

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.

November 11 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Ike Sturm Jazz Concert	p. 14
Today:	Alternative Christmas Market	p. 15
November 15:	Open Door Article Notice	p. 18
November 17:	Family Handbells Dress Rehearsal	p. 14
November 18:	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Begins.....	p. 14

Flowers

Cindy Ritcey-Fox designed this morning’s Sanctuary flower arrangement. Cathy Paynter’s annual donation near Veteran’s Day is in memory and honor of her parents.

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 desired baptism date.

Members in Service This Week

Friday, November 9	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyliss Wallis	
Sunday, November 11	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Dave and Julie Gamm	Todd and Christine Williams
Bridge Greeters	Dave and Julie Gamm	
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft-March	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Sue Mauthe

Church School Schedule–8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms today.

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

JAZZ SUNDAY

November 11, 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

Unending Season

This morning's music is composed/arranged by Ike Sturm.

Ike Sturm Ensemble: Melissa Stylianou, *voice*; Godwin Louis, *saxophone*;
Chris Dingman, *vibraphone*; Ike Sturm, *bass*; Zach Harmon, *drums*.

(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

INTROIT

Every Day I Will Bless the Lord

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Julie Gamm

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are a people on a journey.

People: Some of us have traveled familiar paths throughout our whole lives.

Leader: We are a people on a journey.

People: Some of us are ready to deviate from the safety of the well-marked highways and byways.

Leader: We are a people on a journey.

People: May we move forward from wherever we are and leave the comfort of the familiar in order to travel to the lands where you are calling us to go.

Leader: We are a people on a journey.

All: But we never journey alone.

* Congregation Standing; **Bolded** Congregation Responding

*OPENING SONG (see refrain, p. 7)

Shine on Me

Spiritual

OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (from *Jazz Mass*, sung by the Choir)

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 only)

(During the Children's Sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the children's sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School.)

ANTHEM

Wide + Free

text by Chandra Rule/music by Sturm (2018)

Wide + Free is inspired by Psalm 19 with text by Chandra Rule using wordless textures to express the abstract depth of creation and the natural world.

Even the smallest drop of dew sings of the goodness of God's glory
Her song of thanksgiving wide and free
With morning's release of sun reflected on her face
the possibility of petal's kiss
and a promise of rebirth with moon's glow
She sounds her stanza into endless fields of lifetimes
before bidding farewell to the night that formed her
and the day that will carry her remembrance

Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.
Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,
their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.
It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

LITANY FOR VETERANS (8:45 only)

Leader: God of love, peace and justice, it is your will I invite those individuals who are either in active or reserve duty, and the families and spouses of those people currently serving, to please stand.

(Those who are either in active duty or reserve duty, and the fathers, mothers, siblings, spouses and grandparents of those currently serving, please stand as you are able.)

All: We praise you for those who are willing to serve. Let all our active veterans serve with honor, pride and compassion. Strengthen them and their families. Do not let their hearts be hardened by the actions they must take. Surround them with your love and peace.

Leader: I invite those who have served in any branch of our armed forces to please stand as you are able.

(Those who have served in the past, please stand as you are able.)

All: God, we praise you for those veterans who have served in the past. We thank you that they were willing to put the welfare of others in front of their own. Let us be inspired by their service to those who needed protection.

God, we praise you for our freedoms, to gather here peacefully and in safety. Let us honor those who have worked so diligently and sacrificed so fully for us. Let us honor them and let us honor your enduring promises of peace.

Leader: Please join me in thanking our veterans.

RINGING OF BELL AND MOMENT OF SILENCE (10:30 only)

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of WWI

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER SONG

Listen

text by Bret Hesla

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Heart

***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

2 Kings 5:1-14 (OT p. 417)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 147 (OT p. 715)

MEDITATION

“Our Still-Speaking Captives”

Rev. Nick Hatch

***CLOSING SONG**

Psalm 23

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Shelter of Trees

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

8:45 AM – Ike Sturm Ensemble (see biographies pages 6 and 7): Melissa Stylianou, *voice*;
Godwin Louis, *saxophone*; Chris Dingman, *vibraphone*; Ike Sturm, *bass*;
Zach Harmon, *drums*.
Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM – Ike Sturm Ensemble; LU Music Scholars

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Biographies for Ensemble members

Ike Sturm has a unique relationship with the Fox Valley area – his father was the late Fred Sturm, who directed the Lawrence University Jazz and Improvisational Music Department from 2002 to 2014.

