

Welcome, Visitors!

Information about our church and ministries is available on the Welcome Table near the main doors. Standing nearby are church members who will be happy to answer your questions. Interested in joining the church? Our next Membership Exploration will be February 10, 2018.

For the convenience of those who need to leave the Sanctuary during worship, the service is video broadcast in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Nursery.

Large-print bulletins are available. Please ask the ushers for a copy.

Children in Worship

Child care for infants and toddlers is available in the Children, Youth and Family Center. The Family Worship Area is open during service for children ages 3-10.

Sensory Boxes

First Congregational offers Sensory Boxes for any of our friends on the autism spectrum – adult or child. These boxes are filled with “fidgets” galore, headphones and much more. Please let us know if you or a loved one needs one of these tools.

Donating to First Congregational UCC

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. We encourage members and friends of First Congregational to assist us in planning our budget by pledging each year. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time.

Online Streaming and Podcasting Now Available!

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible from www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons. To subscribe to a podcast of the sermon audio, please visit www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons/feed and choose an option. Videos are also accessible through our YouTube channel at www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube.

WATCH LIVE: You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on YouTube at www.firstcongoappleton.org/youtube or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/1stCongo.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website. Visit www.firstcongoappleton.org/read-it-here to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more.

January 7 Highlights at First Congregational

	Teachers Needed!	p. 11
	A/V and Technology Volunteers Needed	p. 11
February 3	Church Leadership Retreat	
February 10	Membership Exploration Class	p. 10
February 25	Vocal Duet Recital	p. 11

Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Communion

We celebrate communion the first Sunday of each month. Our communion elements are gluten-free; however, they are made in a facility that also processes wheat products.

Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sundays are February 11, March 18, April 22, and May 13.

If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism. Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, January 26	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Phyllis Wallis, Judy Hinden	
Sunday, January 28	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Kevin Clavers	Sara Woodford
Bridge Greeters	Mary and Mya Ballerstein	
Welcome Desk	Carolyn Frederick	Carolyn Frederick
Lay Readers	Fred Pahl	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Tim Hanna	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Sue Mauthe
Counters, January 29	Sue Wisneski	

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2018

8:45 and 10:30 AM

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

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Vivaldi

Jann Kostecke, *flute* Natalie Erstad, *bassoon* Bea McManus, *cello* Jon Riehle, *harpsichord*

(Please sign the registration form on the end of the pew, pass it down the row, and then return it, that all may know the names of those sharing in worship today. Prayer request cards are collected at the ends of the pews as well.)

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

YOUTH PRAYER

WELCOME AND GREETING

MISSION MOMENT *Re-Member Pine Ridge Mission Trip*

Eilene Hoft-March

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Bill Ritcey

CHORAL INTROIT

Sing to the Lord God

G. Pergolesi
arr. M. Burkhardt

Children's Choir with flute, bassoon, and harpsichord

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is God's world! To us is given a vision of nations and races, lands and people, joined together in love.

People: Praise be to God, the Creator, in whose image we are created.

Leader: We come to celebrate and renew the vision, opening ourselves to the One who is its source and its living fire.

People: We affirm in Christ that we can be, and are, one world and one family, working together to manifest God's loving rule in the lives of all people!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see bulletin p. 6)**

I want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

St. 1 – Children’s Choir **St. 2 & 3 - ALL**

***INVOCATION (Please join hands or link arms)**

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, for ever. Amen.**

CHILDREN’S SERMON (8:45 service)

(During the hymn, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children’s Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School at the 8:45 AM service. At the 10:30 AM service, children may go to the Family Worship Area or remain in the pews to worship with their families.)

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #327

I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

WATERLIFE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Psalms 111

H. Schuetz

LU Music Scholars

***DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-21 (NT p. 114)

MEDITATION

“Nicodemus at Night”

Rev. Steve Savides

ANTHEM

God So Loved the World

J. Stainer

*UNISON AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We confess our faith in Jesus Christ:
Companion of the lonely,
Binder of wounds,
Seeker of lost souls,
Friend of the poor,
Source of love and strength,
Forgiver of sins,
Voice of the voiceless,
Counselor of the confused
Shelter from the storm,
Rescuer of our spirits.
We in our ways worship and adore you. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin p. 7)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

WAREHAM

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Pastorale (Super Gamut Descendens)

John Stainer

*The Congregation Standing

The Musicians:

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Jann Kostecke, *flute*; Natalie Erstad, *bassoon*; Bea McManus, *cello*

Children’s Choir, 2017-18: Mya Ballerstein, Gina Bellin, Henry Clothier, Avery

Gentile, Celia Gentile, Kellan Glenn, Nevan Glenn, Alyse Hilscher, Logan

LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Jacqueline Mukome, Hazel Plamann, Meredith

Plamann, Veronica Plamann, Hannah Vance; John Albrecht, *director*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

February 4, 2018

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8:45 and 10:30 AM

“The Woman at the Well”

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Scripture readings: John 4:1-42

Music: 8:45 AM: LU Music Scholars

10:30 AM: Sanctuary Choir

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, February 2	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, February 4	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Mike and Gretchen Breitzman	Todd and Christine Williams
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Jerry Dees	Janet Scheibe
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm
Counters, February 5		

Church School Schedule– 8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms after worship today.

Kindergarten/1st Grade	East Conference Room	4th Grade	Computer Lab
2nd Grade	Theater	5th/6th Grades	Art/Kitchen
3rd Grade	Scripture Tent		





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.

**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.**

ALL who are affected by violence
Marla Anderson and Michael Killoren,
mourning the death of Marla's
mother
David Adams and family
Debbie Adams' brother Jim
Jill Anthony's neighbors, John and Katie
Jill Anthony's sister and brother-in-law
Katie Behl
Arlene Beyer
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade
Dena Collier
Rick Detienne's brother Tom
Jim and Rachel Edwards
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Evelyn Gelbke
Janice Gerlach
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Mary Guenther
Maggie Hendrick
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Nancy Jones, mother of Linda Jones
Pierron
Our Kenyan partners and students
Eunice Klemp
Joy Kubiak
Dianne Lang

Lisa Malone
Gabe and Dana Mattingly, mourning the death of
Gabe's dad
Carrie McClory, daughter of Brenda & Phil
Gabrielson
Our country's military around the world
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in-law
Ellie Olson
T. J. Ott, brother of Tom Ott
Families and children of Palestine, those who
work for peace in challenging times
Evelyn Platt, Todd Platt's mother
Paula Chandler's son-in-law, Tim Radtke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Cindi Ritcey Fox's granddaughter, Brytni
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Margaret Schomisch
Jim Schwantes
Kathy Smudde, sister of Lyle Van De Hey and Janice
Schmitz
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
Carol Voskuil, sister-in-law of Mary and Jerry
Dees
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
The Wittwer Family

THE OPEN DOOR

January 28, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 4

Pastor's Message

Dignity and Respect/Appleton

It was my privilege to attend Appleton's kick-off last Tuesday night of the Dignity and Respect Campaign. Appleton is the 101st U.S. city to embrace this campaign, seeking to spread a new and inclusive spirit in our community. As they told us, *"Every day we have the opportunity to test our commitment to dignity and respect through our behavior."*

There were about a hundred of us gathered – it seemed like about a third of those present were from First Congo. (How proud did that make me feel?) The effort was spearheaded out of the Mayor's office and our city's Diversity and Inclusion Coordinator. On this church's behalf, I was invited to be one of the first twenty or so community leaders to sign the pledge, to promise to live out my own commitment to Dignity and Respect. You're going to be hearing a lot more about the campaign both from me and from other leaders in the community. You're going to be challenged to make your own pledge.

For now, consider what a change it would make if everyone in our community lived out such a commitment. To learn more about the campaign, go to dignityandrespect.org/Appleton. Maybe you're already prepared to take the pledge!

Your friend and fellow minister,

Rev. Steve Savides



(Here is a photo of the Dignity and Respect Campaign Pastor Steve attended. He is the 6th person from the right!)

Stewardship

*Putting faith into action with our time,
passion, skills and financial gifts.*

Journey to Generosity-Final Report

Our Journey to Generosity is completed. We are very pleased with the results from this year's campaign. Many of you were able to increase your pledge from the prior year, with some stepping up substantially. And, of course, there are a few, inevitable disappointments along the way. We are very grateful for every dollar of support you have chosen to invest in the life and mission of First Congregational. Thank you.

The goal was to increase support by 2½% from last year's pledge and donation total of approximately \$904,000. That gave us a target of just under \$927,000. As of today, we have commitments for \$920,726.94. This represents our "preliminary final" number. We are counting on this increasing somewhat as we've personally reached out to over 50 members this past week to invite them to finalize their pledge decision. Each of these families or individuals pledged last year, so we're encouraged that our "final, FINAL" campaign total will be higher.

We hope you have found our Journey to Generosity as joyful as your Stewardship Team has. It is a privilege for us to be given this important task. We so grateful to work with all of you to provide these critically important financial resources.

Blessings to you all,
Bill, Rick & Janice
Your Joyful Stewardship Team

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Membership Exploration Class

Don't forget, our next Membership Exploration Class is fast approaching. Join us on Saturday, February 10 from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM to become a member of First Congo. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393. If you need child care, please inform the church office by noon on January 27. If advance requests are not made, child care will not be available on the day of the class.

The Membership Exploration Class is designed for people who are considering membership with First Congregational United Church of Christ. This class, led by our staff and accompanied by contributions from the lay leadership of the church, explores the history and polity of the United Church of Christ, the history and programs of First Congregational UCC, the faith and theology of the church, discernment of spiritual gifts for serving God, and the meaning of church membership and opportunities to serve the church.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Teachers Needed!

Church School is in full swing and First Congregational children have been learning about the parable of the Good Samaritan. They are enthusiastic about activities and appreciative of all those who volunteer to teach. Currently we are in great need of teachers for the next two rotations. Please consider teaching!! The dates of the next two rotations are: February 11-March 11 and March 18-April 22. Lesson plans will be provided for you and rooms will be set up each week. If interested, contact Colleen at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Colleen%20Berry>.

Worship and Music

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

Save The Date!

Please join our cast for **The Story of Ruth**, our 2018 Intergenerational Musical.

Rehearsals: Wednesday evenings 5:30-7:00 PM
and Sundays 11:30 AM-1:15 PM

The performances will be Saturday evening March 10 and Sunday morning March 11.

Vocal Duet Recital

Mother and daughter Dr. Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider will perform a vocal duet recital in our Sanctuary on Sunday, February 25 at 3:00 PM. Pianist Anthony Padilla of the LU Conservatory Faculty will join them. Save the date!


A/V and Technology Volunteers Needed

The Church's technology needs your help! Recently the Church's technology has grown, and we are looking for volunteers to assist our Technology Committee this program year. Additionally, our Audio/Video capabilities in the Sanctuary have grown and volunteers are welcome to this opportunity as well. If you are interested in helping with the Church's technology or A/V, or both, please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393. Have questions? Contact Technology Coordinator Jonathan Steffen at (920) 915-7974 or email <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Jonathan%20Steffen>.

Administration

Realm Tip-Posting to a Group

Did you know that you can communicate with members of your group(s) through Realm? When you sign in to Realm you are taken directly to your newsfeeds from the groups you participate in at church. You can also click on Groups (down the left-hand column) and click on the name of one of your groups to see the group's

newsfeed. To add a post, you need to click on . Now you can enter a title and text to the body of your message. If you have an attachment, click *Attach Files*. After you have done these steps click *Post*. If *Post* is greyed out so that you cannot click on it, you have most likely not placed a title on your post. Go back to the top of the post, add a title where it says *Title* and you should be good to go. If you have any issues with posting, be sure to contact the church office for more information.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Volunteer Needed

First Congo is looking for a dedicated volunteer to advocate for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter as part of our team.

The position involves:

- Communication with FVWS Volunteer Coordinator for dates and events.
- Organize days for the Congo members to volunteer meals and shifts.
- Make announcements in church.

Feel free to call Amy Lewis, (920) 205-1091, or Leigh Grube, (920) 851-3531, if you have any questions.

For the soul of a nation, no deportation

Today, January 28 • 3:00–4:30 PM
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
2600 E. Phillip Lane, Appleton



What does deporting immigrants who are fleeing poverty, violence and corruption do to us as individuals and a nation? What do we lose without them? Come and hear stories of immigrants, DACA students and DREAMERS. Stand in solidarity and compassion with our undocumented friends and neighbors. Help us advocate for passage of the DREAM ACT. Presented by ESTHER, UNIDOS Por un Futuro Mejor, and Winnebago Worship Group Religious Society of Friends.

I'll Meet You There: Listening With All Our Hearts

Thursday, February 8
7:00-8:30 PM

St. Mark's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
140 South Green Bay Road,
Neenah



Join us for the eighth annual World Interfaith Harmony event in the Fox Cities. Share an evening of fellowship among members of the Fox Valley's diverse faith communities. We will practice listening with humility and compassion, challenging the biases that limit us, and deepening our understanding of shared humanity.

Fox Valley faith and fellowship communities have participated in this global celebration since its first observance in 2011. The event is free, planned locally and open to all. Youth groups are welcome! Questions? Call (920) 426-2920.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers

February 7-March 14, 2018

1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Fox Valley Hematology & Oncology

Education Center

3925 North Gateway Drive, Appleton

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a six-week series designed to help you, the caregiver, take care of yourself while caring for a relative or friend. You as the caregiver will benefit from this series and learn how to reduce stress, better communicate your feelings, increase your ability to make tough decisions and also locate helpful resources. Class materials are supplied by the FVHO Fight Back Foundation. To register contact Jean Monson at jmonson@fvho.org or 920-702-4816 by February 2.

The Wisconsin Council of Churches: Unite to End Racism

Unite to End Racism is both a rally and a call to action, organized by the National Council of Churches. Come prepared for the work of building community. We are looking for people who represent the great diversity of Wisconsin and our faith communities, to build connections across the lines that typically divide us. If you fit

this description, then The Wisconsin Council of Churches invites you to join us in a transformational journey. We will be leaving from Madison, Milwaukee, Appleton and Eau Claire on April 3 to travel to Washington DC and join people from around the nation for an Interfaith Service Prayer and Preparation at the Lincoln Memorial and a rally on the National Mall. They also offer a Unite to End Racism + Lobby Day. For more information and to register, please visit: <http://www.wichurches.org/calendar/event-list/unite-to-end-racism/> The registration deadline is March 1.

Adult and Family Wilderness Survey

Part of Pastor Nick's Sabbatical will be spending time outdoors preparing to put together an outdoor and wilderness ministry for families and adults. This will be a 5-7 year rotation of experiences meant to deepen one's spirituality in an outdoor setting. If you have any interest in canoeing, backpacking, or adventuring from a lodge or retreat center, please take a few minutes to provide information to Pastor Nick through this survey, listed at the end of the article, anytime during the month of February. The results from this survey will greatly influence the location and configuration of future outdoor and wilderness ministry opportunities.

Thanks for your time!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QSTNT2R>

Calendar for January 28–February 3

Sunday, January 28

- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Church School** - *Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen, East Conference Room, Computer Lab, 4-year-old Room*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **High School Sunday Groups** - *Common Grounds*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 11:30 AM – 1:15 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** – *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*
- 4:45 PM – 5:45 PM **LU Scholar Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room*
- 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM **First Things First AA Meeting** - *North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds*

Monday, January 29

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 4:15 PM – 5:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals**- *Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM **Appleton Boychoir Meeting** – *Sanctuary*
- 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** – *Fellowship Hall, West Conference room*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

Tuesday, January 30

- 7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Strong Bones** - *River Room*
- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones - Winter Session** - *South Fellowship*
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, January 31

- 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Children's Choir rehearsal** - *Choir Room*
- 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal** – *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, River Room, Kitchen*
- 5:45 PM – 6:25 PM **Youth Handbells rehearsal** - *Amistad Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Middle School Classes** - *Theater/Scripture Tent/Art Kitchen*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room, Sanctuary, Chapel, East Conference Room*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Church Mice Youth Group** - *East Conference Room*

Thursday, February 1

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM **Strong Bones** - *River Room*

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones - Winter Session** - *South Fellowship Hall*

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **AA - Search for Serenity Group** - *Common Grounds*

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM **Theology Discussion Group** - *Atlas Coffee Mill and Café on Water Street, Appleton*

12:00 PM – 3:00 PM **Clergy Development Group** - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 2

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Bulletin Assembly** - *Library*

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM **N. A.** - *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Al-Anon** - *Upper Lounge*

Saturday, February 3

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Leadership Retreat**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*



— *The Church of the Open Door* —

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Membership Exploration Class

February 10, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

**Contact the church office to
register, (920) 733-7393**



The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Reverend Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Reverend Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist
Colleen Berry, Director for Christian Education
Joel Morien, Director for Youth Ministries
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Christina Trepanier, Communications Specialist
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Jonathan Steffen, Technology Coordinator
Tom Pflugardt, Facilities Manager
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Kathy Kennedy, Housekeeper
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Laura Vanden Hogen, Custodial Assistant

First Congregational United Church of Christ
724 East South River Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org