

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.

WATCH LIVE: You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on YouTube at tinyurl.com/ybtlv9c6 or on Facebook at tinyurl.com/yayd8cud

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 to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more.

August 26 Highlights at First Congregational

September 5	Sanctuary Choir	p. 9
September 9	Rally Sunday!	
September 16	Two Worship Services Begin	
September 22-29	Appalachia Service Trip	p. 11
	E-Newsletters	p. 11

Flowers

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

Communion

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

Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sundays are September 16, October 21, November 18, and December 16.

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, August 24	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Phyllis Wallis
Sunday, August 26	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	
Bridge Greeters	
Welcome Desk	
Lay Reader	Barbara Schmidt
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth, Mike Spurlock, Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Jill Smith
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen
Counters, August 27	

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 26, 2018

9:30 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

Partita

J. S. Bach

(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

Leader: The day breaks.

People: And God does not let us go.

Leader: The hour calls.

People: And God does not let us go.

Leader: The evening falls.

People: And God holds us fast.

Leader: Let us turn to God in worship.

People: We hold fast to God, who never turns from us.

*HYMN #102

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

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, forever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

ANTHEM

Lift Thine Eyes from Elijah

Mendelssohn

Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider, *vocal duet*

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #271

Lead Me, Lord

LEAD ME, LORD

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Come Thou Fount

arr. Craig Courtney

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host:

Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 32:3-23 (OT p. 36)

MEDITATION

"Facing the Enemy"

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin p.5)

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

FESTAL SONG

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Canzona

Frescobaldi

*The Congregation Standing

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *guest organist*

Karen Leigh Post, *mezzo-soprano*

Ashleigh Kreider, *soprano*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

September 2, 2018

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

"The Face of Gratitude"

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Scripture reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

Music: Jennifer Kosloski, *mezzo-soprano*; Mabel Grummer and David Schiedemeyer, *slide guitar and harmonica*

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, August 31	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Trish Brehm
Sunday, September 2	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Dan Nisler
Bridge Greeters	Aaholm Family
Welcome Desk	Cheryl Nisler
Lay Reader	Jerry Dees
Usher Team Captains	Karianne Carr, Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	
Multi-Media – video	



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,
 Judy and George Lendved, and their
 son, Larry Lendved
Katie Behl
Glen Benzschawel
Arlene Beyer
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Virginia Clay, aunt of Carolyn Frederick
Dena Collier
Family of David DeWitt on his passing
Jim Edwards
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Mary Guenther
Charlie, brother of Rose Heinz
Maggie Hendrick
Mark Holly, nephew of Patricia Streur
Clara and Victor Hosang
Ron Huebner
Sandy Hubert
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Family of Nancy Jones on her passing

Our Kenyan partners and students
All those affected by plant closures
Eunice Klemp
Betty Masaros
James McLaughlin, son-in-law of Doug and Pat
 Nelson
Family of Cecilia Miller on her passing
Our country's military around the world
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in-law
Ellie Olson
Chuck Nelson, brother of Doug Nelson
Families and children of Palestine
Pastor Nick and his family while on sabbatical
Diane Reitzner
Don Roehrborn
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Jim Schwantes
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees and Syrians affected by violence
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
Kim, cousin of Ellen Wittwer
Carol Yonan
Sally Yonan

THE OPEN DOOR

August 26, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 34

Pastor's Message

Letting Go

We are in a season of cleaning out at our house. I've been waiting for this to happen. Our kids are 16 and 20. I hoped there would come a day when love-worn stuffed animals and too-small t-shirts would finally succumb to more fitting interests. I've been hinting at this transition for a while. Some might call it nagging.

The truth is, for all my efforts to encourage this awakening, my kids aren't cleaning their rooms because of me. Last week, my daughter came home from a day with her show choir friends. They had been asked (once) to clean out and reorganize the storage areas behind the school auditorium. "It was so much fun," she reported. The next day, outside her own door, she had 3 bags of garbage and as many for donation. As I write this, my son is engaged in similar activity, thanks to the prompting of his girlfriend. We like her.

This season of letting go coincides with the start of another academic year. As old as they are, I still harbor concerns about how the world (and the people in it) will treat and influence my kids. I just signed all the liability waivers, internet usage and photo release policy forms for this year at the high school. We continue to have conversations about how to interact with others, and even how to respond if a stranger knocks on our door, which rarely happens where we live. The news is crowded with cautionary tales about misplaced trust.

There are plenty of reasons to be fearful, but today I am grateful for those who influence my kids for the better, in ways I try to, but often fail. I feel somehow lighter in spirit, knowing I am not solely responsible for shaping who they will become. They say it takes a village to raise our children. When the village "works", I'm able to let go of some of my fears, even as I slowly let go (just a little bit) of my kids.

