

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 April 11, 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.

April 8 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Remembering Reverend King	p. 16
Today:	E2F Pan Project	p. 12
April 11:	Membership Exploration Class	p. 12
April 15	Stock Sale	p. 18
April 15:	Masterworks in Worship: <i>Jubilate Deo</i>.....	p. 16
April 22:	One Great Hour of Sharing/Joyful Noise	p. 13
April 22:	Kenya Student Sponsorship Luncheon	p. 14

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 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 This Week

Friday, April 6	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Pat Hauser	
Sunday, April 8	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Rob, Will, and Henry Clothier	Sharrie Robinson
Bridge Greeters	Chris Hammerstad	Chris Hammerstad
Welcome Desk	Sharon Clothier	Carolyn Frederick
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Nancy Bodway
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm
Counters, April 9		

Church School Schedule– 8:45 AM

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

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 8, 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

The Dixieland Combo

(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

WELCOME AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

"Easter Exultet" by James Broughton

Leader: Shake out your qualms. Shake up your dreams.

People: Deepen your roots. Extend your branches.

Leader: Trust deep water and head for the open, even if your vision shipwrecks you.

People: Quit your addiction to sneer and complain. Open a lookout. Dance on a brink. Run with your wildfire.

Leader: You are closer to glory leaping an abyss than upholstering a rut.

People: Not dawdling. Not doubting. Intrepid all the way, walk toward clarity.

Leader: At every crossroad be prepared to bump into wonder. Only love prevails.

People: En route to disaster insist on canticles. Lift your ineffable out of the mundane.

Leader: Nothing perishes;

People: Nothing survives;

Leader: Everything transforms!

People: Honeymoon with Big Joy!

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

*OPENING SONG

Old Time Religion

Trad.

Give me that old-time religion
Give me that old-time religion
Give me that old-time religion
It's good enough for me

It was good for our mothers
It was good for our mothers
It was good for our mothers
And it's good enough for me

It has served our fathers
It has served our fathers
It has served our fathers
And it's good enough for me

Makes me love everybody
Makes me love everybody
Makes me love everybody
And it's good enough for me

It will take us all to heaven
It will take us all to heaven
It will take us all to heaven
And it's good enough for me

Give me that old-time religion
Give me that old-time religion
Give me that old-time religion
It's good enough for me

*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

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

FAMILY HYMN #103

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #442

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ERIE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Patty Darling, piano

*SUNG RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

Trad.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOSPEL READING

John 20:19-29 (NT p. 141)

Reader: This is the testimony of the community of faith.

People: Thanks be to God!

HYMN #436

I Am Weak But Thou Art Strong

CLOSER WALK

MEDITATION

"Prove It"

Rev. Steve Savides

*CLOSING HYMN #401

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

*RESPONSIVE COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

Leader: Take the good news of Easter into your everyday world.

People: We have seen Jesus! In Christ, life triumphs over death.

Leader: May the day of Resurrection make all your days special from now on.

People: All our days are God's gift to us; we will rejoice and be glad in them.

Leader: The first disciples saw and believed; let us, like them, carry the message to others.

People: By God's grace I will follow Christ into the world and offer God's love to others.

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

When the Saints Go Marching In

Trad.

O when the saints go marching in, O when the saints go marching in!
Lord how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

O when the trumpet sounds its call, O when the trumpet sounds its call!
Lord, how I want to be in that number, when the trumpet sounds its call!

O when the saints go marching in, O when the saints go marching in!
Lord how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

POSTLUDE

The Dixieland Combo

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dixieland Combo: Brad Curran, *trumpet*; Jose Encarnacion, *clarinet*; Nick Keelan, *trombone*; Marty Erickson, *tuba*; Patty Darling, *piano*; Victoria Daniel, *drums*

8:45 AM: The LU Music Scholars—*find them seated throughout the Sanctuary!*

10:30 AM: The Sanctuary Choir—*find them seated throughout the Sanctuary!*

Join the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King

"Remember Reverend King: A Community Worship Encounter"

