

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 Wednesday, April 24.

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 our worship services 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.

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.

March 31 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Fox Valley Memory Project Chorus <i>On a Positive Note</i>.....	p. 15
Today:	Middle School Mission Trip Slips DUE	p. 13
April 3:	Lenten Soup Supper Series Week 3 <i>Caregiving for Those Living with Dementia</i>.....	p. 12
April 6:	12 Angry Men Performance	p. 17
Sunday, April 7:	Building Committee Report at Both Services.....	p. 18

Flowers

The rose on the communion table is in honor of Gretchen and Mike Breitzman’s granddaughter, Harper Rae, who was born on Tuesday, March 26. Lisa and Tyler Grovogel are the parents. 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. Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

Members in Service This Week

Friday, March 29	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Sheryl De Hart, Trish Brehm	
Sunday, March 31	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		Sharrie Robinson
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 Mauthe
Multi-Media – video	Shannon Glenn	Sue Mauthe

Church School Schedule–8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms today.

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 31, 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.*

PRELUDE

Prelude and Fugue in d Minor

Clara Wieck Schumann

(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

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Where Christ walks,

All: We will follow.

Leader: Where Christ stumbles,

All: We will stop.

Leader: Where Christ cries,

All: We will listen.

Leader: Where Christ suffers,

All: We will hurt.

Leader: Where Christ dies,

All: We will bow our heads in sorrow.

Leader: Where Christ rises again in glory,

All: We will share his endless joy.

Leader: There is no other way.

All: Christ is our only way.

*OPENING HYMN #185

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY - Fourth Sunday in Lent - Looking Beyond Our Hurts

8:45 AM - Mary Dees and Steve Hirby
10:30 AM - Sara Companik and Jo Muehl

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE READING

John 9:4-5 (NT p. 125)

EXTINGUISHING THE LIGHT

UNISON PRAYER

Loving God, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, open the eyes of our heart to see you at work in the events around us. Turn us away from our own hurts to focus on the work you are doing among us. May the light of Christ dawn upon our hearts like an Easter morning sunrise chasing all the darkness away. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Restore in Us, O God

BAYLOR

Stanzas 1 and 4, sung by ALL



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 at the 8:45 AM service.)

ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

John Aaholm, *congas*

Spiritual
arr. Andre Thomas

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 (see bulletin p. 8)

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

SCHMÜCKE DICH

Stanzas 1,2 and 4, sung by **ALL**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Set Me as a Seal

Nick Strimple

Song of Solomon 8: 6a, 7a

Alex Quackenbush, *baritone* (8:45 AM) and Clover Austin-Muehleck, *mezzo-soprano* (10:30 AM)

*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**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 25: 1-13 (NT p. 34)

EPISTLE READING

1 Corinthians: 1-18 (NT p. 201)

MEDITATION

“Present in the Absence”

Rev. Steve Savides

***CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin p. 9)**

Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers

LLANGLOFFAN

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Passacaglia

Gordon Young

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

John Aaholm, *congas*

8:45 AM LU Music Scholars; Alex Quackenbush, *baritone*

10:30 AM Sanctuary Choir; Clover Austin-Muehleck, *mezzo-soprano*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

April 7, 2019

Fifth Sunday in Lent

8:45 and 10:30 AM

“Last Judgment”

Rev. Steve Savides

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Music: 8:45 AM – Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM – LU Music Scholars

Members in Service Next Week

April 5, 2019	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
April 7, 2019	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeters	Cathy Paynter	
Bridge Greeters		
Welcomers		
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft-March	
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O’Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen





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
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
Mary Guenther
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Dennis Hummitzsch, Nancy Kandler's brother
Dan Huth
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Ken Jahnke and family, after the death of
Ken's father, Ernie Jahnke
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
Jolene Scribner's mother, father, aunt and uncle
Gladys Schmidt, John and Tim Schmidt's mother
Troy Schmitt
Jim Schwantes
Amanda Spindler
Ryan St. Clair
Cole Stoffel
Syrian refugees/Syrians affected by violence
All those in need of suicide prevention and
compassionate caregivers
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 31, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 13

Pastor's Message

OBJECT LESSON

A young lady named Sally, relates an experience she had in a seminary class, given by her teacher, Dr. Smith. She says Dr. Smith was known for his elaborate object lessons. One particular day, Sally walked into the seminary and knew they were in for a fun day.

On the wall was a big target and on a nearby table were many darts. Dr. Smith told the students to draw a picture of someone whom they disliked or someone who had made them angry, and he would allow them to throw darts at the person's picture.

