

## **Welcome, Visitors!**

Information about our church and ministries is available on the Welcome Table near the main doors. Church members are standing nearby who will be happy to answer your questions. Interested in joining the church? Our next Membership Exploration will be Wednesday, 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 to use during worship. 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.

# March 24 Highlights at First Congregational

<b>Today:</b>	<b>A Joyful Noise Offering .....</b>	<b>p. 10</b>
<b>Today:</b>	<b>NO CHURCH SCHOOL - Resumes Next Sunday, March 31</b>	
<b>March 25:</b>	<b>Congo Crafters for Christ .....</b>	<b>p. 9</b>
<b>March 27:</b>	<b>Lenten Soup Supper Series Week 2 Book Study: Part 1.....</b>	<b>p. 9</b>
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	<b>Fox Valley Memory Project Chorus Performance .....</b>	<b>p. 12</b>
<b>April 7:</b>	<b>Building Committee Report at Both Services.....</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
	<b>Staff Transition .....</b>	<b>p. 15</b>

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## Flowers

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

## Communion

All are welcome to receive communion the first Sunday of each month. The bread we use is gluten-free; however, it is made in a facility that also processes wheat products.

## Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sundays are April 28, May 19, June 9, July 14 and August 18. 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, March 22</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Jan Sheetz	
<b>Sunday, March 24</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Kris Henke	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio		Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Sue Mauthe

**No Church School!**

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 24, 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

*He Shall Feed His Flock*

Handel

(Please sign the registration form on the end of the pew, pass it down the row, and then return it, that all may know the names of those sharing in worship today. Prayer request cards are collected at the ends of the pews as well.)

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

### \*WELCOME AND GREETING

COMMISSIONING OF BACK BAY MISSION TRIP PARTICIPANTS (8:45 AM service)

Nancy Brown-Koeller, John Koeller, Tim De Hart, LouAnn Graf, Tom Graf, Ken Jahnke

### \*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

**It gives us joy to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you and keep you in prayer as you travel to Back Bay Mission and serve in Christ's name. We promise to keep in prayer those you will meet along this journey. May Christ be known to you and through you in the days to come.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us away from the chaos of the world, that we may focus our hearts and minds on things that are lasting.

**People: In God's presence we see our lives more clearly; the broken pieces are put back together.**

Leader: God calls us out of loneliness into a life of community.

**People: Worshiping together, caring about one another, we found out what it means to be truly human.**

Leader: God will send us back into the world's confusion and busyness, its brokenness and isolation.

**People: We are able to go forth with grace and joy, strengthened to be God's servants, bearers of Christ's peace.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #314

*As We Gather at Your Table*

BEACH SPRING

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Third Sunday in Lent – *The Risk of Faith*  
Russ and Amanda Whipple Family (8:45 and 10:30 AM)

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 4:13-14 (NT p. 115)

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

UNISON PRAYER

**Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, embolden us to take the risk of faith. Let us reach out for the meaning, strength and joy that is ours when we enter into the life of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE

*Restore in Us, O God*

BAYLOR

Stanzas 1 and 3, sung by ALL



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MISSION MOMENT – Golf Fore Kids/Camp AweSum

Ruby Wells

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

*(This month's Joyful Noise Offering supports Golf Fore Kids/Camp AweSum.)*

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 AM only)

(During the hymn, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the children's sermon, the children should return to their seats as there is **no church school** this week.)

ANTHEM

*Brother James' Air*

arr. M. Wilberg

Based on Psalm 23

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 HYMN #462

*Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life*

GERMANY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

*I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

Spiritual arr. Larsen

\*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

Isaiah 55:1-3a (OT p. 838)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 22:1-14 (NT p. 29)

MEDITATION

\*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin p. 6)

*Let Us Go Now to The Banquet*

VAMOS TODOS

Stanza 1 - Choir/Octet; Refrains and Stanzas 2 and 3 - **ALL**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Sacred Harp Medley*

(WARRENTON and BEACH SPRING)  
arr. Adams

**TODAY’S MUSICIANS**

Kris Henke, *trumpet*

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

8:45 AM Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM Vocal Octet: Elizabeth Keggi, Kristy Albrecht, Shelley Nulton,  
Tami Johnson, Paul Eggen, Steve Hirby, Joel Jicha and Dave Frederick.