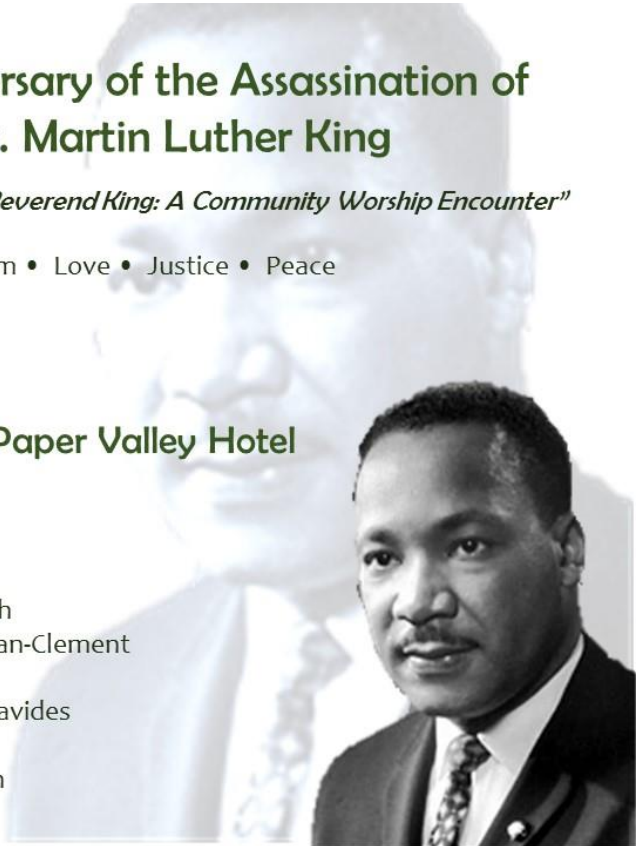
Unity • Freedom • Love • Justice • Peace

When: April 8 • 3:00 PM

Where: Grand Ballroom, Paper Valley Hotel

Speakers:

Pastor Alvin Dupree
Trinity Vang
Pastor Shawn Whitworth
Reverend Linda J. Morgan-Clement
Father Joe Mattern
Reverend Dr. Stephen Savides
Pastor Dennis Episcopo
Reverend Mike Goodwin
Pastor Bee Vang



Upcoming Worship Schedule

April 15 Masterworks in Worship: *Jubilate Deo* by Dan Forrest 8:45 and 10:30 AM
 Music: 8:45 and 10:30 AM: Sanctuary Choir; our LU Music Scholar soloists, and Orchestra

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, April 13	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, April 15	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		Patricia Streur
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		Gerry Benz
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	Dennis Korth	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, April 16		

First Congregational
 United Church of Christ
presents

FEATURING:
 First Congregational UCC
 Sanctuary Choir;
 Lawrence University
 Music Scholar soloists;
 Orchestra with Janet Sutter,
concertmaster;
 Kathy Orth,
guest organist;
 John Albrecht,
Director for Music Ministries

April 15, 2018
8:45 and 10:30 AM

—The Church of the Open Door—
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
 724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915
 www.firstcongoappleton.org • 920-733-7393

Masterworks
 in
 Worship

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
Dena Collier
David DeWitt, Jennifer DeWitt's father-in-law
Jim Edwards
Becca Fritsche
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Mary Guenther
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
The family of Jevon Lemke

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
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
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

THE OPEN DOOR

April 8, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 14

Pastor's Message

Death and Laughter

The great English Shakespearean actor Edmund Kean (1787-1833) is reputed to have said on his death bed, *"Dying is easy, comedy is hard."* Holy Humor Sunday is a time when we seek to find the comedy in dying; more precisely, in the triumph over death granted us by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because God has power even over death, we can laugh as we live and as we die, confident in the "sure and certain hope" of life everlasting. That's what we are celebrating this morning in our readings, in our songs, in our stories, in our worship.

I also wanted to include a personal note from one of Edmund Kean's lesser antecedents: I am appearing in the UW-Fox musical, *Spring Awakening*, over the next two weeks. This show has an R rating for strong language and frank sexual situations. I play several roles in the show in support of the youthful cast and am proud to be a part of their company. I appreciate the point of view it offers: if you raise your children in ignorance, they will grow up to act like ignorant children. But if you would be offended by the subject matter or language; or if you would find it disconcerting to see your Pastor playing some rather mean folks, then it would be a good night for you to find a good comedy on Netflix or pick one up at a Red Box.

Might I suggest *My Favorite Year* in which Peter O'Toole shares the Kean quote above? Or how about *Shakespeare in Love* which finds much to laugh about in the midst of a young Will Shakespeare's tragic struggles? If you want to laugh your way through the Resurrection, Cary Grant can help you in *Topper* or Albert Brooks and Meryl Streep in *Defending Your Life*. Or how about two of the best romantic comedies of all-time: *Some Like It Hot* and *Tootsie*?

May your hearts be lifted by the Resurrection and may you laugh your way through life and death!

Your friend and fellow minister,

Rev. Steve Savides

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Membership Exploration Class

Our next Membership Exploration Class is fast approaching. Join us on Wednesday, April 11 from 6:30 – 8:30 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. 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.

Opportunity for Member Input

We are pleased to see so many of our members have already filled out the Building Study Task Force survey. If you have not taken the opportunity to complete the survey, below is the link to



take it online. We will continue to accept responses through today, April 8. We greatly appreciate all input from anyone who uses our facilities. Thank you!
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N6738W9>

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

E2F (Empty to Full) Pans

Today, April 8

First Congo will once again participate in a project to allow members to prepare food in their own home for Homeless Connections. Empty pans will be distributed to willing churchgoers. The pans will contain the recipe and shopping list to prepare and fill the empty pan with lasagna or a comparable dish.

It's simple:

- Pick up an empty pan today, Sunday, April 8
- Follow the simple grocery list and purchase the ingredients to make the dish (Approx. \$ 13.00)
- During the week prepare the simple recipe and fill the pan (So simple...no cooking noodles required)
- Place the prepared pan in your freezer if possible (refrigerator okay)
- Bring the prepared pan with you to church on Sunday, April 15
- Enjoy the great feeling of using your gifts to nourish others

Note: If you're unable to bring the pan back on April 15, please try to bring it the

week before. It can be placed in the lower level kitchen freezer. This makes transport and storage more convenient for those have donated space.

Welcome, Mildred Chepkonga and Jeremiah Kibor!

Our Kenya Partnership Team looks forward to hosting Mildred and Jeremiah, two of our Kenyan partners who help facilitate our support for students in the Kerio Valley. They arrive next Friday, April 13. Please pray for their safe travels here, and greet them in worship on April 15 or 22, or at other First Congo activities and events they'll be attending while they are in Appleton. *Please take a moment and sign the yellow welcome banner* on the bulletin board just outside the sanctuary.

Visitors Welcome to Conference Annual Meeting!

Thank you to all who have volunteered to serve as delegates to our upcoming Northeast Association and Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meetings – our delegate rosters are FULL (with alternates!), but you may certainly attend as a visitor! Join us at the Green Lake Conference Center from Friday, June 8 through Sunday morning, June 10.

The theme of the meeting is "Why Are We Afraid? The Winds and Waves of Race and Privilege," featuring keynote speaker Rev. Traci Blackmon (Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for the UCC and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of

Christ in Florissant, MO). Rev. Dr. Karl Kuhn will offer Bible study, and music will be provided by Bryan Sirchio and by Bryan Johnson from Trinity UCC in Chicago. A "pre-meeting" workshop titled "White Identity and Christian Faith: Reflection and Practice" will be offered on Thursday, June 7 from 10:00 AM-4:00 PM by Dr. Ben Sanders III, Assistant Professor of Theology and Ethics at Eden Theological Seminary, in St. Louis, MO.

These are wonderful opportunities to "get to know" what it means to be a part of the United Church of Christ. To find out more or to register as a visitor, go to www.wcucc.org.

