

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.

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 worship services for children ages 3-10, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin.

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 services. 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. **NEW!** Our congregation can now give via texting. Text FCUCC and a dollar amount to 73256 and donate.

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 livestream 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/read-it-here to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more.

April 28 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Fox Valley Flute Choir Concert at 4:00 PM.....	p. 13
Today:	A Joyful Noise Offering	
Today:	Plant-A-Row Help Needed!	p. 11
May 3:	Church Women United Meeting	p. 12
May 4:	Learning about Opioid Addiction/Childhood Trauma.....	p. 11
May 11:	LU Scholars' Recital	p. 13

Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

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 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, April 26	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Trish Brehm, Judy Hinden	
Sunday, April 28	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Chris Hammerstad	Pat Streur
Bridge Greeters	Carolyn Frederick	Sue O'Neill
Welcome Desk	LouAnn Graf	Sue Ahrens
Lay Readers	LouAnn Graf	Janet Scheibe
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen	Jonathan Steffen

Church School Schedule–8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms after worship today.

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER; HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY

April 28, 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

Dixieland Combo

Various

(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

LITURGY OF FAREWELL Joel Morien, Director for Youth Ministry (8:45 AM)

GREETING

ENDING A MINISTRY

Joel: I thank this church... As I leave my position, I carry with me all that I have learned.

People: We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now transition from this ministry. We express our gratitude for your time serving us. We ask for forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your transition.

VOWS OF RELEASE

UNISON PRAYER

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The times we minister together see our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memoirs and as we move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other, in the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Unlock your hearts - God wants to come in.

People: Open your lives - God needs a home.

Leader: Swing wide all the doors - God's children need shelter.

People: Easter rolls the stone away - and nothing can be shut anymore!

***OPENING SONG**

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

Trad.

He's got the whole world in His Hands. (*Sing four times*)

She's got the wind and the rain in Her Hands. (*Sing three times*)

She's got the whole world in Her Hands.

He's got the little tiny baby in His Hands. (*Sing three times*)

He's got the whole world in His Hands.

She's got you and me, brother, in Her Hands. (*Sing three times*)

She's got the whole world in Her Hands.

He's got you and me, sister, in His Hands. (*Sing three times*)

He's got the whole world in His Hands.

She's got everybody here, in Her Hands. (*Sing three times*)

She's got the whole world in Her Hands.

***INVOCATION** (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.

JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING *One Great Hour of Sharing* (8:45 AM, only)

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 AM, only)

(After the Children's Sermon, children may follow their teachers to Sunday School.)

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (8:45 AM, only)

XANDER BENTON BRAHE

Parents: Michelle D. Brahe and Joseph B. Brahe

Godparents: Josh and Marissa Neumann and Seth Riggle

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

People: We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

Dear God of gentleness and love, once more you have spoken words of hope in the birth of a child. We delight in this new gift of life. Let your blessing and strength rest upon Xander and his family. May they cherish his life and lead him in the ways of faith. In the name of your Chosen One, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHILD

HYMN #103 (Sung by ALL, 8:45 AM service only)

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #442

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

ERIE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Patty Darling, piano

*SUNG RESPONSE

This Little Light of Mine

Trad.

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;

Hide it under a bushel, no! I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Don't let Satan blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine till Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

GOSPEL READING

John 20:11-18 (NT p. 140)

HYMN #436 (10:30 AM, only)

I Am Weak But Thou Art Strong

CLOSER WALK

UNISON OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (OT p. 756)

MEDITATION

"Learning to Love at Arm's Length"

Rev. Steve Savides

*CLOSING HYMN #401

Amazing Grace

NEW BRITAIN

*RESPONSIVE COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Leader: Go out, looking for the good in other people; reach out, seeing in others the potential God sees.

People: We go out as messengers of God's forgiveness and proclaimers of God's faithfulness.

Leader: Dare to do things differently in work and play. Take the risks of following where Christ leads.

People: We reach out to feed and tend at Christ's command, valuing our sisters and brothers as God's own.

Leader: Praise God, O you saints of the Most High!

People: We will praise God in all that we do!

Leader: Amen.

People: Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

When the Saints Go Marching In

Trad.

O when the saints go marching in, O when the saints go marching in!
Lord how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

O when the trumpet sounds its call, O when the trumpet sounds its call!
Lord, how I want to be in that number, when the trumpet sounds its call!