**Upcoming Worship Schedule**

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday in Lent

8:45 and 10:30 AM

“Bridesmaids”

Rev. Steve Savides

Scripture reading: Matthew 25: 1-13

Music: 8:45 AM - LU Music Scholars; John Aaholm, percussion

10:30 AM - Sanctuary Choir; John Aaholm, percussion

**Members in Service Next Week**

<b>Friday, March 29</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Sheryl De Hart, Trish Brehm	
<b>Sunday, March 31</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver	Jerry Dees
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire	Rick Behm
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  
Olive Bopp  
Barb Boren  
Dick Casperson  
John Cawthon  
For Connie, on her husband's passing  
Dena Collier  
Bruce Companik  
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law  
Jim Edwards  
Margitta Furnner  
Esther Gehrt  
Ken Geiger  
Ivo Geurts  
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen  
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother  
Family of Ellen Gunter on her passing  
Mary Guenther  
Maggie Hendrick  
Ken Hocking  
Dennis Hummitzsch, Nancy Kandler's brother  
Dan Huth  
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life  
Tami Johnson and her sister, Colleen  
Pastor Kathryn Kuhn  
Our Kenyan partners and students  
Our country's military around the world

Eunice Klemp  
Margaret LaFleur  
Mike Mathews  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law  
Ellie Olson  
Families and children of Palestine  
Connie Radtke  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Don Roehrborn  
Tom Rued  
Family of Richard Seaman on his passing  
Jolene Schribner's mother, father, aunt and uncle  
Gladys Schmidt, John and Tim Schmidt's mother  
Troy Schmitt  
Jim Schwantes  
Amanda Spindler  
Ryan St. Clair  
Family of Neal Stein on his passing  
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  
Linda Uitenbroek, sister of Lyle Van De Hey and  
Janice Schmitz  
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter  
Jennifer Wild  
Elden Willing  
Gary Wisneski  
The Wittwer Family and Ellen Wittwer's cousin, Kim

# THE OPEN DOOR

March 24, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 12

## Pastor's Message

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### Lenten Reflections

Lent humbles me, though I have not always taken it seriously. The first time I chose to forego something for Lent, I did it because my best friend in high school was fasting. It was a tradition in her house, and I spent enough time there that it seemed logical to follow suit. I don't remember exactly what we decided to give up. It was probably chocolate. I do remember how long those forty days began to feel, even just ten or twelve days in.

This year, Lent feels long again but for very different reasons. Most of you who are reading this know that I'm undergoing chemotherapy. Treatments are three weeks apart. It feels like I've been doing this for quite a while already, and I'm only half way through this stage of the process. I decided against fasting this Lent because my diet and appetite are already significantly altered. Instead, I thought I might focus on exercising when I can. So much for a serious Lenten discipline, right?

I was so glad to be back in the gym when I returned a few weeks ago. I suspected I had lost some strength, but I wasn't prepared for how low I needed to go with some of the weights. I was surprised by how quickly I felt short of breath. Completely gassed after about 5 minutes of work, a friend suggested I not worry so much about weights and reps for the next round but instead, focus on my form.

"If you use this time to develop your form, you'll be better able to handle more weight and repetition down the road," she said.

It's a good argument, and a humbling Lenten discipline, as it turns out. In more ways than one, I've had to get real about my inability to carry the load I used to carry. I have to admit I need help more often than I'd like. But my friend is right. If I worry less about the weight I'm carrying, and focus instead on carrying it "well," or at least put some thought into my form, then I'll likely be in a better position to manage whatever lies ahead. And I will have learned a few things about accepting help from others to balance the load, too.

Lent humbles me. It also reminds me to be grateful for the journey, and all we are invited to learn along the way.

Your friend and fellow traveler along this Lenten road,

Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## Congo Crafters

Monday, March 25 • 7:00 PM  
Upper Lounge

Happy spring! Please join us for Congo Crafters as we continue to work on our spring service project of creating votive holder gifts. This is an easy and fun project, so anyone can participate. Spread the word and invite a friend!