One Great Hour of Sharing



**OFFERING TO BE DEDICATED
APRIL 22, 2018**

****Joyful Noise Offering on
April 22 will support OGHS****

Gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) enable the United Church of Christ to be God's hands and feet in the world, to help when disaster strikes, to make clean water more accessible and to offer training so that families can be self-sustaining. Gifts to OGHS bring hope in places of despair and heartache. More than 60 percent of the offering supports international development initiatives, including annual support for our missionaries working in healthcare, education and agricultural development.

OGHS offerings also assist with refugee and immigration advocacy.

When disaster strikes, it is most helpful to donate to an existing, reputable organization that stands ready to assist in an emergency. We celebrate One Great Hour of Sharing on April 22. Please consider giving generously this year. Coin banks and sharing calendars are available in the narthex. Please bring your filled coin bank (or loose change for *Joyful Noise*) **on Sunday, April 22**. OGHS envelopes are also available in the pews.

Folks Like Us

April 15 • 2:00-5:00 PM



Join the 4th annual benefit concert for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter at the OuterEdge of downtown Appleton on April 15, from 2:00-5:00 PM. There will be performances by Cypress Dreams, Auralai, Kurt Gunn, Nicholas Raymond, and Walt Hamburger. VIP tickets are \$25, general admission is \$12, and age 12 and under is \$5. All proceeds will benefit the Fox Valley Warming Shelter. For more information, contact Scott Peeples at 422-2365 or email him at peeplesscottj@gmail.com.

Kenya Student Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon

Please join us on April 22 for our Annual Kenya Student Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon in the Fellowship Hall from 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM. This year, we will be joined by two of our Kenyan partners (Mildred Chepkonga & Jeramiah Kibor).

After lunch, they will share news from Kenya and give updates on our students.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those who are interested in attending or you can message Matt Wiskerchen. We hope to see you there!

The Kenya Partnership Team

National Healthcare Decision Day

National Healthcare Decision Day (NHDD) is April 15. Do you have your Power of Attorney for Health Care forms (POA-HC) completed?

Did you know that if you are eighteen years old or older, unless you have a valid health care power of attorney document, a judge may have to make your health care decisions instead of your family if you become unable to make those decisions yourself?

Advanced care planning is a way to help our loved ones make medical decisions on our behalf when we are not able to make our own choices.

Ben Adams and Jean Coenraad will be available in the chapel on April 8 after both services with information and documents about POA-HC.

Ben and Ellie Olson will be in the library on April 15 after both services again with information and documents and to answer questions. We can also help you to fill out and witness these documents. Stop and see us to get this important information! Additional information can be found at these websites: www.fvacpp.org and www.nhdd.org

The Paradox of Resiliency

April 14 • 3:00-5:00 PM
Appleton Sanctuary

Outreach Ministry

1331 E. Wisconsin Ave, Appleton



Roderick "Rudy" Bankston is a committed educator, activist, and published author. His powerful story about his experience as a survivor of the school-to-prison pipeline offers key insights into the paradox of resiliency fueled by systemic injustice. Wrongly convicted and handed a life sentence in his youth, Rudy entered the prison system deeply wounded and in the clutches of a severe identity crisis. After two long decades (1995-2015) of turning his prison cell into a classroom, Rudy reclaimed his freedom with an indomitable sense of self and determination over his future. Currently, Rudy is an adjunct professor at Edgewood College and works full-time as a Restorative Justice Coach with the Madison Metropolitan School District.

This presentation will offer powerful insight regarding factors that contribute to the school-to-prison pipeline and the importance of Restorative Justice/Practice in education. The event is free and open to the public. We want to reach all community members committed to promoting justice and equity to honor the promise held within each young person.

*Check out Rudy's website @
iamweclassics.com

Converging Crisis in Wisconsin Adult and Juvenile Prison

Thursday, April 19 • 5:30-7:00 PM
1825 N. Bluemound Dr., Appleton
Entrance 16, HS Room 114A

Inmate 501 is only a few months away from being shipped out of Wisconsin. Wisconsin faces three options:

1. Pay to ship inmates out of state
2. Pay to build a new prison
3. Reform our criminal justice system

Rep. Evan Goyke's presentation makes the case for prison reform! We CAN and SHOULD reform our criminal justice and correctional systems. At the same time, we CAN reduce incarceration and reduce crime! Rep. Goyke's proposed solutions will be presented and discussed.

