

*Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.
Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.*

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.

January 5 Highlights at First Congregational

Today:	Rotation Three of Church School begins	p. 13
January 8:	Sanctuary Choir, Children’s Choir and Youth Handbells rehearsals resume	p. 14
Next Sunday:	MacDowell Male Chorus performs in worship	
January 19:	Intergenerational Musical Read-Through and Potluck	p. 14

Flowers

The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

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 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

Friday, January 3	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Judy Hinden, Phyllis Wallace	
Sunday, January 5	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	The Clothier Family	Nancy Brown-Koeller
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

Church School Schedule – 8:45 AM

Please pick up children from the following classrooms today, January 5.

Kindergarten	Art/Kitchen	3rd Grade	East Conference Room
1st Grade	Scripture Tent	4th Grade	East Conference Room
2nd Grade	Old Computer Lab	5th/6th Grades	Theater

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 5, 2020

8:45 and 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

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (In Dulci Jubilo)

J. S. Bach

(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: The God of creation calls us together

People: We come once again into the eternal presence of Love.

Leader: God has not finished with us. There is more that we can be.

People: We offer ourselves to the One who takes us from glory into glory.

Leader: God is doing something new and it is us!

People: We give up our old ways to walk in the new path of God.

Leader: Into the glorious future Jesus leads us.

All: Let us be faithful and follow into God's new world!

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN (see bulletin p. 6)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

HOUSTON

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord there is so much to live up to: You want us to be kind, humble, meek and patient, and most days we struggle at best. We are to forgive, love and let peace rule our hearts, yet the focus is often our own needs, and not the needs of others. There is so much for us to do, so we recommit our lives to you with the promise that this will be a fresh start as we celebrate the newborn Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

*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.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (8:45 AM)

(During the anthem, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Church School at 8:45 AM or enjoy the Family Worship Center at 10:30 AM.)

ANTHEM

Like as a Father (Psalm 103:13)

Cherubini/Lovelace

Trio/Sanctuary Choir

GOSPEL READING

Mark 1:14-28 (NT, p. 42)

MEDITATION

"For the Moment or the Long Haul?"

Rev. Nick Hatch

*RESPONSE HYMN (see bulletin p. 7- 8)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

A MUSICAL OFFERING

What Child is This?

arr. Norman Johnson

*EPIPHANY DOXOLOGY (Hymn #161, Stanza One, only)

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET

**O Morning Star, how fair and bright, your beams shine forth in truth and
light! Our Sovereign meek and lowly!**

**O Root of Jesse, Promised One, our only Savior, you have won our hearts to
serve you solely!**

**You are holy, great and glorious, all victorious, rich in blessing,
Rule and might o'er all possessing.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

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 (see bulletin p. 9)

Brightest and Best of the Stars

MORNING STAR

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Desert Shall Rejoice

arr. Lani Smith

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *guest organist*

Paul Nulton, *guitar*

8:45 AM Heather Hallett, Jennifer Kosloski, Jesse Baumgart, *Vocal Trio*

10:30 AM Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*





Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 12, 2020	First Sunday after Epiphany	8:45 and 10:30 AM
“Sent Out into the Desert”		Rev. Nick Hatch
Scripture readings: Mark 1:1-13		
Music:	8:45 and 10:30 AM - MacDowell Male Chorus	
	Herb Berendsen, <i>Director</i>	

Members in Service Next Week

Friday, January 10	9:00 AM	
Bulletin Assemblers	Cathy Houst, Trish Brehm	
Sunday, January 12	8:45 AM	10:30 AM
Main Door Greeter	Alan, Katie and McKenna Jahnke	Sharrie Robinson
Bridge Greeters	Todd Newell and Kevin Clavers	Midge Mosher
Welcome Desk	Kathi Seifert	
Lay Readers	LouAnn Graf	Kris Henke
Usher Team Captains	Dennis Korth	Mike Spurlock and Jeff Schang
Multi-Media – audio	Jill Smith	Rick Behm
Multi-Media – video	Jonathan Steffen	Kris Behm



