

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 January 19, 2019.

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.

December 2 Highlights at First Congregational

Today	Back Bay Mission Shrimp Available.....	p. 13
December 5:	Conversations an Advance Care Planning Begins	p. 12
December 9:	Charpentier's <i>Midnight Mass For Christmas</i>	p. 14
December 12/19:	Come Rehearse for the Christmas Eve Choir 9 PM Service .	p. 14
December 16:	Congregational Meeting, Election of 2019 Church Officers ..	p. 11
Church School Updates.....		p. 11
Gifts for Advent Christmas Display.....		p. 20

Flowers

Cindi Ritcey Fox designed this morning's sanctuary flower arrangement.

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 Sunday is December 16. The 2019 dates are: January 13, February 17, March 10, April 28, and May 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 baptism date.

Members in Service This Week

Friday, November 30	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Trish Brehm	
Sunday, December 2	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Georgia Berceau	Ron Reissmann
Bridge Greeters	Dennis Korth	Jean Coenraad
Welcome Desk	Faith Mauk	Cheryl Reissmann
Lay Readers	Gretchen Revie	Susan McFadden
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm

Church School Schedule–8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms today - *Final Church School for 2018!*

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 2, 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

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying
Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Bach
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

YOUTH PRAYER

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Maria Sorensen

*WELCOME AND GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
The Lord Is King

N. Sleath

D. Christopherson

Children's Choir

OPENING SENTENCES

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN # 114

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE – LOVE

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE

1 John 4:9-11

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

O God, we thank you that Jesus showed your love for every person - babies and children, old people and young, sick people and those who were strong, rich people and those who were poor. Come to us in this Advent season and give us love in our hearts for all people. Amen.

* Congregation Standing; **Bolded** Congregation Responding

SUNG RESPONSE (see bulletin page 6)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So

St. 1 introduced by Choir, **then repeated by ALL.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 only)

(After the children's sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School.)

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:17-19; (OT p. 1066)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 26:36-38 (NT p. 36)

MEDITATION

"Worth Waiting For"

Rev. Steve Savides

*RESPONSE HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

Sometimes a Light Surprises

SALLEY GARDENS

Stanza 1 - Choir women **St. 2-4, ALL**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

arr. Healey Willan

Vocal Ensemble/Sanctuary Choir

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY #128

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

WACHET AUF

Stanza 3, **sung by ALL**

Now let all the heav'ns adore you, let saints and angels sing before you,

Let harp and cymbal now unite.

Of one pearl each shining portal, where we shall join the choir immortal,

In praises round your throne of light.

Our eyes behold the sight, our ears fill with delight:

Alleluia! Therefore we sing, our hymns we bring,

In praise to you our voices ring.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We confess, O God, that we do not take seriously your coming our lives. We do not act like salvation is near: by loving you, our neighbors, and ourselves. We hold on to our shame instead of embracing your mercy. Forgive us, we pray, that we might once again walk in your light, choosing the way of Christ's love and grace rather than the darkness of fear and shame. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our light. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*GLORIA PATRI

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

INVITATION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is right, and a good and joyful thing... so with your people of earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ALL: Holy, holy holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed... as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

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.

BREAKING THE BREAD/POURING THE CUP

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for allowing us to share in this feast as your family and to be fed with the bread of heaven; give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin page 11)

Bring Forth the Kingdom

M. Haugen

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In Thee Is Gladness

Bach

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

8:45 AM Children's Choir; Vocal Ensemble: Kris Glenn, Jennifer Kosloski,
Cindy Cook, Tami Johnson, David Cook, Paul Eggen, Dave Frederick, Joel Jicha.

10:30 AM Children's Choir; Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 9, 2018

Masterworks in Worship

8:45 and 10:30 AM

Music: 8:45 and 10:30 AM – *Midnight Mass for Christmas* – Charpentier, along with
 Congregational Carol-Singing: Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, Chamber Orchestra, and Organ

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, December 7	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, December 9	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		Pat Severin
Bridge Greeters	Dennis Korth	Pat Hirby
Welcome Desk		Frank Severin
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Sue Mauthe

First Congregational United Church of Christ *presents*

Charpentier's
 (1643 – 1704)

Midnight Mass for Christmas

*French Baroque Mass,
 based on 10 French carol melodies.*

Sunday, December 9, 2018
 8:45 and 10:30 AM services

First Congregational UCC Sanctuary Choir
 Lawrence University Music Scholar Soloists
 Chamber Orchestra

John M. Albrecht, *Director of Music Ministries*
 Jon D. Riehle, *Organist*

Noël!