Here at the village we call church, we make promises of love, support and care to "our" children at baptism. We teach Sunday School and support youth-centered activities not only for their sake, but because in the end, we are all influenced for the better by a healthy community that helps each other grow in faith and friendship. We follow safe conduct policies and take boundaries training as a responsibility to our kids and to each other. So thank you, church, for your commitment to the care of our kids, and the peace of mind of their parents. May all our kids, in all our villages, be so blessed.

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Chrysalis Spiritual Group

The Chrysalis Spiritual Group will be meeting Tuesday, September 4 at 1:00 PM - 2:15 PM in the Upper Lounge. We are continuing the book, *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*, by Adam Hamilton.

In his book, Hamilton examines the thoughts we feel about disappointing others, failure, loneliness, and aging. He helps readers understand and counter fears related to terrorism, death, and the apocalypse. We will be rereading and discussing Chapters 10-12.

New participants are welcome at any time to join our book discussions.

For more information, contact Trish Brehm at trishbrehm@yahoo.com or call (920) 858-1198 or Sheryl De Hart at tshdehart@gmail.com or call (920) 731-2620.

Three Family-to-Family Classes

This FREE 12-week course is for family members and friends (18 and older) of adults who live with mental illness. The class is taught by trained family members who have lived the experience. Many family members describe this program as "life changing."

Topics include:

- Family responses to the trauma of mental illness.
- Information on the major mental illnesses--depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, and thought disorders.
- The biology of the brain and emerging scientific discoveries.
- Medication review, treatment strategies, and prospects for recovery.
- Improving communication, problem solving, and coping skills.
- How to manage problems, crisis, and relapse.
- Exploring community resources and services.

Appleton Class:

Meets Mondays, 6:00-8:30 PM at NAMI Fox Valley, September 10-November 19, 2018.

Waupaca Class:

Meets Tuesdays, 6:00-8:30 PM at FVTC, Waupaca Regional Center, Room WAP111, September 11-November 20, 2018.

Chilton Class:

Meets Wednesdays, 6:00-8:30 PM at FVTC, Chilton Regional Center, Room 126, September 12-November 28.

Classes fill up quickly so reserve your spot today! (Preregistration is required). Register above, call (920) 954-1550 or email lisa@namifoxvalley.org.

Visit our website at namifoxvalley.org for more information about our support groups and education and outreach programs.

Our Joy Continues!

Save the date for the 44th Annual Joy Conference! The Joy Conference will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 from 8:00 AM-2:15 PM. The event will be held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton. This year we welcome speakers, Gaye Lindfors, Annie Meehan, and Lanelle Vasichek. Please share with your family and friends and save the date! Registration will be open on December 14. For more information please call Outagamie County UW-Extension at (920) 832-4763.

Worship and Music

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

The 2018 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Recital will start at 12:15 PM. For more information visit
lunchtimeorganrecital.org

- Wednesday, August 29 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah; Marilyn Freeman, AAGO, organ Ralph Freeman, piano. Dobson Organ, 2m.

Volunteers Needed for Percussion and Drums

Attention, now is your chance to play percussion and drums! Rehearsals begin in early September to prepare for World Communion/Kenyan Partnership Sunday on October 7. For more info, contact Vicky Daniel at yovickster@gmail.com or (920) 284-6652.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals Resume

Starting September 5 at 7 PM

All adults and high schoolers are welcome to join in service & music ministry by singing in our Sanctuary Choir!

No audition is needed; many different styles of music are explored as we praise God through singing. For questions and to register, please call John Albrecht at (920) 733-7393, or e-mail him at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Children, Youth & Family (CYF) and Music Program Registration 2018-2019

Registration for the new program year has begun! You should have received an email through Realm a few weeks ago with all the important information. Please

check your SPAM folder if you didn't receive it.

We're very excited to launch online registration through Realm. Please help us get off to a great start by completing this process right away.

If you need assistance, contact Jennifer DeWitt (CYF Coordinator) at 920-851-6938 or jdewitt@firstcongoappleton.org.

We will also have a table set up at Rally Sunday on September 9, and Parent Orientation Night on September 12 to help you.

Paper forms will also be available in the main church office, outside the CYF office, in the Narthex, and in the hallway by the Nursery.

To complete the online registration process, log into your Realm account and follow this process:

1. Under Community, click on Events.
2. Click on Children/Youth/Music Registration 2018-2019.
3. Check the box next to each child you are registering. Then click on the blue "Next" button.
4. Answer all the questions.
5. Click on the blue "Next" button.
6. Click on the blue "Register" button.

To learn more about the exciting programs we have planned for your student, including our new Tween program, please attend your child's orientation (each orientation will be group specific) held in the Fellowship Hall.

