

**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 ~ AUGUST 13, 2023**

9:30 – 10:30AM “All – Call” Summer Choir sings; Childcare – *Childcare Room*  
10:30 – 11:30AM “Bring-Your-Own-Picnic” Picnic – *front lawn of the church*  
6:00 – 8:30PM AI Anon – *Chapel*  
6:00 – 8:00 PM First Things First AA Meeting – *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. \*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

**Flowers:** Today’s flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

*~The yellow roses in the Sanctuary this morning are in memory of loved ones from the Tatlock family.*

*~The flower arrangement is donated in loving memory of Jean Wegner by her daughters; Kathy, Julie, Martha, Susan and Liz, her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and husband Charles.*

**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](mailto: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 13, 2023

Fourth 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

*Balm in Gilead*

African American Spiritual  
Setting by Robert J. Powell

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

## WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

*\*Please rise in body or Spirit*

## \*OPENING HYMN #111

*When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

## \*OPENING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

**We come before you, O God, in confusing times.**

**We try to live predictable lives, but change is often in the air, confounding us.**

**We try to plan things, but life throws us some curve balls.**

**We do our best, but sometimes that is not enough.**

**We believe in peace, but our culture is more and more violent.**

**We take food and shelter for granted but discover others cannot.**

**We want life to be fair, but the rules of this life seem to be in flux.**

**And so, we come to seek your wisdom.**

**Meet us in this hour, Holy One, and hold us, as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us...**

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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

## ANTHEM

*Morning Has Broken*

Trad. Gaelic melody  
Arr. John Leavitt

Summer Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 5: 21-34

Susan McFadden

SERMON

"Healing Doesn't Hurry"

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

HYMN

Immortal Love, Forever Full

SERENITY C.M.

Text by John Greenleaf Whittier

St. 1 - Choir St. 2 - 6, ALL

# Immortal Love, Forever Full

# 166

John Greenleaf Whittier, 1867; alt.

Phil. 2:9-11; Rom. 10:6-7; Mark 5:25-29

1 Im - mor - tal Love, for - ev - er full, for - ev - er flow - ing free,  
 2 Our out - ward lips con - fess the Name all oth - er names a - bove;  
 3 We may not climb the heav - en - ly steep - s to bring the Sov - ereign down;  
 4 But warm, sweet, ten - der, ev - en yet this One our help will be;

For - ev - er shared, for - ev - er whole, a nev - er - ebb - ing sea!  
 Love on - ly knows from where it came and com - pre - hends God's love.  
 In vain we search the low - est deeps for One no depths can drown.  
 For faith has still its Ol - i - vet, and love its Gal - i - lee.

5 The heal - ing of Christ's seam - less dress  
 still soothes our beds of pain;  
 We touch it in life's throng and press,  
 and we are whole a - gain.

6 Through Christ our ear - liest prayers  
 are said  
 with words we scarce can frame;  
 The last low whis - pers of our dead  
 still ech - o with Christ's name.

*Though the American poet John Greenleaf Whittier did not write hymnody as such, a number of hymns have been drawn from his devotional poetry. This hymn was selected from The Tent on the Beach and Other Poems.*

Tune: SERENITY C.M.  
 Arr. from William V. Wallace, 1856  
 Alternate tune: BEATITUDO

OFFERING

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

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

*Trio in B-flat, Op. 49 No. 10*

Josef Rheinberger (1839-1901)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

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.)

\*HYMN #83

*God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years*

SANDON

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Laudes Domini (When Morning Gilds the Skies)*

Tune by Joseph Barnby  
Setting by Robert Lind

We will bring all children TO YOU outside the front doors after the service. We will meet you by the refreshments table and will hold the picnic/gathering on the FRONT LAWN OF CHURCH, instead of on the CYF side of the building.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Summer Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

**Sunday, August 20, 2023**

Sermon on Luke 5:1-11, "Deep Waters" Rev. Dr. Cartmell

Musicians: Zach Harmon, *piano*; John Toussaint, *trumpet*; Noah Harmon, *percussion*;

Fred Vepel, *bass*; Hillary Reynolds, *vocals and piano*



When I considered taking this assignment as your interim Senior Pastor, I was hoping that we would connect. I was hoping that you would not think of me as someone who came from outside. I was hoping you would see that there was more to me than just where I came from.

