

## **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 our church? Our next Membership Exploration class 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.

## **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.

## **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. By texting **FCUCC** to **73256**, a donation can be made quickly and securely.

## **Online Streaming and Podcasting Now Available!**

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons).

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

## **Online Documents and Information**

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website. Visit [www.firstcongoappleton.org/read-it-here](http://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.

# May 5 Highlights at First Congregational

**May 5:** Usher Appreciation gathering ..... p. 16  
**May 11:** LU Music Scholar’s Benefit recital ..... p. 16  
**May 17–18:** Circle of Trust Retreat ..... p. 15  
**May 19:** 9:30 AM Summer Worship Begins

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## Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning is from the May 4 wedding celebration of Sara and Eric Hetzel.

There is also a rose on the communion table today to celebrate the April 22 birth of Christian David Van Eperen. The proud parents are Dan & Gabriela Van Eperen (grandparents Blake & Tami Johnson).

## Communion

We celebrate communion the first Sunday of each month. Our communion elements are gluten-free; however, they are made in a facility that also processes wheat products.

## Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sundays are May 19, June 9, July 14, and August 18.

If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism). Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

## Members in Service This Week

<b>Friday, May 3</b>		
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, May 5</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	First Congo Youth	First Congo Youth
Bridge Greeters	First Congo Youth	First Congo Youth
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	No Lay Readers Needed	No Lay Readers Needed
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media—audio	Tim Hanna	Rick Behm
Multi-Media—video	Shannon Glenn	Kris Behm

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

HEALING SERVICE LED BY CHILDREN AND YOUTH

May 5, 2019

8:45 and 10:30 AM

Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

*Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.*

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## PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Bender

(You will receive a prayer candle as you enter the sanctuary. During our prelude you may light the candle in the name of any person or situation, which you want to lift up in prayer. Please bring the candle to the chancel where a youth will assist in placing it on the communion table.)

(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

## OPENING SENTENCES AND YOUTH PRAYER

## WELCOME AND GREETING

## CHORAL INTROIT

*Frohlokket, ihr Völker auf Erden*

Mendelssohn

Rejoice, you good people on earth, and give praise to God. . . Alleluia!

LU Music Scholars

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: There is something deeper than trouble.

**People: It is mercy.**

Leader: God's amazing grace;

**People: carrying, lifting, holding us in all seasons.**

Leader: There is something more powerful than despair.

**People: It is mercy.**

Leader: God's amazing love;

**People: Seeing us through dark nights, waves of sadness, mountains of grief.**

Leader: There is something longer lasting than pain.

**People: It is mercy.**

Leader: God's healing touch;

**All: Bringing us hope, leading us to joy, teaching us to sing.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see bulletin p. 11)

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

HOUSTON

St. 1 – Children’s Choir St. 2 & 3 – ALL

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Jesus said: Ask and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.

**People: For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, it will be opened.**

Leader: Friends in Christ... Prayer of Confession as printed in your bulletin:

**People: Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the hardness of our hearts, cleanse us we pray and deliver us from proud thoughts and selfish desires, that with trusting and humble hearts we may draw near to you, living with grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.**

## \*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### \*GLORIA PATRI #36

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

## ANTHEM

*Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate*

Childrens Choir

Mozart  
arr. G. Edwards

## "REVERSE" CHILDREN'S SERMON

(As the children come forward, the ushers will collect the prayer request cards. After the Children’s Sermon, the children can return to worship with their families.)

## INTERCESSION FOR HEALING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader: God our creator, your will for us and for all your people is health and salvation:

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of God, you came so that we might have life and have it in abundance:

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: Holy Spirit, dwelling within us, you make us temples of your presence:

**People: have mercy on us.**

Leader: To the triune God...

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are disabled....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who are troubled...

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all whose increasing years....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all about to undergo surgery....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all those who are imprisoned....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For all who practice the healing arts....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the light you bring into this world....

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For the coming of springtime...

