

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 Class will be held in the fall.

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.

April 29 Highlights at First Congregational

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Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox. The flower bulb you receive today as a symbol of God’s beauty growing within you, is an Anemone. Please plant this bulb in the ground or in a pot, any side up, 3 inches deep. It should flower mid-spring, with a height of 3-6 inches.

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 May 13, June 17, July 22, and August 19. 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 This Week

Friday, April 27	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Trish Brehm	
Sunday, April 29	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Mike and Bev Vance	Patricia Streur
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	No Lay Readers Needed	No Lay Readers Needed
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Tim Hanna	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Kris Behm
Counters, April 30		

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

HEALING SERVICE LED BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH: THE OPEN WINDOW

April 29, 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 & LIGHTING OF CANDLES - Acolyte - Gina Bellin

Chorale in E Major

Cesar Franck

(During our prelude you will receive a prayer candle as you enter the sanctuary. You may light the candle in the name of any person or situation, which you want to lift up in prayer. Please bring the candle to the chancel where a youth will assist in placing it on the communion table.)

(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/HANDBELL PROCESSIONAL

arr. Perry

The Youth Handbells

OPENING SENTENCES & YOUTH PRAYER

Linnea Edwards and Cameron Gabbey

WELCOME AND GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT

Lift High Every Voice

J. S. Bach

arr. H. Hopson

The Children's Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Linnea Edwards and Dawson Fish

Leader: There is something deeper than trouble.

People: It is mercy.

Leader: God's amazing grace;

People: carrying, lifting, holding us in all seasons.

Leader: There is something more powerful than despair.

People: It is mercy.

Leader: God's amazing love;

People: Seeing us through dark nights, waves of sadness, mountains of grief.

Leader: There is something longer lasting than pain.

People: It is mercy.

Leader: God's healing touch;

All: Bringing us hope, leading us to joy, teaching us to sing.

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #401**

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sienna Taylor

Leader: Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

People: For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.

Leader: Friends in Christ... Prayer of Confession as printed in your bulletin:

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the hardness of our hearts, cleanse us we pray from all our offenses and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, trusting in grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Sienna Taylor

***GLORIA PATRI**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

ANTHEM

Children of the Heavenly Father

Swedish folk melody
arr. J. Bakken

The Children's Choir

"REVERSE" CHILDREN'S SERMON Meredith, Veronica, & Hazel Plamann; Colleen Berry

(During the hymn, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, children may go to the Family Worship Area or return to the pews to worship with their families.)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (10:30 ONLY)

COLLETTE INEZ SOMMERFELDT

Parents: Skeets and Stacy Sommerfeldt

Godparents: Josh and Niki Sanger

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

People: We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

Dear God of gentleness and love, once more you have spoken words of hope in the birth of a child. We delight in this new gift of life. Let your blessing and strength rest upon Collette and her family. May they cherish her life and lead her in the ways of faith. In the name of your Chosen One, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD

Children of the Heavenly Father

Swedish Hymn

Stanza 4, only, sung by All (below)

**Baptized in our blest Redeemer,
Sanctifier, and Creator**

**May we serve and love God, solely,
As we follow Christ, most Holy.**

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (8:45 & 10:30)

David Bauman and Kyra Kudick, Gerald and Jennifer Bellin, Carol and Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder, Todd Newell, Kate and Nathan Pahl, Don Roehborn, Emma and Mike Slowinski, Patsy Parkin Valandra

INTRODUCTION

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

ADDRESS

WELCOME AND RECEPTION (in unison)

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

INTERCESSION FOR HEALING Linnea Edwards, Mark Steinlage & Mya Ballerstein

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: God our creator, your will for us and for all your people is health and salvation:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came so that we might have life and have it in abundance:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence:

People: have mercy on us.

Leader: To the triune God...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all who are disabled....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all who are troubled...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all whose increasing years....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all about to undergo surgery....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all those who are imprisoned....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For all who practice the healing arts....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the light you bring into this world....

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For the coming of springtime...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: For _____ and also for those whose heart are
burdened or who walk the lonely path of having no community to pray
for them.

Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray. We
lift all these prayers, and those unspoken, trusting in your strength and
relying upon your grace.

Everyone: Amen.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Sophia McGowan

A MUSICAL OFFERING

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

arr. Ron Mallory

The Youth Handbells

*EASTER DOXOLOGY

Sung to the tune of *All Creatures of our God and King*

**All creatures, your Creator bless,
And worship God in humbleness.**

O sing ye! Alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,

**And praise the Spirit, Three in One,
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

GOSPEL READING - Maria Sorensen

Luke 11:1-10 (NT p. 88)

BRIEF MEDITATION

“Waiting at the Window”

Rev. Nick Hatch

***SERMON HYMN #429**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

BRADBURY

PRAYER & LAYING ON OF HANDS

Pastor Steve, Izabella LeCaptain, Dawson Fish; Pastor Kathryn/Georgia Berceau, Kyle Wilterdink, Sienna Taylor; Pastor Nick, Bradyn Gentile, Sophia McGowan

(Today you will have the opportunity to celebrate God’s healing and grace through prayer and a laying on of hands. If you choose to participate, you may receive prayer from a pastor or a student with a “Laying on of hands.”)

If you choose to receive prayer, you may bring specific prayer concerns or just choose to receive a blessing from us. If you wish to experience a “laying on of hands” just extend your hands to ours and we hold them as we pray for you.)

MUSIC DURING PRAYER/LAYING ON OF HANDS

Hymn Tune Chorales

J. S. Bach

CLOSING PRAYER

Gina Bellin

Leader: Gracious God, source of all healing.....We pray all this in the prayer that Christ taught saying:

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.**

***CLOSING HYMN # 72**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELLESLEY

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major

J. S. Bach

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

David Cook, *guest organist*

The 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*

The Youth Handbells, 2017-18: Josh Bellin, Olivia Burdick, Natalie Erstad, Dawson Fish, Bradyn Gentile, Dillon Grade, Sophia Mast, David Murphy, Lily Nichols, Natalie Payette, Avra Taylor, Grace Wauters; John Albrecht, *director*.

Children and Youth Worship Leaders 2018: Gina Bellin, Drew Gentile, David Murphy, Will Sorensen, Nathan Phillips, Linnea Edwards, Cameron Gabbey, Sienna Taylor, Dawson Fish, Meredith Plamman, Veronica Plamman, Hazel Plamman, Mark Steinlage, Mya Ballerstein, Sophia McGowan, Maria Sorensen, Izabella LeCaptain, Kyle Wilterdink, Jeremiah Wilterdink, Bradyn Gentile, Grant Gabbey, Evan Gabbey, Becca Shauger, Laney Schmidt, Maddison Hatch, Charles Williams, Emmet Williams, Cana Schmidt, Bennet Van Der Loop, Emily Mayer, Jamie Mayer, Drew Gentile, and David Murphy.

Bios for new members - April 2018

David Bauman and Kyra Kudick. David and Kyra join us by Reaffirmation of Faith. They are engaged to be married. David grew up in Appleton before moving to Madison for graduate school. He is now a financial advisor for Merrill Lynch. His hobbies include movies, music, reading, football, swimming and golf. Kyra grew up in Denmark, WI but has also lived in Milwaukee, Arizona, Los Angeles and Chicago. She is now a marketing coordinator with Network Health. Kyra is interested in cooking, movies, books and music. Both David and Kyra enthusiastically support the Badgers and Packers!

Gerald and Jennifer Bellin. Gerald and Jennifer join us by Reaffirmation of Faith. Both grew up in Neenah. They have two children; Joshua (12) and Gina (10). Gerald is employed by Bemis as a cast line operator. Jennifer is self-employed as a licensed massage therapist. She is also involved with Moms Demand Action. The family's hobbies include gardening, camping, boating, fishing and riding bikes.

Carol and Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder. Carol and Ralph join us by Letter of Transfer from First Congregational Church, Oshkosh. Both grew up in Ohio and they are retired co-pastors. They have lived in Oshkosh for the past 30 years. Ralph enjoys classical guitar and gardening. Carol enjoys art, especially ceramics. They are also involved with "FIT Oshkosh", and organization that works for racial understanding and justice.

Todd Newell. Todd joins us by Affirmation of Faith. He is the spouse of member Kevin Clavers. Todd grew up in Oshkosh and has lived in Appleton for 4 years. He works as a produce clerk at Festival Foods and as a floor manager at the Fox Cities PAC. Todd's interests included travelling, bicycling and dining out.

Kate and Nathan Pahl. Kate and Nathan join us by Reaffirmation of Faith. They have two children; Jaxon is 7 years old and Kyle is 5 months old. Nate grew up in Indiana before moving to Philadelphia when in middle school. Kate was born and raised in Philadelphia. They moved to this area 2 years ago. Nate is an account manager for Coca-Cola. Kate is a server at Olive Garden. Both enjoy the outdoors and being very active in their children's lives. Nate also enjoys painting and fishing while Kate likes to listen to music and spend time with family and friends.

Don Roehborn. Don joins us by Letter of Transfer from Immanuel United Church of Christ in Kaukauna. Don grew up in Neillsville and Kaukauna. He has lived in this area for 75 years. Don is retired from Thilmany International Paper. His hobbies include travelling and playing cards. He is also involved with Kaukauna VFW and the Kimberly American Legion.

Emma and Mike Slowinski. Emma and Mike join us by Letter of Transfer from Calvary Lutheran Church in Green Bay. Emma grew up in Rochester MN and Mike grew up in Appleton. They met at UW-Eau Claire in the education program. They moved to this area from De Pere 2 years ago. Emma and Mike have two children; Abraham (5) and Henry (1). Emma is an 8th grade Language Arts teacher at West De Pere Middle School. Mike is an Associate Principal at Appleton East High School and will be the Principal at Menasha High School starting the 2018-2019 school year. The family likes to go on walks with their two boxer dogs. The boys love spending time outdoors. In the summer they like going to High Cliff whenever they can.

Patsy Parkin Valandra. Patsy joins us by Letter of Transfer from First Congregational Church in Rapid City, SD. Patsy grew up on her parents' farm in North Central MN. She

has 3 adult children. Patsy worked as a telephone operator in the 60's and 70's. She also worked for a construction office for 40 years and managed hotel lounges for 45 years. She moved to this area 4 months ago. Her domestic partner, Steve Popp, has lived in Appleton his entire life. Hobbies of Patsy's include music and touring. She also enjoys going for walks and motorcycle rides. Her big enjoyment is attending church regularly.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

May 6, 2018	Sixth Sunday of Easter	8:45 and 10:30 AM
"Partnership in the Gospel"		Rev. Steve Savides
Scripture reading: Philippians 1:1-18a		
Music: 8:45 AM: The LU Music Scholars; instrumentalist		
10:30 AM: The Sanctuary Choir; instrumentalist		

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, May 4	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, May 6	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Janet Scheibe	Jean Coenraad
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, May 7		

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
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
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade
John Cawthon
Dena Collier
David DeWitt, Jennifer DeWitt's father-in-law
Jim Edwards
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Mary Guenther
Ellen Gunter
Maggie Hendrick
Mark Holly, nephew of Patricia Streur
Sandy Hubert
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Nancy Jones, mother of Linda Jones Pierron
Our Kenyan partners and students
All those affected by plant closures
Eunice Klemp

Betty Masaros
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
Connie Radtke
Paula Chandler's son-in-law, Tim Radtke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Cheryl Reissmann
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Jim Schwantes
Kathy Smudde, sister of Lyle Van De Hey and Janice Schmitz
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees and Syrians affected by violence
Tom Tatlock
Erma Thompson
Beverly Trombla
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle
Mike Weaver
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
The Wittwer Family
Carol Yonan

THE OPEN DOOR

April 29, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 17

Pastor's Message

A Time for Renewal

We are so blessed to have your presence in worship today! We have over fifty children and youth who are leading us in our service of healing and wholeness. They have worked hard on their roles. Our prayer for you is that this is a time to hear and experience God's merciful gifts in your life. We pray that through the varied opportunities in this morning's service, you might make a new connection to renewing forgiveness and healing grace, of God in Jesus Christ, working through the Holy Spirit.

Speaking of being renewed, I will be taking a few weeks of vacation in May and will not be in worship again until May 27. Additionally, I wanted to talk a little bit about my Sabbatical coming up June 4-August 26. At FCUCC, in the seventh year of service, a pastor becomes eligible take a Sabbatical of three months in length. Our Employee Handbook defines the purpose of this time away as "a leave of absence for further training to pursue special research or study, engage in writing and travel, or do other activities, which will prepare the pastor for more effective ministry." Really, sabbaticals are a time of renewal meant to prepare Pastors for another season of ministry.

My sabbatical has been designed around re-connecting with God in creation and sharing this love with my family. I have a variety of experiences, which will aid me in meditating, learning, and growing my awareness of God's majesty in nature. The primary purpose of this time is to reconnect and enrich my spiritual life anticipating the output the coming years will require. In order to honor the intention of my sabbatical, I will be disconnecting from FCUCC entirely for these three months. I will not be available or reachable. If you do have a need; we have two gifted and loving pastors to fill this role and an excellent CYF staff to answer questions. If you see me out in public, don't shy away; just be aware that in order to honor my sabbatical commitments I will not engage in discussions about church life, no matter how exciting they might be.

I praise God for the exciting and enriching years we have spent in ministry together and look forward to the years that are to come. May God deeply bless your summer and provide for your renewal and the spiritual sustenance needed to carry on in the mission of discipleship.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nick

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Opportunity for Member Input – Extended!



Thanks to everyone who has taken our survey. If you haven't had a chance to take our survey, we have decided to extend it until April 30. Below is the link to take the survey online or you can stop by the church office and fill out a paper copy. We greatly appreciate all input from anyone who uses our facilities. Thank you!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N6738W9>

Church Women United 2018 May Friendship Day

Friday, May 4, 2018

First Congregational UCC

724 E. South River Street, Appleton

This year's speaker will be Tracy Plamann who is the Community Educational Coordinator for Harbor House. RSVP by April 30 to Jayne Henrich at plainjayne37@gmail.com or call her at 246-8569 or Marilyn at mdvofkau@new.rr.com or call her at 788-5850.

- 9:30 AM – Registration
- 10:00 PM – Program
- 11:00 AM – Brunch (cost \$10)

We will also be collecting items for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. Items needed include bathroom tissue, paper towels, 39-gallon garbage bags, toilet bowl cleaner, bleach, belts (new or used), razors, shaving cream, and laundry detergent.

School for Seniors

May 16

Lakeland University Fox Cities Center
2320 Industrial Drive, Neenah

Classes will be held between 8:45-11:30 AM

Lakeland University and the City of Neenah's Committee on Aging co-sponsor a unique, tuition-free Lifelong Learning event. Lakeland faculty and staff will simultaneously teach the different 45-minute courses during the multi-hour session. Senior-citizen enrollees will be able to rotate, taking one, or more, classes, as desired. Residents of Neenah and area communities are welcome.

Classes offered:

- Understanding Religious Extremism
Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn, Professor of Religion
- Talking to Your Tech: Interactive Technology in our Daily Lives
Chuck Grubisic, Director of Technology Services and Operations
- What to Say: Using Dialogue in Fiction Writing
Jeff Elzinga, Professor of Writing

RSVP by Monday, May 14 by calling Lakeland University-Fox Cities Center, 920-727-0777. Registration, refreshments

and information tables will be available beginning at 8 AM on the day of the event, and classes will be held between 8:45 and 11:30 AM.

Electronics Recycling Event

Saturday, May 19 • 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
First Congregational UCC Parking Lot
724 E. South River Street, Appleton

Dropping off nearly all electronics is free except for TVs and computer monitors. Bring anything with a cord. All materials are kept in USA. All hard drives are shredded and destroyed. This event will happen rain or shine. It is sponsored by ESTHER.



For more info call: (715) 304-7205

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

A Circle of Trust Retreat at First Congregational

A Geography of Grace: Exploring the Soul's Landscape
Friday, May 4 • 5:30-9:00 PM
Saturday, May 5 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
\$65 suggested donation

Just as we often lose contact with the natural world because of our busy lives, we also live distanced from the inner nature of our souls. Using poems, art, images from the natural world, and metaphors from the geography of land

and sky, *A Geography of Grace* will guide us in exploring our soul's landscape.

This Friday evening and all-day Saturday Circle of Trust retreat takes place at First Congo, and you'll spend Friday night in your own bed. Facilitators include: Albert Bellg, a retreat facilitator with the Center for Courage & Renewal and member of First Congo; Anne Powling, writing coach and trained Geography of Grace facilitator; and Pastor Kathryn. Dinner on Friday evening and lunch on Saturday will be provided.

You can register on the signup sheet in the Narthex. There's a limit of 20, so please sign up soon.

No one will be excluded for financial reasons – if you need to pay a lower amount to attend comfortably, please let us know.