When we finally decided to move here, we were led by our sense of adventure, and that has served us well. We knew not to postpone the things we wanted to do and the trips to the places we wanted to see. So, we have tried electric scooters in Sheboygan, toured the capital in Madison, visited Milwaukee's Art Museum, Frank Lloyd Wright's Burnham Block, and the Black Holocaust Museum, took in the Rodin at The Paine and the Sistine Chapel Exhibit in Green Bay, got season tickets to the Fox Valley Symphony, joined the History Museum and the Trout, and made the Farmer's Market a staple of our weekends. As we tried to immerse ourselves in the culture here, we found joy in it.

We also learned a lot about ourselves.

- Both Peggy and I have been heartened by how much we appreciated your hospitality and the gracious way it pervades life here. We have been welcomed to your tables in a way that was both humbling and truly gratifying.
- There has been a keen sense of coming home this year. While I grew up in the Midwest, it has been over 40 years since I lived in this region of the country. My values and chattiness make sense here. Not long ago I mentioned that I went to Camp Miniwanca and several of you told me you went there too, back in the day. It meant a lot to know that.
- Perhaps the biggest lesson I have learned is that all those things we think define us melt away when we allow ourselves to be human together, and to journey on the same path for a while. At our core, we all have so much in common, things that have nothing to do with where we live.

There is a column in the Sunday New York Times called Modern Love. Last Sunday it was written by a physician, Istaiq Mian. He went to medical school in Madison where he met his wife, Jillian. Istaiq was born in Bangladesh to a Muslim family but grew up in a small town in Wisconsin where his parents had immigrated. Jillian was raised in Oshkosh, the child of evangelical Christians. When Istaiq and Jillian fell in love as young physicians, somehow, they found a way to transcend all that divided them. Their young family is a testament to the ways that God often delights in our differences and sees our common cords before we do.

Trusting our hearts, if we are lucky, we learn to have faith in the common humanity and core goodness in everyone we meet. I imagine coming to Appleton will be a gift that keeps on giving.

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  
 Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara  
 Don Brittnacher  
 Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober  
 Dick Casperson  
 Beth Detienne's mother  
 Jim Edwards  
 Heidi Mendonca Erstad  
 Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family  
 Beck Fritsche  
 David Galow  
 Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken  
 Ken Geiger  
 Margaret Hankwitz  
 Judy Hanson  
 JoAnn Helms  
 Shirley Hoft  
 Misty Hofman  
 Nephew of Phil & Mary Hornseth,  
     Eric Montross  
 Jean Jepson  
 Ray Johnson  
 Kathy Lannoye  
 Rocky Martin's mother, Sylvia King

McClory family as their son Bobby recovers  
     from surgery  
 Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart  
 Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer  
 Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald  
 Anne Planner's brother, Bill Planner  
 Gretchen Revie  
 Doug Robertson  
 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  
 Kinsley Tarr  
 Gloria Tate  
 Jack Thiel  
 Peter Thiel  
 James Totzke  
 Jean Van Wagenin  
 Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya  
 Diane White



### Flower Donations

To donate flowers for the Sanctuary in honor, memory, or celebration of a loved one, please call (920-733-7393) or email ([info@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:info@firstcongoappleton.org)) the church office. Requests for color or specific types of flowers are welcome. It is also possible to arrange for an annual dedication.

# The Open Door Announcements

## Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others, knowing ourselves*

**JOIN US!** On Sunday, August 20 for Pastor Susan's final service followed by a special coffee hour as we thank her for



her ministry here with us at First Congregational! Cards for Pastor Susan can be dropped off in the box in the narthex.

## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice*

### Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand (NOAHH)

We have new requests for the following: These are the needs for a mom reunifying with her daughter:

- Highchair
- Changing mat
- Sippie cups
- Toys for a one-year-old
- Clothes for a one-year-old
- Books
- Puzzles
- Blankets
- Diapers/wipes
- Baby gate
- Stroller
- Rocking chair



Thank you, Sue Ahrens, 561-531-3211

## 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.



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

## 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](mailto:tdehart@new.rr.com) or 920-731-2620.



# Come to Green Lake!

## Register now for the Fall 2023 Women's Retreat!

October 27-29, 2023



This year our fall retreat will be at Daychola Center, formerly Pilgrim Center, on Green Lake.

It is now time to register and pay for the fall retreat. Enjoy the friendship and fellowship of First Congo women in the beautiful setting at Daychola Center. The retreat runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Pictures and more information about Daycholah Center are available at [UCCI.org](http://UCCI.org), our Wisconsin Conference camps' website.

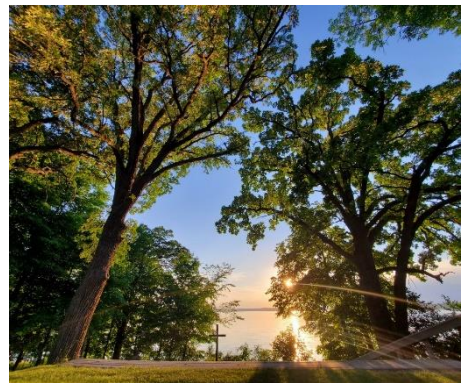
I am excited to announce our leader will be Rev. Nancy Zorn Micke, retired. She has led many retreats, including past statewide Wild Women retreats. I am so excited she will be joining us! And Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Pastor, will be there.

Our retreat inspires conversation and builds relationships among those who attend. Newcomers and women who have not been at a retreat before are also warmly welcomed to join this circle of companionship.

Register and pay soon through Realm to ensure your spot. The cost is \$170 (same as last year) and includes Friday dinner, 3 meals on Saturday, Sunday brunch and housing for 2 nights. We need a minimum number of participants for this retreat. I am sure we will do more than meet it!

Watch for an emailed questionnaire in late September as we will be gathering additional information from you regarding the following:

- Food allergies/preferences
- Medical needs
- Preferences for accommodations / limitations
- Pronoun preferences
- We will ask if you can drive. If you prefer not to drive, we will arrange a ride for you.



If you find you need to cancel, refunds will be provided based on circumstances and the date of cancellation. Barb will handle requests.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling at [buehling@gmail.com](mailto:buehling@gmail.com) or 920-475-2212.



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SEP. 17**

# RALLY SUNDAY

**Worship at 9:30 AM**

**Brunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall  
Children, Youth, and Families Ministry Begins!**

- Activity Guides will be available
- Church Tours
- Children's Table
- Blessing of the Backpacks



## This Week's Schedule

### Monday, August 14

4:00 – 7:00PM

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

### Tuesday, August 15

10:00 – 11:00AM

Bible for Dummies – *Upper Lounge*

12:00 – 1:00PM

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

1:00 – 4:00PM

Library Committee – *Library*

6:30 – 8:00PM

Safety Committee – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Congregational Life – *Library*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

7:45 – 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, August 16

12:15 – 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

2:00 – 3:00PM

Peabody/Heritage Worship – *Peabody Chapel*

5:30 – 6:00PM

Circle of Prayer – *Labyrinth Garden*

### Thursday, August 17

11:00AM – 12:30PM

Finance Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

12:00 – 1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

12:00 – 1:30PM

Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House*

6:30 – 8:00PM

Family/Friends Mental Illness Support Group – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

### Friday, August 18

7:00 – 8:30PM

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge* / N.A. – *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, August 19

4:00 – 5:00PM

Baptism – *Memorial Garden*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

### Sunday, August 20

9:25 – 10:30AM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Sunday Worship – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

5:30 – 6:30PM

Alateen Planning Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:00 – 8:30PM

AL ANON – *Chapel*

7:00 – 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds*

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**  
Monday – Friday 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM