

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 28 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:

Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. John Helt..... p. 4

Sunday, August 4:

Feasibility Study Building Tour p. 12

Wednesday, August 7:

Corn Roast with Hillary Reynolds and Friends p. 7

Sunday, August 11:

Summer Family Choir – all are invited! p. 9

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

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 28, 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

Jesus Loves Me (with Claire de lune)

Bradbury/Debussy
arr. Bock

Chris Danz, *piano*

(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: A new day has dawned, and we have been created to find joy in it!

People: We see the beauty of God's creation. The diversity and color of God's world fills us with awe.

Leader: We remember those whose love has shaped our lives. We honor those whose faith guided them in ways of justice.

People: We pray for faith enough to believe peace is possible even now.

Leader: We gather to worship God, seeking the grace, courage and wisdom we need to be about God's work in the world.

All: God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other. Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #28

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT

*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, forever. 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 solo, the prayer request cards will be collected.)

SOLO

What Wondrous Love Is This

arr. Edwards

Bruce Danz, *clarinet*

Chris Danz, *piano*

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRAYER HYMN #450

May the Mind of Christ My Savior

KENILWORTH

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Converse
arr. Raney

Carmen and Chris Danz, *pianists*

*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

EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 11:1-3; 12:1-2 (NT p. 273)

MEDITATION

“How Do We Keep Faith Across a Bitter Political Divide?” Rev. Dr. John Helt

*CLOSING HYMN #482

Forward Through the Ages

ST. GERTRUDE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rock-a My Soul

Bruce Danz, *clarinet* Chris Danz, *piano*

arr. Rieger

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Jon D. Riehle, *organist*

Chris and Carmen Danz, *piano*

Bruce Danz, *clarinet*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Today's Special Guest

John Helt was born in a barn in Iowa. He and Cindy, his suburban Chicago wife, met at Elmhurst College. They now live in Milwaukee and have three children, as well as two young grandchildren.

Cindy is a retired nurse and master gardener. John is a retired UCC minister and active in creation care ministries for Wisconsin Conference UCC and Interfaith Power and Light. John has fond memories of racquetball encounters with Steve Savides when they were neighbors in Williams Bay and Watertown.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

August 4, 2019

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 AM

“How Can My Faith Provide Comfort in Death?”

Rev. Dr. Stephen Savides

Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Music: Hillary Reynolds, *vocals and piano*

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, August 2	9:00 AM
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Phyllis Wallis
Sunday, August 4	9:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	
Bridge Greeters	
Welcome Desk	
Lay Reader	Nancy Bodway
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth, Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Jim O'Neill
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
Brenda Gabrielson
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Lisa Graybrooks
Mary Guenther
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 Sevetson
Jake Smasal
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

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

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 east
parking lot at
First Congregational UCC.



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.

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!

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

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.



To complete the online registration process, log into your Realm account beginning August 1 and follow these steps:

1. Under Community, click on Events.
2. Click on Children/Youth/Music Registration 2019-2020.
3. Check the box next to each child you are registering. Then click on the blue "Next" button.
4. Answer all the questions.
5. Click on the blue "Next" button.
6. Click on the blue "Register" button.

Paper forms will also be available outside the CYF office, in the Narthex, and in the hallway by the Nursery.

Please return to Jennifer DeWitt (CYF Coordinator) in the CYF office. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at 920-851-6938 or email to jdewitt@firstcongoappleton.org.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Time to Register for CYF!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 Program year! We're very excited to again offer online registration through Realm.

In order to register for Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) and Music programs, you will need to log into your Realm account.

If you have not activated your Realm account yet, please watch your email for an invitation to join or call the main office to request an invite.

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 only for our church members so sign on now; contact Pastor Nick or visit

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/children-youth-families/wilderness-ministry/> for more details.



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.*

Summer Family Choir

Sunday • August 11

Come one, come ALL!

Who: You and your family (children through adults)

What: Sing an anthem and hymns in the Summer Family Choir; accessible music & fun fellowship!

Where & When: Gather in the Sanctuary at 8:30 AM on August 11 to rehearse for singing in the 9:30 AM worship service.

Why: Music, fellowship, service. Praising God & leading worship together!

For questions or to RSVP, please email John Albrecht at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org.

2019 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15–12:45 PM

- 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.

Trinitas Chamber Ensemble Recap

The Trinitas Chamber Ensemble concert on July 19 was well received by an audience of approximately 85 concertgoers.

The group had been part of a week-long Chamber Music festival in Iowa prior to joining us, and their program entitled “Throwing Caution to the Wind” featured exciting and innovative 20th century repertoire.

Generous donations of about \$775 were received to help offset performance fees.

Thank you to all who attended and shared in God’s gift of music. Our beautiful Steinway and wonderful acoustics continue to be celebrated by musicians far and wide (in this case, from Newfoundland!)



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!

Once again, the Fox Valley Islamic Society (103 Kappell Drive in Neenah), invites the Fox Valley community to be their guests at a gathering “under the tent.”

This 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 and son of Barb and Fred Paul
- Younis Zaidan – Islamic Center of Wisconsin
- Rev. Thomas Willadsen – Presbyterian Pastor

RSVP appreciated 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.



Request for Donations for the Residents of Pine Ridge

On Friday, August 16 a small but mighty group of congregants will be traveling to the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota to serve the residents through our mission partner, Re-Member. Our trip will give us the opportunity to take a few boxes of donated items.

Re-Member has reported that residents have the greatest need for the following items: gently used clothing for adolescent males, diapers (sizes 4, 5, & 6), personal hygiene products, and school supplies.

If you would like to donate, please deliver your items to church **before Wednesday, August 14** so that we can pack them efficiently.

Questions can be directed to Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu.

Wóyawašte (blessings)!



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 (included with 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>.

You can also send a check with the number attending and contact information to ESTHER, P.O. Box 784, Neenah, WI 54957.

Please RSVP by September 3.

Administration

Mid-year Giving Statements

Mid-year giving statements were sent out via Realm on July 24. These statements will show year-to-date contributions to the church through June 30.

If you did not receive an email, statements can be viewed by logging into Realm and clicking on the "Giving" link on the left side of the page.

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.

Free Firewood

Help yourself to some free firewood, chopped and ready to go in the ravine behind the church!



Photo Request!

Looking for photos of First Congo members in action to post on our social media sites!

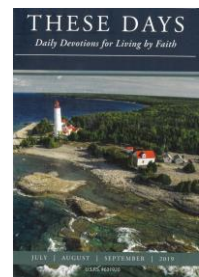
The photos might be from mission trips, O.F.F. outings, book clubs; virtually any event where members are engaged and having fun.



Please email the images to hvolkman@firstcongoappleton.org.

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 28 – August 3

Sunday, July 28

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 29

Tuesday, July 30

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

ADRC StrongBodies – *South Fellowship Hall*

Lectionary Bible Study – *Upper Lounge*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, July 31

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

United Church Camps, Inc. – *River Room*

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

Thursday, August 1

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

ADRC Strongbodies – *South Fellowship Hall*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

Theology Discussion Group – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Clergy Development Group – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 2

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

Saturday, August 3

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*