O when the saints go marching in, O when the saints go marching in!
Lord how I want to be in that number, when the saints go marching in!

POSTLUDE

Dixieland Combo

Various

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

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

Dixieland Combo: Brad Curran, *trumpet*; Jose Encarnacion, *clarinet*; Tim Daniel, *trombone*;
Mark Urness, *bass*; Victoria Daniel, *drums*; Patty Darling, *leader and piano*

8:45 AM: The LU Music Scholars – *seated throughout the Sanctuary!*

10:30 AM: The Sanctuary Choir – *seated throughout the Sanctuary!*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

May 5, 2019	Children and Youth Sunday	8:45 and 10:30 AM
Scripture readings: Acts 10:1-17, 34-48		Rev. Nick Hatch
Music: 8:45 and 10:30 AM: Children's Choir; Youth Handbells		

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, May 3	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, May 5	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio		
Multi-Media – video		

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.**

Jill Anthony's neighbors, John and Katie
 Jill Anthony's sister and brother-in-law
 David Bauman
 Katie Behl
 Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
 Olive Bopp
 Barb Boren
 Dick Casperson
 John Cawthon
 Dena Collier
 Lynn Cook
 Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
 Dixie (friend of congregation member)
 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 Hummitsch, Nancy Kandler's brother
 Dan Huth
 Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
 Pastor Kathryn Kuhn
 Robert Kraemer, Matt Wiskerchen's
 grandfather recently diagnosed with
 pancreatic cancer
 Our Kenyan partners and students
 Our country's military around the world

Margaret LaFleur
 Mike Mathews
 Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
 Ellie Olson
 Families and children of Palestine
 Emily and Andrew Ratliff
 Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
 Sharrie Robinson
 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
 All those in need of suicide prevention and
 compassionate caregivers
 Gloria Tate
 James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
 Beverly Trombla
 Carol Valeri
 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
 Gary Wisneski
 The Wittwer Family and Ellen Wittwer's cousin, Kim

THE OPEN DOOR

April 28, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 14

Pastor's Message

INTRODUCING REV. ART WILLE



We're delighted to introduce you to Rev. Art Wille who will be serving as a part-time Pastor of Visitation through the next five months. With Pastor Kathryn's recovery proceeding, Pastor Nick taking over some additional summer duties as we transition between youth directors, and our usual Wisconsin summer clergy vacation schedule, we are concerned that some of our homebound and other members are not receiving the level of loving pastoral attention our church wishes to provide. Both our HR Team and our Church Council approved creating this temporary, part-time position. We greatly treasure and appreciate our Friends in Christ and our Stephen

Ministers. There is also a spiritual need that sometimes can best be filled by a pastor. That's the need Art will be meeting as he serves us beginning Tuesday, May 7 and continuing through September.

Rev. Art Wille retired in October of 2013 after serving forty-one years in ministry. Many of us have known Art through his eight years of service as Minister of the Northeast Wisconsin Association and Associate Conference Minister. Prior to that, Art served as Pastor of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Neenah/Menasha, Pastor of First Reformed UCC in Manitowoc and on the pastoral staff of our UCC congregation in Arlington Heights, IL. Art and his wife Cathy live in Neenah and are members of First Congregational UCC in Oshkosh.

Pastoral emergencies will continue to be handled by Pastors Steve, Kathryn, and Nick as well as other regular pastoral duties such as weddings and funerals. If you have specific visitation concerns, you can contact Art via email at awille@firstcongoappleton.org or by calling the church office and leaving a message. Art will be present in worship on Sunday, June 2 to give you a chance to greet him and welcome him to our church!

Your friend and fellow minister,

Rev. Steve Savides

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Plant-A-Row Help Needed!

Sunday, April 28 • 3:00 PM
1465 Opportunity Way, Menasha

There's good news for Plant-A-Row! A new garden spot has been found right behind St. Joseph's Food Pantry and the Community Clothes Closet. We need to remove some small trees and clear the land for tilling. Join us at the garden on the southeast corner of the property. We'll also do some initial garden planning together. Contact Mark and Lori Dougherty at markseastside@aol.com if you can attend, or to be placed on a "Gardener's Mailing List" for future events and updates. In 2018, our Plant-A-Row volunteers raised nearly 4,000 produce for St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Let's see what can happen in 2019!

