

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 fall of 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.

May 13 Highlights at First Congregational

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Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was donated through the Claire Langstadt Gehin Trust Fund in honor of Mother's Day. The arrangement 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 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, May 11	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, May 13	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft-March	Nancy Bodway
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Tim Hanna	Jill Smith
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, May 14		

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 13, 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

Prelude Sombre

Hymn Tune

Gordon Young

(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

Stephanie Bowers & Amy Belonger, *Jake's Diapers*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather as one to worship the Risen Christ!

People: Because he is risen, we can rise above the sorrows of this life and know joy.

Leader: Because he emptied himself for our sakes,

People: we find ourselves freed up to serve one another in love.

Leader: Because he humbled himself, even to the cross,

People: we learn to walk humbly with God and with each other.

Leader: Because God raised him up, we raise our voices in hymns of praise.

People: Glory to God!

Leader: Glory to the one who creates, redeems and sustains us in love!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #54

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

OPENING PRAYER (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 AM

(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 return to the pews to worship with their families.)

ANTHEM

3. Ta cao chang de yang *from* Jubilate Deo
Emily Richter, *soprano*

Dan Forrest

我们是他造的，
也是属他的；
我们是他的民，
也是他草场的羊。
耶和华是我的牧者，
我必不至缺乏。

*It is he that has made us, and not we ourselves;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
(From Psalms 100:3 and 23:1, Mandarin Chinese)*

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM – 10:30 AM

ADALYNN EVERLY PRIM MAROHN

Parents: Thea Schneidewend and Tiffany Morth

Godparents: Bradley Schneidewend and Drewthea Schneidewend

WELCOME

Leader: Members and friends in Christ, we gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Leader: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

WORDS OF COVENANT COMMITMENT (in unison)

We are a community which spans the centuries, bound together by a covenant whose signature is baptism. Today we renew our commitment to live in this covenant

with Adalynn, her parents and godparents, and those who bore witness at our own baptism. We praise God for the faithful women and men who have come before us and pray that God will help us bequeath such faith to those who come after.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless this newly baptized child in Christ. Give her strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NEWLY BAPTIZED

Children of the Heavenly Father

Swedish Hymn

Stanza 1 – Soloist; Stanza 2 - Choir; **Stanza 4, All** (below)

**Baptized in our blest Redeemer,
Sanctifier, and Creator
May we serve and love God, solely,
As we follow Christ, most Holy.**

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN # 374

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

THE SERVANT SONG

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Cantique de Jean Racine

Gabriel Fauré

O Redeemer divine, our sole hope of salvation, Eternal light of the earth and sky,
We kneel in adoration, O Savior turn on us Thy loving eye!
Send down on us the fire of Thy grace all-consuming, whose wondrous might dispersed the powers of hell,
And rouse our slumbering souls with radiance all consuming, that they may waken Thy mercy to tell.
O Christ bestow Thy blessing on us, we implore Thee, who here are gathered on penitent knee,
Accept the hymns we chant to Thine eternal glory and these Thy gifts we return unto Thee.

Poetic translation by Harold Heiberg

***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**

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Philippians 1:27-2:16 (NT p. 240)

MEDITATION

“Jesus on the Jukebox”

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

***CLOSING HYMN # 450**

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

KENILWORTH

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Song of Praise

Robert J. Hughes

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *guest organist*

Emily Richter, *soprano*

8:45 AM: Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM: LU Music Scholars; Max Muter, *bass*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

May 20, 2018

Pentecost Sunday

8:45 and 10:30 AM

“The Day of Pentecost”

Rev. Steve Savides

Scripture readings: Acts 2:1-21, Philippians 4:4-7

Music: 9:30 AM: Sanctuary Choir with LU Music Scholars; Howard Niblock, oboe

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, May 18	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Trish Brehm
Sunday, May 20	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Katy, Alan, and McKenna Jahnke
Bridge Greeters	
Welcome Desk	
Lay Reader	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman and Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Sue Mauthe
Counters, May 21	

First Congregational UCC

Laundra-Thon!

Take-a-Tote of diapers and join the fun in getting them ready for babies in Puerto Rico!

