

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.

July 21 Highlights at First Congregational

Wednesday, July 24:

Lunchtime Organ Recital featuring Jeffrey Verkuilen p. 10

Sunday, August 4:

Feasibility Study Building Tour p. 12

Wednesday, August 7:

Corn Roast and Concert with Hillary Reynolds and Friends p. 8

Saturday, August 10:

We're O.F.F. to Pick Blueberries..... p. 8

Flowers

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

Communion

All are welcome to receive communion the first Sunday of each month. The bread we use is gluten-free; however, it is made in a facility that also processes wheat products.

Baptism

Our next scheduled Baptism Sundays are August 18, September 22 and October 13.

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, July 19	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Trish Brehm
Sunday, July 21	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Sue Ahrens
Bridge Greeter	Carolyn Frederick
Welcome Desk	Sue O'Neill
Lay Reader	Lou Ann Graf
Usher Team Captains	John Breitzman, Rick Behm
Multi-Media – audio	Dennis Korth
Multi-Media – video	Steve Verboomen

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 21, 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

Music from Beyond the Galaxies

John Kuzmo

(Tocatta and Variations on an original theme)

(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

(based on Job 38)

Leader: We gather in the presence of God, who laid the earth's foundations;

People: who placed its cornerstone; while the morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy,

Leader: who set limits for the sea and said, "This far and no further!"

People: who gave orders to the morning and showed the dawn its place;

Leader: who molded the earth until it took shape.

People: who alone knows the springs of the sea;

Leader: who alone comprehends the vastness of the universe;

People: who alone knows the laws of heaven.

Leader: We gather in the presence of God, and boldly pray:

**All: Lord, give wisdom to our hearts and understanding to our minds.
Amen.**

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

*OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

*Congregation stands

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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(After the Children's Sermon, the children can use the Family Worship Area or join their families in the pews.
During the anthem, the prayer request cards will be collected.)

ANTHEM

His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Martin & Gabriel
arr. R. Emerson

Based on Matthew 10:31

Kris Glenn, Jennifer Kosloski, and Tami Johnson, *vocal trio*

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #445

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

The Sunset and the Morning

Larry Visser

from *The Creation - A Biblical Sonata* (based on *All Things Bright and Beautiful*)

*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**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

1 Samuel 16:1-13 (OT p. 322)

EPISTLE READING

James 3:13-18 (NT p. 279)

MEDITATION

“Does God Have a College Degree?”

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

***CLOSING HYMN** (see bulletin p. 5)

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

HOLY MANNA

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Fugue from Beyond the Galaxies

John Kuzma

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Kris Glenn, Jennifer Kosloski, Tami Johnson, *vocal trio*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

July 28, 2019

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

“How Do We Keep Faith Across a Bitter Political Divide?”

Rev. Dr. John Helt

Scripture reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2

Music: Danz Family Musicians

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, July 26	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Pat Hauser
Sunday, July 28	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Todd Newell and Kevin Clavers
Bridge Greeters	
Welcome Desk	Kathi Seifert
Lay Reader	Heidi Erstad
Usher Team Captains	Mark and Jo Ann Shropshire, Pat Nelson
Multi-Media – audio	John Aaholm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen



JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

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
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
The family of Aaron Handevitd upon the
death of his father Russell
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Dan Huth
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Jean Jepson
Ervin Klesmit
Our Kenyan partners and students

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
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
Gladys Schmidt, John and Tim Schmidt's mother
Jim Schwantes
Don Sevetsen
Amanda Spindler
Cole Stoffel
All those in need of suicide prevention and
compassionate caregivers
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
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 21, 2019

Volume 19, Issue 29

Pastor's Message

On my recent trip to Ireland and Scotland, I enjoyed what I learned about the history and tradition of the areas we visited. I was surprised to see in the corner of one castle's banquet hall, a display featuring what appeared to be a Native American painting. The story accompanying the painting reminded me how the distances between us are only as great as the barriers we create.

The painting was a gift from the Choctaw Nation to the people of Ireland. In 1831, the Choctaw were among those who suffered the devastating effects of U.S. policy, as they were forcibly marched 500 miles from Oklahoma to Mississippi. Sixteen years later, these same people who suffered not only humiliation but tremendous loss of life, heard of the plight of the Irish during the Great Famine of 1845-1847. The Choctaw people took a collection from the little they had and sent it to Ireland for Famine Relief.

