

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 in the fall.

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.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Children in Worship

Childcare 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, 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 – 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 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.

May 26 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Memorial Garden service	
Today:	Summer Music sign-ups continue	p. 9
June 1:	Violin and Piano Recital	p. 9
June 1:	Plant-A-Row	p. 13
Next Sunday:	Service Sunday	p. 13
June 4:	Noon - Horn and Piano Recital.....	p. 10
June 6:	We're O.F.F. Biking.....	p. 11

Flowers

Cindi Ritcey Fox designed this morning's Sanctuary flower arrangement. The roses are a "Thank you for all our blessings" from an anonymous donor.

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 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, May 24	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Trish Brehm
Sunday, May 26	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeters	Pat Streuer
Bridge Greeters	
Welcomers	
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne, Pat Nelson
Lay Readers	Karen Gosse
Multi-Media – audio	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Kris Behm

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 26, 2019

9:30 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

So schnell ein rauschend Wasser schiesst, aria from *Ach wie flüchtig*, BWV 26 Bach

Luke Honeck, *tenor* Bianca Pratte, *flute*

As fast as rushing waters gush, so hasten on our days of living. The time doth pass, the hours hasten, just as the raindrops quickly break up when all to the valley doth rush.

(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: To worship is to listen for the ancient song of creation and to recognize within that one song our individual songs.

People: To worship is to share the melodies and dissonances of our human condition.

Leader: Our voices vary: some warble, some bellow, but the song is universal.

People: It is our ode to God, and to the God within and among us.

All: Let us join hearts and voices and worship God.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #214

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS

*OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

*Congregation stands

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(During the hymn, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children may go to the Family Worship Area or return to the pews to worship with their families.)

PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY

Leader: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray: Eternal God, from whom all life comes, to whom all life returns, we remember all who have served our country in the military.

People: We remember and we give thanks. We give thanks for sacrifices made and losses endured.

Leader: We give thanks for acts of courage, grace and hope. We give thanks for those women and men who gave the full measure of devotion.

People: For the life, goodness, faith, courage, and love that was in each one, we give thanks.

Leader: We pray for those who are recovering from wounds in body, mind, spirit, or soul. Work healing in them in all the forms that healing takes.

People: We pray for those who provide care to them. Show us ways that we can extend care and support.

Leader: We pray for families and friends and all who grieve for loved ones who have died.

People: Meet them in the valley of death's shadow. Embrace them in the healing warmth of your comfort, grace and love.

Leader: Grant them and all of us the assurance that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

People: May the day soon come when swords are beaten into plowshares, war is studied no more, and all peoples and your world know peace. May we work for that day.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY
SILENT PRAYER

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

Agnus Dei

Logan Willis, LU Music Scholar

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us. Grant us peace.

LU Music Scholars

This setting is 8 minutes in length and received its premiere performance at our LU Music Scholars' recital on May 11, 2019.

*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

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 5:1-5 (NT p. 188)

MEDITATION

"The Power of Shared Suffering"

Rev. Steve Savides

*CLOSING HYMN #537

God of the Ages

NATIONAL HYMN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

Traditional/arr.Lanier

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*
LU Music Scholars

Luke Honeck, *tenor*; Bianca Pratte, *flute*; Kris Henke, *trumpet*

Please join us immediately after the worship service in the church's Memorial Garden for a brief service of rededication.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

June 2, 2019

Service Sunday

9:30 AM

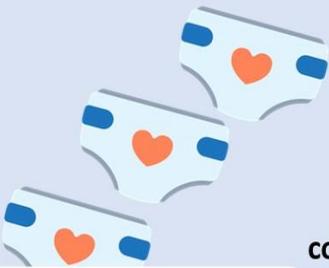
Brief worship • Communion • Service projects • Lunch

Scripture reading: Mark 12:28-34

Music: Sanctuary Choir; LU Scholar Soprano Trio; Scholar Recognition

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, May 31	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser and Sylvia Bull
Sunday, June 2	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	
Bridge Greeters	
Welcome Desk	
Lay Reader	
Usher Team Captains	Mark and JoAnn Shropshire, Mike Spurlock, Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen



Be a part of THE GREAT COVERUP!

