

## **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 April 24, 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](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons).

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

# January 27 Highlights at First Congregational

<b>Today:</b>	<b>Intergenerational Musical Rehearsals Continue .....</b>	<b>p. 11</b>
<b>January 31:</b>	<b>UPDATED TIME! Doctrine of Discovery .....</b>	<b>p. 10</b>
<b>January 29:</b>	<b>Living Room Conversations: The Heart of Immigration .....</b>	<b>p. 12</b>
<b>February 6:</b>	<b>Singers invited to Rehearse “Seven Last Words of Christ” ....</b>	<b>p. 12</b>
<b>February 9:</b>	<b>Rescheduled OFF! Snowshoe Hike.....</b>	<b>p. 10</b>

## Flowers

Cindi Ritcey Fox designed this morning’s Sanctuary the 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 Sundays are 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](http://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

<b>Friday, January 25</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, January 27</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	Todd Newell and Kevin Clavers	Sharrie Robinson and Pat Streur
Bridge Greeters	Carolyn Frederick	Midge Mosher
Welcome Desk	Kathi Seifert	Carolyn Frederick
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft-March	Jean Coenraad
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Jill Smith	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm
Coffee Servers (between services)	Kelly and Denise Fenton	

## Church School Schedule – 8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms today.

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

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 27, 2019

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.*

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## PRELUDE

*Partita on I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

John A. Behnke

I. Theme (Andante)

II. Cantabile

(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

## CHORAL INTROIT

*It Is Good to Give Thanks*

Michael Bedford

Based on Psalm 92:1-3

Children's Choir with Handchimes

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: As when Moses went up on the mountain and met you, O Holy One –

**People: We would make covenant with you.**

Leader: As when you sent a dove to light on Jesus' shoulder –

**People: We would also carry your flame.**

Leader: As when our Pilgrim mothers and fathers made their simple compact to live and walk with you –

**People: So do we, in our own time, covenant, promise, to bear the burden of being your people.**

Leader: Come, O God, and be among us!

**People: Come, let us come close to God!**

\*Congregation Stands

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250

*Here in This Place*

GATHER US IN

\*OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 AM SERVICE)

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

CHILDREN'S HYMN #364, **sung by ALL.** (8:45 AM SERVICE)

St. 1: **This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. . .**

St. 3: **Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine. . .**

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

ANTHEM (see page 4)

*Blest Are They* (Matthew 5:3-12)

David Haas

Stanzas sung by the choir; **Refrain (next page) sung by ALL.**



PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

*Unclouded Day from Heavenly Home: Three American Songs*

LU Music Scholars

J. K. Alwood

arr. Kirchner

\*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

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (see page 5)

*Psalm 1: They are Like Trees*

Burkhardt

Verses sung by choir; **Refrain (next page) introduced by choir, and then sung by ALL.**



GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:1-12 (NT p. 4)

MEDITATION

“Turning the World Upside Down”

Rev. Steve Savides

\*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

*We Are Called*

WE ARE CALLED

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

III. Fantasia (*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*)

Behnke

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Dave Cooley, *guitar*

8:45 AM LU Music Scholars; Children’s Choir

10:30 AM Sanctuary Choir; Children’s Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

## Upcoming Worship Schedule

February 3, 2019      Fourth Sunday After Epiphany; Communion 8:45 and 10:30 AM  
 "Treasure in Heaven"      Rev. Nick Hatch  
 Scripture reading: Matthew 6: 7-21  
 Music: 8:45 AM - LU Music Scholars  
 10:30 AM - Sanctuary Choir

### Members in Service Next Week

<b>Friday, February 1</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, February 3</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	Rick and Sue Detienne	Georgia Berceau
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Howard Niblock
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen

## INTERGENERATIONAL VALENTINE TEA PARTY

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Wednesday, February 13  
 6:00-8:00 PM • Fellowship Hall

*We encourage people of all ages  
 to attend and celebrate  
 the many forms of God's love for us!*







## 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  
Barb Boren  
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  
For the health of Ken Hocking  
Ron Huebner  
Dan Huth  
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life  
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen  
Pastor Kathryn Kuhn  
Our Kenyan partners and students

