

First Congregational UCC

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 20, 2023

9:30 – 10:30AM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
5:30 – 6:30PM Alateen Planning Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
6:00 – 8:30PM AI Anon – *Chapel*
7:00 – 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.

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 20, 2023

Twelfth 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 and Outreach

PRELUDE

Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child

Trad. Spiritual
Arr. Harmon's

John Toussaint, *flugel horn*; Zach Harmon, *piano*;
Noah Harmon, *drums*; Fred Vepel, *bass*

WELCOME

Greetings from the Rev. Jane Anderson, Associate Conference Minister,
Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

**Please rise in body or Spirit*

*OPENING HYMN #7

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

*UNISON PRAYER

Rev. Peggy O'Connor

**In days of quiet, at the end of summer, we seek your peace, O God.
In times of fun and family gatherings we feel your gentle hand on our hearts.
In moments of change at the edge of a new school year we seek your steady hand.
In days of transition when we have more questions than answers, we gather to
ask for your assurance.
As we face into the future, remind us that you see more than we can imagine.
Your hand is ever on the rudder, and you know the way. Hold our lives, our
hopes and our dreams. Hold our church in this tender time. We pray all this in
Christ's name and with His words we say...**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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

SOLO

What Faith Is

Hillary Reynolds, *vocals and piano*

Hillary Reynolds

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Peggy O'Connor

(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

The Desert and the Parched Land

Dave Brubeck

John Toussaint, *trumpet* Zach Harmon, *piano*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

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 #80

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I've Got a Robe

Trad. Spiritual
Arr. Harmons

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

John Toussaint, *trumpet & flugel horn*; Zach Harmon, *piano*;

Noah Harmon, *drums*; Fred Velpel, *bass*

Hillary Reynolds, *vocals and piano*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

JOIN US! After worship for a special coffee hour for Pastor Susan as we thank her for her ministry here with us at First Congregational!

Sunday, Aug. 27, Worship Service

Scripture: Matthew 16:13-20 "The Things People Say" Derek Elkins, Preaching

Musicians: Dr. Stephen Ackert, *guest organist*;

Jen, Meredith, Hazel & Veronica, *Plamann/Kosloski Family Singers*

August 20, 2023

Pastor's Pen

Some Summer Thoughts

On my day off last week, we went kayaking at Cave Point in Door County. There, I met a family from Sioux Falls. The parents told me they loved Door County and had grown up going there for vacation. In those days, they said that it felt much more remote, because there was no cell phone coverage in Jackson Port. So, they gave up using their phones for two weeks.

Then they surprised me by saying how much they loved it. The dad said that he thought he was so important he would be missed at the office, but instead he discovered that everyone survived. In fact, they all loved the peace of fewer distractions. There was something so refreshing about being off-line.

These days when we go on vacation not many of us lose our phone signals. I once got a call from my church while hiking in a box canyon in Arizona. I could have been on an ad for Verizon, which was my carrier at the time, because I had a conversation from Boston that was clear as a bell.

But the truth I think is this family from Sioux Falls are onto something. Sometimes we all need to treat ourselves to a break from being on call 24/7. Sometimes we need to be totally away and totally relaxed.

But multi-tasking is second nature to us, now. Even though research says we are just jumping from thing to another; no one can multi-task. I also learned that this is not a new problem. Multi-tasking has been around for a long time. Apparently, the Hindu mystic Patanjali, someone who was a thought leader 2000 years ago, was fighting the temptation in India. He said it was a core discipline to try to do one thing at a time. {Check out: "Today's Superpower is Doing One Thing at a Time" by Oliver Burkeman, *Sunday New York Times*. July 30, 2023}

I'm a slow learner in the Do One Thing at A Time Department. But I will savor some wonderful memories of Wisconsin where the pace of life is, in fact, a bit slower. Peggy and I have enjoyed so many long dinners where we just talked for hours with some of you. With your encouragement, we have discovered a different pace of life. The beauty of hiking trails and clear lakes helped me to slow down. This week we rented a canoe on the Wolf River for a long slow luxurious ride. Barely paddling, we drifted on the current for five miles. I kept wishing we could stretch that morning on and on, for as long as possible. We barely spoke and the solitude, as we drifted, felt like prayer. I hope to take the memory of that river with me for a long time. I'll keep trying on this new discipline of just doing one thing at a time.

As this interim ministry draws to a close, I hope you find the blessings of prayer, and know a life rich in faith. It has been an honor to journey here with you these twelve months.

Blessings, Pastor Susan

Contact information after 8/20/23 - cartmellism@gmail.com.



Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community

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
 Nancy Kandler

John Koeller, for recovery
 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
 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) 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*



Check it out!
**Church
Library
Remodel**

Church Library Grand Reopening!

Come check out the church library on Sunday, September 10 after the service. See the updates we've made and the new materials available during our Open House.

Join our NAMI Walk

On Saturday, October 14, 9:00 - 11:00AM, the Faith, Hope and Love team from FCUCC are looking for more members to join us on our walk to support the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of the Fox Valley. It's a 5K with a great group of people and we're raising money to support the wonderful programs offered by NAMI to help those who live with mental health conditions. If you can't walk with us, please consider a donation to help support the cause. Use this link to either donate or join us on the walk <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1374> Remember our team name - Faith, Hope and Love. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.