Your donations of **DISPOSABLE DIAPERS** will be collected now through Service Sunday, June 2, 2019. Diapers will be re-packaged in smaller bundles on Service Sunday, for distribution through the Eastern Wisconsin Diaper Bank.

Boxes of disposable diapers (all sizes needed) can be dropped off in the Church Office.

This effort is being coordinated by our friends at Jake's Diapers.



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
Ellen Brown, daughter-in-law of Nancy and
Clair Brown
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Dena Collier
Lynn Cook
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
Ervin Klesmit
Pastor Kathryn Kuhn
Robert Kraemer, Matt Wiskerchen's grandfather
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
Griffin 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
Greg Vandenberg
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's cousin, Kim

THE OPEN DOOR

May 26, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 21

Pastor's Message

Memorial Day

There were hotdogs and hamburgers, brats and beer, chips and dip and veggie trays and watermelon slices and ice cream bars and good times. This is how a movie from a few years back began. The movie was called "Memorial Day" and starred Mike Ferrell of MASH fame as Matt Walker. Matt and his wife were throwing a Memorial Day picnic and all their friends and neighbors were there, a boisterous, celebrating throng. Good times.

"Hey, this must be kind of important of a day to you," one of Matt Walker's friends says. *"I mean, it's Memorial Day and didn't you serve in Vietnam?"* Matt reluctantly admits, *"Yes, yes, I served."* *"What was it like over there?"* Matt shares a look with his wife before answering, *"You don't really want to know."* *"Sure, why not? I mean it's Memorial Day, right?"*

And so begins a long speech and reminiscence by this Vietnam War vet. He starts telling about his experiences, the friends he lost, the illusions he lost, the pieces of himself he lost. And one by one, two by two, most of the guests began to clear out. They weren't here for this, for some depressing war stories. They were here for a picnic, a party! Matt Walker, as the stories become more personal and more difficult, begins sobbing, weeping at the things he had seen, the things he had done. Some departing guests become openly angry with him for being such a downer. But his wife, his children, a few close friends gently urge him on. They know that he needs to say this. They know that they need to hear this.

Tomorrow many of us will have a wonderful time watching a parade, picnicking with friends, celebrating the holiday. But on Memorial Day, will we truly remember? Will it only be a day for pageantry and picnics and a well-earned break from work, or will it be for something else, something more? There's a wonderful poem written by Michael O'Donnell about that something more:

*If you are able, save for them a place inside of you,
And save one backward glance when you are leaving
For the places they can no longer go.*

*Be not ashamed to say you loved them,
Though you may or may not have always.
Take what they have left*

*And what they have taught you with their dying
And keep it with your own.*

*And in that time when men decide and feel safe to call the War insane,
Take one moment to embrace those gentle heroes you left behind.*

As I said, it was written by Michael O'Donnell – I should say, it was written by Major Michael O'Donnell and was found among his personal effects after the U.S. Army helicopter he piloted was shot down in Dak To, Vietnam in 1970. *If you are able, save for them a place inside of you...*

Your friend and fellow minister,

Rev. Steve Savides

Service Sunday

June 2

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

WORSHIP • SERVICE • FELLOWSHIP

- Sing a Song! (at The Heritage/ Peabody)
- Tend a garden! (with Plant-A-Row)
- Make a meal! (for Pillars Adult & Family Shelter)
- Donate diapers! (for Jake's Diapers)
- Plant a flower! (in Fellowship Hall)
- Tie a blanket! (for Project NOAHH)
- Bead a bracelet! (in support of Pride Month)
- And more!