Margaret LaFleur  
Mike Mathews  
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  
Ryan St. Clair  
Cole Stoffel  
Syrian refugees/Syrians affected by violence  
Gloria Tate  
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke  
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  
7-Year-Old with Stage 4 Cancer

# THE OPEN DOOR

January 27, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 04

## Pastor's Message

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### OVERCOMING HELPLESSNESS

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted..." (Matthew 5:4)*

The second Beatitude spoken by Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount is usually understood to refer to those who have particular reasons to be sad, perhaps because they have lost a loved one. Scholar Ben Witherington asks us to understand it in a broader way. *"Those who mourn"* are those who are *disenfranchised*, who feel helpless because of their allegiance to God in a lost world.

That's the kind of mourning many are going through right now. In the middle of the longest government shutdown in history, the political and social disputes in our country seem intractable. I can't even begin to describe those disputes without sparking one side or another to protest that my characterization is slanted and betrays my own political or social bias. For those of us who are committed to the vision and ministry of reconciliation that is Christ's calling to us, the world indeed seems lost right now; lost in acrimony, divided by walls of hate and division.

It feels like a good time to give in to the grief over what we could have been as a nation and community. It feels like a good time give up. But, as John F. Kennedy said in a speech in 1961, *"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (people!) to do nothing."* As tempted as we are to give into despair, to give into the mourning of helplessness, Jesus' words offer us the promise of comfort.

That comfort takes a particular form in the Servant Songs of Isaiah when the messiah came to be called the Comforter:

*"For the Lord has comforted his people/and will have compassion on his suffering ones." (Isaiah 49:13).*

Jesus uses the same word to describe the Holy Spirit in John's Gospel:

*"And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you forever..." (John 14:16).*

This is the comfort and Comforter we need right now – one who would dry our tears of exasperation and despair; one who would energize us anew to carry out our calling as Christ's people!

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Steve Savides

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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## Color-Brave Exhibit

Sunday, February 3-Sunday, February 10

We will be hosting Fit Oshkosh's Color-Brave photo exhibit. It seeks to shift common stereotypes, to explore the negative impacts these false narratives have on the community and to celebrate these residents. For more information, visit [www.fitoshkoshinc.org](http://www.fitoshkoshinc.org).

## Doctrine of Discovery - Study and Conversation

Thursdays, January 31 and February 7  
6:30 -8:00 PM • Location: Upper Lounge

Join us in a study and conversation about the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery. This document gave European nations the spiritual rationale to conquer other lands. Its purpose and principle became a part of United States law in landmark court cases stripping indigenous peoples of their land and rights as early as the 1800s and continues to be in 21<sup>st</sup>-century case law. The voting body at the 2018 Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting voted to enter into a time of discussion and study around the Doctrine of Discovery and our faith, with the purpose being to vote on a resolution to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery at the 2019 Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting. In order to bring the resolution to the floor for a vote in April 2019, at least 65 congregations in the Wisconsin

Conference must engage in discussion or study of this issue. For more information, please see <http://www.wcucc.org/9921-2/>. Please sign up in the Narthex if you plan to join the conversation.

## Rescheduled Snowshoe Hike

Saturday, February 9 • Mosquito Hill  
10:15 AM Sign in • 10:30 AM hike

We're OFF on a snowshoe hike and hoping for better trail conditions. We meet in the Nature Center's back room at 10:15 AM to sign in and head out at 10:30 AM on an approximately 1 ½ hour hike through Wolf River lowland forest. Snowshoe rental is \$3.50. Bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy in the warming room after the hike. Hot chocolate and chai tea will be provided! Mosquito Hill is located about 25 minutes from Fox Cities at N3880 Rogers Rd., New London. Sign up in the Narthex or with Nancy Brown-Koeller, (715) 853-6258 or [nbkappleton@gmail.com](mailto:nbkappleton@gmail.com). All outings are weather-dependent. Check with Nancy before leaving.