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 Marilyn Askari upon the death of
her mother, Ellie Kraus
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
Becky, daughter-in-law and granddaughter
of the Schiedermayer families
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

THE OPEN DOOR

January 5, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 01

Pastor's Message

All Things Wilderness 2020

It might be tough to imagine warm days and the feeling of a canoe gliding across a glassy lake, but summer is not that far away! Memories from last summer's experiences are still fresh. The route we canoed provided many wonderful natural attractions: crystal clear lakes, stands of aspens shimmering in the wind, waterfalls, beautiful campsites, vistas galore, great swimming, good fishing. The comradery was also exceptional. On one trip, our youngest participant was 12 and the oldest was 74. This provided for a wide array of experience and wisdom. Working together to understand each other's strengths and weaknesses as travel and camping partners proved rich in value. Evening discussions and prayer also gave shape to our time together by grounding us in scripture and spiritual discernment.

I certainly learned a lot. I learned that our identical water bottles needed to be labelled so they weren't mixed up. I learned that the Therma-rests (ground pads) needed to have "This Side Up" written on them so their ultralight top wasn't accidentally placed upside down and exposed to the ground. I was reminded how important it is to be patient - not everyone is a wilderness expert. I also stood in awe of each group; of their individual spirit and determination to support and love one another. I saw many great things: families drawing closer together, God speaking through creation and scripture, folks having fun while learning valuable lessons. I felt deeply enriched by our time together. Our participants felt the same, each for their own reasons.

It's going to be a busy summer here at First Congo. With a High School Youth Mission Trip in June (to Costa Rica!) and Pastor Steve taking a Sabbatical, there will only be two wilderness trips - both will be canoeing in the BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area). Sign up information can be found on our website under Wilderness Ministry. There will be a lot of demand this summer and the trips will fill up quickly. Sign up info for the UCCI trip may not be on their website yet but I encourage you to email the camp if you want to attend so you can get on their list before it becomes public!

FCUCC BWCA Intergenerational Canoe Trip: July 19-24. Target group: youth 12 years and up with an adult. Sign up now via our website.

UCCI (United Church Camps, Inc.) BWCA Intergenerational Canoe Trip: August 22-28. Target group: Adults and/or youth 12 years and up. Sign up through UCCI.

Grace and Peace!
Pastor Nick

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Congo Crafters for Christ Update

Due to low attendance over the last few months, Congo Crafters for Christ is cancelled until further notice for program restructuring.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the past; we enjoyed crafting with you!



Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

2020 Church School News

Happy New Year one and all! With the new year comes another rotation of Church School. This rotation is titled, "Faith Over Fear-the Story of Daniel."

The children will be learning about Daniel in a variety of workshops taught by another group of amazing teachers.

Please take a moment to thank the following volunteers who are sharing their time and talents with the children of First Congo.

Rotation Three Teachers:

Emma Slowinski: 3- and 4-year-old pre-school

Sharon Clothier: Kindergarten

Jolene Scribner: 1st grade

Carla Gabbey: 2nd grade

Mickie Heimer: 3rd and 4th grade

Katie Jahnke (and Colleen Berry): 5th and 6th grade

We are still in need of two more teachers for the last rotation of Church School, which runs from March 15-April 19.

There is no Church School on April 5 or April 12.

Please consider volunteering. You won't be sorry you did! Contact Colleen at cberry@firstcongoappleton.org if interested.

Taco and Nacho Dinner Night

Wednesday • January 8

Our next Taco and Nacho Dinner Night will be Wednesday, January 8 from 5:30 PM-6:30 PM.



We will have gluten free, dairy free, and vegetarian options available.

The cost is \$4 per meal or \$20 total for the remaining 5 meals this year. Future dates include February 5, March 4, April 1 and May 6, which will be a Youth Choice Dinner.

Options for payment include cash, check (made payable to First Congo MS Youth Group) or pay-by-text.

To pay-by-text:

Text FCUCC YMEAL to 73256

You will be prompted to enter the following...