Worship and Music

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

Children and Families Welcome at Summer Worship

Our summer worship services at First Congo strive to be family-friendly. We try to reduce our worship time to around 50-55 minutes. Every summer Sunday service includes a Children's Sermon, child care is offered for children up to age 2 and the Family Worship Area is always open for kids ages 3-10. We hope to see our children and families in worship this summer!

Summer Music Sign-ups Now Open!

You are invited to share your gifts as a vocal or instrumental soloist or ensemble in our 9:30 AM Sunday worship services this summer, June 16 - September 1!

Children through adults are welcome to participate. We've enjoyed having some "entire family" ensembles in recent years, too!

Please sign-up in the narthex as soon as possible (preferably by June 2) or contact me directly after worship, email at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or call (920) 851-8097 (direct line at church.) *I will get back to you to discuss your schedule, music and scriptures/themes, and rehearsing.* Thank you!

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Violin and Piano Recital to Benefit LEAVEN

June 1 • 4:30 PM

Lawrence Conservatory of Music faculty members Anthony Padilla, piano, and Wen-Lei Gu, violin, will present a recital in our Sanctuary on Saturday, June 1 at 4:30 PM in our sanctuary. The program will feature music of Bach, Fauré, and others. A free-will offering will be received to benefit LEAVEN.

Come enjoy "God's great gift of music" in our beautiful sanctuary space with our wonderful Steinway grand piano, two incredible artists, and a great cause to support!



Thank you, First Congo and Friends!

Our LU Music Scholars' Recital on May 11 was beautifully sung and very well attended. The audience's generous cash and check donations of \$1,082 plus a gift of \$1,000 from a church family's Charitable Fund, raised a total of \$2,082 for the LU Music Scholars Endowment Fund! Thank you for supporting this part of our music ministry!

Horn and Piano Recital

June 4, Noon • Sanctuary

Ann Ellsworth (horn faculty at Lawrence), and Dan Paget (composer, arranger, pianist and native New Yorker), invite you to a recital of love songs, rags and spirituals from the late 1800's and early 1900's. With recent performances in New York City and the Catskills, Ann and Dan are preparing to record this treasure trove of hits by composers Stephen Foster, Eubie Blake, Ernesto Nazareth (Brazilian composer), Amy Woodforde Finden and arrangements of Brahms, Dvorak, Sibelius, Rachmaninoff and Grieg. This free program will last about an hour. . . treat yourself to a "musical feast" for lunch!

2019 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 PM

- May 29 - Kathrine Handford
Lawrence University Memorial Chapel
- June 5 - Sue Walby
Memorial Presbyterian Church
- June 12 - David Heller
Zion Lutheran Church
- June 19 - Stephen Schnurr
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Kaukauna
- June 26 - Devin Atteln
Holy Cross Catholic Church, Kaukauna
- July 3 - David Bohn
St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Menasha
- July 4 - Daniel Schwandt
All Saints Episcopal Church
- July 10 - Naomi Rowley
Faith Lutheran Church

- July 17 - Andrew Schaeffer
St. Bernard Catholic Church
- **July 24 - Jeffrey Verkuilen**
First Congregational Church UCC,
Appleton
- July 31 - Paul Weber
First English Lutheran Church
- August 7 - Derek Nickels
First Presbyterian Church, Neenah
- August 14 - Kartika Putri
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Neenah
- August 21 - Ethan Mellema
First United Methodist Church
- August 28 - Bruce Bengtson
St. Joseph Catholic Church

This schedule can also be found at
lunchtimeorganrecital.org.

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

You're Invited to the UCC 32nd General Synod!

June 21-25 • Milwaukee, WI

Volunteers are needed by the Wisconsin Conference to assist, guide, inform and provide an extravagant welcome to our guests from across the UCC. See the Wisconsin Association website for more information on how you can help and how to sign up. wcucc.org/synodvolunteer.