## Kenya Luncheon Invitation

**Sign up** by February 24  
**Event:** Sunday, March 3

Warm greetings from our sponsored students, and parents, the Sponsorship Committee in Kenya and all our Kenyan friends. You are cordially invited to attend our annual Sponsor Appreciation Luncheon during this 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year of the Partnership. The luncheon will begin after second service on Sunday, March 3, 2019. The luncheon menu will be our traditional Kenyan meal of chicken

stew, rice, vegetarian beans, greens, chapati (tortillas) fruit, chai and a treat this year *millet ugali* (made from millet) brought back from the Kerio Valley. We will have hot dogs available as well. All items, but the tortillas, will be gluten-free (prepared in a totally gluten-free kitchen). Please RSVP as soon as possible or by signing the Narthex sign-up sheet.

## Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

### Church School Teachers Needed

First Congregational UCC's church school program year continues through April 28. The children have enjoyed the new lessons and the format of staying with the same teacher for the entire rotation.

It is wonderful to watch the relationships between the teachers and children grow. The teachers' feedback on this style of lesson delivery has been very positive. 14 wonderful volunteer teachers have guided our children through Bible lessons and have shared their time and talents each Sunday. However, we are currently in need of TWO more teachers for rotation 4. This rotation runs from February 10–March 10. Please consider volunteering to help out. The lessons are written for you and the rooms set up each week with all materials needed to teach the lesson. Please consider teaching so we can continue to offer our children a valuable experience as they learn about and connect closer to God. Contact Colleen Berry at [cberry@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:cberry@firstcongoappleton.org) if you are able to help out. Thank you!

## Worship and Music

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

### Intergenerational Musical: THE PIRATES OF SAMARIA

By Stephen Savides and David Stoddard

**Rehearsals:** Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00 PM  
and Sundays, 11:30 AM - 1:15 PM

*The Pirates of Samaria*, is a brand-new musical by Pastor Stephen Savides and Dave Stoddard. We invite adults of all ages and abilities, and children 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and older participate. We are always in special need of people interested in set painting, prop and costume help. Sign up in Narthex if you plan to attend to help us with planning.

**Rehearsal and performance dates:**

**Dress Rehearsals:**

Friday, March 15, 6:00 – 10 :00 PM

**Performances:**

Saturday, March 16, 7:00 PM

Sunday, March 17, 10:30 AM

### Upcoming Lawrence University Scholar Recitals

The LU Music Scholars have recitals at the designated times and locations.

Name	Date/Time	Place
Erik Nordstrom, <i>baritone</i>	March 29, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
Emily Richter, <i>soprano</i> and Max Muter, <i>bass-baritone</i>	April 6, 1:00 PM	Harper Hall

Bea McManus, <i>mezzo-soprano</i> and Alex Hadlich, <i>baritone</i>	April 6, 5:00 PM	Harper Hall
Alex Quackenbush, <i>baritone</i>	April 12, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
Bianca Pratte, <i>flute</i>	April 20, 3:00 PM	Harper Hall
Luke Honeck, <i>tenor</i>	April 20, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
Logan Willis, <i>oboe</i> and Matt Fowler, <i>saxophone</i>	April 21, 5:00 PM	LU Memorial Chapel
Clover Austin-Muehleck, <i>mezzo-soprano</i>	April 27, 8:00 PM	tbd
Nicolette Puskar, <i>soprano</i>	May 19, 6:30 PM	Esch-Hurvis, Warch Campus Center

## Making Beautiful Music

We are pleased to announce that a generous donor and long-term member of First Congregational UCC recently made an important gift to increase the value of the Organ Preservation Fund (OPF). The OPF is a spend-down fund held at the Community Foundation’s Fox Valley Region. The fund’s purpose is to provide the financial resources needed for our Möller organ maintenance and refurbishment. Congregation members are invited to provide whatever additional support they can to help further grow this fund, currently valued at \$43,000. Please make your gifts out to First Congregational Church UCC, turn them into the office, and they will be forwarded to the Community Foundation’s OPF account. Thank you, Your Stewardship Team.