Madonna and Child,
 Carlo Dolci (1616-1686)







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, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Family of Stephan Chady on his death
Dena Collier
Jim Edwards
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
Clara and Victor Hosang
Ron Huebner
Dan Huth
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Janis Ireland
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Nancy Jones, Linda Jones Pierron's mother

Our Kenyan partners and students
Eunice Klemp
Betty Masaros
Our country's military around the world
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Baby Nora
Ellie Olson
Families and children of Palestine
Family of Paiboon Pairin (son-in-law of Joan Jensen) on the death of his sister Sunantha
Connie Radtke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Diane Reitzner
Don Roehrborn
Tom Ruud
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Jim Schwantes
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees and Syrians affected by violence
Gloria Tate
Beverly Trombla
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
The Wittwer Family
Kim, cousin of Ellen Wittwer
Terry Woodford
7-Year-Old with Stage 4 Cancer

THE OPEN DOOR

December 2, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 46

Pastor's Message

AN ADVENT ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

There is a story of identical twins who were identical in everything except attitude. In attitude, however, they were complete opposites. One was a hope-filled optimist, while the other a complete and hopeless pessimist. The worried parents of the boys brought them to the local psychologist. He suggested to the parents a plan to balance the twins' personalities. *"On Christmas morning, put them in separate rooms to open their gifts. Give the pessimist the best toys you can afford and give the optimist a box of manure."*

The parents followed these instructions and carefully observed the results. When they peeked in on the pessimist, they heard him loudly complaining, *"I asked for the iPhone XR not the iPhone 8! I wanted a Play Station Vita not a Play Station 4! I know someone who's got a bigger remote-controlled drone than this one!"*

Tiptoeing across the corridor, the parents peeked in and saw their little optimist gleefully throwing the manure up in the air. He was giggling and saying, *"You can't fool me! Where there's this much manure, there's gotta be a pony!"*

Advent is a good time for us to check our own attitudes. I don't know if I'd describe us Christians as being complete optimists, but we're certainly not pessimists. Reinhold Niebuhr wrote that the saint and the cynic have something in common: they see the world as it is. As Christians, we see the world as it is: we see the failure, the corruption, the stupidity and the violence. But unlike the cynic, we also see another power at work in the world. We see God at work in the universe, God's loving intentions afoot in our history.

This Advent season let's keep our eyes open for God's presence among us. Let's look for and be delighted by the love, joy, peace, and hope that are ours through Jesus Christ. That should make for an attitude adjustment for all of us.

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Steve Savides

OFFICIAL NOTICE

There will be a Congregational Meeting held immediately after the 8:45 AM service on Sunday, December 16 for the purpose of voting on 2019 Church Officers.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Christmas Pageant 2018

Rehearsals Continue • Scripture Tent
10:15 – 11:30 AM

This year's Christmas Pageant rehearsals continue from 10:15 to 11:30 AM, and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15, from 9:00 AM-noon. Performances are on Sunday, December 16, at 8:45 and 10:30 AM.

All children in Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to participate.

Let's make this Christmas Pageant the best one ever.

December Church School News

With the Christmas season now in full gear, there will be some changes to the Church School schedule. We will be meeting today, December 2 for the **final lesson** of Rotation Two.

Next Sunday, December 9, during the Master Works Music Sunday, there will be a Group Activity for children but those who wish to remain in worship with their family to hear the beautiful music are welcome to do so. This Group Activity will take place during the 8:45

service ONLY and will be held in the Art/Kitchen and Scripture Tent rooms.

On December 16, the Christmas Pageant will take place during BOTH SERVICES. There will be NO Church School on that day as we encourage children to celebrate and support the pageant participants.

Additional dates to be aware of:

Sundays, December 23/December 30, 2018: NO Church School.

Sunday, January 6, 2019: Church School resumes with Rotation Three.

Wilderness Ministry 2019

Four incredible wilderness ministry trips are now open for registration. Two trips are for First Congo congregation members only and two trips originate through Moon Beach, our UCCI camp up north.

If you are an adult or a youth interested in canoeing the Boundary waters or Backpacking Isle Royale, now is the time to get your registration in.

- **Adult Isle Royale Backpacking UCCI**
 - May 18, 2019 – May 25, 2019
- **Adult Boundary Waters Canoe Trip UCCI**
 - June 22, 2019 – June 30, 2019
- **Youth/Parent Boundary Waters Canoe Trip**
 - July 21, 2019 – July 27, 2019
- **Parent Boundary Waters Canoe Trip**
 - September 8, 2019 – September 14, 2019

All details and forms are now available on the church website. Click on **Full**

Menu, under **Children, Youth and Families** click on **Wilderness Ministry**.

Please return applications to Pastor Nick and contact him with any questions at nhatch@firstcongoappleton.org.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Advent Conversations on Advance Care Planning

Wednesdays, December 5, 12 and 19
5:30 – 7:00 PM Fellowship Hall/River
Room

No cost; Light supper provided
It's always too soon, until it's too late.