Shedding Light: Learning about Opioid Addiction, Childhood Trauma, and Self-Care

Saturday, May 4, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
2330 E Calumet Street, Appleton
Contact Dianne Droster
didroster@gmail.com

Speakers from both National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and Catalpa Health will present a free community forum on the opioid crisis in the Fox Valley and the compounding effects of

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) on mental health. Learn about the warning signs of addiction, ways to support affected families and how to be an ally for those who have experienced childhood trauma. Presenters will also offer suggestions for self-care, including a short, guided meditation. First Congregational UCC, Appleton is co-sponsoring this event with First English Lutheran Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Our Hidden Wholeness

Connecting with Heart A Circle of Trust® Retreat

Friday, May 17 • 5:30 PM-9:00 PM
Saturday, May 18 • 9:00 AM-5:00 PM
\$85 • Albert Bellg • (920) 996-0887

There is a hidden wholeness at the heart of who we are, our true self. There is also a hidden wholeness at the heart of our relationships with each other. Even though we are all unique and different, and sometimes feel conflict with the people around us, our shared wholeness inclines us toward connection, caring and love. Using the Circle of Trust® approach, our spring retreat will enable us to explore our own wholeness and how we deeply connect with the people we love, our friends, other people in our lives and our community. Friday's dinner and Saturday's lunch are included. You are most welcome to ask for a discount or fee waiver if want to come but can't afford the \$85 donation. Albert Bellg, is a Circle of Trust facilitator and leader of Wednesday's noon Meditation. To register, sign up in the Narthex, or online at LifePathGroup.org.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Church Women United Meeting

Reservations due **Wednesday, May 1**

Event: **Friday, May 3**

Registration: 9:30 AM and coffee
11:00 AM • \$8 Brunch

Church Women United in Outagamie Co., will hold its 2019 May Friendship Day at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 510 Sullivan Avenue in Kaukauna.

The event will feature a brunch and the Samaritan Counseling Center's executive director, Rosangela Berbert will present, "How Do We Agree to Differ in this Diverse World." For more information, contact Marilyn (920) 788-5850 or mdvofkau@new.rr.com or Jayne (920) 246-8569 or plainjayne37@gmail.com.

Additionally, they will be collecting items for *Parent Connection/Baby Closet*. Please bring them to the event.

ESTHER E-Cycle

Saturday, May 18 • 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,
2330 E Calumet Street, Appleton
Event will happen rain or shine

ESTHER is sponsoring an electronics recycling event and fundraiser. Bring all electronics and metal items, including scrap, that is no longer useful to you (working or not) to the event. Anything with or without a cord such as Christmas lights, ironing boards, farm equipment, pots and pans are accepted. Nearly

everything is free to recycle. Prices for other items are listed **below**.

LCD Monitors: \$10

CRT Monitors: \$15

TVs under 27": \$15

TVs 27": \$20

TVs over 30": \$40

Console TVs: \$40

Projection TVs: \$40

Fridges/Freezers: \$10

This event is in collaboration with Cyber Green LLC, a Wisconsin DNR registered collector. Your recycled items brought to this event keep junk out of landfills and generate revenue for ESTHER.

All materials are kept in the USA. All hard drives will be shredded or destroyed.

Project NOAHH Needs Twin Sheet Sets

Project NOAHH's mission (Neighbors Offering A Helping Hand) is to improve the quality of life for children and families involved with the Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services. Among other things, we build bunk beds. We've got bunk beds and blankets ready to deliver - but we could use some twin sheet sets (new or very gently-used). Please drop them off at the church office. See Pastor Kathryn for more information. Thank you!

Worship and Music

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

Fox Valley Flute Choir

Today! Sunday, April 28 at 4:00 PM

The Fox Valley Flute Choir will present a free, hour-long public concert. The flute choir is comprised of 16 area flutists and is led by Marc Sackman, UW- Fox Valley music professor and Patricia George, editor of *Flute Talk*. The members will play works by J. S. Bach, Elgar, Campbell and Solare on the whole family of flutes from the piccolo to the bass flute. For information, contact Patricia George at editor@flutetalkmagazine.com.

LU Scholars “Give Back” with Mother’s Day Weekend Recital

Saturday, May 11 at 1:00 PM
Sanctuary



Our talented LU Music Scholars will present a short recital of some of our favorite choral music from the past

two seasons. A free-will offering will benefit our Music Scholars Endowment Fund! The program will include the premiere of a new composition by scholar tenor/composer Logan Willis, and an instrumental offering from three of our Scholars. Light desserts will follow the program, making this a perfect weekend “treat” for mom and the family! Join us for about an hour of music, refreshments and fellowship.