The relationship did not end there. In 1990, Choctaw leaders visited County Mayo, to take part in a re-enactment of a famine walk undertaken in 1847. In 1992, Irish leaders visited the United States, taking part in a 500-mile trek from Oklahoma to Mississippi. The note next to the painting, created by a Choctaw artist and titled "The Gift of Life," included words inscribed on a plaque which hangs in a prominent building in Dublin, recalling the gift of the Choctaw:

"Their humanity calls us to remember the millions of human beings throughout our world today who die of hunger and hunger-related illness in a world of plenty."

As I read this, I was reminded of our partnership with our friends in Kenya's Kerio Valley. A few months ago, the Mission & Service Team was able to wire funds to our Kenyan partners, for the purchase of maize and beans for the elderly and vulnerable in the conflict-ridden valley. Mildred Chepkonga just sent me a note of thanks, intended for our whole congregation, indicating the food was deeply appreciated and had been safely distributed. She asked that we continue our prayers for peace in the Kerio Valley. And she added her prayers for our well-being. We continue to walk together through this life, don't we - all the better for those times when our shared humanity rises above the illusion of our differences.

Please keep our Kenyan partners, their children, their homeland and their hope for peace and security in your prayers; and know that you are held in their prayers as well.

Your friend and fellow minister,
Pastor Kathryn Kuhn

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

General Synod 2019 Update

First Congo received the following note from a local arrangements committee member this week:

“Many thanks to your congregation for your volunteer spirit and support to help make General Synod 32 a great success! It took the time, skills and faith of many people to make it work and we appreciate the many volunteers from your congregation. We hope you made connections and that your time at Synod was a blessing to you, as your efforts were a blessing to others.”

First Congo was among the top 10 congregations of the Wisconsin Conference UCC providing volunteer support for the General Synod!

Additional updates will be available soon; check out www.ucc.org for more information on General Synod 32.

Please consider attending General Synod 33 in Kansas City, MO in 2021!



Corn Roast and Concert with Hillary Reynolds and Friends

Wednesday • August 7
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Singer/songwriter Hillary Reynolds and friends will share her remarkable music in a lively outdoor concert!

Corn roast begins at 6:00 PM, the music at 6:30 PM. This event will be held in the First Congregational east parking lot.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for anyone interested in helping with set-up or clean-up for the event.



We're O.F.F. to Pick Blueberries!

Saturday • August 10

Join **Outdoor Fun and Fellowship** on Saturday, August 10 for berry picking at Blueberry Haven (W9967 County Road XX, Bear Creek, WI), just south of Clintonville. Blueberry Haven is open 7AM – 1PM, we plan to meet there at **8:00 AM.**

The blueberries grow on highbush plants up to 5 feet tall that have not been treated with pesticides or organic fertilizers. The cost is \$3 per pound for

berries that you pick yourself or \$4.50 per pound for pre-picked. Bring along a snack or lunch as well; we will gather afterwards to share some stories!

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or leave a message or text for Sandy Gillum at (715) 617-0031, or Nancy Brown-Koeller at (715) 853-6258, if you plan to attend.

Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

September 8-13

Have you ever wanted to paddle the Boundary Waters Canoe Area in Northern Minnesota? We still have two spots left for this unique opportunity – solely for First Congo members!

We have a great group of older adults headed there September 8-13. Come and enjoy crisp mornings, beautiful fall colors and strong fellowship!

It will be a while before we have another adult trip for our church members only, so sign up now. Contact Pastor Nick or visit <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/child-ren-youth-families/wilderness-ministry/> for additional details.

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 and paperback books, children's books, books on CD, sheet music, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and 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.



Volunteer Spotlight

A big thank-you to Karen Crawford, Lou Ann Graf and Nancy Brown-Koeller for generously donating their time to assemble hygiene kits for Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Funds from the Thrivent Action Grant made this project possible.



Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Youth Mission Trip Video

The video from the Youth Mission Trip to Cass Community Social Services is now available!

Access this awesome video created by Maria Sorensen through the First Congo website link below.