One Great Hour of Sharing



Thank you to all who have contributed toward our 2018 One Great Hour of Sharing offering. These monies are used by our national UCC for disaster relief and recovery in the immediate aftermath of tragedy. We will continue to collect contributions through Sunday, May 13.

OGHS envelopes are available in the pews. You can also donate online at <https://onrealm.org/firstcongoappleton/Give>

Seeking: Friends in Christ

First Congo's Friends in Christ will meet Sunday, May 6, from 11:45 AM to 1:15 PM

in the Upper Lounge. Refreshments will be available. This will be a chance for current "Friends" to check in, and for those interested in the ministry of Christian friendship to find out more about us! Join us to find out more about how we walk alongside those who benefit from regular support and encouragement. Contact Pastor Kathryn or Jean Coenraad for additional information or sign up in the narthex to let us know you'll attend.

End Child Poverty Wisconsin Campaign

End Child Poverty Wisconsin is a campaign to cut child poverty in Wisconsin in half in the next 10 years. 1 in 6 children in Wisconsin live in poverty. You can help respond to this staggering statistic by getting family and friends to [sign the End Child Poverty in Wisconsin petition](#).

Our website, www.endchildpoverty.org, contains the endorsement form, as well as lots of other resources regarding the campaign.

Please watch this 4-minute video and endorse the End Child Poverty goals. (Optional: You can also share the link to the campaign on your Facebook page to invite others for their endorsements).

<https://www.endchildpovertywi.org/video>

Community groups: ESTHER/WISDOM, Kids Forward, Wi Council of Churches, and Citizen Action have had community discussions over the past three years about child poverty. One important

finding is we see Great Britain (whose rate of children affected by poverty was even greater than what the US is now) has been able to reduce their child poverty over ten years by 60% and they were able to keep on task even when there was a change in political party in charge. The key is to make this a moral commitment to our children (set a goal and deadline) and keep focused on the annual evaluations in order to hold us accountable.

We can learn from their model. Seniors used to be the group that had the highest poverty rate. We made investments in seniors, but now children have the highest poverty rate 1 in 5 children are affected by poverty. Now we must focus on how we can help our children.

Goals of our End Child Poverty campaign are:

1. Cut child poverty in half over the next 10 years.
2. Reduce the racial disparity of child poverty over the next 10 years.
3. Establish annual evidence-based evaluation of progress to hold ourselves accountable.

The Paradox of Resiliency -Rescheduled



Saturday, May 5 • 3:00 – 5:00 PM
1331 E. Wisconsin Ave, Appleton

Adjunct professor at Edgewood College and full-time Restorative Justice Coach, Roderick "Rudy" Bankston was wrongly convicted and handed a life sentence in his youth. Deeply wounded and

experiencing a severe identity crisis, he turned his prison cell into a classroom. Today he is an educator, activist, and published author. His powerful story about his experience as a survivor of the school-to-prison pipeline offers key insights in the paradox of resiliency fueled by systemic injustice. Free and open to the public.

Co-sponsored by ESTHER. More info: www.iamweclassics.com

Congrats to Fabrice!

May 6

The members of First Congregational Church UCC would like to honor and celebrate Fabrice Kalamba's recent achievements. In February he earned his GED at Blackwell JobCorps from Laona, WI. He also earned an Entry Level One Firefighter certification from Nicolet College in October, 2016 and has already served many weeks as a firefighter out in Montana last summer, as the forest fires were out of control. We will be recognizing Fabrice's hard work and commitment during the 8:45 AM service on Sunday, May 6. Cake and refreshments will be served between services. We hope you can join us to congratulate him.



I Am Not Your Negro – Public Showing

Thursday, May 10 • 6:00-8:00 PM
Emmanuel Methodist Church
740 E. College Ave, Appleton

I Am Not Your Negro is a 2016 American documentary film directed by Raoul Peck, based on



James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*. Narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, the film explores the history of racism in the United States through Baldwin's reminiscences of civil rights leaders Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr, as well as his personal observations of American history. It was nominated for Best Documentary Feature at the 89th Academy Awards and won the BAFTA Award for Best Documentary.

This public showing of the film will be followed by a moderated discussion. This event is presented by ESTHER in collaboration with Fit Oshkosh. There is no charge. All are welcome.

Worship and Music

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

Summer Worship Hours

We just wanted to remind the congregation that our summer worship hours will be May 20 through September 9.

