

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 9 Highlights at First Congregational

- Today:** Charpentier's *Midnight Mass for Christmas*
- December 12:** Conversations on Advance Care Planning continue p. 17
- December 12/19:** Come Rehearse for the Christmas Eve Choir 9 PM Service. p. 16
- December 13:** Advent Service of Healing and Prayer 7:00 PM..... p. 16
- December 16:** Congregational Meeting, Election of 2019 Church Officers .. p. 15
- December 16:** Christmas Pageant in Worship p. 15
-

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 desired baptism date.

Members in Service This 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	No Lay Readers Needed	No Lay Readers Needed
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Sue Mauthe

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

December 9, 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

A Suite of Noël's For Organ

Dandrieu, D' Aquin de Grigny

(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

St. Clair Family

*WELCOME AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Now is the time of watching and waiting.

People: The time of pregnant expectation of new life.

Leader: Now is the season of hope unfolding.

People: The dark winter season when hope is waiting to be born.

Leader: Let us come before God with receptive and willing spirits.

People: May our souls magnify God's name and may our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.

All: Rejoice! God comes to bring the birthday of life and hope. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL (see bulletin p. 10)

Sing We Now of Christmas

NOËL NOUVELET

* Congregation Standing; **Bolded** Congregation Responding

LIGHTING OF THE SECOND ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE

Carol and Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder 8:45 AM

Jessica Ketter 10:30 AM

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:6-7

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, show your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE (see bulletin p. 9)

Come Now, O Prince of Peace

O-So-So

St. 1 and 2, **sung by ALL.**

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, return to the pews to worship with their families or go to the large Group Activity in the Children, Youth and Families Center.)

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

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.**

PRAYER CAROL (see bulletin p. 11)

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Offertoire

Charpentier

*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

GOSPEL READING

Luke 1:68-79 (NT p. 70)

MASTERWORKS IN WORSHIP

Midnight Mass for Christmas

Marc-Antoine Charpentier
(1643-1704)

Kyrie

[*Soloists: Logan Willis, Alex Quackenbush, Max Muter*]

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christ, have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

[*Soloists: Incipit: Joel Jicha; Domine Deus: Logan Willis, Paul Eggen,
Alex Quackenbush; Quoniam: Heather Hallett, Morgen Moraine*]

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in
terra pax hominibus bonae
voluntatis. Laudamus te.
Benedicimus te. Adoramus te.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth,
peace to men of goodwill.
We praise thee. We bless thee.

Glorificamus te. Gratias agimus
tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam.

We worship thee. We glorify thee.
Thanks we give thee for thy
great glory.

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu
Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus
Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis
peccata mundi, miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram patris,
miserere nobis.

Lord God, heavenly King,
God the omnipotent Father,
Lord the only begotten Son,
Jesus Christ, Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father, Who takest the sin
of the world, have mercy on us. Who
takest the sin of the world,
hear our prayer. Who sittest at the
right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu
solus Dominus, tu solus
altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum
Sancto Spiritu in gloria
Dei Patris. Amen.

For thou only art holy, thou only art
the Lord, thou only art highest,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Credo

[*Soloists: Incipit:* Joel Jicha; *Crucifixus:* Logan Willis, Erik Nordstrom, Max Muter; *Et in Spiritum:* Morgen Moraine, Deme Hellwig, Clover Austin-Muehleck/Karen Leigh-Post; *Et exspecto:* Clover Austin-Muehleck/Karen Leigh-Post, Alex Quackenbush, Max Muter/Joel Jicha]

Credo in unum Deum, Patrem
omnipotentem, factorem coeli
at terrae, visibilium omnium et
invisibilium. Et in unum
Dominum Jesum Christum,
Filius Dei unigenitum,
et ex Patre natum ante omnia
saecula. Deum de Deo, lumen
de lumine, Deum verum de Deo
vero, genitum, non factum,
consubstantialem Patri,
per quem omnia facta sunt.

I believe in one God, omnipotent
Father, maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
only begotten Son of the Father,
and from the Father
born before all worlds.
God from God, light from light,
True God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made,

Qui propter nos homines et
propter nostram salute
descendit de coelis. Et
incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto
ex Maria virgine,
et homo factus est.