You will never have a better opportunity to participate in Synod. This is an extraordinary event in the life of the church where you can experience the following:

- Keynote **speakers** offering illumination and insight into challenges that face our congregations and communities,
- Dynamic **workshops**,
- Generative **plenary sessions**,
- Inspirational **worship**,
- Engaging **youth activities**,
- See our delegates **conduct the business of the denomination and set priorities for our ministries**,
- Be part of **standing up for issues** that demand a faithful witness,
- Participate in **local community service projects**
- **Enjoy** the music, outdoor festival and more

For additional details go to
<https://www.synod2019.org/en/uccsynod2019/Home/>

We're O.F.F. Bike Riding!

Thursday, June 6 • 5:30 PM

Dan and Cheryl Nisler will host a bike ride, starting at LedgeStone Vineyards on Thursday, June 6. It is just off the Fox River Trail, close to Greenleaf. Meet and park at the winery at 5:30 PM, bike on the Fox River trail (crushed gravel surface) for 30 minutes then turn around and end at the winery. There is free live music Thursdays until 9:00 PM with wine and non-alcoholic drinks available as well as food. Sign up in the Narthex or email Cheryl at msnis1950@gmail.com by Tuesday, June 4.

Support for Fire Station 2

Thank you to all who signed our cards of support for our local fire station last week.

On Monday morning, in addition to the cards, we delivered food to the firefighters at Fire Station No. 2 on E. John Street. They expressed gratitude both for the food and the prayers from our congregation. As we arrived, they were preparing to hand over their station to a group of firefighters from Oshkosh in order to participate in the procession and visitation for Firefighter Mitch Lundgaard. We continue to hold all those who serve our community in our prayers.

Join Us for the Fall 2019 Women's Retreat!

November 1-3

Our 2019 Women's Retreat will be held November 1-3, 2019 at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in St. Germaine, WI. We will need a minimum of 15 paid participants by early June to hold these dates. The cost of the retreat is \$170, which covers lodging, food and linens.

Please send a check to the church for \$170 for your reservation. Write "Women's Retreat" in the memo section. You can also pay online via Realm. If we have over 15 people and you are later unable to attend, we will refund your payment.

Last fall the retreat was very full so please make your reservation early. Due to the time of year, we will have drivers to be sure all can attend. We will provide more information about the retreat theme, etc. as we get closer to the retreat date.

If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling or Pastor Kathryn. Please

know that financial assistance is available if the cost is prohibitive.

NAMI Support Groups Offer Help and Hope

NAMI Fox Valley offers several peer support groups including:

- **New Hope Peer Support Group** for adults living with a mental illness;
- **Families Supporting Families** for families/loved ones whose lives have been impacted by a family member living with a mental illness;
- **Parent & Caregiver Support Group** for parents or caregivers living with a child or adolescent dealing with emotional or behavioral obstacles;
- **Faith Based Family Support Group** for families/loved ones of a family member living with mental illness, open to all faith backgrounds (meets here at First Congo on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM); and
- A new **Spiritual Support Group** for individuals living with mental illness (meets at United Methodist Church, 325 E. Franklin Street, Appleton, in the church library on first Tuesdays, 6:30 PM–8:00 PM).

For information about meeting dates and times for all peer-led groups, visit www.namifoxvalley.org, or contact Vicki Rivera, NAMI Fox Valley Peer Program Coordinator at (920)954-1550.

Used Book Sale

October 17-20 and 24-27

The Appleton Branch of AAUW is holding its 83rd annual used book sale "Adventures in Reading" October 17-20 and October 24-27, 2019 inside the Northland Mall. We're accepting contributions of books from the community. This includes hardback & paperback books, children's books, books on CD, sheet music, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, & games. (Please, no magazines, textbooks, or condensed books.) Profits provide scholarships for women. For book pick-up and drop-off, please call (920)427-6655, (920)734-6750, (920)843-8888 or (920)739-6469.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Thank You Church School Volunteers!