That means we will only have **one** worship service at 9:30 AM. Thanks!

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Church School News

It is hard to believe but the Church School children wrapped up their last week of lessons this past Sunday, April 22. What a great year they have had learning about God's promises and love under the guidance of many talented volunteer teachers. We will honor those teachers during the service on May 20. We will end the program year with some additional activities on May 6 and May 13. On May 6 we will have a "group activity" in the Art Room and Scripture Tent. On May 13 we will have an End of Year Church School celebration in the Fellowship Hall. Please note that the 3 and 4-year-old church school children will continue to have lessons with Miss Shari **in the classroom** through May 13.

Stock Sale

Please support our high school mission trip to Pine Ridge, SD by purchasing "stock" in our youth. All proceeds will go towards sending our teens on this important mission. We will be having our stock sale today, April 29, after worship services. Thanks!

Administration

Human Resources Openings

Our church is in need of 1-2 people who would be interested in discerning their possible involvement with our HR committee. HR meets once a month (or every other month) and we have a flexible meeting schedule. The current state of our ministry is in excellent shape: all our foundational documents and policies are all current! Thus, our work focuses on improving upon and caring for our staff and church as a whole. It's a great group and we do wonderful work. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Nick at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Nick%20Hatch>

New Newsletter Service: Constant Contact

We are in the process of getting a new mobile-friendly website. For this reason our newsletter format is also changing. You will start receiving a newsletter from us through Constant Contact. The headline will say: "First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton" and the subject will be whatever newsletter you receive, for example: "Midweek Update for May 2" or "Sunday Bulletin/The Open Door for May 6." At the bottom of the newsletter it will say that it was sent by Christina Trepanier, the Communications Specialist, through Constant Contact. If you have any questions, feel free to call the church office at (920) 733-7393.

Calendar for April 29–May 5

Sunday, April 29

- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **NO Church School**
- 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales** - *Narthex*
- 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 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, April 30

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 6:30 PM – 9:30 PM **Boy Scout Troop 8** - *Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal** - *Computer Lab*

Tuesday, May 1

- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones – Spring Sessions** - *South Fellowship*
- 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM **Lectionary Group** - *Upper Lounge*
- 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM **Chrysalis – Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **Worship and Music Ministry Team** - *Upper Lounge*
- 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, May 2

- 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM **Northeast Association Clergy Day** - *Sanctuary, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*
- 5:45 PM – 6:25 PM **Youth Handbells Rehearsal** - *Amistad Room*
- 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM **Building Task Force Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room, Sanctuary, Chapel*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Church Mice Youth Group** - *East Conference Room*

Thursday, May 3

- 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones – Spring Sessions** - *South Fellowship Hall*
- 10:00 AM – 10:00 PM **Church Women United Set-up** - *River Room*
- 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM **Wednesday Musicales Rehearsal** - *Sanctuary*
- 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*
- 6:15 PM – 8:15 PM **TnT-SOAR Fox Cities** - *South Fellowship Hall*
- 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*

Friday, May 4

- 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Sara Companik Video**
- 8:00 AM – 1:30 PM **Church Women United May Friendship Day** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*
- 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM **Bulletin Assembly** - *Library*
- 5:30 PM – 9:00 PM **Spring Retreat: "The Geography of Grace"** - *Upper Lounge, River Room, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Chapel, Common Grounds, West Conference Room, Library*
- 7:00 PM – 8:45 PM **N. A.** - *Common Grounds*
- 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM **AI-Anon** - *East Conference Room*

Saturday, May 5

- 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM **Spring Retreat: "The Geography of Grace"** - *Upper Lounge, River Room, Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, Chapel, Common Grounds, West Conference Room, Library*
- 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Fox Valley 94 AA** - *Common Grounds*



STOCK SALES

SUNDAYS • APRIL 15, 22, 29
IN THE NARTHEX AFTER WORSHIP SERVICES

Please support our high school mission trip to Pine Ridge, SD by purchasing "stock" in our youth. All proceeds will go towards sending our teens on this important mission!

The Ministry

All the Members of the church, Minister
Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Spiritual Outreach
Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission
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 Ministry
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Christina Trepanier, Communications Specialist
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Jonathan Steffen, A/V Coordinator
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Childcare Provider
Tom Pflugardt, Facilities Manager
Kathy Kennedy, Housekeeper
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

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Web Site: www.firstcongoappleton.org