Instructions: "Take-A-Tote" - Each tote has approximately 1 load of laundry, and soap is included.

1. Wash as hot as possible with 1T of included detergent (1/2 scoop)
2. Dry on high (no fabric softener please! It repels water!)
3. Repeat steps 1 & 2 total of 3 times.
4. Fold! Fold square in half, then half again, then in thirds.

Pick-up starting May 13th, and return Totes on or before June 3, when we'll pack them in kits with waterproof covers, wipes, and a wetbag!

Join the Packing Party!

Service Sunday: June 3rd

After Worship

In the Fellowship Hall



Why do we do this?

The absorbent part of cloth diapers is made of natural fibers, and we need to wash and dry to remove the natural oils before they become absorbent. This makes them ready-to-use when our recipients receive them, and our recipients may not have access to hot water to get them ready to use.

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
Sue, sister of Paul and Pete Eggen, as she
and her family grieve the death of
Sue's 20-yr old son, Dawson
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
Ann Hatch, mourning the death of her
mother Patricia Hatch
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
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
Erma Thompson
Beverly Trombla
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia
Wardle
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
The Wittwer Family
Carol Yonan

THE OPEN DOOR

May 13, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 19

Pastor's Message

In Praise of Women!

First Congo member Sara Companik has been named by Samaritan Counseling Center as their 2018 Connie Steele Woman of Strength! Sara was nominated for her tireless commitment to restorative justice through the Prison Ministry Network as well as the ways she stands up to injustice through ESTHER, the League of Women Voters, this congregation's ministry, and much more.

Today is a good day to recognize strong, courageous women. Mother's Day started out as a recognition of many women whose contributions to justice and peace improved the world around them. Some history:

We often forget the radical roots of Mother's Day. Far from being an intimate celebration of family life, Mother's Day had its origin in work for justice and peace.

It all started in the 1850s, when West Virginia women's organizer Ann Reeves Jarvis held Mother's Day work clubs to improve sanitary conditions and try to lower infant mortality by fighting disease and curbing milk contamination, according to historian Katharine Antolini of West Virginia Wesleyan College. The groups also tended wounded soldiers from both sides during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865.

In the postwar years Jarvis and other women organized Mother's Friendship Day picnics and other events as pacifist strategies to unite former foes. Julia Ward Howe, for one – best known as the composer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" – issued a widely read "Mother's Day Proclamation" in 1870, calling for women to take an active political role in promoting peace.

Around the same time, Jarvis had initiated a Mother's Friendship Day for Union and Confederate loyalists across her state. But it was her daughter Anna who was most responsible for what we call Mother's Day – and who would spend most of her later life fighting the limitation and sentimentality of what it had become.

(by Ann Hanson; see http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways)

This backstory for Mother's Day is helpful as many of us celebrate those we call "Mom" this Sunday, but also as we reflect on the many women who inspire us. Congratulations, Sara, and THANK YOU to the many women in our lives and in this community, whose concern for peace and justice makes our world a better place!

Your friend and fellow minister,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

End-of-Year Church Picnic

Sunday, May 20 • After 9:30 AM service
Fellowship Hall and
First Congregational's lawn

At First Congregational we observe spring and the end of the church program year by having an all-church picnic. Plan to attend this celebration for great food and fellowship.

There is no charge for the meal, but donations to support the event are appreciated.

Help is needed for set up, serving food, scooping ice cream and clean up. Please look for sign-up sheets in the Narthex. Many hands make light work, which means everyone has a chance to enjoy the fun! See you at the picnic!

Social Singles Chatters

Join Social Singles Chatters for their last event on May 16. They will be gathering at St. Elizabeth's cafeteria, The Marketplace, at 11:30 AM. This will be their last gathering until the fall.

Wine and Word: *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*

This novel focuses on the life of Sepha Stephanos, an Ethiopian immigrant living in Washington, D.C. after fleeing his country's revolution seventeen years

earlier. Running a failing grocery store, he ruminates on the past as he faces his own inward crisis of displacement and identity while simultaneously marveling at the gentrification of his neighborhood.