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub
Pontio Pilato,
passus et sepultus est.
Et resurrexit tertia die
secundum Scripturas.
Et ascendit in coelum,
sedet ad dexteram Patris.
Et iterum venturus est cum
Gloria iudicare
vivos et mortuos,
cujus regni non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum Sanctum,
Dominum et vivificantem,
qui ex Patre Filioque procedit,
qui cum Patre et Filio
simul adoratur et conglorificatur,
qui locutus est per prophetas.
Et unam sanctam catholicam et
apostolicam ecclesiam. Confiteor
unum Baptisma in remissionem
peccatorum.

Et expecto resurrectionem
mortuorum, et vitam venturi
saeculi. Amen.

Who for us men, and
for our salvation,
descended from heaven, And
was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
through the virgin Mary,
and was made man,

He was crucified for us under
Pontius Pilate,
died, and was buried,
And rose again on the third day,
according to the Scriptures.
And ascended to heaven,
seated at the right hand of the Father.
And he will come again
in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end;

And in the Holy Ghost, Lord and
giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father and
the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who spoke through the prophets;
And one holy, catholic
and apostolic church. I confess
one baptism
for the remission of sins,

And I expect the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the coming
world. Amen.

Sanctus

[Soloists: Clover Austin-Muehleck/Karen Leigh-Post, Erik Nordstrom,
Max Muter/Joel Jicha]

[Sanctus,] sanctus, [sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth,] pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.	[Holy,] holy, [holy, Lord God of hosts,] filled are the heavens and earth with your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.
--	--

Agnus Dei

[Soloists: Clover Austin-Muehleck/ Karen Leigh-Post,
Erik Nordstrom, Max Muter/Joel Jicha]

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.	Lamb of God, who takest the sin of the world, have mercy on us.
---	--

CLOSING PRAYER

*CLOSING CAROL #135

Angels We Have Heard On High

GLORIA

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Beautiful Is the Child

Provençal/Weber

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist* • John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Sanctuary Choir 2018-19:

Soprano

Kristy Albrecht
Cheryl Benzschawel
Joni Conrad
Abby Edwards
Kris Glenn
Heather Hallett

Alto

Marilyn Askari
Clover Austin-Muehleck*
Jane Bent
Cindy Cook
Cheryl Foster
Brenda Gabrielson

Tenor

David Cook
Paul Eggen
Luke Honeck*
John Kellogg
James Schilawski
Chuck Spanbauer

(Continued on next page)

Soprano Continued

- Deme Hellwig
- Elizabeth Keggi
- Gale Korth
- Morgen Moraine
- Bianca Pratte *
- Nicolette Puskar*
- Emily Richter*

Alto Continued

- Annette Grunseth
- Pat Hansen
- Tami Johnson
- Jennifer Kosloski
- Karen Leigh-Post
- Bea McManus*
- Elizabeth Melchert
- Julie Meyer
- Shelley Nulton
- Jan Scheibe
- Nancy Stanelle
- Helen Thiel
- Beth Vercouteren
- Phyllis Zeiss

Tenor Continued

- Roger Spindler
- Logan Willis*
- Bernie Wydeven

Bass

- Daryl Brown
- Dave Frederick
- Phil Gabrielson
- Ron Hanson
- Steve Hirby
- Joel Jicha
- Max Muter*
- Erik Nordstrom*
- Alex Quackenbush*
- Jim Sheetz
- Skip Wilson

*LU Music Scholars

- Guest Singers

Chamber Ensemble:

- Violin I: Janet Sutter
- Violin II: Erik Leveille
- Viola: Laura Burke
- Cello: Rosa Borisova
- Bass: Mark Urness
- Flutes: Patricia George and Beth Kinzel

Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 16, 2018 Christmas Pageant Sunday 8:45 and 10:30 AM
 Rev. Nick Hatch
 Music: Church School Christmas Pageant “Unexpected Miracles”; Youth Handbells

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, December 14	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, December 16	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Faith Mauk	Jill Anthony
Bridge Greeters	Dennis Korth	Ed Pociask
Welcome Desk	Patti Murphy	Patricia Streuer
Lay Readers	No Lay Readers Needed	No Lay Readers Needed
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Tim Hanna	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Kris Behm







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
Laura Benzschawel-Parsley's family on
the death of her husband, Shaun
Olive Bopp
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Dena Collier
Jim Edwards
Margitta Furnner
Brenda Gabrielson
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 Hosang
Ron Huebner
Dan Huth
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen
Nancy Jones, Linda Jones Pierron's
mother

Janis Ireland
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
Connie Radtke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Don Roehrborn
Tom Rued
Gladys Schmidt, mother of John and Tim
Schmidt
Jim Schwantes
Amanda Spindler
Syrian refugees/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 9, 2018

Volume 18, Issue 47

Message from the Music Director

Messe de Minuit pour Noël - Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704)

Welcome, Members and Friends!

Today, we celebrate the seasons of Advent and Christmas with this offering in our *Masterworks In Worship* series. Settings of the Mass Ordinary help us remember our entire salvation story. 2018 marks the 375th anniversary of Charpentier's birth. . . all the more reason to experience this charming chamber work, complemented by singing several French Christmas Carols together. Please see the program notes below for more background on this composer and his work.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours!

John



Marc-Antoine Charpentier was one of the most outstanding musicians in late seventeenth-century France. As a young man he had spent three years in Rome studying with one of the leading Italian composers of the day, Giacomo Carissimi, with whom he acquired valuable first-hand experience of opera and oratorio - both relatively new forms at that time. On returning to his native Paris he put these skills to effective use, composing a number of operas (the famed opera, *Médée*) and bringing the dramatic oratorio to France for the first time. Charpentier's output of sacred music was prodigious, comprising some thirty-five oratorios, eleven settings of the Mass, over two hundred motets and the well-known *Te Deum*,

the overture of which is used as the signature tune for the Eurovision Song Contest. (It is rather ironic that the music of a composer who faced a continual struggle to achieve recognition during his lifetime should now be familiar to millions of people right across Europe!) Charpentier was particularly drawn to writing Christmas music, producing instrumental carols, Latin oratorios on Christmas themes, French pastorales and a Christmas Mass - the delightful *Messe de Minuit pour Noël*. This piece dates from around

1690 and was probably composed for the great Jesuit church of St. Louis in Paris, where Charpentier held the important post of maître de musique.

The use of popular carols in church music had long been an accepted practice. In England, carols were more often sung than played, but in France, noëls figured prominently in the substantial French organ repertoire. The liturgy of Midnight Mass permitted the singing and playing of these Christmas folksongs, and by Charpentier's time quite complex instrumental arrangements were commonplace.

Altogether, there are eleven noëls, most of which are dance-like in character, reflecting the carol's secular origins. In addition to the carol melodies that he adapted to fit various parts of the Mass text, Charpentier also composed new material, such as the slow sections 'Et in terra pax' at the beginning of the *Gloria* and 'Et incarnatus est' in the *Credo*. It says much for the composer's craftsmanship that these quite different idioms are so seamlessly and convincingly blended together. Very little of Charpentier's music was published during his lifetime. In common with a number of his colleagues, he suffered greatly from the stranglehold exerted on Parisian music by his illustrious but unscrupulous contemporary, Jean-Baptiste Lully. Only in the late twentieth century, has Charpentier's music seen a substantial revival, with a consequent re-assessment of his true place in French music. © **John Bawden** (*used with permission*)

**SAVE THE DATE:
CARROLL UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS
TO PERFORM JANUARY CONCERT**



On Thursday, January 3, 2019, the Carroll University Chamber Singers will perform a 7:30 PM concert at our church.

Free admission. All are welcome to attend this event.

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.

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	Submission 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.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

December Church School News

With the Christmas season now in full gear, there will be some changes to the Church School schedule. Today, during the Masterworks in Worship 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 AM service ONLY and will be held in the Art/Kitchen and Scripture Tent rooms. Next Sunday, 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 and December 30: NO Church School, child care is available.
Sunday, January 6, 2019: Church School resumes with Rotation Three.

No Family Worship Area

Sunday, December 16

Next week, our Christmas Pageant, "Unexpected Miracles," takes place during the 8:45 and 10:30 AM services. There will be **no Family Worship Area** available on that day. Instead, we encourage children to enjoy the pageant with their families. You are welcome to sit up towards the front of the church to best enjoy this special service and the pageant.