Invite a friend... all are welcome!

Upcoming Lawrence University Scholar Recitals

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

Name	Date/Time	Place
Nicolette Puskar, soprano	May 19, 6:30 PM	Esch-Hurvis, Warch Campus Center
Alex Quackenbush baritone	May 31, 6:45 PM	Harper Hall

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Children and Youth Healing Service

Rehearsal and dinner–Wednesday, May 1,
6:00-7:45 PM

Lead in worship–Sunday, May 5,
8:15-11:45 AM

All First Congo children and youth are invited to participate in leading our annual Healing Service. This service is a time of prayer, music and reflection about the healing work of the Holy Spirit. There is a place for all children and youth in this powerful, intergenerational and unifying experience for our entire church.

We received many, many thankful comments the last time our children and youth led this experience. We have a variety of ways you can help including ushering, reading, praying, music and more. To sign up, contact Colleen at cberry@firstcongoappleton.org or Pastor Nick at nhatch@firstcongoappleton.org.

About our Healing Service

Sunday, May 5

What is healing? There is no one definition, for it embraces so many aspects of life. But we do know that healing promotes unity, wholeness and spiritual growth. God, through the Holy Spirit, meets us at our points of need and offers us the loving presence of Christ regardless of the hurts or brokenness we face. We are so happy to be able to offer our Children and Youth Healing Service again during both worship services next Sunday, May 5. Our time together will include special prayers for healing, a laying on of hands and other experiences that focus upon the work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that God loves and cares for all of creation and that God's desire is that people who are hurting and broken in body, mind and spirit should know healing, love, peace, forgiveness and reconciliation. We strongly encourage you to attend as a family and be touched by the healing powers of the Holy Spirit. There will be **no Church School** offered during either worship service. Nursery and toddler Child Care will still be held during both worship services. Then the children can participate in the Healing Service. We look forward to sharing a prayerful Sunday guided by the Holy Spirit!

Church School News

Church School will be in session one last time this week for a special lesson that will focus on gratitude for our Church School teachers and the completion of various projects. The **room locations** are:

Kindergarten and 1st Grade will be in the Computer Lab

2nd Grade will be in the East Conference Room

3rd/4th Grade will be in the Scripture Tent

5th/6th Grade will be in the Art Room

There will be **NO CHURCH SCHOOL next Sunday, May 5** because both services will involve the children and youth as part of our Healing Service. However, there **WILL** be class for the 3- and 4-year old children with Miss Shari Mitchell on that day. We will officially wrap up the year with a Church School celebration to be held on May 12 in Fellowship Hall. There will be cake, games and other fun activities to celebrate the wonderful Church School year. The 3- and 4-year-old children will meet in the classroom with Miss Shari Mitchell before joining us for the celebration in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to our teachers/volunteers and parents who helped make this a truly great year. Most of all, thanks to First Congregational UCC's children who enthusiastically participated in Church School this past year and sought to grow in their faith and learn about God's love.

Director of Youth Ministry Position

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton (First Congo) is looking for a gifted and faithful individual to serve as Director for Youth Ministries. First Congo is a vibrant Open and Affirming church of approximately 1,400 members known for its dedication to worship, excellence in music, a growing youth ministry and commitment to mission. Our membership comes from all

over the Fox Valley drawn to our commitment of being welcoming and living out our mission statement to be “The Church of the Open Door.” Our staff represents a variety of gifts, talents, training and experience levels. The Director for Youth Ministries develops, guides and leads the middle school youth by implementing and strengthening a ministry that helps youth embrace a deep and sustainable Christian faith, offers them leadership opportunities and promotes a sense of belonging. The director implements all youth ministry events which are designed for both middle and high school students to attend. Additionally, the director collaborates and/or assists the Pastor for Youth and Family Ministry to offer leadership and implement programming in the high school ministry. Interested applicants should submit a cover letter and résumé with at least three unrelated references, to dymsearch@firstcongoappleton.org.

Administration

Say it with Flowers

Contact: Church Office
info@firstcongoappleton.org • (920) 733-7393

Opportunities are available to donate flowers for the Sanctuary in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one. A vase of cut flowers is \$35, and \$50 will provide roses. Requests for color or specific types of flowers are welcome. It is also possible to arrange for an annual dedication.