The Freedom-born, Wisconsin native Sturm is currently a bassist, composer, and bandleader in New York and graduate of Eastman School of Music. He is the leader of the Ike Sturm Ensemble, which performs regularly at Saint Peter’s Church, where he is Music Director for the Jazz Ministry, and around the world. His *Jazz Mass*, a large-scale work commissioned by Saint Peter’s Church, features choir, string orchestra, and jazz soloists, has been played extensively in the U.S., Scandinavia, and Europe.

Additionally, Sturm performed with Gene Bertocini, Donny McCaslin, Bobby McFerrin, and many others. His newest project, *Endless Field*, a wilderness-inspired acoustic duo and was recently featured live on National Public Radio (NPR).

Sturm’s Ensemble is a unique blend of local and national musical talent.

The New Yorker described Sturm’s Ensemble vocalist, **Melissa Stylianou** as “an affecting jazz singer with a taste for choice material,” and her previous albums have seen the vocalist put a personal spin on songs from Johnny Cash to Tom Waits, not to mention her own lovely original compositions. She sings songs by the likes of the Gershwins, Jerome Kern and Duke Ellington, along with a Billie Holiday tune, a lyrical twist on Thelonious Monk, the indigo-hued chestnut “A Nightingale Can Sing the Blues.”

Stylianou has sung on the most prestigious stages, from Carnegie Hall, Symphony Space, Joe’s Pub, Blue Note, Birdland and Jazz Standard to the 55 Bar, Smoke, Sweet Rhythm, Iridium, Cutting Room and Cornelia Street Café.

“Being a jazz musician has taught me so much, even beyond the music,” Stylianou said. “I’m a something of a perfectionist by nature, but jazz has taught me to embrace imperfection and the possibilities it offers, the adventure of living in the moment.”

Sturm’s alto saxophonist, **Godwin Louis**, was born in Harlem, New York and began playing saxophone at age nine. He grew up in Bridgeport, Conn. and Port au Prince, Haiti and is a graduate of Berklee College of Music and the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute for Jazz Performance. He has performed around the globe including: France, Spain, United Kingdom, and beyond.

Louis has studied and performed with Patti LaBelle, Madonna, and Gloria Estefan - just to name a few. Additionally, he performed as a sideman, guest soloist and has conducted clinics and master classes worldwide. As a composer, he received the Jerome Foundation Emerging Artist Grant, and the Jazz Gallery's "New Works Commission." Louis is also the founder of Experience Ayiti, a nonprofit educational, multidisciplinary arts organization.

Chris Dingman, is the Ensemble's vibraphonist and most sought-after of his generation. He was hailed by the *New York Times* as "dazzling" with a "fondness for airtight logic and burnished lyricism."

NPR's Jon Weber said Dingman is, "an extremely gifted composer, bandleader, recording artist, and much sought-after sideman."

He collaborated and performed with some of the greatest musical minds, including Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, and Anthony Braxton. His long-standing collaborations include cutting-edge artists such as Ambrose Akinmusire, Steve Lehman, Jen Shyu, and many others.

Like Ike Sturm, **Zach Harmon**, the Ensemble's percussionist, was born into a musical family in Wisconsin. He began studying piano at the age of three and started playing the drum set at age fifteen and quickly gravitated towards improvised music. In 2003, Zach became a member of the Clifford Brown/Stan Getz All-Stars with whom he toured Japan and performed at the 2003 Monterey Jazz Festival. Also in 2003, he enrolled in the Thornton School of Music at the University of Southern California (USC) where he studied with the great Terri Lyne Carrington for two years.

Over the years, Harmon has performed with artists such as Ambrose Akinmusire, Charles Altura, Miguel Atwood-Ferguson, and many others. He continues to perform, record, compose and teach around the world.

SHINE ON ME (refrain)



Upcoming Worship Schedule

November 18, 2018	Thanksgiving Sunday	8:45 and 10:30 AM
"Swords Into Plowshares: Giving Thanks for Transformation"		Rev. Steve Savides
Scripture reading: Isaiah 36: 1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; 2:1-4; Matthew 5:14		
Music: 8:45 AM - Church Family Handbells, directed by Beth Vercooteren; Sanctuary Choir		
10:30 AM - Church Family Handbells, directed by Beth Vercooteren; LU Music Scholars		

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, November 16	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Trish Brehm	
Sunday, November 18	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Cathy Paynter	Pat Streur
Bridge Greeters	Jeff and Siri Witt	
Welcome Desk	Ann Collins	
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Nancy Bodway
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Kris Behm

Church School Schedule–8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms on November 18.