Formerly incarcerated individuals will join Rep. Evan Goyke, 18th Assembly District, to discuss the issues and needs of the corrections systems.

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

In recognition of National Healthcare Decisions Week, a free screening and discussion of the **PBS FRONTLINE** film *Being Mortal* will be held in Green Bay. Based on the best-selling book by Atul Gawande, MD, this documentary explores the hopes of patients and families facing terminal illness and their relationships with the physicians who treat them. We will view this movie Tuesday, April 17 from 6:00-8:00 PM or Wednesday, April



18 from 10:00 AM-12:00 PM at the Aurora Sports Medicine Building, 1160 Kepler Drive, Green Bay.

Following a screening of the film, there will be a discussion on the importance of making your wishes known with a panel of physicians, nurses, and professionals in spiritual and palliative care. Light refreshments will be provided.

Visit <https://www.aurorabaycare.com/about-us/events-and-classes> and use the keyword "Mortal" to RSVP.

Worship and Music

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

Good Friday Thank You!

The free will offering at the Ecumenical Good Friday Service raised \$755 for Harbor House. Thank you to all who gave and to Memorial Presbyterian Church for hosting us.

Remembering Reverend King: A Community Worship Encounter

A community worship service is being offered to help mark the 50th Anniversary of the assassination of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King. A group of Christian leaders, drawn from across the spectrum of denominations, ethnicity, and religious tradition, are planning the event entitled: "*Remembering Reverend King: A Community Worship Encounter.*" This event will take place on Sunday, April 8 at 3:00 PM in the

Grand Ballroom at the Paper Valley Hotel. This will mark 50 years since King's death and will bring grief and sobering recognition of how far we have yet to go in pursuit of Reverend Dr. King's dream. Speakers will talk about King's gospel message in five themes: Unity, Freedom, Love, Justice and Peace.

Jubilate Deo in Worship

April 15, both services

Dan Forrest's exciting new major work, *Jubilate Deo*, will be offered in both worship services on Sunday, April 15 by our Sanctuary Choir, Scholar soloists, orchestra (including harp), and guest organist. You may remember this composer from two years ago when we presented his moving *Requiem for the Living*. The first movement of his new work was sung within worship on Easter Sunday. The work is based on Psalm 100 but draws on additional texts and offers seven movements that are sung in seven different languages -- English, Latin, Mandarin, Hebrew, Arabic, and Zulu -- for a global perspective on this joyous psalm. Invite a friend or family member to come experience First Congregational through this special musical offering!

Upcoming LU Music Scholar Recitals in Harper Hall

Come support your LU Music Scholars!

- Luke Honeck and Erik Nordstrom, April 5, 8:00 PM

- Nicolette Puskar and Emily Richter in a Chamber Music Recital, April 8, 8:00 PM
- Annie Mercado, May 26, 6:30 PM.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

A Special Thank You!

The annual First Congo Egg Hunt was a great success this past Sunday, April 1. Our little egg hunters found close to 2000 eggs! Everyone could feel the excitement and joy felt by our children. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who took eggs, filled them with candy and returned them in time to be hidden in the CYF classrooms. We are very fortunate to have such generous congregation members. A thank you also to Dianne Droster, Jessica Lindsey and Maja Glidden for helping out during the egg hunt!!

Healing Service Lead by Children and Youth

Sunday, April 29

We invite all of our children and youth to participate in leading our annual Healing Service. This is a service of prayers and reflection about the healing work of the Holy Spirit. This year our theme is, "We are God's Offspring." There is a place for everyone in this powerful, enriching, and intergenerational experience. For youth and children, we have a variety of ways they can help including ushering, reading,

and more. To sign up, please contact the CYF staff you are involved with, Colleen, Joel, or Nick, via email. Students will need to be present on Wednesday, April 25 from 6:00-7:45 PM for dinner and a rehearsal.