December 5 – *Why Have the Conversation?*

Who would speak for you if you couldn't speak for yourself? Find out how you can care for your loved ones by choosing someone to advocate for your healthcare choices if needed – and why it's important. A light supper will be provided. All are welcome.

To sign up, please contact the Church Office or on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Presenters include:

- Ellen Koski, Fox Valley Advance Care Planning Partnership
- Dr. Dave Schiedermayer, ThedaCare Palliative Care Program.

Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group

Learn how to live with vision loss from others who have been there. Discover different methods to accomplish those activities that are important to you.

Don't give up – find a new way to do things. The Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group encourages folks to look at visual impairment as a new beginning.

The key to accepting this type of change is being able to adapt to your new environment and find innovative ways to accomplish the important things in life.

Anyone interested in the topic of vision loss is encouraged to learn more by connecting with the group a number of ways:

- Visit the group's website at:
<https://sites.google.com/view/aplvisuallyimpaired/>
- Follow the group on Facebook at:
Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group
- Contact the Appleton Visually Impaired Support group leader, Daphne, at (920) 955-3776 or dkennett@att.net.

We hope to see you at one of our monthly meetings.

Pillars Update

Fox Valley Warming Shelter, Homeless Connections, and Housing Partnership of the Fox Cities have consolidated to create Pillars. From homelessness to coming

home, Pillars provides shelter, support, and solutions to address the housing needs in our community. Pillars serves our community from four locations:

- Adult Shelter (formerly known as Fox Valley Warming Shelter)
1928 W. College Ave., Appleton.
Provides safe, overnight shelter for adults experiencing homelessness.
- Adult & Family Shelter (formerly known as Homeless Connections)
400 N. Division St., Appleton.
Provides safe, 24/7 shelter for adults and families experiencing homelessness.
- Resource Center (formerly known as Homeless Connections Resource Center)
129 S. Mason St., Appleton.
Provides a safe, welcoming environment during the day, providing housing-related services to adults experiencing homelessness.
- Pillars (formerly known as Housing Partnership of the Fox Cities)
605 E. Hancock St., Appleton, serves as our primary mailing address, and provides affordable housing to adults and families.

For more information about Pillars, visit their website: www.pillarsinc.org.



SHELTER. SUPPORT. SOLUTIONS.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale

Shrimp available on December 2 and 9

Your purchase of gulf shrimp by-the-pound supports our April 2019 service trip to Back Bay Mission. We are grateful to



Jacobs Meat Market in Appleton for supplying shrimp for our sale again this year. Shrimp will be sold in 1-lb packages. Our price of \$15 per pound allows you to enjoy delicious gulf shrimp, and generously support our mission at the same time.

Save the Date: Our Joy Continues!

Registration Starts on December 14

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 at Appleton's Fox Valley Lutheran High School.

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.

Alternative Christmas Market Gifts

Through December 16

Alternative Christmas Market gifts can be purchased through December 16. Visit the ACM table in the Narthex between services to pick up a catalog and place an order.

Back Bay Mission Trip

April 7-12, 2019

(additional travel time may be required)

Cost: \$325 (due January 31, 2019)

Join us for our next trip to Back Bay Mission, April 7-12, 2019. Volunteering at Back Bay Mission includes providing home repairs for low-income home owners, helping out at Back Bay's Micah Day Center for the homeless, or assisting at the food pantry – all while learning about issues of poverty on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Back Bay's Mission House dormitory provides comfortable housing for volunteers. We prepare our own meals in the Mission House kitchen. At the end of a long work day, we can relax on the porch or walk together to the beach. Interested? Sign up in the Narthex. Contact Ken Jahnke, (920) 427-5996.

Worship and Music

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

Masterworks in Worship

Why hear ordinary holiday music when you can listen to Baroque holiday music?

On Sunday, December 9, come and enjoy Charpentier's *Midnight Mass for Christmas* at our church's 8:45 and 10:30 AM worship services.

The service will feature the vocal talents of: Lawrence University's Music Scholar soloists and Chamber Orchestra and our Sanctuary Choir. Enlighten your soul this holiday season with a French carol – based Baroque choral music.

Join Our Choir for Christmas Eve Services Rehearsals

Wednesdays, December 12 • December
19
7:00 PM Both Dates

Our Sanctuary Choir will again welcome additional high school – adult singers for our 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols.

Please join us on **Wednesday, December 12 and/or Wednesday December 19** for 7:00 PM rehearsals to learn the music.

Your attendance at BOTH rehearsals is preferred. A string quartet and a variety of wind instruments will make music with us, too. Each year, we include familiar carol arrangements, and some

brand-new music. Returning college students, young adults, family members, spouses and partners of choir members, members, friends who love singing *are all welcome!*

Interested? Questions? **RSVP John Albrecht** jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org (920) 733-7393, so we can prepare a choir folder for you.