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

Coffee Fellowship is available between services outside of the Upper Lounge. If you would be interested in hosting an upcoming coffee fellowship, please sign up in the Narthex or contact the church office.

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 or have been affected by domestic violence and sexual assault
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
Olive Bopp
Judy Burdick, mother of Megan Burdick-Grade
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Dena Collier
Katie Davis and family
Marly and Tom Divver
Jim Edwards
Sharon Finamore
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Mary Guenther
The family of Tom Hempel on his death
Maggie Hendrick
Clara and Victor Hosang
Ron Huebner
Sandy Hubert

Our Kenyan partners and students
Eunice Klemp
Betty Masaros
Our country's military around the world
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in-law
Ellie Olson
Tom Ott
Palestinian families and children
Jean Reid
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Don Roehrborn
Troy Schmitt
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim Schmidt
Jim Schwantes
Amanda Spindler
Stephanie, friend of Ellen Wittwer
Syrian refugees and Syrians affected by violence
Tom Tatlock
Beverly Trombla
Larry Tuttle
Jean Van Wagenin
Our veterans and their families
Mya Wardle, daughter of Brian and Lecia Wardle
Jennifer Wild
Elden Willing
Gary Wisneski
The Wittwer Family
Kim, cousin of Ellen Wittwer

Sermon Notes

THE OPEN DOOR

November 11, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 45

Pastor's Message

Frustrating Expectations

Last week, my son Elijah and I took a “Men’s road trip” to our family property around Park Falls. “Men’s road trip” became the mantra of my 4-year-old son who never once complained the whole ride, beaming as we “got the work done.” Our mission had two parts: first, we needed to deliver some mattresses, which meant renting a trailer, and second, we needed to clean all the leaves from the roof, gutters, and yard before winter set in.

Upon arrival, we accomplished our goals in just a few hours but ran into one snag: mice! I have personally been battling mice for over a decade at our cottage. I finally broke down and spent an entire week of my vacation re-mortaring the aging foundation and the mice were gone. You can imagine my frustration when they gained entry and chewed through rugs, defecated all over the silverware, and ate all the bait in our aged traps without setting one of them off! I almost blew my top and Elijah saw the whole thing.

The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will be established.
–Proverbs 19:21

In many Seinfeld episodes, Frank Costanza screams angrily “Serenity now!” at the top of his lungs when things didn’t go his way. It did not help him on the show, and it didn’t help last week as I screamed it either. But it was my four-year-old son who patiently helped me work toward a solution that truly helped me. He anticipated this “Men’s road trip” and spent time on the mower, fixed things, and his face beamed as we worked on the mouse problem asking:

“How can I help daddy? Can I hold the hammer? Does that cheese taste good? Where are all these little mice at?”

And like that, my deep anger was met with the counterbalancing love I have for a boy who has no clue how hard we work to maintain the property, but just loves being there and being with his daddy.

I wonder how many of these moments we miss out on, every week, because some simple plan of ours becomes frustrating and our expectations are dashed? I wonder how often our frustrations, anger, or exhaustion just steal us away from the deeper purposes that God is seeking to establish in our lives? I wonder what frustrations you are dealing with right now and how are you choosing to counterbalance those experiences with something life-giving and lasting?

In Christ, Pastor Nick



Gifts of Word and Deed

Luke 6:43-45

Actions speak louder than words. You no doubt have heard that before, perhaps for most of your growing up. It is true that our actions are very important. But words are important as well! The power of our speech to encourage or discourage should not be discounted. In the gospel of Luke, in particular, it is the words spoken by the main actors that often gives evidence of the influence of the Holy Spirit. The great poetry (songs) that flow from Elizabeth, Mary, Zachariah, and Simeon early in this gospel is prophetic speech that issues both a word of hope and a caution about judgement.

When Jesus speaks about good fruit coming from good trees and bad fruit from bad trees we know he is really talking about integrity – the integration of the thought and practice into the whole of a person's life. As the Book of James would remind us, it does little good to tell a hungry person to be well fed and full of encouragement if we don't also provide food to back up our good intentions. The letter of I John counsels that we can't say we love God and at the same time hate our sister/brother. They are non-sequitur. It is equivalent to looking for peaches on a sycamore tree. To love God is love the "other." To care for the poor is give them a hot meal, not just a platitude.

