flourished.

Many artists have illustrated it, but I am partial to the painting done by Vincent Van Gogh. The lush sun, the fertile land, and the way he flings the seed really capture what Jesus was saying.



Parable of the Sower by Vincent Van Gogh

Interim pastors are a lot like Sowers. We make suggestions. We fling out our ideas. We try to prime the pump, sharing our perspectives and our fresh insights. When there is a good match between pastor and people, you'd be surprised what can happen. As I look back, I can see plenty of seeds we have planted together this year.

1. Church Council: People told me no one would serve on committees, and I thought it would be good to help recruit some new faces on several key committees, including Church Council. With the help of the Nominating Committee, we now have a full slate of Counsellors and new people serving.
2. Leaders told me they needed help with strategic planning. I ran a Church Council Workshop in February to talk about the church's mission and vision.
3. People told me that they never knew what was going on at the church. So, we started a monthly newsletter.

4. With the help of Sarah Wilterdink, we organized and updated the bulletin boards in the Narthex, prioritizing the work of our church so you can find information easily.
5. With the Program Staff and Pastors, we made Wednesday evening a second gathering time, prioritizing music rehearsals, youth groups and adult education.
6. Coming back from COVID we began to have Coffee Hours again, asking different church leaders and volunteers to organize them. Now people stay talking together each week.
7. I suggested we review the library collection and freshen it up so people use it. The Library Committee really got to work, reviewing books, re-cataloging, eliminating older books. Now, things are easier to find and more appealing.
8. I invited Pastor Nick to move his office up into the clergy suite to facilitate communication.
9. Along with Mary Jo, we took an interest in our banners and found some for Lent, but then I also ordered some new banners for the season after Pentecost, to add color and important symbols to the sanctuary.
10. Peggy and I enjoyed leading a Bible study group together, and hope that some of what we talked about has provided a scattering of new ideas about scripture.
11. I believe that I should work to encourage people to join the church in every congregation I serve. So, I am proud that 32 new adult members and their 12 children have so much faith in First Congregation that they are willing to join in an interim. Let's hope the seeds of faith in them continue to bear lots of fruit in our congregation.
12. With Peggy, we re-imagined Pentecost, based on a drama she wrote, and then we decided to have Kringles for Coffee Hour, an indication of how fully we'd acclimated to Wisconsin. Who knows, maybe Pentecost will also become Kringle Sunday in this church?

The truth is we don't know if any of these ideas will take on a life of their own. We don't know which things will last. Nobody does. But I want you to know how much we've accomplished together this year. And I want you to know how much I believe in the future of this church. It's been a great pleasure to scatter some seeds with you.

Blessings, 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
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Rocky Martin's mother, Sylvia King
Don Brittnacher	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Dick Casperson	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Beth Detienne's mother	Gretchen Revie
Jim Edwards	Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Larry Schiedermayer
Beck Fritsche	Frank and Pat Severin
David Galow	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Paul Siket
Ken Geiger	Mark Spindler
Margaret Hankwitz	Debra Stoner
Judy Hanson	Kinsley Tarr
JoAnn Helms	Gloria Tate
Misty Hofman	Jack Thiel
Nephew of Phil & Mary Hornseth,	Peter Thiel
Eric Montross	James Totzke
Carol Huddleston and family	Jean Van Wagenin
Jean Jepson	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Ray Johnson	Michael Weaver
	Diane White

The Open Door Announcements

Mission and Service

Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice

Back Bay Mission Trip 2024

First Congregational will be sending a group to Back Bay Mission April 7 - 13, 2024. If you are interested in helping the homeless at the Micah Day Center, those dealing with food insecurity at the food pantry, providing breakfast and lunch for the homeless at Loaves and Fishes, or repairing homes in the Biloxi, Mississippi area, now is the time to start thinking about joining our group to Back Bay Mission. Back Bay Mission has a Mission House for people to stay while on this trip. Please contact Ken Jahnke, Mission and Outreach Back Bay Mission at kjahnke@new.rr.com or 920-427-5996.



Habitat Faith Build 2023

First Congregational is participating in the annual Fox Cities Habitat Faith Build. The build location is at 530 North Locust Street in Appleton. Our workday is Thursday, September 28, 2023. We will be installing wall rock and will need eight construction volunteers, a site host to greet and sign in the volunteers and volunteers to provide the noon meal for the workers. Please contact Tim DeHart, Mission and Outreach Habitat representative, tdehart@new.rr.com or 920-731-2620.