Sally's girlfriend drew a picture of a girl who had stolen her boyfriend. Another friend drew a picture of his little brother. Sally drew a picture of a former friend, putting a great deal of detail into her drawing, even drawing pimples on his face.

The class lined up and began throwing darts, with much laughter and hilarity. Some of the students threw their darts with such force that their targets were ripping apart.

Sally looked forward to her turn and was filled with disappointment when Dr. Smith, because of time limits, asked the students to return to their seats. As Sally sat thinking about how angry she was because she didn't have a chance to throw any darts at her target, Dr. Smith began removing the target from the wall.

Underneath the target was a picture of Jesus...

A complete hush fell over the room as each student viewed the mangled picture of Jesus; holes and jagged marks covered his face. In the silence, Dr. Smith said these words:

"Just as you did to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

If God really does exist, if Jesus Christ really is the incarnation of God, then there is nothing and no one in our lives from which Christ is absent. God is present in everyone and everything. How would your living change if you really had faith this was true?

Your friend and fellow minister, Rev. Steve Savides

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Lenten Soup Supper Series Week 3: Caregiving for Those Living with Dementia

Wednesday, April 3 • 5:30-7:30 PM
Presented by Rev. John
and Dr. Susan McFadden

5.7 million Americans live with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. By 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 14 million. Rev. John McFadden and Dr. Susan McFadden are internationally recognized for their study and expertise in befriending those living with dementia. Following a brief description of dementia types and progression, they will lead a discussion about ways of accompanying people on the dementia journey. Please sign up in the Narthex.

April 10, Week 4: "Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart", by Kenneth C. Haugk Book Study: Part 2

*Office copies of the book are gone, but a reading guide is still available.

National Healthcare Decision Day

Sunday, April 14

In the Chapel after each worship service

National Healthcare Decision Day (NHDD) is coming soon. Do you have your Power of Attorney for Health Care forms (POA-HC) completed?

Did you know that if you are eighteen-years-old or older, unless you have a valid healthcare power of attorney document, a judge may have to make your healthcare decisions instead of your family if you become unable to make those decisions yourself?

Advanced care planning is a way to help our loved ones make medical decisions on our behalf when we are not able to make our own choices.

Our Faith Ambassador volunteers will have information, documents and answer questions you may have about this process. They can also help fill out and witness these documents.

Additional material can be found at www.fvacpp.org and www.nhdd.org.

NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY ★ *your decisions matter* ★

Get on the General Synod Bus!

Before June 1 • \$10 per person

The national meeting of the United Church of Christ is coming to Wisconsin for the first time on June 21-25.

We are all invited to attend the General Synod Community Worship on Sunday afternoon, June 23 at 2:30 PM. The service is for the thousands of people attending the biennial gathering of our denomination, as well as all members of UCC churches in Wisconsin. On this day, there will be NO registration fees to visit General Synod. Following worship, the Wisconsin Conference UCC is hosting a street fair at a nearby city park. A variety

of entertainment will be presented, and food trucks will be available for our evening meal.

First Congregational Church, Oshkosh, Senior Ministry (SAGE) is sponsoring a school bus which will leave from the FCC Oshkosh parking lot at 11:00 AM. Lunch options will be available at the convention center when we arrive. We would return to Oshkosh by about 8:00 PM. If you are interested in taking the bus, the cost will be \$10 per person with a check made payable to First Congregational Church (please put "General Synod bus" in the memo line.) Checks may be mailed to First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Boulevard, Oshkosh, any time before June 1. See Pastor Kathryn with questions.

General Synod Keynote Speaker

Saturday, June 22

The keynote speaker for General Synod is Pulitzer Prize-winning author Matthew Desmond, winner of numerous awards for his book *Evicted*, which chronicles the lives of several families in the poorest neighborhoods in Milwaukee. He will speak on Saturday, June 22. The book, *Evicted*, has been chosen as an "all-church read" for the UCC.

More information on the all-church read, and how to attend General Synod as a visitor, can be found at <https://live.eventtia.com/en/uccsynod2019/Synod-Keynote-Speaker>.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

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 Sunday, March 31 to reserve your spot. If you have any questions, please contact Joel Morien. Scholarships are available. We'd like to take as many Middle School students as possible on this amazing trip.

Mark Your Calendars!

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

- April 14–Masterworks in Worship
NO FAMILY WORSHIP AREA
- April 21– Annual Easter Egg Hunt
(after the 8:45 AM worship service)
NO CHURCH SCHOOL

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

5th and 6th Grade: Katie Jahnke

(Co-taught with Colleen Berry)

Substitute Teachers for this rotation:

Dianne Droster, Dana Mattingly and

Aimee Eubank.

