

## **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](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons).

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

## **Online Documents and Information**

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website. Visit [www.firstcongoappleton.org](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org) to connect with First Congregational in a variety of ways: an electronic version of *The Open Door* newsletter, social media, blogs and more

# July 7 Highlights at First Congregational

<b>July 14:</b>	<b>Building Committee Conversation with Congregation .....</b>	<b>p. 12</b>
<b>July 19:</b>	<b>Trinitas Concert .....</b>	<b>p. 11</b>
<b>July 24:</b>	<b>Lunchtime Organ Recital – Jeffrey Verkuilen .....</b>	<b>p. 11</b>

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## Flowers

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

## 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 July 14, August 18 and September 22.

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, July 5</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis
<b>Sunday, July 7</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeter	Sharrie Robinson
Bridge Greeters	Janet Scheibe
Welcome Desk	Cathy Paynter
Lay Reader	Janet Scheibe
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth, Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	Jill Smith
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 7, 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.*

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## PRELUDE

Prelude in A

Nathan Wysock (b. 1973)

Nathan Wysock, *guitar*

(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: God has called us to be the church in the world.

**People: We worship as our witness to the world of our commitment to God.**

Leader: God feeds us with bread and wine.

**People: God nourishes us for our ministry in the world.**

Leader: Let us worship our God who is with us today!

**All: Let us worship Jesus Christ who calls us to Remembrance in the bread and cup!**

### \*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #250

*Here in This Place (Gather Us In)*

GATHER US IN

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Faithful God, we disciples have such good intentions and yet we do not do what we mean to do. Often we do what is harmful to us, to others, and to creation. But we know that your Son, Jesus Christ, knows what it is like to be us, and invites us to bring our brokenness to the place of mercy and reconciliation. Let us come and open ourselves in silence to him, Immanuel, who knows and loves us still.  
(Silence)**

\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*GLORIA PATRI

**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. Amen.**

SOLO

*Open Your Heart*

Martin Green

Max Muter, *bass*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Psalm 147:1-6 (p. 715)

MEDITATION

Youth Mission Testimonies

Rev. Nick Hatch and First Congo Youth

\*RESPONSE HYMN (see bulletin p. 5)

*Lord, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)*

SANCTUARY

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

*Les Soirées d' Auteuil*

Napoléon Coste (1805-1883)

*I. Sérénade*

Nathan Wysock, *guitar*

\*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

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*El mestre*

Miguel Llobet (1878-1938)

*Leonesa*

Nathan Wysock, *guitar*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #515

*This Is My Song*

FINLANDIA

\*BENEDICTION

**Please be seated after the Benediction to receive the postlude music.**

POSTLUDE

*Les Soirées d' Auteuil*

Napoléon Coste

*II. Scherzo*

Nathan Wysock, *guitar*

## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Nathan Wysock, *guitar*

Max Muter, *bass*



### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

July 14

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

“Is Gender God-Given?”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides

Scripture readings: Galations 3:23, 4:9

Music: Heather Hallett, *soprano*

## Members in Service Next Week

<b>Friday, July 12</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Phyllis Wallis
<b>Sunday, July 14</b>	<b>9:30 AM</b>
Main Door Greeters	Frank and Pat Severin
Bridge Greeters	Steve and Kathy Hermsen
Welcomers	
Usher Team Captains	Rick and Sue Detienne, Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Lay Readers	Michael Weaver
Multi-Media – audio	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Kris Behm



## CORN ROAST AND CONCERT

Hillary Reynolds  
and Friends

**AUGUST 8**  
**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC  
EAST PARKING LOT

## 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  
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks  
Ellen Brown, daughter-in-law of Nancy and  
Clair Brown  
Dick Casperson  
John Cawthon  
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  
Lisa Graybrooks  
Mary Guenther  
Annette Grunseth  
Maggie Hendrick  
Ken Hocking  
Dennis Hummitzsch, Nancy Kandler's brother  
Dan Huth  
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life  
Jean Jepson  
Ervin Klesmit  
Our Kenyan partners and students

Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law  
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn  
Margaret LaFleur  
Sandy Moynihan, Ted Sanderson's sister  
Mike Mathews  
Carrie Brooks McClory  
Our country's military around the world  
Ellie Olson  
Families and children of Palestine  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Don Roehrborn  
Arthur Schmidt's family upon his death  
Gladys Schmidt, John and Tim Schmidt's mother  
Jim Schwantes  
Amanda Spindler  
Cole Stoffel  
All those in need of suicide prevention and  
compassionate caregivers  
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke  
Beverly Trombla  
Carol Valeri  
Greg Vandenberg  
Jean Van Wagenin  
Linda Uitenbroek, sister of Lyle Van De Hey  
and Janice Schmitz  
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's  
daughter  
Larry, Mike Weaver's son-in-law  
Jennifer Wild  
Gary Wisneski

# THE OPEN DOOR

July 7, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 27

## Pastor's Message

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### It Was Their Kitchen

If you've ever served other people, either as a missionary or simply offering to help a friend or loved one in need, you eventually begin to ask yourself tough questions. Things like; *Is the person I am serving going to be changed by this offering? Is this a good use of my time? Are my efforts really making a difference?* These are real questions and they are important to ask.

We were a few days into serving the community at Cass Community Social Services in Detroit, and our group of fifteen spent an afternoon painting the basement dining area. Excited and looking to make a difference, folks jumped in and started covering the cinder block walls in fresh white paint. We learned how to use rollers and brushes, and how to keep the paint from dripping everywhere. The project could get pretty wild with a large group, so I served as the worksite foreman to keep the energy channeled. The room needed to be finished in a matter of hours so that approximately eighty people could eat dinner. While not immediately apparent, it became obvious the dirty walls also needed to be refreshed. Yet when all was said and done, the sunlight streamed through the small glass cube windows and lit the room brightly - it was a significant improvement.

A few days later I was talking with one of the participants. They expressed disappointment because unlike in prior years, there was no homeowner to get acquainted with personally. Instead, we worked for a large organization that seemed impersonal. After all, we had *only painted some basement*. These were genuine, heartfelt concerns. I was glad this person shared them with me, and they caused me to ponder. After a time, I responded; "Well, the basement was dirty, but more importantly, this is the only kitchen these hundred or so people living at the CASS shelter have. This is their kitchen - not just some room. Isn't it of value that we made their kitchen cleaner and nicer for them in their house?" Days later, in various forms, we continued this conversation as a group. As always, I was proud and impressed by the insights and openness of our youth. But in all honesty, I had not thought about that room being someone else's personal kitchen until this person expressed their concerns to me.

*'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'*

*And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'* – Matthew 25:37-40

Just as people did in Jesus' day, we ask questions. There is no shame in asking genuine questions or voicing heartfelt concerns over the giving and receiving of our time. Serving others isn't always glamorous. We don't always have a "homeowner" to express gratitude towards us. The value of our efforts is not always apparent, and our work can seem pointless. But that doesn't mean we have not touched someone, or even a group of people, in an impactful way that shares the love of Jesus Christ to all the members of our family.

When was the last time that you faithfully performed a difficult form of service? When was the last time you were stretched enough so that you would ask the truly hard questions?

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Nick



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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## General Synod 2019 Update

Thank you to all of our members who volunteered, attended or visited General Synod 32 in Milwaukee!

First Congo was among the top 10 congregations of the Wisconsin Conference UCC providing volunteer support for the General Synod, which welcomed over 800 voting delegates and hundreds of other attendees.

Synod guests from other Conferences and the national office were deeply grateful for the warm hospitality provided through our Conference.

In addition to volunteering, many members of First Congo joined the estimated 4,000 worshipers on Sunday afternoon, June 23 and the 500+ Synod attendees who rallied on Monday, June 24, in support of immigrant rights, and against ICE policies such as the separation of families at the border.

Additional updates will be available soon; check out [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) for more information on General Synod 32. Please consider attending General Synod 33 in Kansas City, MO in 2021!