Walk in Our Shoes



Jointly Sponsored by Memorial

Presbyterian Church, First Congregation United Church of Christ, and ESTHER.

Saturday, October 7, 2023:

Refreshments will be served starting at 8:30AM, the event starts promptly at 9:00AM and ends by 12:00PM at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 803 E. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911.

The *Walk in Our Shoes* Latino simulation experience is designed to help participants understand what it's like to live as a Latino in our community. It is a simulation, not a game. The object is to focus and sensitize participants to the realities faced by area Latinos. In the simulation, up to 30 participants assume the roles of up to 26 Latino individuals. The experience lasts approximately three hours. It includes an introduction and briefing, the actual simulation exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and volunteer staffers share their reactions and experiences.

Registration deadline is September 15, 2023. To register:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0448A8A829A6FB6-walk>

Visit the FCUCC Facebook page for complete details on this event.

Turtle Trek Fund-Raiser

First Congregational is sponsoring its third Turtle Trek Challenge, a fund-raiser to help support Oglala Lakota families on the Pine Ridge reservation through our mission partner, Re-Member.



The Turtle Trek Challenge is not a race; there's no registration fee; and you don't necessarily have to train to pull it off. If you take up the challenge, you commit to covering 100 miles over a 10-week period (August 27-November 5).

Trekkers will need to find sponsors willing to pay a per mile pledge.

Trekkers can walk, jog, saunter, rollerblade, push a stroller or a wheelbarrow as long as they keep to their pledge to move overland a total of 100 miles by ten weeks' end.



For more information, please see the August Wide Open Door or contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu; 920-735-0166.

The Community Living Room

Community Room, August 9 from 5:00 - 8:00PM First Congregational U.C.C., 724 E South River St, Appleton. Presented in cooperation with Ebb & Flow Connections Cooperative and First Congregational United Church of Christ of Appleton. The Community Living Room is a non-clinical, person-centered environment for people seeking social connection and emotional support.



Women's Retreat Gathering

Join us on at 10:00AM on Thursday, August 10 in the church lounge as we gather to

- remember retreats we have attended and tell stories,
- share with other attendees about how and why we feel retreats are beneficial,
- enjoy some lemonade and cookies.



Feel free to contact Barb Uehling or Pastor Mary Jo with any questions and to RSVP. Hope to see you there!

DATE CHANGE: Economic Justice Work Group Starting in the Fall



Plans are underway to form an Economic Justice Work Group in the fall. The group will be led by Dr. Montgomery (Monk) Elmer. Join us on this journey of advocating for systemic change. Mark your calendar for an informational meeting after the worship service on **September 24, 2023, 10:45 - 11:45AM** in the Upper Lounge.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, August 7

3:00 – 5:30PM

5:30 – 7:00PM

IPAC Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
Facilities Ministry Area – *Upper Lounge*

Tuesday, August 8

10:00 – 11:00AM

12:00 – 1:00PM

1:00 – 4:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:45 – 8:45PM

Bible for Dummies – *Upper Lounge*
Pastor Susan's Going Away Potluck – *Upper Lounge*
Library Committee – *Library*
Wild Women of First Congo – *Stone Arch Brewpub*
Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*
Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 9

10:30 – 11:30AM

12:15 – 1:00PM

5:00 – 8:00PM

5:30 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

Congregational Life/Outreach Ministries – *Library*
Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*
ESTHER Community Livingroom – *Common Grounds*
Circle of Prayer – *Labyrinth Garden*
MS & HS Youth – *Axe Throwing at Appleton Axe*

Thursday, August 10

10:00 – 11:00AM

12:00 – 1:00PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Women's Retreat Gathering – *Upper Lounge*
AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*
Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 11

5:00 – 7:00PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Women's self-defense class – *Fellowship Hall*
Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, August 12

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, August 13

9:30 – 10:30AM

9:30 – 10:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

6:00 – 8:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*
Sunday Worship – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*
Praise, Play, & Picnics – *Outside CYF side/ Nursery/Art kitchen*
Al Anon – *Chapel*
First Things First AA Meeting – *Commons Grounds*