Church School News for March and April

The fifth rotation of Church School began Sunday, March 17. 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 near 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 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.

Worship and Music

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

Upcoming Lawrence University Scholar Recitals

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

Name	Date/Time	Place
Emily Richter, soprano and Max Muter, bass-baritone	April 6, 1:00 PM	Harper Hall
Bianca Pratte, flute	April 20, 3:00 PM	Harper Hall
Luke Honeck, tenor	April 20, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
Logan Willis, oboe	TBD	TBD
Clover Austin-Muehleck, mezzo-soprano	April 27, 8:00 PM	Harper Hall
Nicolette Puskar, soprano	May 19, 6:30 PM	Esch-Hurvis, Warch Campus Center
Alex Quackenbush, baritone	May 31, 6:45 PM	Harper Hall

Fox Valley Memory Project Chorus Performance

On a Positive Note

Sunday, March 31 • 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.



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

White Privilege Symposium: Loving Justice

Friday, April 12 • 5:00 PM-9:00 PM
Saturday, April 13 • 8:00 AM-4:30 PM

Cassandra Voss Center
St. Norbert College Campus,
100 Grant Street, DePere

Learn about the history of privilege in this country and explore ways to advance equity. With the help of keynote speakers and workshops, we will explore issues such as income inequality, disparities in the justice system, barriers to education and employment as impediments to progress. This is not about blame; this is about listening deeply, talking with each other and increasing awareness that leads to the understanding we all desire. All are invited! Your attendance is an investment in the future of our communities, which are enriched by diverse experiences. Featured speakers include Jackie Battalora PhD, Jenni Monet, Yusef Salaam and Eddie Moore Jr; 'Edu-tainment' provided by Jasiri X and MOORE.

To learn more and to register visit snc.edu/cvc/programs. Financial support for event attendance may be available. See Pastor Kathryn for more information.

One Great Hour of Sharing “More than we can imagine!”

Offering Received through April 2019



The 2019 One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering's theme is “More than we can imagine!”

It is based on

Ephesians 3:20, reminds us that we are not alone in our imagining a better world for all of God's children. God imagines a world where:

- No one is left to face the ravages of natural disaster alone - neighbor helps neighbor, stranger helps stranger - for we are the church together,
- Even if things will never quite be the same after a disaster, God can work through all events to bring new life, new hope, and even more resilience,
- Clean and abundant water and ample sanitation facilities are available to every person,
- Work brings security from hunger and the land is treated with respect,
- Families displaced from their homes can build new lives,
- Women are no longer subject to discrimination and gender-based violence.

God also imagines Christians of many traditions, coming together to help make these things ever more a reality for more and more people!

For you see, our imagination of what might be is founded and grounded in what God envisions and hopes for.

Please, give generously to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special offering, so that your imagination might indeed be ever more joined with God's!

Our gifts will be dedicated on April 14 but donations will be received through April 28. Envelopes are available in the pews, or you may contribute via Realm.

Wisconsin Conference UCC Anti-Racism Training and Retreat

Sunday, April 28–Tuesday, April 30

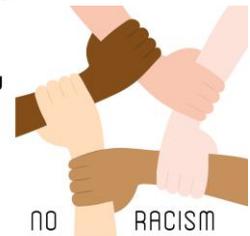
Moon Beach, St. Germain

Cost: \$199 • Register at 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.

Anti-Racism Training and Retreat

April 28 - April 30, 2019
Moon Beach Camp
St. Germain, Wis.



Smoke Alarms Save a Lives

Visitors to <https://getasmokealarm.org> can request a free smoke alarm installation anywhere in Wisconsin. All you need to do is provide your name, address and a phone number or email address. Please allow two to four weeks for a response about installation availability in your area.

You can also text 'Alarm' to (844) 811-0100 and follow all prompts.

The **getasmokealarm** database saves all information. If you do not live in a Region with **getasmokealarm**, you may call 800-REDCROSS and be connected to their local Region. Additionally, website and texting can be translated into Spanish.



12 Angry Men Performance

Saturday, April 6 • 3:00 PM
Kimberly-Clark Theatre • Free event
Register at <http://foxcitiespac.com>

A cast of 12 women in leadership positions in the Fox Valley will lend their voices to the roles of jurors in a reading of Reginald Rose's play, "12 Angry Men."

The local reading is part of a nation-wide effort that will have thousands of women participating in readings.