## Lenten Soup Supper Series Week 2: "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart," by Kenneth C. Haugk Book Study: Part 1

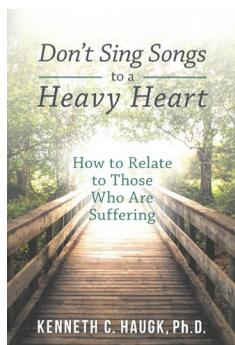
Wednesday, March 27 • 5:30-7:30 PM

We want to reach out and help those who are hurting - but the words or actions we use may unintentionally add to their burden instead of easing their pain.

Join in a hearty and heartfelt discussion of the first half of Haugk's book.

Small groups will be hosted by First Congo members affiliated with Friends In Christ and Stephen Ministry. We are all caregivers. Let's share ideas and experiences about our caregiving, and fine-tune our caregiving skills.

Please sign up in the Narthex.



The book for March 27 and April 10 may be purchased from the church office for \$10; a reading guide is included.

**Week 3: Rev. John and Dr. Susan McFadden, guest speakers**

**Week 4: "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart", by Kenneth C. Haugk  
Book Study: Part 2**

## Help Wisconsin SHINE - General Synod 32

June 21-25, 2019

Go to [Synod2019.org](http://Synod2019.org) to register

*The Wisconsin Conference* is hosting UCC General Synod in Milwaukee and you are key to helping Wisconsin SHINE! There are many opportunities to assist the 3,000 expected visitors during event. At the same time, you'll meet people from across the country, hear inspiring speakers and learn more about the many ministries of the UCC. Here are some of the *opportunities for volunteering*:

**Hospitality** – at the airport, train station, at registration, the exhibit hall, or as a guide at the Milwaukee Wisconsin Center.

**Childcare and Children's Ministry** – Care for the youngest or lead activities for older children during Synod.

**Mission** – Assist with tours of specific social services in Milwaukee.

**Word Processing and Tech** – Use your skills to help edit resolutions or assist attendees with the Synod App.

**Worship** – Usher or serve communion during worship services.

**Outdoor Festival** – Guide visitors and help set up the Sunday Festival at Frank Zeidler Square.

**And More** – Assist during plenary sessions, support volunteers, be on-call for needs as they arise, and probably a few other things too! Here's how to get involved:

- Go to [WCUCC.org/synodvolunteer](http://WCUCC.org/synodvolunteer)
- Use the link there for volunteer registration, read about the opportunities and then schedule 6 or more volunteer hours to qualify for a reduced Synod registration fee. When this process is complete, you'll receive the Synod code.
- Then go to [Synod2019.org](http://Synod2019.org) to register.
- You will receive information about any training and where to report to volunteer. We'll be in touch!

*Many thanks for participating in this exciting opportunity.*

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## Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

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### Mark Your Calendars!

As spring and the busy Easter period approaches, mark your calendars with the following significant dates:

**TODAY, NO CHURCH SCHOOL**

(Due to Spring break) – March 24

Masterworks Music Sunday – April 14

**NO FAMILY WORSHIP AREA** this Sunday.

**NO CHURCH SCHOOL** – April 21

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**(Between Easter Services)**

## Joyful Noise Offering

Our Joyful Noise offering this week benefits Golf Fore Kids, a local charity dedicated to raising funds for Camp AweSum. These youth and family camps, held at Moon Beach Camp in St. Germain, WI, are designed specifically for children on the autism spectrum and their families. Golf Fore Kids not only supports the operation and staffing of these camps but also provides scholarship opportunities. Your support is greatly appreciated to ensure these camps continue to provide life-changing experiences for children with autism and their families.

Thank you, Ruby Wells

Golf Fore Kids Board Member

## Middle School Mission Trip

If you plan on attending the Middle School Mission Trip to Moon Beach, June 13-16, a non-refundable down payment of \$50 is **due** by March 31, 2019 to reserve your spot. If you have any questions, please contact Joel Morien. Scholarships are available.

## Thank You to Our Awesome Church School Teachers

Church School would not be possible without the volunteer teachers who give their time and talent to teach First Congregational UCC's children. Please take a moment to thank the Rotation Four teachers who volunteered their time and talents.