## Come Rehearse and Sing “Seven Last Words of Christ” for Palm Sunday

The Sanctuary Choir’s major work with orchestra this spring is American composer Michael John Trotta’s dramatic new setting of the “Seven Last Words of Christ.” This setting of an historic text (sung in English) will be presented in worship on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 14, with a dress rehearsal on the morning of April 13. Additional singers (adult, college, high school) are invited to join the choir for this special event by attending the beginning part of Wednesday rehearsals in February through early April, starting on **Wednesday, February 6** at 7:00 PM. We will rehearse for the first 30 minutes of each Wednesday evening choir rehearsal. Please contact John Albrecht at [jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org) or (920) 851-8097 to register or discuss further. Thank you!

## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

### Living Room Conversations: The Heart of Immigration

Tuesday, January 29 • 6:30–8:30 PM  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
803 E. College Ave., Appleton

What's at the heart of immigration for you? Immigration has become a flash-point in politics. Space is limited so an RSVP via Eventbrite is required to attend. Age requirement of 18 and over required

for registrants. Once you registered and you find you need to cancel, please let us know. Additionally, Voices of Hope Readers' Theater will give a special performance. This event is brought to you by ESTHER, City of Appleton Dignity & Respect Campaign, Menasha Public Library, Memorial Presbyterian Church, Stronger Together Fox Valley, Thrivent Financial, Volunteer Fox Cities and World Relief Fox Valley.

### **Smart Justice: Ending Mass-Incarceration in Wisconsin**

Thursday, January 31 • 6:00-7:30 PM  
FVTC, Room A170 (Entrance 16)

Statewide Organizer for Wisconsin's ACLU, Sean Wilson's *Smart Justice* presentation describes the multi-year effort to reduce Wisconsin's jail and prison populations by 50% and to eliminate racial disparities in the criminal justice system. For more information, visit <https://www.aclu-wi.org/smart-justice>. It is co-sponsored by ESTHER, EXPO, and the Megan Kelley Foundation.

### **World Hijab Day**

Saturday, February 2 • 1:00-3:00 PM  
Appleton Public Library

Celebrate diversity and enjoy refreshments while learning about the hijab and Islamic Faith. This free event is open to the public.

### **Community Forum on Excessive Supervision**

Monday, February 4 • 6:00 PM  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
140 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah.

A news report released by the Justice Lab has found that Wisconsin has unusually high rates of community corrections supervision and reincarceration, adding considerably to the state's prison populations and costing Wisconsin taxpayers millions annually. This event is sponsored by Joshua, ESTHER, Expo and Wisdom.

### **Friends in Common: Connect, Like and Share.**

Wednesday, February 6 • 6:30-8:00 PM  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
140 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah

**Celebrate World Interfaith Harmony Week** and explore different faith communities' views on friendship. All adults and youth, middle school or older, are encouraged to attend. If you have a smart phone, bring it with the app Kahoot! downloaded and ready to go. No RSVP is needed.

### **Like an Animal in a Cage: Voices from Solitary Confinement**

Tuesday, February 5 • 6:00-7:30 PM  
FVTC, Room C190 ABC (Entrance 15)

Join us as we watch the play, *Like an Animal in a Cage: Voices from Solitary Confinement*. Ex-Incarcerated People Organizing's (EXPO) Melissa Ludin will provide a first-hand account of the horrors she survived in solitary confinement. Free tickets are available at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com). This event is part of the Pathways to Recovery Lecture Series, sponsored by Bev Kelley-Miller and the Megan Kelley Foundation. ESTHER and EXPO are co-sponsors of this event. This a

performance by formerly incarcerated people about their experiences of segregation within jails and prison, will be followed by a conversation with the creators and actors.

### **Puerto Rico Donation Reminder**

In March, a team of nine people from First Congo will be helping families in Puerto Rico rebuild their homes and lives. While disaster funds are available for the rebuilding effort, there are no funds for essential appliances: stoves, refrigerators, hot water heaters, et al. You have the opportunity to make a direct impact on many families lives by providing the funds for these needed items. Your donation will be matched by Mission and Service's Claire Gehin Fund up to \$ 5,000. Every dollar counts and will make a difference. Our team will take your donations and matching funds along with us to Puerto Rico in March and they will be dispersed by the disaster coordinating team there. Your donation is NOT for the mission trip volunteers. It will provide much-needed appliances or other essentials for families in Puerto Rico. Checks can be made out to First Congregational (FCUCC) with Puerto Rico fund in the memo.