## Theology Discussion Group Begins New Book

On July 18, we will begin to read and discuss Carol Anderson's book, *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*.

We would like to extend a warm invitation to all members and friends of First Congo to join us.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at Stone Arch Brewpub on Olde Oneida Street in Appleton for lunch and our book discussion. There are typically 10-15 people in attendance, and we cover 30-35 pages of our selected text at each meeting.

These quotes offer a sense of what to expect from *White Rage*:

"From the Civil War to our combustible present, acclaimed historian Carol Anderson reframes our continuing conversation about race, chronicling the powerful forces opposed to black progress in America."

"As Ferguson, Missouri, erupted in August 2014, and media commentators across the ideological spectrum referred to the angry response of African Americans as 'black rage,' historian Carol Anderson wrote a remarkable op-ed in the *Washington Post* showing that this was, instead, 'white rage at work. With so much attention on the flames,' she writes, 'everyone had ignored the kindling.'"

For more information, contact Steve Hirby via Realm or through the church office.



## Active Adult Adventure Retreat

Moon Beach Camp • September 23–27

The beautiful colors of fall in the Northwoods make the perfect setting for an Active Adult Adventure Retreat!

Adventure in your own way; tour a nearby cranberry bog, ride the bike trails, fish with a guide or on your own, investigate local artists, or simply enjoy the changing face of the lake and forest. Each day begins and ends with worship and prayer.

The leader for this retreat is Rev. David Moyer, the retired Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference.

To register, visit <https://ucc.org/moon-beach/>.



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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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### 2019 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15–12:45 PM

- 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](http://lunchtimeorganrecital.org).

### Trinitas Chamber Ensemble

Friday, July 19 • 7:00 PM, Sanctuary  
Free will offering

Born from a desire to explore the fringe of standard classical chamber music and to present engaging, off-beat performances, Trinitas Chamber Ensemble consists of three outstanding musicians with a shared vision and infectious onstage chemistry. The ensemble includes a son of our congregation; Nathan Cook (parents, David and Cindy Cook), and his spouse, Michelle Cheramy.

Accomplished soloists in their own right, the members of Trinitas have performed around the world. They gave their premiere performance in June of 2015 in Toronto and have received rave reviews

since. Learn more about the ensemble at [www.TrinitasMusic.com](http://www.TrinitasMusic.com).



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## Administration

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### **Building Committee Conversation with the Congregation**

July 14 • Chapel

The Building Committee will be holding another discussion session on July 14, regarding the results of the recent Feasibility Study and the future planning of First Congo.

This is a great opportunity for members of the congregation to provide feedback and ask questions!

Please meet in the Chapel after the 9:30 AM worship service if you are interested.

## **These Days - Daily Devotions for Living by Faith**

Pick up your copy of These Days Daily Devotions for July through September. Now available in the Narthex!

### **Welcome Holly Volkman**

Join us in welcoming First Congo's new Administrative Assistant for Communications. Holly comes to us from SOAR Fox Cities.

If you have any articles that you would like to submit to the Open Door, please send them to [hvolkman@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:hvolkman@firstcongoappleton.org).

Articles should be submitted by 4:00 PM on Tuesday in order to be considered for publication in the following Sunday bulletin.



## Calendar for July 7 – July 13

### Sunday, July 7

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

6:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**Worship** – *Sanctuary*

**Child Care** – *Infant Room, Toddler Room, Nursery*

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

### Monday, July 8

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

**Technology Team** – *Library*

### Tuesday, July 9

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

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

**Building Committee Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*

**Wild Women of First Congo** – *Stone Cellar Brewpub*

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

### Wednesday, July 10

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

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

### Thursday, July 11

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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

**United Church Camps, Inc.** – *Upper Lounge*

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

**ESTHER Board Meeting** – *River Room*

**Fox Valley 94 AA** – *Upper Lounge*

### Friday, July 12

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

**Al-Anon** – *Upper Lounge*

**N.A.** – *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, July 13

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

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