Our Church School program year came to an end May 12 with a Church School Celebration held in Fellowship Hall. I would like to thank our extraordinary volunteers who helped this past year with the gifts of their time, talent, patience and love of children. We are truly blessed to have such an amazing group of people that are willing to help with the Church School program and guide the children of First Congo on their faith journeys. Please take a moment to thank these individuals who gave selflessly of their time during the 2018-2019 program year.

Church School Teachers:

Dianne Droster	Maja Glidden
Julie Michels	Jolene Scribner
Kerry Wauters	Amy Bowman
Kristina Smits	Aimee Eubank
Ken Eubank	Karla Baier
Sarah Wilterdink	Micki Heimer
Dana Mattingly	Amanda Daniels
Matt Daniels	Heidi Richter
Sharon Clothier	Nancy Koehler
Amanda Hatch	Shari Mitchell
Katie Jahnke	

The Children's Ministry Team has also been an invaluable source of inspiration, guidance and support for me this past year. I truly appreciate all they have done and continue to do to support efforts to best serve the children of First Congregational Church.

Children's Ministry Team:

Aimee Eubank
Heather Gentile
Heather Hallett
Amanda Hatch
Shari Mitchell
Katie Jahnke

Thank you also to the amazing parents of First Congregational Church. The love you have for your children is clear and your efforts to have them become part of the faith family are admirable. Finally, I wish to thank the children of First Congo who attended Church School with open and loving hearts and minds eager to learn. You are all so special.

I wish you all a blessed summer and look forward to the start of the next program year in fall.

Peace, Colleen Berry,
Director for Children's Ministry

Noah's Ark

We will NOT have our usual Noah's Ark trip this summer. We look forward to being able to resume this annual outing next year! We will keep you updated.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Plant-A-Row Help Needed

Saturday, June 1 • 9:00AM

We are excited about our new location for Plant-A-Row! Our new garden plot is just beyond the Community Clothes Closet (1465B Opportunity Way, Menasha). In order to be ready for planting on Service Sunday, June 2, we need a few volunteers who can help us prepare the ground on Saturday, June 1 at about 9:00 AM. Stop by if you can; bring some work gloves.

Service Sunday

June 2, 2019 • 9:30 AM-12:00 PM

A special morning of worship, community service and sharing!

Schedule for June 2:

9:30 AM Meet in the Sanctuary for brief worship. Wear your First Congo shirt!

9:50 AM Go serve! (more detailed information is available in the Narthex)

- Sing a Song! (at The Heritage/ Peabody)
- Tend a garden! (with Plant-A-Row, on Opportunity Way in Menasha)
- Make a meal! (in our church kitchen, to be served later at Pillars Adult & Family Shelter)
- Donate some diapers! (and pack them for distribution in the Amistad Room)
- Plant a flower! (in Fellowship Hall)
- Tie a blanket! (in Fellowship Hall, for Project NOAHH and others)
- Bead a bracelet! (support Pride Week)
- And more!

11:30 AM Return to Fellowship Hall for lunch and sharing

You can learn about and sign-up for projects in the Narthex.

NOTE: This year's project with Jake's Diapers involves **DISPOSABLE** diapers. We are accepting donations of any size disposable diapers through June 2. Then on Service Sunday we will be packaging those donated diapers to be used in the Eastern Wisconsin community. Diaper donations can be placed in the large box outside the Sanctuary or in the church office.

Special Thanks

Many of you are aware that after 91 years in business, Appleton's Gabriel Furniture recently closed its doors. You may not know about their longtime generosity toward Project NOAHH (Neighbors Offering A Helping Hand). Since 2011,

Gabriel's ensured our First Congo Project NOAHH team had 10 mattresses each year to outfit bunkbeds built and delivered to Outagamie County families in need. Before they closed their doors, they made sure we would have enough mattresses for one more year of deliveries. Thank you, Gabriel Furniture, and Ruby and Joe Wells, for your generosity all these years. We are so grateful!