### **Back Bay Mission Trip**

Sunday, 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. During this time, you will learn about the Mississippi Gulf Coast's poverty. Back Bay's Mission House dormitory provides comfortable housing for volunteers. We prepare our own meals in the kitchen. Interested? Sign up in the narthex. Contact Ken Jahnke (920) 427-5996 for more information.

### **Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**

Saturday, February 23 • 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM  
First English Lutheran Church  
326 E. North St., Appleton

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health challenge or crisis. The course introduces common mental health issues facing youth, reviews typical adolescent development and teaches a five-step action plan for helping young people in all situations. This event is open to community. Please **register in advance** for this free training at the First English website [www.felc.com/forms](http://www.felc.com/forms). Lunch will be provided. For more info, contact Dianne Droster, [didroster@gmail.com](mailto:didroster@gmail.com).

### **Alternative Christmas Market Raises Nearly \$13,000**

The 2018 Alternative Christmas Market raised \$12,815! Each year, your generous purchases of alternative gifts, baked goods, and crafts made by our friends in Kenya provide tangible support for organizations that offer hands-on help to people who need it, both close to home

and around the world. Your gifts also inspire compassion and spread the work of these organizations. It takes a lot of people to make an event like the ACM a success each year, and we would like to thank everyone who participated as a shopper, volunteer or both! Your ACM team deeply appreciates your commitment to this worthwhile event in the church's life.

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## Stewardship

*Putting faith into action with our time, passion, skills and financial gifts.*

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### Stewardship Update

Our 2019 Stewardship Campaign ended. We are so grateful to all the congregation members who generously chose to support all that our First Congregational church hopes to accomplish in 2019. While the campaign is "officially" over, there is still a bit of "joyful" work to be done. One is to bring in a number of pledge commitments from donors who supported us in many past years but have not yet this year. We are still behind last year's pledge dollar total and further yet behind what we hope to raise to support our next fiscal year budget.

If you are an auto-giver, please be sure to re-affirm your commitment, as otherwise it is difficult to accurately account for the impact of your commitment. Thank you to all who will soon step forward to help us complete a successful campaign of funding our church home. With blessings and joy to you all, Your Stewardship Team.

## Giving Statements

Giving statements for 2018 have been mailed out! Let us know if you did not receive yours. Did you know that you can also view your statement in Realm? When you are at your profile, click on "Giving" listed in the left-hand column of your computer. Find the year-to-date tab. Then search the drop down for last year. The dates are listed then as 01/01/2018 until 12/31/2018. Find the blue "Filter" button, click on it and voila, last year's statement is there. You can also print another copy if you need another. If you have not yet set up a Realm log-in, contact the church office at (920) 733-7393 and we'll help get you started.

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## Administration

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### These Days Daily Devotional

Our These Days daily devotionals for January through March are available in the Narthex. Pick your copy up next time you are at church.

### Thanks to our office volunteers!

As we look to the new year, staff would like to give a round of applause to all the men and women who have assisted in the office. Over 250 hours were logged this past year. Your help with stuffing envelopes, folding, labeling, cutting, counting, organizing the pews and entering attendance into Realm has been a tremendous support. Many thanks to all of you! If you would like to join the office volunteer team, contact Trish Brehm at trishbrehm@yahoo.com or (920) 739-8522.