We will be meeting at the home of the Valenti-Heins, 2408 Lake Cottage Ct. in Menasha on May 15 at 6:30 PM.

Lectionary Group

The next two Tuesdays, May 15 and 22, Pastor Steve will be holding a lectionary bible study group in the Upper Lounge from 12:00-1:00 PM. The group will discuss the bible passage for the following Sunday. The three passages that will be discussed are: Philippians 2:1-13 (May 8), Acts 2:1-21 and Philippians 4:4-7 (May 15), and John 3:1-9 and Psalm 29 (May 22). Contact the church office with questions (920) 733-7393. A bagged lunch is encouraged.

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

We're O.F.F. Bike Ride in Shawano County

Please join us Saturday, May 19 to bike a scenic backroad route in Shawano County. We will be meeting at 10:00 AM at Mielke Park in Shawano or at 9:00 AM if carpooling or caravanning from parking lot west of McDonalds on Northland Ave. We will bike about 20 miles at your own pace. There is water, snacks, and ice cream at the County Park. Maps will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex in our We're O.F.F. binder.



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Sign Up for Service Sunday

Sunday, June 3 • 9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Service Sunday is just around the corner! Join us for a special morning including a very brief worship experience, community service and sharing for all ages. Ask a friend to join you and sign up together!

This year, we'll be packaging cloth diapers for Puerto Rico (Jake's Diapers), painting yoga positions on the playground at Richmond School, singing for our friends at The Heritage, making cookies to deliver to area skilled nursing facilities to celebrate C.N.A. Week, making fleece blankets for Project NOAHH and Samaritan Counseling Center, offering a free car wash, and much more! Participants will get a First

Congregational T-shirt and enjoy lunch at the church after completing their service projects.

Want to join in? Sign up in the Narthex today or any of the following Sundays in May.

Children's Book Drive for Richmond School

As a part of our Service Sunday outreach to Richmond Elementary School (just down the road from us at the corner of John St. and E. South River St.), we will be collecting new or gently used books appropriate for children in Kindergarten through 6th grade. Bring your donated books to our Service Sunday display in the Narthex between now and June 3!

Youth Mental Illness 101

First English Lutheran Church (326 E. North Street, Appleton) will be hosting a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) presentation entitled "Youth Mental Illness 101" on May 16 from 7:00 - 8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall at First English. It is an informative, 50-minute presentation which provides an overview of mental illness and its impact; treatment and recovery; the adverse effects of stigma; the importance of advocacy; and NAMI Fox Valley's role in the community to educate, support and empower those affected by mental illness. All are welcome.

Women's Retreat

Our 2018 Women's Retreat will be held November 2 through November 4. Once

again, we will gather at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in St. Germaine, WI. We will need a minimum of 15 paid participants by June 10 to hold these dates. The cost of the retreat is \$170, which covers lodging, food and linens.

Please send a check to the church for \$170 for your reservation. Write "Women's Retreat" in the memo section. You can also pay online via Realm. If we have over 15 people and you are later unable to attend, we will refund your payment.

Last fall the retreat was full so please make your reservation early. Due to the time of year, we will have drivers to be sure all can attend. We will provide more information about the retreat theme, etc. as we get closer to the retreat date.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling (www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/Barb%20Uehling) or Pastor Kathryn. Please know that financial assistance is available if the cost is prohibitive.

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting: Visitors Welcome!

Our delegate slate is "full" for the upcoming Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting at the Green Lake Conference Center, but visitors ARE welcome to attend the conference June 8-10 and a separate June 7 workshop led by Dr. Ben Sanders on "White Privilege and Christian Faith". See www.wcucc.org for more information and to register yourself as a visitor. Lodging and meals are available through www.glcc.org.

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.

Moon Beach Camp

Is someone you love looking for an amazing summer job, internship or seasonal volunteer opportunity? Moon Beach Camp is located just outside St. Germain, WI. We offer a variety of camps: Family Church Camps, Camp AweSum (for families affected by autism spectrum conditions) and Memory Family Camp (for participants with dementia, their care partners and families). We also offer two youth camps: Music, Art, Dance & Drama and Camp AweSum Youth! Though we are affiliated with the UCC, we have an ecumenical staff and encourage anyone who loves caring for God's people and creation (age 18+) to apply!