Please note that Confirmation registration/orientation is not included with this email and is a separate event.

Orientation Schedule:

Church School (3-year-olds to 6th grade)
*Wednesday, September 12: 6:30-7:00 PM

Middle School (7th and 8th grades)
*Wednesday, September 12: 7:00-7:30 PM

High School (9th to 12th grades)
*Wednesday, September 12: 7:30-8:00 PM

*Church school for grades K-6th will be offered at the 8:45 AM service only.

Nursery & toddler childcare and 3 & 4-year-old church school will be offered at both services.

Administration

Administrative Assistant for Communications

Christina Trepanier, our church's Administrative Assistant for Communications, resigned from her position recently so that she could pursue her master's degree. In her letter of resignation, she writes, "Despite having to leave, I deeply appreciate the opportunities for growth and development you have provided during my time here at First Congregational UCC. Thank you for your guidance and support. I hope we will have opportunities to collaborate in the future."

We offer Christina our thanks and our best wishes for the future.

We have been blessed to have our new Administrative Assistant for Communications, Mardy Wiesman, train with Christina during her last week with us. If you have anything you'd like to have placed in the Open Door, Mardy asks that you please contact him at mwiesman@firstcongoappleton.org by noon on Tuesday of the week you need the article to be published.

E- Newsletters

Are you still receiving our Wednesday and Friday e-newsletters? We are now using Constant Contact instead of our old website.

Please add info@firstcongoappleton.org to your contacts so the e-letters don't end up in your SPAM.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Appalachia Service Trip

September 22-29, 2018

“Warmer, Safer, Drier.” That is the mission of the Appalachia Service Project. Their goal is to help families in need to improve the condition of their homes. We are planning our 5th service trip to Appalachia. This year, we will be at the Guyan Valley Center in Brenton, West

Virginia helping to rebuild or rehab homes. You need no specific carpentry skills to participate, just a willingness to serve. We do our part and turn the project over to the next arriving crew. Amazing work gets done! If we bring a willingness to work hard and a desire to connect with the families with whom we work and with each other, lives are transformed. Each trip has been an amazing experience for all of us participating.

The cost of the trip is \$325 plus travel expenses. The \$325 covers lodging and meals at the center and helps fund service projects.

Please sign up in the Narthex, call Valerie Schultz at (920) 915-8008 or email her at www.firstcongoappleton.org/contact/valerie%20schultz. You can also go to the Appalachia Service Project website for more information. Thanks!

2018 InterFaith Build Support and Food Providers Needed

The volunteer work positions are filled for the Interfaith Habitat Build at 320 S. Story Street.

Thank you to everyone who have signed up! Our congregation is well-represented through your commitments.

We do need site support and food providers for Saturday, October 6 and Tuesday, October 23. If you are able to help please sign up in the Narthex or contact Tim De Hart.

Join Congo4NAMI at NAMIWalks Fox Valley!

Saturday, October 6
Check in: 7:00-8:00 AM
Walk begins: 8:15 AM
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Stadium
2400 N. Casaloma Dr., Appleton

Wear your First Congregational UCC t-shirt.
(See Pastor Kathryn if you need one).

NAMI Fox Valley is bringing back its 5K NAMIWalks event to raise funds and awareness for those needing resources and support for those who live with or care about someone living with mental illness.

Why We Walk:

- because one in five Americans lives with a mental health condition;
- to improve the lives of people who are affected by mental illness;
- to build awareness and end stigma by encouraging others to learn about mental health and see the person, not the illness;
- to raise funds to provide support education and advocacy programs at no cost;
- because we want the community to know we support mental health initiatives.

To join or support our team, you have two options:

Option A:

Go to www.namifoxvalley.org
Select "NAMIWalks"

Search for our team: Congo4NAMI

Select "Join Our Team"

Sign on, raise funds if you can, and join us on October 6!

Option B:

Sign up at in the Narthex!

Calendar for August 26–September 1

Sunday, August 26

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Worship - *Sanctuary*

First Things First AA Meeting - *North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds*

Monday, August 27

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Appleton Boy Choir - Repertoire Rehearsal - *Choir Room*

Boy Scout Troop 8 - *Fellowship Hall, West Conference room*

First Congo Crafters for Christ - *Upper Lounge*

Tuesday, August 28

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

StrongBodies - Independent Practice - *South Fellowship Hall*

Yoga @ the Congo - *Fellowship Hall, River Room*

Church Council Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

Green Tree Ravine Condominium Owners Assoc. - *Chapel*

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 29

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - *Upper Lounge*

Thursday, August 30

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

StrongBodies - Independent Practice - *South Fellowship Hall*

AA – Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 31

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

N.A. - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, September 1

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*