

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 January 18, 9:00 AM–11:30 AM.

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.

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.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

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. 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. 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: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

December 29 Highlights at First Congregational

- Today:** No Coffee Fellowship
Today: No Church School or childcare
January 1: Office Closed
January 5: Church School Rotation Three begins
January 8: Children's Choir and Youth Handbell rehearsals resume
-

Flowers

Cindi Ritcey Fox designed this morning's sanctuary 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 scheduled Baptism Sunday 2020 dates are: January 12, February 9, March 8, April 19 and May 17.

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

Sunday, December 29	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Pat Streur
Bridge Greeter	
Welcomers	
Usher Team Captain	Rick Behm
Lay Reader	Sara Companik
Multi-Media – audio	Jim O'Neill
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 29, 2019

10:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn, Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

PRELUDE

A Nativity Suite

Wilbur Held

(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.)

WELCOME AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God calls us now in this Christmastide to become new,

People: To make room for our own nativity, even where there is no room at the inn.

Leader: Where we are busy -

People: Peace.

Leader: Where we are lost -

People: Salvation.

Leader: Where we are sad -

People: Joy.

Leader: Where we are bitter -

People: Love.

Leader: Let this hour be a time to hope for all these gifts of God.

People: Amen.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN #149

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*Congregation stands

*OPENING PRAYER (Please join hands or link arms)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
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.**

SOLO

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

arr. J. Curnow

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

CHILDREN'S SERMON

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

CAROL-SING

Please see Christmas and Epiphany carols and hymns #132 – 170.

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Robert Elmore

*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**

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 2:1-11 (NT p. 2)

MEDITATION

“The Search Party for Jesus”

Rev. Steve Savides

***CLOSING HYMN #168**

As With Gladness Men of Old

DIX

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

arr. Norman Johnson

TODAY’S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *guest organist*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 5, 2020

Second Sunday after Christmas

8:45 and 10:30 AM

“A New Ministry, A New Year”

Rev. Nick Hatch

Scripture reading: Matthew 2:1-23

Music: 8:45 AM – Vocal Trio

10:30 AM – Sanctuary Choir

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, January 3, 2020	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Phyllis Wallis	
Sunday, January 5, 2020	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	The Clothier Family	
Bridge Greeters	Chris Hammerstad	
Welcome Desk	Sharon Clothier	
Lay Readers	Heidi Erstad	Barbara Schmidt
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Mark Mauthe	Tim Hanna
Multi-Media – video	Sue Mauthe	Shannon Glenn

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 sister
Family of Jack Arter upon his death
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
John Grunseth
Ivo Geurts
Nanette Geurts, and her aunt, Maureen
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Mary Guenther
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Shirley Hoft, Eilene Hoft-March's mother
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Drew Jamison
Jean Jepson
Ervin Klesmit
Our Kenyan partners and students
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Sandra Marcoe
Mike Mathews
Carrie Brooks McClory and her triplets
Shari Mitchell
Sandy Moynihan, Ted Sanderson's sister
Our country's military around the world
Pat Nelson
Ellie Olson
Families and children of Palestine
Ken Rheingans
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Don Roehrborn
Mary Rowland
Nick Salonen
Jim Schwantes
Frank Severin
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
Larry Tuttle
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jennifer Wild
Gary Wisneski

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Alternative Christmas Market

The 27th annual Alternative Christmas Market was a success again this year, raising more than \$11,800 in donations to help people in need close to home and around the world.

Thanks to all the volunteers who gave their time to organize, set up, and host the many tables and stations at the Market. A big thank-you to the Bellin family who prepared the delicious breakfast. Thank you also to the musicians who sang carols, to everyone who donated baked goods and to the shoppers who gave more than 100 gifts.

The Market is a significant event in the life of this church because you are a part of it!



Servers Needed at Pillars

January 7–January 11

Our congregation will be providing and serving the evening meal at Pillar's Adult Shelter January 7–January 11, 2020.

Please consider signing up to provide part of a meal or help serve a meal – there still some spots available.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Please call or text Amy Lewis at (920) 205-1091 if you have any questions.

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Church School News

The Church School children concluded their Rotation Two classes on December 8. **Rotation Three begins January 5.**

Please be sure to thank our wonderful teachers from Rotation Two for sharing their time and talents with our children. We are very blessed to have such amazing volunteers!