Come spend the summer of a lifetime with us! Head to ucci.org/moon-beach/staff-opportunities to apply or get in touch with questions: (715) 479-8255.

Why I Volunteer at the Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC)

I've been interested in the persons and families who have faced the challenges of mental illness, professionally as a psychiatrist and as a volunteer at NAMI-FV (National Alliance on Mental Illness - Fox Valley). In 2015 I joined the board of directors of the Samaritan Counseling Center (SCC), a state-certified, nonprofit mental health agency that provides counseling that integrates mind, body and spirit. Samaritan has 14 therapists who provide counseling for children, youth, adults, couples and families.

The Samaritan Counseling Center is a direct descendent of the Appleton Pastoral Counseling Center that was started by First Congregational Church in May 1970. It was initially housed in the church school building and funded by our church.

Samaritan has also been a leader in identifying and addressing many community wide mental health issues in collaboration with other agencies. Some examples include: 1) the Mental Health Ministry Initiative, with NAMI, to enhance the skills of faith leaders to deal with mental health issues of their congregations. 2) The Wellness Screen Program (a free mental health check-up in the schools), in 2017-18, nine school systems are involved, and 12,000+ students will be offered screening. This is a collaborative effort with Catalpa and NAMI. 3) Centro Esperanza, a Spanish-language mental health collaboration with

NAMI to address the mental health needs of persons who speak Spanish.

I've been impressed by the caring and commitment of the staff of Samaritan, the leadership of Rosangela Berbert, and the involvement of the board. -Tom Tatlock

Worship and Music

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

Please Wear Red

You are invited to wear red next Sunday, May 20 for Pentecost. Thanks!

More Concerts, Recitals!

Sunday, May 13: Composition Studio Recital, Harper Hall at 3:00 PM. Includes premiere of a choral work by tenor LU Music Scholar Logan Willis, sung by our own LU Music Scholars.

Sunday, May 13: Caritas Collegium Concert, All Saints' Episcopal, 7:00 PM. Includes premier of a choral arrangement by Sanctuary Choir member Joel Jicha.

Sunday, May 13: Howard Niblock oboe recital, LU Memorial Chapel, 8:00 PM.

Thursday, May 17: LU Opera Scenes Recital, Stansbury Theater, 8:00 PM. Includes many of our LU Music Scholars.

Friday, May 25: LU Choirs in Concert, LU Memorial Chapel, 8:00 PM.

Saturday, May 26: Senior LU Music Scholar Annie Mercado, soprano, in Recital, Harper Hall, 6:30 PM.

The St. John's Boys' Choir in Concert

Monday, May 14 • 7:00 PM
St. Mary Parish, Appleton

St. Mary Parish is pleased to welcome the world-renowned St. John's Boys' Choir for a very special concert in celebration of spring! Doors will open at 6:30 PM for a 7:00 PM concert. Admission \$5.00 at the door. Choir members regularly meet for 3-4 hours each week to learn proper breathing, music literacy, solfège, music history, performance etiquette, recorder instructions, ear training, and voice care. The St. John's Boys' Choir performs approximately fifty concerts per year which include a repertoire of sacred, classical, folk, and Broadway music. For more information, contact Kevin Meidl, at 920-832-6219, ext. 7520 or at meidlkevin@asds.k12.wi.us.

Fox Valley Flute Choir Spring Concert

Sunday, May 20 • 4:00 PM
First Congregational UCC

The 18-member Fox Valley Flute Choir will present its Spring Concert on Sunday, May 20 at 4 PM at the First Congregational United Church of Christ. The hour-long concert is free and open to the public. The group which consists of piccolos, C flutes, Alto, Bass and Contrabass flute will perform music by Mercadante, Ink, Mower, Albert, and a variety of folk song arrangements by Amy Rice-Young, John Rutter and Austin Scott.