To say we believe in God and that our faith is a priority, but to fail to engage in the praxis of discipleship is missing something. Now we know that despite the inference of Jesus' words that we are to be good trees and thus always be bearing good fruit, sometimes our fruit is less than perfect. That is why the words and actions are to be blended together – the reminder of the need to do good deeds (words) and the practicing of good deeds (actions), even when we don't feel like it, leads us to better and more consistent results.

It is a bit like that with generosity. To be generous sometimes means we have to practice it even when we don't feel like it or when we find it hard, because we have told ourselves that being generous matters and we know that it is evidence of the faith that is in us. Perhaps it is time to inspect the quality of our harvest. Are we consistently bearing good fruit?

WEEKLY GIVING IF THE PERCENTAGE IS

(Rounded to the nearest dollar)

Annual Income	Monthly Income	Weekly Income	2%	4%	6%	8%	10%	15%
16,000	1,333	308	6.00	12.00	18.00	25.00	31.00	46.00
20,000	1,667	385	8.00	15.00	23.00	31.00	39.00	58.00
25,000	2,083	481	10.00	19.00	29.00	38.00	48.00	72.00
30,000	2,500	577	12.00	23.00	35.00	46.00	58.00	87.00
35,000	2,917	673	13.00	27.00	40.00	54.00	67.00	101
40,000	3,333	769	15.00	31.00	46.00	62.00	77.00	115
45,000	3,750	865	17.00	35.00	52.00	69.00	87.00	130
50,000	4,167	962	19.00	38.00	58.00	77.00	96.00	144
60,000	5,000	1,154	23.00	46.00	69.00	92.00	115	173
75,000	6,250	1,442	29.00	58.00	87.00	115	144	216
100,000	8,333	1,923	38.00	77.00	115	154	192	288
125,000	10,417	2,404	48.00	96.00	144	192	240	361

Worship and Music

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

First Congregational United Church of Christ, *presents*

Ike Sturm Ensemble To Perform in Appleton

Sunday, November 11, 2018

3:00 PM Concert

A free-will offering will be received.

This Jazz Ensemble will also
present music in the
8:45 and 10:30 AM
worship services that morning.

The Ensemble includes:

Melissa Stylianou (voice), Godwin Louis (saxophone),
Chris Dingman (vibraphone),
Zach Harmon (drums) and Ike Sturm (bass/compositions).



724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915 www.firstcongoappleton.org • (920) 733-7393

Ike Sturm Jazz Concert TODAY!

Sunday, November 11

The Ike Sturm Ensemble will perform
a 3:00 PM concert at our church.
A freewill offering will be received.

This Jazz Ensemble will also present
music at our 8:45 and 10:30 AM worship
services.

Family Handbell Workshop Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, November 17

This year's Family Handbell Dress
Rehearsal takes place on Saturday,
November 17 (TBD).

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Christmas Pageant 2018

Rehearsals start Sunday, November 18
10:15 to 11:30 AM

This year's Christmas Pageant will kick off
on Sunday, November 18 with rehearsals
for four Sundays, 10:15 to 11:30 AM, plus a
dress rehearsal on Saturday, December, 15,
from 9:00 AM-noon.

Performances will be Sunday, December 16,
at 8:45 and 10:30 AM.

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

Come, let's sing, dance and help create a
wonderful Christmas program together!

**If you plan to participate, please register
in Realm!** Go to your main page under
News. You should see an Event titled
"Christmas Pageant 2018." Click on
"register" and sign up!

If you need help, please contact the CYF
coordinator, Jennifer DeWitt to assist you
in the registration process. There will also
be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Make a Joyful Noise!

Sunday, November 18th

Church School children will be passing Joyful Noise donation buckets next Sunday, November 18 to benefit St. Joseph's Food Pantry. The money that they collect will help them to take part in helping families in need have food for the upcoming holiday season. Please plan to bring any loose change you may have and be assured that the children passing the buckets are delighted to collect whatever you choose to share. Thank You!

Children, Youth, and Families Webpage Update

Please see the updated CYF information and printable calendars on our website.

Hanging of the Greens Supper

By Wednesday, November 28
4:30 - 8:00 PM

Hanging of the Greens Supper is coming up. It will take place on Wednesday, November 28, in Fellowship Hall.

The setup is 4:30 to 5:30 PM, serving 5:30 to 7:00 PM, and cleanup is 7:30 to 8:00 PM. A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex. Thanks for all your help.

Church School News

There will be **NO CHURCH SCHOOL** on November 25th.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Alternative Christmas Market TODAY!

9:30 AM - noon

Bring a friend to the 26th Alternative Christmas Market today! Come downstairs for breakfast burritos and shop for gifts that benefit people in our community and around the world.