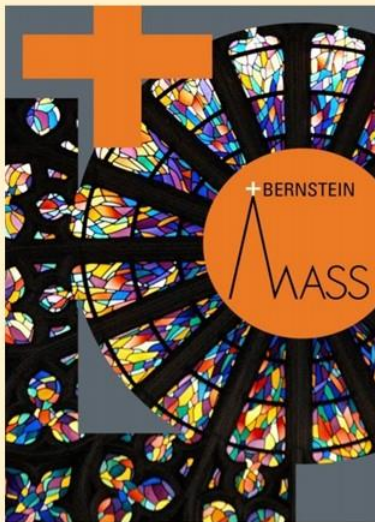


## Calendar for Sunday January 27–Saturday, February 2

<b>Sunday, January 27</b>	
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Child Care</b> – <i>Infant Room, Toddler Room, Nursery, 4-year-old Room</i>
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Church School</b> – <i>Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen, East Conference Room, Computer Lab</i>
8:45 AM – 9:45 AM	<b>Worship</b> – <i>Sanctuary</i>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Child Care</b> – <i>Infant Room, Toddler Room, Nursery, 4-year-old Room</i>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>High School Sunday Groups</b> – <i>Common Grounds</i>
10:30 AM – 11:30 AM	<b>Worship</b> – <i>Sanctuary</i>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal</b> – <i>Fellowship Hall, River Room, Sanctuary</i>
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<b>Friends in Christ</b> – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>LU Music Scholar Rehearsal</b> – <i>Choir Room</i>
6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	<b>First Things First AA Meeting</b> – <i>North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds</i>
<b>Monday, January 28</b>	
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	<b>Appleton Boychoir – Ambassador Rehearsal</b> – <i>Sanctuary</i>
4:30 PM – 5:15 PM	<b>Appleton Boychoir – Repertoire Rehearsal</b> – <i>Choir Room</i>
5:00 PM – 6:30 PM	<b>ESTHER Finance Meeting</b> – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:15 PM – 6:00 PM	<b>Appleton Boychoir – All Family Meeting</b> – <i>Sanctuary</i>
6:30 PM – 9:30 PM	<b>Boy Scout Troop 8</b> – <i>Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room</i>
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Fox Valley Flute Choir</b> – <i>Sanctuary</i>
<b>Tuesday, January 29</b>	
6:45 AM – 7:45 AM	<b>ADRC StrongBodies</b> – <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM	<b>ADRC StrongBodies – Fall Session</b> – <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Lectionary Bible Study</b> – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	<b>Mission and Service Meeting Preparation</b> – <i>Library</i>
7:00 PM – 8:00PM	<b>Building Committee Meeting</b> – <i>West Conference Room</i>
7:45 PM – 8:45 PM	<b>Fireside AA Group</b> – <i>Common Grounds</i>
<b>Wednesday, January 30</b>	
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM	<b>Loving Acceptance Meditation Group</b> – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM	<b>Children’s Choir Rehearsal</b> – <i>Choir Room</i>
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>Faith, Communication and Bernstein’s Mass – Class</b> – <i>Chapel</i>
5:30 PM – 7:00 PM	<b>Intergenerational Musical Rehearsal</b> – <i>Fellowship Hall, River Room, Sanctuary</i>
5:45 PM – 6:45 PM	<b>Youth Handbell Rehearsal</b> – <i>Amistad Room</i>
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	<b>Middle School Class/Youth Unity Worship</b> – <i>Fox Cities Exhibition Center</i>
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	<b>Church Mice</b> – <i>East Conference Room</i>

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	<b>Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</b> - <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
<b>Thursday, January 31</b>	
6:45 AM - 7:45 AM	<b>ADRC StrongBodies</b> - <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	<b>ADRC StrongBodies</b> - <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	<b>AA - Search for Serenity Group</b> - <i>Common Grounds</i>
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>TnT-SOAR Fox Cities</b> - <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>Doctrine of Discovery</b> - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>Fox Valley 94 AA</b> - <i>Common Grounds</i>
<b>Friday, February 1</b>	
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	<b>Al-Anon</b> - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	<b>N.A.</b> - <i>Common Grounds</i>
<b>Saturday, February 2</b>	
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<b>Fox Valley 94 AA</b> - <i>Common Grounds</i>

## Faith, Communication and Bernstein's Mass



Join Ecumenical Partners and Lawrence University's production of Bernstein's Mass cast to explore issues of communication, when ideological differences arise.

### Four-Part Series Includes:

- 1) Wednesday, January 30: 5:30-6:45 PM at First Congregational UCC, Appleton
- 2) Dress rehearsal visit at Stansbury Theater
- 3) February 14-17: Reduced-price opera performance
- 4) Post-performance talk back with cast members