"12 Angry Men" debuted as a Broadway play 50 years after it was first released on the big screen and focuses on a single juror who stands up for a defendant he believes is about to be wrongfully convicted. The message is about embracing our responsibilities as citizens.

The League of Women Voters will partner with the project, providing an

opportunity for attendees to register to vote or confirm their voter registration information at the event.

Maria Van Laanen, president of the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, is spearheading the project and Kathy Privatt, the James G. and Ethel M. Barber Professor of Theatre and Drama and associate professor of theater arts at Lawrence University, will direct the production.

Implicit Bias Training

April 13 • 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
Appleton Public Library (Room C)
225 N Oneida Street • Free event

Join the organizers of WISDOM, ESTHER's parent organization, as they help us deepen our understanding of implicit bias and the ways it impedes our ability to connect with people of different racial backgrounds.

Please register **soon** at esther-foxvalley.org/implicitbias to help plan for this free event.



Church Council

Planning today, building tomorrow.

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). 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

Calendar for Sunday, March 31–Saturday, April 6

Sunday, March 31

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Worship – Sanctuary

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

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

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

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

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Worship – Sanctuary

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Fox Valley Memory Project Choral Performance – Sanctuary

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

LU Music Scholar Rehearsal – Choir Room

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

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

Monday, April 1

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

ESTHER-Communications Committee – Upper Lounge

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM

Appleton Boychoir – Repertoire Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Facilities Ministry Area – Upper Lounge

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

ESTHER Prison Reform Task Force – St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 140 S Green Bay Road, Neenah

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Boy Scout Troop 8 – Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary

Tuesday, April 2

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

9:45 AM – 11:45 AM

Staff Meeting – Upper Lounge

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lectionary Bible Study – Upper Lounge

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Chrysalis – Upper Lounge

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Worship and Music Ministry Team – Upper Lounge

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Fireside AA Group – Common Grounds

Wednesday, April 3

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – Upper Lounge

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Children's Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Lenten Soup Series Week 3 – Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – Amistad Room

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Youth Pizza Supper – Art/Kitchen

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Confirmation Class with Mentors – Chapel

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

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

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Church Mice – East Conference Room

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room, Sanctuary

Thursday, April 4

6:45 AM - 7:45 AM

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Friday, April 5

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Saturday, April 6

12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

ADRC StrongBodies - *South Fellowship Hall*

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AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

Clergy Development Group - *Upper Lounge*

Theology Discussion Group - *East Conference Room*

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

N.A. - *Common Grounds*

Baby Shower - *Fellowship Hall*

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

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.

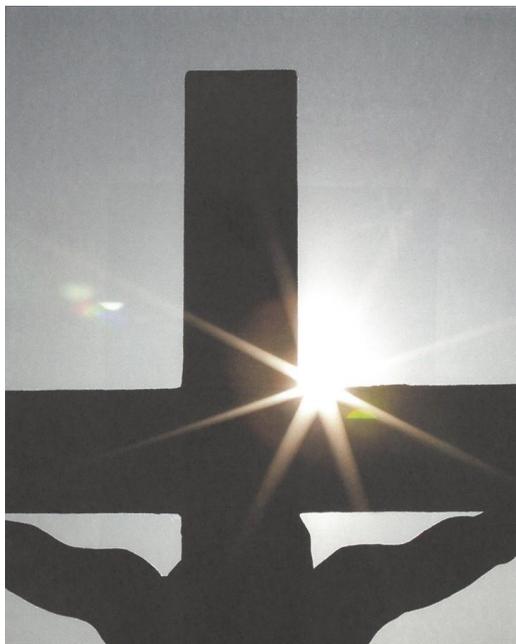
God has worked in my life during these last three years and I believe I have grown and will continue to grow as I follow where God leads me all the days of my life.

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



First Congregational United Church of Christ *presents*

John Michael Trotta's

“Seven Last Words of Christ”

Palm Sunday, April 14, 2019
8:45 and 10:30 AM Worship Services

First Congregational United Church of Christ's
Sanctuary Choir
Lawrence University Music Scholar Soloists
Chamber Orchestra

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



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Holy Week Services

<u>Service</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Palm Sunday/Masterworks in Worship (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	April 14	8:45 and 10:30 AM
Maundy Thursday (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	April 18	7:00 PM
Ecumenical Good Friday (<i>held at First Congregational UCC, Appleton</i>)	April 19	12 NOON
Easter Sunrise (<i>Chapel</i>)	April 21	7:00 AM
Easter Sunday (<i>Sanctuary</i>)	April 21	8:45 and 10:30 AM



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 **Sunday, 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.