Thank you, also, for those who answered the call for twin bedding sets for Project NOAHH. Together, we really can make a difference!

Attention Kenya Student Sponsors

If you would like to submit a letter to be delivered to your student(s), please note the student's full name on the envelope and submit letters to the church office (Pastor Kathryn's mailbox) by June 15.

Habitat InterFaith Build HELP NEEDED!

Work on the InterFaith Build has begun and volunteers from First Congregational are needed NOW! The build site is at 971 Stead Drive in Menasha. A new sign-up process is being used this year. Instead of being assigned work dates through our church, individuals sign-up directly online through Habitat's Volunteer Hub for the days they wish to work. The link to the InterFaith Volunteer Hub is <https://foxcitieshabitat.volunteerhub.com/lp/interfaith/>

Please consider volunteering for a day or maybe more if you are able. ALL skill levels are needed and welcome! If you

have any questions regarding the InterFaith Build or encounter any problems signing up, contact Jodi Isom at the Habitat office:
jodiisom@foxcitieshabitat.org .

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/building-committee-news/>, to see the latest updates from the Committee. Use the email link on the website to email us your feedback at any time.

Church Council

Planning today, building tomorrow.

Update from the Building Committee

A decision has been made by the Building Committee to conduct a Building Feasibility Study prior to going out for a RFP (Request for Proposal). We feel this is the logical next step to help bring clarity to both the Committee and the congregation and guide us on the next steps forward.

With the support of the Finance Committee and Church Council, we have engaged The Boldt Company to do the study. Plans are to have the Study completed by May 30 followed by a congregation-wide communication and conversation at the **Annual Church Budget Meeting** to be held after worship on **Sunday, June 16**.

The Building Committee highly encourages anyone interested in participating in this step of the process to attend the meeting in person to have your voice heard in this important next step in the life of our church.

If you are unable to attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to visit our page on the Church's website,

Calendar for Sunday, May 26–Saturday, June 2

Sunday, May 26	
9:30 AM -10:30 AM	Worship - <i>Sanctuary</i>
9:30 AM -10:30 AM	Child Care - <i>Infant Room, Toddler Room</i>
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Memorial Garden Service - <i>Memorial Garden</i>
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM	First Things First AA Meeting - <i>North Fellowship Hall, River Room, Common Grounds</i>
Monday, May 27	
All Day	OFFICE CLOSED - Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 28	
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ADRC StrongBodies - <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Church Council Meeting - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:45 PM - 8:45 PM	Fireside AA Group - <i>Common Grounds</i>
Wednesday, May 29	
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:45 PM - 8:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Year-End party - <i>home of Bill and Cindi Ritcey-Fox</i>
Thursday, May 30	
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	ADRC Strongbodies - <i>South Fellowship Hall</i>
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	AA - Search for Serenity Group - <i>Common Grounds</i>
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Leadership meeting with Boldt - <i>Chapel</i>
8:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Building Committee - <i>Chapel</i>
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Fox Valley 94 AA - <i>Common Grounds</i>
Friday, May 31	
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Al-Anon - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00 PM - 8:45 PM	N.A. - <i>Common Grounds</i>
Saturday, June 1	
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Wedding Vow Renewal - <i>Sanctuary</i>
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM	Benefit recital: Anthony Padilla and Wen-Lei Gu - <i>Sanctuary</i>
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Fox Valley 94 AA - <i>Common Grounds</i>

The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Reverend Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Reverend Maynard E. Beemer, Pastor Emeritus
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Jon D. Riehle, Organist
Colleen Berry, Director for Children's Ministries
Vacant, Director for Youth Ministries
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Vacant, Administrative Assistant for Communications
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Jonathan Steffen, Technology Coordinator
Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Cassidy Behm, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Mary Lou Cliff, Custodial Assistant

First Congregational United Church of Christ
724 East South River Street
Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org