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: For \_\_\_\_\_ and also for those whose hearts are  
burdened or who walk the lonely path of having no community to pray  
for them. Lord, in your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Leader: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray. We lift all  
these prayers, and those unspoken, trusting in your strength and relying  
upon your grace. We lift up all these prayers with the prayer Christ  
taught us saying together:

#### THE LORDS PRAYER

**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, forever. Amen.**

#### PRAYER RESPONSE #199

*O Lord, Hear My Prayer*

PRAYER

**Sung two times by ALL.**

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

##### A MUSICAL OFFERING

*This Joyful Eastertide*

Youth Handbells Kris Henke, *trumpet*

VREUCHTEN  
arr. R. Mallory

## \*EASTER DOXOLOGY

Sung to the tune of *All Creatures of our God and King*

All creatures, your Creator bless,  
And worship God in humbleness.  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One,  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### BRIEF MEDITATION

“The Dirty Work of Forgiveness”

Rev. Nick Hatch

### UNISON NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 (NT p. 156)

In Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius.....

Now while Peter was greatly puzzled about what to make of the vision that he had seen, suddenly the men sent by Cornelius appeared. They were asking for Simon’s house and were standing by the gate.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter began to speak to them: **“I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ – he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”**

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. 45The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, 46for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, 47**“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”**

**\*SERMON RESPONSE #281**

*Spirit of the Living God*

IVERSON

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION & LAYING ON OF HANDS**

(Today you will have the opportunity to celebrate God's healing grace with communion served by Intinction. Additionally, you may receive prayer and/or a laying on of hands. You are welcome to come forward to receive any or all of these blessings.

If you choose to receive prayer, you may bring specific prayer concerns or just choose to receive a blessing from us. If you wish to experience a "laying on of hands" just extend your hands to ours and a student will hold them while we pray.)

**INVITATION**

**COMMUNION PRAYER**

**SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS & LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**MUSIC DURING PRAYER/LAYING ON OF HANDS**

*Communion*

VIERNE

Logan Willis, *oboe*

**Refrains sung repeatedly by ALL (as needed.)**

#195 *Eat this Bread*

BERTHIER

#197 *Lord, Have Mercy*

DOMINE DEUS

#194 *Come and Fill Our Hearts*

CONFITEMINI DOMINO

**UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**Gracious God, source of all healing, in Jesus Christ you continue to heal the sick and mend the broken. We praise you for coming to us once again bread of life and cup of forgiveness. We ask that once again, you bless our hands and our hearts. May this blessing become signs of healing, forgiveness, and of the fullness of life you give. By your Spirit, come upon all who receive this ministry of compassion and have known your presence at the table. May the gifts we have received here this day bring glory to you. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN # 493**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

PROMISE

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

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

Behnke

\*The Congregation Stands

## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Kris Henke, *trumpet*

LU Music Scholars

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

**Children's Choir 2018-2019:** Gina Bellin, Avery Gentile, Celia Gentile, Nevan Glenn, Alyse Hilscher, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Kennedy Louden, Jackie Mukome, Hazel Plamann, Meredith Plamann, Veronica Plamann, Anika Pretasky, Laney Schmidt, Lacie Whipple; John Albrecht, *director*

**Youth Handbells 2018-2019:** Josh Bellin, Natalie Erstad, Ross Erstad, Dawson Fish, Bradyn Gentile, Dillon Grade, Sophia Mast, David Murphy, Natalie Payette, Nathan Phillips, Noah Reynolds, Avra Taylor; John Albrecht, *director*.

**Children and Youth Worship Leaders:** Avra Taylor, Benjamin Heller, Bennett Van Der Loop, Bradyn Gentile, Cameron Gabbey, Caroline Van Der Loop, Dawson Fish, Donovan Schultz, Elena Eubank, Emily Phillips, Grant Gabbey, Isaac Reynolds, Jackson Wildes, Jacqui Mukome, Jean-Claude Mukome, Kalyn VanderGrinten, Kate Heller, Kyle Wilterdink, Laney Schmidt, Linnea Edwards, Logan Wiedenfeld, Maddison Hatch, Mark Hallett, McKenna Jahnke, Meredith Plamann, Michael Wildes, Mya Ballerstein, Nathan Phillips, Owen Schmitt, Reese Handevitdt, Ruth Hallett, Sienna Taylor, Sydney Pittner

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## Members in Service Next Week

<b>Friday, May 10</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis	
<b>Sunday, May 12</b>	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter		
Bridge Greeters		
Welcome Desk		
Lay Readers	Eilene Hoft-March	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne	Pat Nelson
Multi-Media—audio	John Aaholm	Mark Mauthe
Multi-Media—video	Jonathan Steffen	Sue Mauthe



## 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.**

Family of Elisabeth Allen on her death  
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  
Family of John Davis on his death  
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  
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  
Family of Terry Ragus on his death  
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  
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 5, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 15

## Pastor's Message

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### A Time for Renewal

We are so blessed to have your presence in worship today! We have over fifty children and youth who are leading us in our service of healing and wholeness. They have worked hard on their roles. Our prayer for you is that this is a time to hear and experience God's merciful gifts in your life in a new way. We pray that through the varied opportunities in this morning's service, you might make a new connection to renewing forgiveness and healing grace, of God in Jesus Christ, working through the Holy Spirit.