- Amount (\$4.00 or \$20.00)
- Credit Card Info
- Name
- Address
- Email

Please RSVP to Renee Taylor at rtaylor@firstcongoappleton.org.

Worship and Music

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

Intergenerational Musical

There will be a potluck meal and read-through for the Intergenerational Musical from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, January 19**.

This annual spring production will take place on March 21 and 22 and is open to second graders through adults.

Questions? Contact Rev. Steve Savides at ssavides@firstcongoappleton.org.



Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir and Youth Handbells Resume Rehearsals

Wednesday • January 8

Our Children's Choir (grades 2-6), resumes on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 from 4:30-5:30 PM. The Sanctuary Choir resumes at 7:00 PM. Youth Handbells will resume rehearsing at 5:45 PM.

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



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

Mystery Stock Donation

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

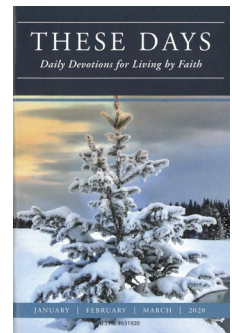
However, when stock comes into our broker account, the donor's name is not included, and we have not received any notification of this gift.

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, January 5 – Saturday, January 11

Sunday, January 5

7:00 AM–9:30 AM
8:45 AM–9:45 AM
8:45 AM–9:45 AM
8:45 AM–9:45 AM

10:30 AM–11:30 AM
10:30 AM–11:30 AM
6:00 PM–8:00 PM

Monday, January 6

5:30 PM–7:00 PM
6:45 PM–9:00 PM
7:00 PM–8:30 PM

Tuesday, January 7

7:00 AM–8:00 AM
9:00 AM–10:00 AM
12:00 PM–1:00 PM
1:00 PM–2:30 PM
7:00 PM–9:00 PM
7:45 PM–8:45 PM

Wednesday, January 8

12:15 PM–1:00 PM
4:30 PM–5:30 PM
5:30 PM–6:30 PM
5:45 PM–6:25 PM
6:30 PM–7:30 PM
6:30 PM–7:30 PM
7:00 PM–8:30 PM
7:00 PM–8:30 PM
7:30 PM–8:30 PM

Thursday, January 9

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

High School Youth at Pillars

Worship – Sanctuary

Child Care – Infant Room/Nursery, Toddler Room

Church School – Scripture Tent, Theater, Art/Kitchen,
East Conference Room, Computer Lab, 4-year old Room

Worship – Sanctuary

Child Care – Infant Room/Nursery, Toddler Room

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

Facilities Team Meeting – Upper Lounge

Fox Valley Flute Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

Boy Scout Troop 8 – Fellowship Hall, West Conference Room

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

Lectionary Bible Study – Upper Lounge

Chrysalis – Upper Lounge (Chapel for first 15 minutes)

Worship and Music Ministry Team – Upper Lounge

Fireside AA Group - Common Grounds

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - Upper Lounge

Children’s Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room

Taco/Nacho Bar Suppers – Fellowship Hall, Kitchen

Youth Handbell Rehearsal – Amistad Room

Middle School Classes – Theater, Scripture Tent, Art Kitchen

Confirmation Classes with Mentors – Fellowship Hall, Chapel

Church Mice – East Conference Room

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room, Sanctuary

High School Youth Groups – Common Grounds

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

ADRC StrongBodies – South Fellowship Hall

AA - Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds

12:00 PM–3:00 PM
1:00 PM–2:30 PM
4:30 PM–6:30 PM
6:30 PM–8:00 PM
7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Clergy Development– *Upper Lounge*
Prayer Shawl– *Common Grounds*
ESTHER Leadership Board Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
TnT-SOAR Fox Cities - *South Fellowship Hall*
Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, January 10

7:00 PM–8:30 PM
7:00 PM–8:30 PM

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

Saturday, January 11

7:00 PM–8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Membership Exploration Class

Saturday, January 18, 2020
9:00 AM – 11:30 AM



—The Church of the Open Door—
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915



Intergenerational Musical

Sign up today!



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

Performance dates: March 21 and 22