Three-and Four-Year-Old Children:  
Shari Mitchell

Kindergarten: Sharon Clothier

First Grade: Heidi Richter

Second Grade: Maja Glidden

Third and Fourth Grade:

Nancy Brown-Koeller

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Katie Jahnke  
(Co-taught with Colleen Berry)

Substitute Teachers for this rotation:

Dianne Droster, Dana Mattingly and

Aimee Eubank.

## **Church School News**

As we enter March, we just finished our Church School Fourth Rotation. Our theme this year has been “Faithful Believers” and in this rotation the children learned about Queen Esther. Workshops in this rotation included one that focused on her “inner beauty” and courage.

The children created “inner beauty” dolls and/or shields. They also learned about other women of courage in a Women’s History Workshop. (March is Women’s History month). They also learned that God works through willing people (like Esther AND maybe them one day) to assure that justice is being done.

In a Prayer Workshop, children learned how we can all turn to prayer and seek guidance from God when we are faced with a difficult decision (like Esther did).

They made prayer journals to take home with them to use in the future. In a Purim Celebration Workshop, they learned how Esther’s Story in the Bible is celebrated by members of the Jewish faith.

The Tween Ministry is also now in full swing. Each week, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have lessons separate from the Church School Rotation. This has allowed for deeper levels of study with this age group

and more chances for question and discussion. The Tweens learned about Jesus’ early life, how to read and refer to the Bible, in a series of “Bible Basics” lessons. We also celebrate birthdays each month, ask for their input in future lessons and engage in fun team building activities. Be sure to check out the new bulletin boards on the bridge because the Tweens designed them.

## **Church School News for March and April**

The fifth rotation of Church School began this past Sunday. The children attended science, object lesson, Bible story and game workshops. The theme of this rotation is “Easter -I’m a Believer.”

The children are learning about ways that they can follow in Jesus’ footsteps by remembering the important messages the Easter story relays. Teachers for this rotation are: Amanda Hatch, Sharon Clothier, Nancy Brown-Koeller, Jolene Scribner, Dianne Droster, Shari Mitchell, Kerry Wauters and Katie Jahnke.

Please take time to thank these amazing volunteers who share their time and talents with First Congregational UCC’s children.

**Please note:** The Family Worship Area is available to children ages 3-10. Older children should worship with their family. Parents and guardians, please sit in close proximity to your children and supervise them so that all may enjoy the worship service.

## Easter Help Needed!

Easter is fast approaching. Please help fill Easter Eggs! We will be hiding approximately 2,000 eggs for First Congregational's massive egg hunt that takes place between services on Easter Sunday. Eggs should be filled with new, individually-wrapped candy (Starburst, small candy bars, smarties, etc.) Plastic eggs are located in the Narthex and should be returned to church *no later* than **Palm Sunday, April 14**. Thank you so much for helping to make our Easter Egg Hunt a success.

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## Worship and Music

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

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### Upcoming Lawrence University Scholar Recitals

The LU Music Scholars have recitals at the designated times and locations. Please show your support of their musical talents!

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Name	Date/Time	Place
<b>Erik Nordstrom, baritone</b>	March 29, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
<b>Emily Richter, soprano and Max Muter, bass-baritone</b>	April 6, 1:00 PM	Harper Hall
<b>Bianca Pratte, flute</b>	April 20, 3:00 PM	Harper Hall
<b>Luke Honeck, tenor</b>	April 20, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
<b>Clover Austin-Muehleck, mezzo-soprano</b>	April 27, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall

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<b>Nicolette Puskar, soprano</b>	May 19, 6:30 PM	Esch-Hurvis, Warch Campus Center
<b>Alex Quackenbush, baritone</b>	May 31, 6:45 PM	Harper Hall

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### Fox Valley Memory Project Chorus Performance *On a Positive Note*

Sunday, March 31 • Sanctuary  
2:00-3:00 PM

The *On a Positive Note* chorus consists of people living with dementia, their care partners and a few community members. All enthusiastically attend weekly rehearsals led by Kathleen Albrecht, our talented and energetic director.