Rotation Two Teachers:

Nancy Koehler
Brenda Gorges
Julie Michels
Amy Bowman
Emma Slowinski
Katie Jahnke



No Pre-School Classes Until January 5

We all continue to hold our longtime pre-school teacher Miss Shari Mitchell in our hearts and we pray for her full recovery.

Thankfully, Emma Slowinski has filled in for her and given us her time and talents. However, she will be unavailable to teach again until January 5, 2020.

Please keep your 3- and 4-year-old children with you in the sanctuary. The nursery and toddler rooms are very full this time of year and the childcare provided there is for infants and toddlers. Thank you for your understanding.

Worship and Music

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

Children's Choir and Youth Handbells Notice

Wednesday • January 8

Our Children's Choir (grades 2-6), resumes on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 4:30-5:30 PM.

For new registrations, RSVP to John Albrecht at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or call the church office at (920) 733-7393.

Youth Handbells will resume rehearsing that evening as well at 5:45 PM.

Intergenerational Musical

Open to second graders through adults. All are welcome to explore and develop their musical and theatrical gifts!

Rehearsals begin in January for our annual spring production, **March 21 and 22, 2020.**

Contact Rev. Steve Savides or Dee Savides at ssavides@firstcongoappleton.org.



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Pine Ridge Mission Trip

August 7-August 14, 2020

Pine Ridge county, home to the reservation of the Oglala Lakota nation, vies every year for the sad title of poorest county in the US. Our mission partner on the reservation, Re-Member, is a non-profit that organizes volunteers to participate in work projects to improve

the quality of reservation life and to rebuild homes and relationships.

Work projects include: insulating mobile homes, constructing bunk beds, making outhouses, building accessible entries to homes, and roofing homes.

Volunteers get on-the-job instruction (most volunteers have little or no experience as handy persons) and considerable time getting to know Pine Ridge residents, the problems they face, and the Lakota culture they are trying to preserve.

We have reserved 6 spaces for a mission trip scheduled for August 7 to August 14, 2020. We need firm commitments and deposits by March. Information sessions will be scheduled after January 1, 2020.

Can't wait? Contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu or (920) 735-0166.

Administration

Need a Tax Break?

Please consider a prepayment of your 2020 pledge — all or a portion.

To prepay, simply indicate on your check or electronic payment that the amount should be applied to your 2020 pledge. As always, please consult a professional tax accountant for any and all financial advice.

Check Realm or call the church office at (920) 733-7393 if you are uncertain about the amount of your 2019 contributions. We will be happy to update you on your

pledge status and any other contributions you may have made.

All contributions must be received in the church office by 3:00 PM or postmarked by December 31 in order to be applied to your 2019 giving statement.

Mystery Stock Donation

The church received a gift of Northrop Grumman stock on 11/21/2019.

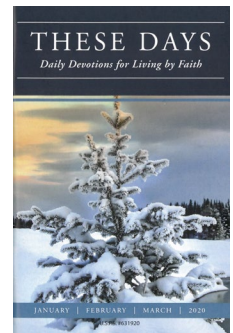
However, when stock comes into our broker account, the donor's name is not included, and we have not received any notification of this gift.

If you made this stock contribution, please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393 so we can credit the proper member's pledge information. Thank you.

These Days Daily Devotions

The latest copy of These Days Daily Devotions (January–March 2020) is now available in the Narthex.

Stop in and pick up yours today.



Calendar for Sunday, December 29 – Saturday, January 4

Sunday, December 29

10:30 AM–11:30 AM

7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Worship – *Sanctuary*

First Things First AA Meeting – *South Fellowship Hall,
Common Grounds*

Monday, December 30

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Boy Scout Troop 8 – *Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room*

Tuesday, December 31

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

7:45 PM–8:45 PM

ADRC StrongBodies – *South Fellowship Hall*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, January 1

OFFICE CLOSED – Happy New Year!

Thursday, January 2

9:00 AM–10:00 AM

11:30 AM–1:00 PM

12:00 PM–1:30 PM

12:00 PM–3:00 PM

6:00 PM–7:30 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*

Visioning Team – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, January 3

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, January 4

7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*