Advent Service of Healing and Prayer

Thursday, December 13

7:00 PM • Chapel

Many holiday preparations focus on joyful gatherings, bright lights and carols.

For those grieving, struggling, or feeling otherwise, it becomes easy to think the Christmas message isn't for them.

On Thursday, December 13, we will offer an Advent Service of Healing and Prayer at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. All are welcome.

Here, you'll find quiet time for worship, light candles in hope, renew your spirit, and prepare yourself to hear the good news that Christ is born for *you*.

If you find the holiday season leaves you feeling empty, or you need time to center your soul around thoughts of peace and hope or if you want "time out" from everything being asked of you, please consider attending our Advent Service of Healing and Prayer.

Please note: In the past, this service was called, "Blue Christmas."

Administration

Open Door Holiday Deadlines

With the holiday season upon us and the multiple bulletins that need to be printed, the deadline for submitting articles has been modified.

Bulletin Date	Deadline
Sunday, December 16	Tuesday, December 11
Sunday, December 23	Tuesday, December 18
Sunday, December 30	Tuesday, December 18
Sunday, January 6	Thursday, December 27

Please submit all articles to mwiesman@firstcongoappleton.org. Thank you for your cooperation.

Calendar for Sunday, December 2 – Saturday, December 8

Sunday, December 2

All Day

7:00 AM – 9:30 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Monday, December 3

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 4

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Wednesday, December 5

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

5:45 PM – 6:45 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Shrimp Sale – Narthex

High School Service Project – Pillars (*Homeless Connections*)

Worship – Sanctuary

Child Care – Infant Room, Toddler Room, Nursery, 4-year-old Room

Church School – Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen, East Conference Room, Computer Lab

Pageant Rehearsal – Scripture Tent

Worship – Sanctuary

Child Care – Infant Room, Toddler Room, Nursery, 4-year-old Room

High School Sunday Groups/ Make Care Packages for

Graduates – Common Grounds

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

Facilities Meeting Area – Upper Lounge

ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force – St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 South Green Bay Rd. Neenah, WI

Boy Scout Troop 8 – Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room

Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary

Prayer Shawl – Common Grounds

ADRC StrongBodies - Fall Session - South Fellowship Hall

Lectionary Bible Study – Upper Lounge

Chrysalis – Upper Lounge

Building Committee meeting - Chapel

Worship and Music Ministry Team – Upper Lounge

Library Committee Meeting – Library

Fireside AA Group - Common Grounds

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - Upper Lounge

Children's Choir Rehearsal– Choir Room

Advent Supper Series – Kitchen, Fellowship Hall, River Room

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – Amistad Room

Pizza Supper – Fellowship Hall

Confirmation Class – Chapel

Middle School Classes – Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen

Church Mice – East Conference Room

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Thursday, December 6
9:00 AM – 10: 00 AM
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Friday, December 7
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
7:00 PM – 8:45 PM
Saturday, December 8
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

ADRC StrongBodies - Fall Session - *South Fellowship Hall*
AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
Clergy Development Group – *Upper Lounge*
Theology Discussion Groups – *Atlas Coffee Mill and Café on Water Street, Appleton*
Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Charpentier Dress Rehearsal – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*
Eagle Court of Honor - Fernstrum – *Sanctuary, South Fellowship Hall, Kitchen*
Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

26th Annual Alternative Christmas Market

Make charitable donations as “alternative Christmas gifts” for your family and friends.

Gifts may be purchased through **December 16, 2018.**

* Stop by the table in the Narthex or visit
www.firstcongoappleton.org/serving/news for a catalog.



Gifts inspiring change.

**Sunday,
December 30**

**One service ONLY
at 10:30 AM**

Children's Christmas Pageant and Youth Handbells

Sunday, December 16
8:45 and 10:30 AM worship services



Everyone is asked to
bring a bell to worship!



Gifts for the Advent and Christmas Display

This year's Advent display was arranged during a special Hanging of the Greens event on November 28. We used greens and wreaths, poinsettias and mistletoe, banners and cloths, and symbols created new this year by the youth of our church. During the Hanging of the Greens, the history and tradition behind these symbols were explained and celebrated. These symbols of God's love in Christ will adorn the Sanctuary and Narthex throughout the Advent and Christmas season.

Please consider making a gift to the Advent and Christmas display in memory or in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special moment in your life. The suggested donation is \$20.00, and the deadline is Tuesday, December 11. Contributors to the display will appear in the bulletin on Sunday, December 23 and on Christmas Eve, December 24. Besides supporting this special season's display, the monies will be used to help fund the Sanctuary flowers throughout next year.

Please place your order and payment in the offering plate today.

Please word the following as you wish it to appear in the bulletin.

Amount paid \$ _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Given by _____

Please tear form out and place in the offering plate or in the basket in the church office.