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/2019/07/video-from-youth-mission-trip-to-detroit-available/>.



Worship and Music

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

2019 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 PM

- **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.

Mission and Service

Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice.

Fox Valley Islamic Society Interfaith Gathering

Sunday • August 4
2:30 PM – 5:30 PM

Learn, interact, feast ... for free!

The Fox Valley Islamic Society invites the Fox Valley community to be their guests at a gathering “under the tent.” This year’s theme is entitled Moving from Fear Toward Mutual Trust.

The event is cosponsored by ESTHER and offers presentations and group discussion followed by a meal hosted by members of the Islamic Society.

Speakers include:

- Dr. Jon Pahl – educator, author (son of Barb and Fred Paul)

- Younis Zaidan – Islamic Center of Wisconsin
- Rev. Thomas Willadsen – Presbyterian Pastor

Please RSVP by Sunday, July 28. Email to: fvis.interfaith@gmail.com or call (920) 215-9840.

In case of bad weather, the gathering will be held at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 140 S. Green Bay Rd., Neenah.



We the People Presentation

Tuesday • August 20
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

ESTHER and Citizen Action of Wisconsin invite you to attend a presentation by George Penn of Wisconsin United to Amend to talk about why we have lost our democracy to the corrupted big-money system and how we can fix this.

George Penn’s presentation will close with an update on the movement that is growing to Restore our Republic – with Wisconsin leading this charge.

The event will take place at Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (2600 E. Phillip Lane, Appleton) on August 20, beginning at 6:30 PM.

This is not a partisan issue: Every single citizen, no matter what party they support, is equally affected by the corruption from money in politics and the need to reclaim representation.



Romeo and Juliet – Cookout and a Play

Tuesday • September 10
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Join ESTHER for an evening of engagement, enchantment and entertainment!

There will be a cookout with a play performed “Renaissance Faire-style” by Pastor Steve and Dee Savides!

Location: Pierce Park, 1035 W. Prospect Avenue, Appleton

Suggested donation: \$15 adults, \$25 couples, \$30 families

Food: Kosher/halal hot dogs, veggie burgers, hamburgers, lemonade and side dishes are included with the suggested donation.

In case of rain, the event will move indoors at the same location.

Register at <http://esther-foxvalley.org/date/2019/09/10/romeo-and-juliet-cookout-and-play> or send check, number attending and contact information to ESTHER, P.O. Box 784, Neenah, WI 54957 **by September 3.**

Administration

East South River Street Closure

Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26

East South River Street will be closed beginning **Monday, July 22** at the intersection of Kernan Avenue (by Richmond School).

The street will remain closed through Friday, July 26 for sewer work.

Feasibility Study Building Tour

Sunday • August 4

The Building Committee is offering another tour on Sunday, August 4 to identify the concerns addressed in the Feasibility Study.

Anyone interested in participating should sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex so the committee knows how many to expect.

Please meet in the Chapel immediately following the 9:30 AM service.



Say it with Flowers

Opportunities are available to donate flowers for the Sanctuary in honor, memory or celebration of a loved one.

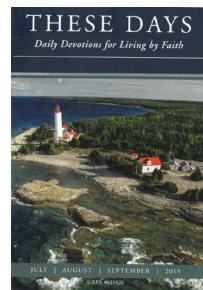
A vase of cut flowers is \$35.00, and \$50.00 will provide roses. Requests for color or specific types of flowers are welcome.

It is also possible to arrange for an annual dedication. For more information, contact the church office at (920) 733-7393.



These Days Daily Devotional

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



Calendar for July 21–July 27

Sunday, July 21

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 22

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

ESTHER – Finance Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Tuesday, July 23

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
1:00 PM – 3:30 PM
7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

ADRC StrongBodies – *South Fellowship Hall*
Marilyn’s Mission Cards – *Upper Lounge*
Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, July 24

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM
12:15 PM – 12:45 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
Summer Lunchtime Organ Recital – **Jeffrey Verkuilen** – *Sanctuary*

Thursday, July 25

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ADRC StrongBodies – *South Fellowship Hall*
AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, July 26

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

N.A. – *Common Grounds*
Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

Saturday, July 27

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*