Mental Health Task Force Fall Book Study

When do you learn that "normal" doesn't include lots of yelling, lots of sleeping, lots of beating? In "Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church", UCC pastor Sarah Griffith Lund looks back at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of déjà vu as her brother and cousin endure mental illness, as well. The Mental Health Task Force is hosting a book study this fall on Wednesdays, September 6 - October 11, 6:30 - 8:00PM. Please join us as we learn more about how families experience mental illness. [Register on Realm](#) or call the church office. Read the first chapter before the class starts. Order the book online at Barnes and Noble <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/blessed-are-the-crazy-sarah-griffith-lund/1120018298?ean=9780827202993> or Chalice Press <https://chalicepress.com/products/blessed-are-the-crazy> For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.



Chrysalis Fall Book Study

Chrysalis will begin meeting again on Tuesday, September 5 at 1:00PM in the Upper Lounge. This fall we'll be studying *New Testament Women in the Bible for Progressive Christians* by Donald Schmidt. Books will be available on September 5 for \$12.50 each. For more information email trishbrehm@yahoo.com.



Worship and Music

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

Thank you, Summer Choir! Fall Music Start Dates!



Thank you to the 25 enthusiastic singers who formed our "All-Call" Summer Choir in August 13 worship. . . well done!

Our fall program year begins soon, and all are welcome to be part of our ministry through music. Your registrations for Children and Youth can be completed with your CYF

registration on-line. Adults can register via e-mail, phone, or in person to John at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or 920-851-8097.

Start dates for our core groups are:

Sanctuary Choir: Wednesday,
September 13, 7:00PM

LU Music Scholars: Wednesday,
September 13, 7:00PM; First Sunday
evening rehearsal on September 17 at
5:30PM

Youth Handbells: Wednesday,
September 20, 5:45PM

Children's Choir: Sunday, October 1,
10:45 - 11:30AM (Plans for a Spring
Musical are in the works, too!)

Church Family Handbells: Sunday,
October 22, 10:30AM

We hope you & yours can serve in
ministry through music! Feel free to
contact John or Nathan, our organist,
with any questions, too.

Thank you... and Be Blessed!
John Albrecht, Director for Music
Ministries

Children & Youth

Faith, fun, and service

2023-24 CYF and Music Registration Available Online

Get set for Rally Sunday on Sunday
September 17, 2023. We will have
Blessing of the Backpacks during

worship, CYF Ministry begins, and a brunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall. A few important pieces of information:

- All children and youth who will be participating in any of our ministries need completed registration. If you're able to, **please register using [REALM](#)**. If you have more than one child and want to complete paperwork instead of registering on REALM, you can put everyone's info on the same sheet, print more copies from our website, or ask the office staff to send you more forms.

- There is a *New Families CYF Orientation* on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30PM. All families are welcome, but those who attended a CYF Orientation in a previous year may not find it necessary to attend again, as we'll go over our objectives, schedules, etc. Childcare will be provided for infants - 5th graders.

- There are SO MANY ways to be updated about CYF and Music happenings. Our monthly CYF e-newsletters provide overviews and information. Joining our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as taking two minutes to sign up for our "classes" in the *Remind* app are all ways you can hear what is coming and see what we've been up to!



The Church and Ministry
Team of The Northeast
Association
of the Wisconsin
Conference, United
Church of Christ

Invites all members, friends and clergy
of the NEA Congregations to the
Installation of
Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides



as pastor and teacher at
**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
110 E. Hancock Street
New London, WI 54961-1827
(920-982-3731)

Sunday, September 10, 2023 at 9:00AM

Clergy are invited to robe with red or rainbow stoles. Refreshments will also be served after the service.

*An offering will be received for the
Wisconsin Conference Seminarian Fund.*

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 or 920-731-2620. Please take a look at the Habitat for Humanity information on the bulletin board across from the elevator. Thank you to Sheryl DeHart for the colorful display.

Come to Green Lake! Register now for the Fall 2023 Women's Retreat!

October 27-29, 2023

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. 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. Full details can be found in the August Wide Open Door Monthly newsletter, or if you have any questions, please contact Chris Calhoun at (920) 993-1446 or ChristineCalhoun902@gmail.com.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, August 21

4:00 – 6:00PM

Outreach Ministry – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

6:00 – 7:30PM

Kenya Partnership – *Upper Lounge*

Tuesday, August 22

10:00 – 11:00AM

Bible for Dummies – *Upper Lounge*

12:00 – 1:00PM

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

1:00 – 4:00PM

Library Committee – *Library*

3:00 – 5:30PM

Outreach Ministry Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 8:30PM

Church Council Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

7:45 – 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 23

12:15 – 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

5:30 – 6:00PM

Circle of Prayer – *Labyrinth Garden*

Thursday, August 24

12:00 – 1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Fellowship Team

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 25

7:00 – 8:30PM

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

Saturday, August 26

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, August 27

9:30 – 10:30AM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Sunday Worship – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

10-Week Turtle Trek begins

10:45 – 11:45AM

Walk and Talk Sundays – *Parking Lot*

6:00 – 8:30PM

AL ANON – *Chapel*

7:00 – 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting – *Commons Grounds*