Our amazing piano accompanist, Tony Cardello, will perform a solo piece at the concert. He majored in piano performance and graduated in 2018 from Lawrence University. We encourage people of all ages to attend this concert.

It will feature many familiar songs and some surprises. After the concert, we'll enjoy refreshments and a time for socializing. Come and experience how making music together adds joy to the lives of people living with dementia.

There is now considerable research showing the positive physical and mental health benefits of group singing for people of all ages.

We're looking forward to sharing our joy with the Fox Valley community.

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# Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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## Items Needed for Back Bay Mission Trip

Until Sunday, March 31

Please help us fill the Back Bay Mission box in the Narthex with **nutrition/protein bars** such as Balance, Special K, or Power Bars and **travel-sized toothpaste** donations. Those going to Back Bay's Mission in April would like to take some things their clients could use. On previous Back Bay Mission trips, we personally saw a big need for nutrition bars and travel-size toothpaste. Day shelter clients stop by in the morning and receive a snack (e.g. Doritos or Cheetos) while waiting for a shower. Many clients aren't able to carry a full-size tube of toothpaste around. So we emphasize those items - but we will take anything on the Back Bay box Wish List. Thank you to those have donated already! Additionally, if you have a Thrivent account and have not used your Action Grant for something this year, that \$250 could fund a Hygiene Kit project for Back Bay Mission. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller for more information.

## REMINDER: Madison Action Day

Tuesday, March 26

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Madison Masonic Center,  
301 Wisconsin Ave., Madison

Cost: \$25 + \$15 for the bus.

Register now at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/mad2019>

Contact ESTHER: (920) 843-8083  
[office@esther-foxvalley.org](mailto:office@esther-foxvalley.org)

Join state-wide leaders at Madison's Masonic Center for social action and movement-building. Buses will be transporting people to the event from Appleton and Oshkosh:

First Congregational UCC (724 E. South River St., Appleton) - 6:30 AM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church (140 South Green Bay Rd., Neenah) - 7:00 AM

Oshkosh Park and Ride 70 - 01 - 7:15 AM

## Wisconsin Conference UCC Anti-Racism Training and Retreat

Sunday, April 28-Tuesday, April 30,  
Moon Beach, St. Germain

Cost: \$199 • Register at [wcucc.org](http://wcucc.org)

Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training's Jessica Vazquez-Torres will present the event. It is open to clergy, lay leaders and friends.

## Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity

Wednesday, May 8-Saturday, August 10

Fox Cities Habitat for Humanity 2019 build season is underway! This year only one Interfaith home will be built. The build site is 971 Stead Drive in Menasha. A new sign-up process takes place this year. Individuals can sign up directly on line if they wish to work at the build site or donate food. First Congo has committed to food donation and site support on Tuesday, June 25 and Thursday, July 11. To sign up, visit <https://foxcitieshabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/interfaith/>. Contact Tim De Hart at [tdehart@new.rr.com](mailto:tdehart@new.rr.com) or check the Habitat sheet in the Narthex for information.

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# Church Council

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## Building Committee Report

Sunday, April 7 • Both Services

The Building Committee was appointed by the Church Council last fall to explore the long-term needs of our facility as it ages and as our ministry needs and goals change. Throughout the last few months, we have:

- Reviewed the recommendations of the Building Study Task Force;
- Toured the building;
- Initiated visits with other churches who have faced similar challenges with their facilities;
- Interviewed key staff;
- Reviewed our church's Strategic Plan and asked bigger questions of mission in relation to our facilities;
- And compiled a list of concerns/challenges/needs facing the building.

We are now ready to make our preliminary report to all of you. **On Sunday, April 7, during both worship services**, we will make a special report to the congregation on our progress and to share the issues facing our facility.

At the conclusion of the presentation, we will distribute **comment cards** for you to offer your feedback. We also will hold **listening sessions in the Chapel** after each service for those who would like to ask questions or have further conversation.

**If you can't attend on April 7**, we would invite you to **live-stream** one of the

services via the website ([www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org)). We will also post both the written and video versions of the presentation after April 7. You will have a chance to **respond with your feedback through a special link found on the website**.