The Fox Valley Flute Choir has been performing together for the past seven years under the direction of Patricia George and Marc Sackman. The group will also be joining the Green Bay based flute choir Sounds of Silver on June 9 for a joint concert at the Weidner Center in Green Bay and then on Sunday afternoon June 10 will be playing the National Anthem at the Timber Rattlers ball game.

Summer Worship Hours

We wanted to remind the congregation that our summer worship hours will begin May 20 through September 9. That means we will only have **one** worship service at 9:30 AM. Thank you!

Summer Music Sign-Ups

You are invited to share your gifts as a vocal or instrumental soloist or ensemble in our 9:30 AM Sunday worship services this summer, June 17 - September 2! Children through adults are encouraged to participate. We've enjoyed having some "entire family" ensembles in recent years, too.

Please sign-up in the narthex as soon as possible (preferably before June 3) or contact John Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries, directly at <http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/John%20Albrecht> or at (920) 851-8097 (his direct line at church.) *John will get back to you to discuss your schedule, music, and scriptures for the day.* Thank you!

Pastor Hatch Sabbatical 2018

After seven years of service, Pastor Nick has submitted a plan for a three-month sabbatical that was approved by Church Council. It's called *A Season of Ecological Justice* and it will be happening this year, June 4-August 26. We have carefully planned out all ministry responsibilities to ensure that nothing will be left undone during his absence. It's important to note that at our church a Sabbatical is understood as a time for personal renewal and a season to prepare for the years of service to come.

To honor Nick's Sabbatical, he will be out of communication until August 27.



promises. There will be crafts, games and snacks. Parents should pick children up at the end of service in Fellowship Hall.

Joyful Noise Collection

Sunday, May 20

Next Sunday, May 20 the children of First Congo will have a final Joyful Noise collection until fall. The children's collection this month will help them to support Camp AweSum, a private non-profit group that organizes camping experiences for children with autism. Please check your purses, pockets and wallets for spare change and help make next Sunday the best, most noisy, joy filled collection of the year. Thank you!!

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Are You A Graduating Senior?

We would like to recognize all graduating seniors, high school and post-secondary ages, on May 20. Please show up to the May 20 service at **9:30 AM**. A cake reception will follow. Thanks!

Church School Reminder

Sunday, May 13

This Sunday marks the final day of Church School this year. Children will head to the **Fellowship Hall** after the Children's Sermon, where a celebration will take place to honor their hard work this past year learning about God's

Administration

New Newsletter Service

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 May 13–May 19

Sunday, May 13

- 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM **Worship** - *Sanctuary*
- 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, May 14

- 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM **Counting Team** - *Library*
- 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM **ESTHER – Communications** - *Upper Lounge*
- 5:30 PM – 7:00 PM **Technology 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 15

- 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 – Adam Hamilton’s Book, “Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times”** - *Upper Lounge*
- 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM **Yoga @ the Congo** - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
- 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM **ESTHER Transportation Funding Task Force** - *First United Methodist Church, Appleton*
- 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM **Wine and Word: “The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears”** - *Chuck and Denise Valenti-Hein, 2408 Lake Cottage Ct., Menasha*
- 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Horizon Ministry Team** - *Library*
- 7:45 PM – 8:45 PM **Fireside AA Group** - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, May 16

- 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **Social Singles Chatters** - *St. Elizabeth’s Cafeteria, The Marketplace, 1506 S Oneida Street, Appleton*
- 12:15 PM – 1:00 PM **Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** - *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 17

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

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM **Finance Committee Meeting** - *Upper Lounge*

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*

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*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM **Family/Friends Mental Illness Support Group**- *Upper Lounge*

Friday, May 18

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 **AI-Anon** - *East Conference Room*

Saturday, May 19

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM **ESTHER Electronics Recycling Event** - *West Parking Lot*

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

Staff Changes at First Congo

Recently, we received the resignation of Tom Pflugardt as Facilities Manager. We are grateful for Tom's faithful service to our church, and wish him all the best in his next endeavors.

Applications are now being received for a full-time Custodial Supervisor. This individual will oversee our part-time custodial staff, maintain our facilities and grounds, and communicate effectively with our staff team and our Facilities Ministry Team. For a copy of the job description, please contact the church office.