Spring at First Congo

After the Easter Egg Hunt last week, First Congo children will return to their lessons this Sunday and continue with Rotation 5 through April 22. On that day, they will also be singing two special songs during the Children's Sermon. They have been learning and practicing the songs under the direction of Ken and Aimee Eubank. Watch for them on April 22! Some additional dates to be aware of are as follows:

- April 15 we will have Church School. However, please take your children directly to the CYF Theater because **there will be no children's sermon** due to Music Sunday. If your older children wish to stay and hear the beautiful music being performed that day, please feel free to have them do so. We would not want them to miss out on the opportunity to hear the special music being planned for this service.
- April 22 is the final day of church school lessons.
- April 29 will be our Children and Youth Sunday Worship Services.
- May 6 will be a church school group activity.

- May 13 will be an end of year church school celebration.
- May 20 we will honor church school teachers during the church service.

No Family Worship Area for Next Sunday, April 15

Additional space will be needed for musicians for our Masterworks in Worship next week, April 15. Thus, the Family Worship Area will be removed for that service. It will be back up and ready for use by families the following Sunday, April 22. Thank you!

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 April 15, 22, and 29 after worship services. Thanks!

Calendar for April 8–April 14

Sunday, April 8

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	Worship - <i>Sanctuary</i>
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	Church School - <i>Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen, Computer Lab, East Conference Room, 4yr Old Room</i>
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Church Women United Meeting - <i>Library</i>
9:45 AM – 10:30 AM	Healthcare Decision Making - <i>Chapel</i>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	Worship - <i>Sanctuary</i>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	High School Sunday Groups - <i>Common Grounds</i>
11:30 AM – 12:15 PM	Healthcare Decision Making - <i>Chapel</i>
12:30 PM – 4:30 PM	District 02 AA Meeting - <i>North Fellowship Hall</i>
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM	Remembering Rev. Martin Luther King: A Community Worship Encounter - <i>Grand Ballroom in Radisson Paper Valley, Appleton</i>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	LU Scholar Choir Rehearsal - <i>Choir Room</i>
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	First Things First AA Meeting - <i>North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds</i>

Monday, April 9

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Counting Team - <i>Library</i>
1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	ESTHER - Communications - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
4:15 PM – 5:30 PM	Appleton Boychoir Rehearsals - <i>Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room</i>
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	Technology Team - <i>Library</i>
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM	Boy Scout Troop 8 - <i>Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room</i>
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Prayer Shawl - <i>Common Grounds</i>
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal - <i>Computer Lab</i>

Tuesday, April 10

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Strong Bones - <i>River Room</i>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Strong Bones - Spring Sessions - <i>South Fellowship</i>
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	Yoga @ the Congo - <i>Fellowship Hall, River Room</i>
6:00 PM – 7:30 PM	Mission and Service Team Meeting - <i>Upper Lounge</i>

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM **Wild Women of First Congo** – *Stone Cellar Brewpub, 1004 S. Olde Oneida Street, Appleton*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **ESTHER Immigration Rights Task Force** – *Fox Valley Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, 2600 Phillip Lane, Appleton*

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, April 11

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *Upper Lounge*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM **Children's Choir Rehearsal** - *Choir Room*

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM **Youth Handbells Rehearsal** - *Amistad Room*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **Confirmation Class with Mentors** – *Chapel*

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

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM **Membership Exploration Class** – *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, April 12

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

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM **Strong Bones – Spring Sessions** - *South Fellowship Hall*

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM **United Church Camps, Inc. (Moon Beach)** – *Upper Lounge*

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

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM **Prayer Shawl** – *Common Grounds*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM **ESTHER Board Regular Meeting** – *River Room*

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

Friday, April 13

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, April 14

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Major Work Dress Rehearsal** – *Sanctuary, Choir Room, Narthex, Upper lounge*

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

April 11, 6:30-8:30 PM

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





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

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

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Web Site: www.firstcongoappleton.org