Yours truly, The Building Committee

Eric Bauman, Sheryl De Hart,  
Don Hietpas, Wayne Lannoye,  
Mike Loomis, Sue Mauthe (chair),  
Rev. Steve Savides (ex-officio),  
Tori Schultz (secretary), Jolene Scribner

## Staff Transition

Part of a church community's life is the reality that transitions take place. New members join by birth, baptism, or transfer; members also move away for any number of reasons. The nature of being in community means recognizing that as a church we are always growing, changing and becoming a new living being in and of itself. Similarly, transitions take place among key staff.

Joel Morien served as Director for Youth Ministry for almost three years. He brought with him a wealth of skills from his time being involved with United Church Camps and with the YMCA. From mission trips to our weekly middle school ministry, lock-ins to serving on staff, Joel has shown zeal and dedication to his work. But as with everybody in Christ, change takes place. He will be leaving us soon to further his education. Joel's joyful presence and many gifts will be missed!

I share excerpts from Joel's letter below.

"It is with a saddened, but grateful, heart that I write this letter to inform you that I am resigning as the Director for Youth Ministry at First Congregational United Church of Christ. The wonderful people of First Congregational have become my family and this church is home to me. Therefore, I am extremely sad to be moving on to the next chapter of my life as I return to school and continue my education pursuing my Master's of Divinity. I am exceedingly thankful to have had the honor and privilege to serve the church family at First Congregational for the past three years.

God has worked in my life during these last three years and I believe I have grown and will continue to grow as I follow where God leads me all the days of my life.

With gratitude and a cheerful heart, I am sincerely yours, Joel Morien "

Joel's last Sunday with us will be April 28. Between services, we will have a celebration of his ministry with cake and a special coffee hour. Joel will be in the Narthex at that time to greet people. We also will be gathering cards for him to share your memories and well wishes for him and his family. As we continue to grow into the living body of Christ let's keep Joel and his family, the Youth Ministry and the Search Team for our new Director of Youth Ministry in our prayers.

Lastly, it's important to note the Middle School Ministry will close the year like normal. Colleen Berry and other volunteers will lead the Middle School Mission Trip. The High School Mission will be led by Pastor Nick. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nick

## Calendar for Sunday, March 24–Saturday, March 30

### Sunday, March 24

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

11:45 AM – 12:45 PM

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**A Joyful Noise Offering**

**Worship** – *Sanctuary*

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

**Worship** – *Sanctuary*

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

**Wilderness Ministry Informational Meeting** – *Chapel*

**Memorial Service: Ellen Gunter** – *Sanctuary*

**LU Music Scholar Rehearsal** – *Choir Room*

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

### Monday, March 25

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**ESTHER Finance Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*

**Boy Scout Troop 8** – *Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room*

**First Congo Crafters for Christ** – *Upper Lounge*

**Fox Valley Flute Choir** – *Sanctuary*

### Tuesday, March 26

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

**ADRC StrongBodies** – *South Fellowship Hall*

**ADRC StrongBodies** – *South Fellowship Hall*

**Lectionary Bible Study** – *Upper Lounge*

**Church Council Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*

**Fireside AA Group** – *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, March 27

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** – *Upper Lounge*

**Lenten Soup Series Week 2** – *Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

**Church Mice** – *East Conference Room*

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal** – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

### Thursday, March 28

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**ADRC StrongBodies** – *South Fellowship Hall*

**ADRC Strongbodies** – *South Fellowship Hall*

**AA – Search for Serenity Group** – *Common Grounds*

**Stewardship Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*

**TnT-SOAR Fox Cities** – *South Fellowship Hall*

**Fox Valley 94 AA** – *Common Grounds*

### Friday, March 29

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

**Al-Anon** – *Upper Lounge*

**N.A.** – *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, March 30

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Memorial Service – Marjorie Rosebush** – *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

**Fox Valley 94 AA** – *Common Grounds*



## Gifts of Flowers for Easter

Please consider making a gift to the Easter display in memory or in honor of a loved one or to celebrate a special moment in your life.

The suggested donation is \$25, and the deadline is **April 14**.

Contributors to the display will appear in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. 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 this form out and place in the offering plate or in the basket in the church office.**