As a shopper, you choose the alternative gift and "purchase" that item through a donation. For example, instead of buying a candle for your child's teacher or socks for your niece, you can give a school uniform to a child in Kenya's Kerio Valley or bus passes to a homeless person to get to work. After you select your gift, we supply a card for you to give to the recipient that describes your special gift, and we direct your donation to the organization that sponsors the gift.

New this year, the Market accepts credit cards in addition to cash or checks.

Since 1993, the congregation's alternative gifts have changed lives. Together, you have donated more than 2500 gifts and raised over \$250,000 for local, national, and international organizations.

You can also purchase fair-trade items from Just Fare (across from Fellowship Hall) and baked goods at the Joyce Hanstedt Memorial Bake Sale to benefit Harbor House.

Hope Has An Address Benefit Gala

Tuesday, November 13

5:00 PM open • 6:00 PM dinner/program start

On Tuesday, November 13, show your support to end homelessness at "Hope has an Address Benefit Gala." All proceeds benefit Pillars Adult & Family Shelter (formerly Homeless Connections). It will take place at Waverly Beach Ballroom in Menasha.

Tickets are \$100 per person. The event includes: dinner, program, live auction, and 4 North Acoustic will provide music. Please register at homelessconnections.net, click on "Events" page or contact Samantha Uitenbroek at (920) 734-9192.

Thank you for your commitment to reducing homelessness in our community!

9th Annual Call-to-Action Program

Thursday, November 15

8:00 to 9:30 AM

Fox Valley Voices of Men is hosting its 9th Annual Call-to-Action Program at the Red Lion Hotel from 8:00 to 9:30 AM.

Voices of Men is committed to helping end sexual assault and domestic violence.

This event will educate and help prepare attendees to be aware of these critical issues. It also will provide tools and ideas of where and how to make a positive difference to the many individuals affected by these behaviors.

In recent years, attendance at this event has been close to 1,000. We expect a similar turnout this year. Over 300 high school youth are expected to be there,

along with a wide range of adult men and women. Youth are free; adults are \$20.00.

You can register at: <https://voicesofmen.com>. On that page, you can find a clip of Pastor Steve performing a skit at last year's event. If you have any questions, contact Rick Detienne (920) 731-7505 - home or (920) 284-6146 - cell. Please come, learn, and be prepared to act on behalf of the women and children in our community.

Interfaith Build House Update

Saturday, December 1

The open house for 332 South Story Street is Saturday, December 1. Please join us as we celebrate the completion of another successful home build. We graciously extend this invitation not only to the volunteers, but the whole interfaith community. We hope to see you there. A heartfelt thank you to all who supported this year's build.

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, WI 54914
Provides safe, overnight shelter for adults experiencing homelessness.
- Adult & Family Shelter (formerly known as Homeless Connections)

400 N. Division Street,
Appleton, WI 54911

Provides safe, 24/7 shelter for adults and families experiencing homelessness.

- Resource Center (formerly known as Homeless Connections Resource Center)
129 S. Mason Street,
Appleton, WI 54914
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 Street, Appleton, WI 54911, 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, or stop by the combined display for Pillars Adult Shelter and Pillars Adult and Family Shelter at our Alternative Christmas Market on November 11.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Wild Women of First Congo

Tuesday, November 13 • 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Stone Cellar Brewpub, 1004 S. Olde
Oneida Street, Appleton

Women of First Congo, join us for fun and friendship at our monthly dining group.

The group meets the second Tuesday of the month from 6:00-8:00 PM at the Stone Cellar. RSVP appreciated, but not necessary. If you have questions or want to get on the mailing/reminder list, contact Sue O'Neill at abelwoman10@yahoo.com. Come have some laughs with some wonderful, (wild?) women from First Congo.

Advent conversations on Advanced 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.

Every adult 18 years old and over should have an advance health care directive. YET, only 1 in 4 Americans have put their medical care wishes in writing. Join us to discover how these important conversations and decisions create peace of mind for individuals, families and healthcare providers. Hear from medical and legal practitioners; practice the conversation; complete your own health care directive. Brought to you by the Health Care Directives Team at First Congo: Ben Adams, Jean Coenraad, Ellie Olson and Pastor Kathryn.