Inevitably, a service about healing brings us deep questions and deep hurts. We wonder why there is hurt to begin with, why our hurts even exist, and we recall the hurts of those around us and their brokenness. Some of our hurts can be so overwhelming we don't know what to do with them. Some, over the course of years, lose their poignancy and no longer carry the power they once did. Some are just downright confusing and unjust. Our brokenness comes in many forms.

I share with you these words from Psalm 147 in thinking about God's pursuit of healing and wholeness for us all:

*Praise the LORD!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.  
The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.  
He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.*

An age-old question becomes; how are we as people of God's covenantal promises called to live amidst our brokenness? There is no easy answer to this but one recurring theme through scripture that overshadows all others: hopefulness. We are, in the life of Jesus Christ, called to be a ridiculously hopeful people even in the midst of real human suffering and grief. Our hopefulness can be our source of joy. Our hopefulness can bring joy to others. It is no easy task, and the road to deep abiding hopefulness is not prescribed; but it is a journey we take together.

I praise God for all the hope that we know because of the Gospels. I praise God for the hopefulness that we at First Congo share and live with one another as a faith community. I pray that hopefulness will be what defines us even when being hopeful seems foolish. I

pray that in this service, you might open up a new part of your heart and challenge lingering beliefs, to accept the hopefulness of God's abundant love and grace in your life. May God plant a bulb in you this day that will flourish and sprout forth a hope unlike any other.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nick



Gladiolus will do well in any well drained soil. Plant the bulbs now through the end of May about 4 inches deep in the soil, pointed side up. It is important to give your bulb a good drenching immediately after planting. Enjoy!!

### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

May 12, 2019

Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:45 and 10:30 AM

Mental Health Awareness Sunday

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Music: 8:45 AM: Sanctuary Choir

10:30 AM: LU Music Scholars

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## Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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### 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. The cost is \$85. Scholarships are available. 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](http://LifePathGroup.org).

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## Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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### 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. 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 (Neighbors Offering A Helping Hand) mission 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!

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## **Worship and Music**

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

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### **Usher Appreciation Gathering**

**TODAY, Sunday, May 5 • Fellowship Hall**

Between worship services

The usher teams will be having an Usher Appreciation gathering today. 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.

## **Summer Sermon Series**

This summer we will again be answering those questions of faith that have been on the minds of congregation members. Here's your chance to try to stump your pastors! You were handed a blue sheet with your bulletin today. Please fill out the sheet with your questions of faith. We will pick the top ones for our Sunday Sermons Series. Sheets can be placed in the offering plate or in the gold box sitting on the Welcome Desk.

### **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

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## Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

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### About our Healing Service

**TODAY, 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. 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.

There will be **no Church School** offered during either worship service. Nursery and toddler Child Care will still be held during both worship services. We look forward to sharing a prayerful Sunday guided by the Holy Spirit!

### Church School News

A reminder that today there is no Church School for children ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grade. However, Miss Shari will be holding the 3 and 4-year-old class in her classroom. Next week, May 12<sup>th</sup> will be the last Sunday of Church School for the program year. Children grades K-6<sup>th</sup> will head to Fellowship Hall immediately after the Children's Sermon. Three and 4-year-old children will go first to their classroom and Miss Shari will bring them to join us for the celebration later. We will sing songs, do craft activities, play games and enjoy a cake to celebrate the end of a fantastic year in Church School! All children should be picked up after service in Fellowship Hall.

### 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 three unrelated references, to [dymsearch@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:dymsearch@firstcongoappleton.org)

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## Administration

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### Say it with Flowers

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.