Usher Appreciation Gathering

Sunday, May 5 • Fellowship Hall
Between worship services

The usher teams will be having an Usher Appreciation gathering on May 5. If you are part of an usher team or are interested in joining an usher team for next year, please stop by for beverages, treats, meet and greet with fellow ushers. For those who are interested in ushering we can share our experiences and answer questions. For those who are already on an usher team we can visit, get feedback and provide updated information on ushering topics.

“What Excites You About First Congo?”

Sunday, May 19

During our annual church picnic, we will have an area where you can answer one simple question, ‘What excites you about First Congo?’ The responses will be used in one to four short videos about what people love about our church. The video(s) will then be posted on our website and social media. We look forward to hearing from you!

Text Giving now Available

You can give to First Congregational UCC via texting. By simply texting FCUCC (73256), you can donate straight to the church, or even to a specific ministry fund. Specify the amount given, follow the link and instructions and receive an email confirmation within seconds.

Calendar for Sunday, April 28–Saturday, May 4

Sunday, April 28

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Monday, April 29

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Tuesday, April 30

6:45 AM – 7:45 AM

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

Wednesday, May 1

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

6:00 PM – 7:45 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Thursday, May 2

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

Joyful Noise Offering/Holy Humor Sunday

Worship – Sanctuary

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

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

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales – Narthex

Worship – Sanctuary

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

Flute Choir Spring Concert – Sanctuary

LU Music Scholar Rehearsal – Choir Room

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

Boy Scout Troop 8 – Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room

Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

ADRC StrongBodies – Spring Session – South Fellowship Hall

Lectionary Bible Study – Upper Lounge

Stewardship Meeting – Upper Lounge

Church Meeting Council – Upper Lounge

Building Committee – Library

Fireside AA Group – Common Grounds

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – Upper Lounge

Children’s Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – Amistad Room

Children and Youth Sunday Dinner and Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary, Kitchen, Common Grounds

Church Mice – East Conference Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room, Sanctuary

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

ADRC StrongBodies – Spring Session – South Fellowship Hall

AA – Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds

Clergy Development Group – Upper Lounge

Theology Discussion Group – Stone Arch Brewpub, 1004 S Olde Oneida Street, Appleton

Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds

Friday, May 3

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:45 PM

Saturday, May 4

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

King's Daughter Rummage Sale - Fellowship Hall, River Room

Wedding Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Al-Anon - Upper Lounge

N.A. - Common Grounds

Wedding - Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Common Grounds

Fox Valley 94 AA - Common Grounds



Hello Everyone!

This is a friendly reminder that our Youth Director, Joel Morien, will celebrate his last Sunday with us today, April 28. We invite you to come to the 8:45 AM worship service where we will thank him for his work and release him from his commitments with a special liturgy in church. Between worship services, there will be cake in the Narthex and Joel will be there for us to greet and wish him well. Additionally, you are invited to bring a card for Joel sharing important memories or messages for him to remember in the years to come. There will be blank cards available as well.

Joel is leaving us to move on with his education. His family will remain in attendance, but Joel has been asked to step away from our faith community for a brief period to honor the impending transition taking place. This is a version of the standard separation ethics that our church uses when a ministry professional leaves their role.

It helps us to transition, as well as the ministry professionally. Joel will rejoin our church next fall, but only for Sunday worship services with his family. He will not be involved with the children's or youth ministries soon, so he can focus on his new path in life and we can welcome a ministry professional in his place.

A hiring team has met to interview candidates for the next Director of Youth Ministries. We are already receiving resumes and would greatly appreciate you sharing the job description as found on our main website page. Help us get the word out. Our interview team consists of Phil Sorensen, Maja Glidden, Georgia Berceau, Nancy Van Der Loop and Pastor Nick. In the coming months, we will be reaching out to our youth and parents to gather feedback for our team to act upon. We will also have other ways for youth to have their voices heard and participate. If you have any specific suggestions, concerns or questions please reach out to me.

Meantime, thanks for helping us celebrate the wonderful ministry of Joel Morien and blessing him on his new journey!

In Ministry Together,

Rev. Nick Hatch
Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries
First Congregational UCC
724 E South River Street,
Appleton, WI 54915
Office# (920) 733-7393



STOCK SALES

Sundays, April 28 • May 5 and 12

After worship services in the Narthex

Please support our June Youth Mission Trip to Detroit by purchasing "stock" in our youth. All proceeds will go towards sending them on this mission trip.

Payments can be made by cash, check or credit card.

*This will be our only fundraiser for the trip this year...
we're counting on your generous support.*

Thank you!