Hosting Coffee Fellowship

Have a milestone event to celebrate? Love to bake? Enjoy seeing people smile at the sight of coffee? Or cake? Or both? You, too, can host! Please consider hosting an **in-between**-worship services coffee fellowship time. Detailed instructions and information will be provided. Treats can be as simple or as elaborate as YOU

choose. Really, it's all about the coffee and the fellowship. Hosts are asked to arrive at church at 8:00 AM to begin set up. Hosts can easily attend all or most of the 8:45 AM service. Clean up is simple; hosts should be ready to leave shortly after 10:30 AM.

To sign up, please contact the church office or on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

Administration

All Open Door Articles

By Thursday, November 15


Please have ALL Open Door articles, announcements, and events submitted to Mardy BY **Thursday, November 15** for the Thanksgiving weekend bulletin.

Bulletin editing and printing is **tentatively** planned for **Monday, November 19** or **around 7:00 AM on Tuesday, November 20**.

Realm this Week: Giving

When logged in to Realm you can check your giving history, pledges, or print a list of your past giving. You can also make a contribution or set up a recurring gift.

To view your giving history click on **Giving** in the main menu. You are able to narrow your list of contributions by

clicking , selecting limiting criteria and then clicking **Filter**. If you want a hard copy of your contribution click on the **Print** icon.

To make a contribution click the **+Give** button. Place the amount you'd like to give in the first box and then use the drop

down to select the correct fund. If the fund you want is not listed, choose **Misc.** and then type the **Fund** in the **Memo** line. By clicking on the **+Give** to an additional fund you can give two or more contributions at one time. The frequency drop down allows you to make either a one-time contribution or set up an automatic recurring donation. Next you will need to fill in your payment information. You can use a credit card or your savings or checking account. You can check on your recurring gifts by clicking on **Scheduled**. If you need to edit a recurring donation, click on the ellipses next to gift, select edit, make any changes and then save.

Pledges can also be made in **Realm**. Click on **+Pledge**, enter your pledge information and save. Isn't it great that you can do all this at one place? Our church staff loves Realm and know you will too when you get in and put it to use.

Photos/Articles for The Open Door

If you have articles or behind-the-scenes/event photos you'd like in The Open Door or social media, email Mardy at mwiesman@firstcongoappleton.org by noon Tuesday of the week you need the article published.

Calendar for Sunday, November 11–Saturday, November 17

Sunday, November 11

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Alternative Christmas Market – Fellowship Hall, Amistad Room, West Conference

Ike Sturm Ensemble in Worship

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

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

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

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

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Worship – Sanctuary

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Worship – Sanctuary

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Ike Sturm Jazz Concert (Free-will Offering) – Sanctuary

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

LU Music Scholar Rehearsal – Choir Room

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

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

Monday, November 12

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Veterans Day Observed

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

ESTHER Communications Meeting – Upper Lounge

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Appleton Boychoir – Repertoire Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Technology Team – Library

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Appleton Boychoir – Holiday Recital – Sanctuary

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Conversations about Divorce – Chapel

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Boy Scout Troop 8 – Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary

Prayer Shawl – Common Grounds

Tuesday, November 13

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

ADRC StrongBodies – Fall Session – South Fellowship Hall

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lectionary Bible Study – Upper Lounge

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 Philip Lane

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

Mission and Service Team Meeting – Upper Lounge

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Greentree Meeting – Fellowship Hall, River Room

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Fireside AA Group – Common Grounds

Wednesday, November 14

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

5:45 PM – 6:45 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, November 15

6:45 AM – 10:00 AM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, November 16

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Saturday, November 17

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

Children's Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room*

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – *Amistad Room*

Confirmation Class with Mentors – *Chapel*

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

Church Mice – *East Conference Room*

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

ADRC StrongBodies - Independent Practice – *South Fellowship Hall*

ADRC StrongBodies - Fall Session – *South Fellowship Hall*

Memorial Service/ Visitation: Tom Hempel – *Sanctuary and Narthex*

Finance Committee Meeting – *Library*

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Hempel Reception – *Fellowship Hall*

Theology Discussion Group – *Atlas Coffee Mill and Cafe on Water Street, Appleton*

ESTHER - Board Meeting – *River Room*

Family/ Friends Mental Illness Support Group – *Upper Lounge*

TnT-SOAR Fox Cities – *South Fellowship Hall*

Study Group: "Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism" by Drew G.I. Hart – *Chapel*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Family Handbells Dress Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Reverend Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Reverend Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist
Colleen Berry, Director for Children's Ministries
Joel Morien, Director for Youth Ministries
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Mardy Wiesman, Communications Specialist
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Jonathan Steffen, Technology Coordinator
Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Cassidy Behm, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Mary Lou Cliff, Custodial Assistant

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

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org