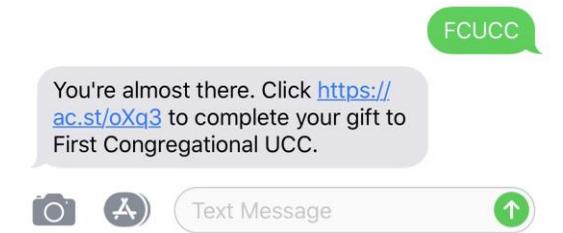
## “What Excites You About First Congo?”

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. Simply by texting a 5-digit number, people can donate straight to the church, or even a specific ministry fund. Specify the amount to give, follow the link and instructions, and receive an email confirmation within seconds. By texting **FCUCC** and a dollar amount to **73256**, a donation can be made quickly, securely, and it’s very well integrated with Realm. Text **FCUCC** to **73256** to donate today!



## Calendar for May 5 – May 11

### Sunday, May 5

8:45 AM–9:45 AM

**Worship – Sanctuary**

8:45 AM–9:45 AM

**NO Church School**

8:45 AM–9:45 AM

**Child Care – Nursery, Toddler Room, 3 and 4-year-old room**

9:30 AM–12:00 PM

**Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales – Narthex**

9:45 AM–10:30 AM

**Usher Appreciation gathering – Fellowship Hall**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

**Worship – Sanctuary**

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

**Child Care – Nursery, Toddler Room, 3 and 4-year-old room**

5:00 PM–6:00 PM

**LU Scholar Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room**

6:00 PM–9:00 PM

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

### Monday, May 6

9:00 AM–11:00 AM

**Wednesday Musicales practice - Sanctuary**

5:30 PM–7:00 PM

**Facilities team – Upper Lounge**

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 Rehearsal - Computer Lab**

### Tuesday, May 7

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

**ARDC StrongBodies – Spring Sessions - South Fellowship**

12:00 PM–1:00 PM

**Lectionary Group – 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, May 8

12:15 PM–1:00 PM

**Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - Upper Lounge**

12:30 PM–3:30 PM

**Wednesday Musicales – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge**

5:45 PM–6:25 PM

**Youth Handbells Rehearsal - Amistad Room**

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

**Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Choir Room, Sanctuary, Chapel**

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

**Church Mice Youth Group - East Conference Room**

### Thursday, May 9

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

**ARDC StrongBodies – Spring Session - South Fellowship Hall**

11:30 AM–1:00 PM

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

1:00 PM–2:30 PM

**Prayer Shawl – Common Grounds**

4:30 PM–6:30 PM

**ESTHER Board meeting – River Room**

6:15 PM–8:15 PM

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

7:00 PM–8:00 PM

**Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds**

**Friday, May 10**

11:30 AM–1:00 PM

7:00 PM–8:45 PM

7:00 PM–9:00 PM

**ESTHER Banquet committee** – *Upper Lounge*

**N. A.** – *Common Grounds*

**Al-Anon** – *East Conference Room*

**Saturday, May 11**

1:00 PM–2:00 PM

1:20 PM–4:00 PM

7:00 PM–8:00 PM

**LU Scholar Benefit recital** – *Sanctuary*

**Rose Welhouse Piano Studio recital** – *Choir Room*

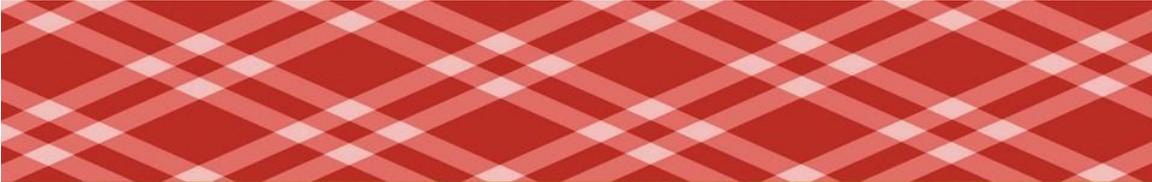
**Fox Valley 94 AA** – *Common Grounds*



# **Sole Burner 5K Walk-Run**

**Saturday, May 11**

You will not be able to access the church on Saturday morning, May 11 due to the Sole Burner Walk-Run. East South River Street will be closed to vehicle traffic from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM.



# End-of-Year Picnic Sunday, May 19

following 9:30 AM worship service

Donations are appreciated



Mark your calendars for

# Service Sunday

## June 2





## **YOUTH MISSION STOCK SALES**

**Sundays, May 5 and 12  
in Narthex after worship services**

**Support our Youth Mission Trip  
to Detroit, MI**

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