Christmas Pageant 2018

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

This year's Christmas Pageant rehearsals continue from 10:15 - 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.

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 register.

- **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
- **Adult 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.

Worship and Music

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

Join Our Choir for Our 9 PM Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 12 and 19
Rehearsals at 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** at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or (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, please consider attending our Advent Service of Healing and Prayer. This was formerly known as the “Blue Christmas” service.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Advent Conversations on Advance Care Planning

Wednesdays, December 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 12 – Practice the Conversation: Game Night!

Come and play with us! The “Hello Game” invites conversation around health care decisions. Explore difficult issues in a fun environment with friends.

Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group

Learn how to live with vision loss from others who have been there. The Appleton Visually Impaired Support Group encourages folks to look at visual impairment as a new beginning.

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.

Serving Meals at Pillars

January 29-February 2

The holiday season reminds us how much we all have to be thankful for. We have another opportunity this winter to open our hearts and hands to those in our community who are in need.

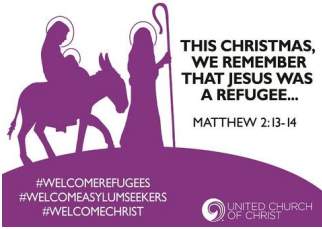
The Pillars Adult Shelter (formerly Fox Valley Warming Shelter) provides homeless adults a hot evening meal and a safe place to sleep.

Our congregation has prepared and served meals there for over 10 years. We will provide the evening meal for shelter guests for five nights, January 29 - February 2. Past participants have found this to be an enlightening and rewarding experience.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for January 29-February 2, 2019.

Contact Amy Lewis at (920) 205-1091 for more information.

Advent Yard Signs



Advent reminds ourselves and our neighbors that Jesus, too, was a refugee. 18"X24" plastic

yard signs share the story of Jesus' birth and proclaim to your neighbors that when we welcome refugees, when we welcome asylum-seekers, we welcome Christ.

These yard signs for refugee/asylum solidarity are available through UCC Resources for \$8.25 at <https://www.uccresources.com/product/s/advent-yard-signs-for-refugee-asylum-solidarity>.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale

Shrimp Available Today



Your purchase of \$15 per 1-lb pound packages allows you to enjoy delicious gulf shrimp and generously supports our April 2019 service trip to Back Bay Mission. Cash and checks made out to FCUCC are accepted.

We are grateful to Jacobs Meat Market in Appleton for supplying shrimp for our sale again this year.

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, speakers are Gaye Lindfors, Annie Meehan, and Lanelle Vasichek. 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 still be purchased through December 16. Stop by 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)

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. Interested? Sign up in the narthex. Contact Ken Jahnke (920) 427-5996 or Pastor Kathryn (920) 733-7393 ext. 223

Calendar for Sunday, December 9 – Saturday, December 15

Sunday, December 9

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

10:15 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:45 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

Monday, December 10

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, December 11

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Wednesday, December 12

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

5:45 PM – 6:45 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Masterworks in Worship

Worship – Sanctuary

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

Church School Group Activity – Scripture Tent, Art/Kitchen
(Please pick your children up from these rooms)

Shrimp Sale – Narthex

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal – Scripture Tent

Worship – Sanctuary

High School Sunday Groups – Christmas Party – Common Grounds

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

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

Technology Team – Library

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

Wild Women of First Congo – Stone Cellar Brewpub, 1004 S. Olde Oneida Street

Mission and Service Team Meeting – Upper Lounge

Building Committee Meeting – Chapel

ESTHER Immigrant Rights Task Force – Fox Valley Universalist Unitarian Fellowship, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton

Fireside AA Group – Common Grounds

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – Upper Lounge

Children's Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Advent Supper Series – Kitchen, River Room

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – Sanctuary

Confirmation Class – Chapel

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

Church Mice – East Conference Room

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, December 13

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Friday, December 14

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

Saturday, December 15

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3:45 PM – 5:45 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*

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

ESTHER – Board Meeting – *River Room*

TnT-SOAR Fox Cities – *South Fellowship Hall*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Advent Service of Healing and Prayer – *Chapel*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Pageant Dress Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

Confirmation Class – *St. Joseph Catholic Church*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

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.

