

Welcome to First Congregational

Donating to First Congregational UCC

You are invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. Checks can also still be mailed to the church.

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.

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.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible at www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons.

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on [Facebook.com/1stCongo](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 5, 2020

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

PRELUDE

My Country 'Tis of Thee

arr. G. Lanier

Kristen Henke, trumpet David Cook, assistant organist

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

YOUTH PRAYER

Celia Gentile

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

**This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Whether you are home or from far away, may all feel welcome here.
Let those who are in need of comfort, justice, healing, joy, and mercy know they
are welcome here. Let those who are free and those who are yearning for freedom
know they are beloved here. Amen.**

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.**

OPENING HYMN #537

God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

NATIONAL HYMN

Stanza 1:

**God of the a-ges, whose al-might-y hand
leads forth in beau-ty all the star-ry band
of shin-ing worlds in splen-dor through the skies,
our grate-ful songs be-fore thy throne a-rise.**

(continued on next page)

Stanza 2:

Thy love di-vine hath led us in the past;
in this free land with thee our lot is cast,
be thou our rul-er, guard-ian, guide and stay,
thy word our law, thy paths our cho-sen way.

Stanza 3:

From war's a-larms, from dead-ly pes-ti-lence,
be thy strong arm our ev-er sure de-fense;
thy true re-li-gion in our hearts in-crease;
thy boun-teous good-ness nour-ish us in peace.

Stanza 4:

Re-fresh thy peo-ple on life's toil-some way;
lead us from night to nev-er-end-ing day;
fill all our lives with love and grace di-vine,
and glo-ry, laud and praise be ev-er thine.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Renee Taylor

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Exodus 1:8-21, (OT, p. 60)
Matthew 11:16-19, 28-3 (NT, p. 14)

MEDITATION

"Why Are You So Afraid?"

Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright

VIDEO MEDITATION

The Loft Presents: *Danez Smith performing "Let America Be America Again,"* a poem by Langston Hughes.

Permission for use of this video was obtained from The Loft.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Savior, Like a Shepherd, Lead Us

arr. Dallas Blair

Kristen Henke, *trumpet* David Cook, *assistant organist*

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click "Give" to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to hold your communion supplies and we will partake of them together as instructed.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though this church community is now scattered, we are still one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly upon the elements which you set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

People: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing upon every table where your children shelter in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

People: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made with human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

People: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

When Peace, Like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

VILLE DU HAVRE

Stanza 1:

When peace, like riv-er, up-holds me each day,
when sor-rows like sea bil-lows row,
What-ev-er my lot, you have taught me to say,
"It is well, it is well with my soul."

Refrain:

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Stanza 2:

Though e-vil should tempt me, though tri-als should come,
let this blessed as-sur-ance con-trol,
That Christ has re-gard-ed my help-less es-tate,
and has paid life and blood for my soul:

Refrain:

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Stanza 3:

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glo-ri-ous thought -
my sin - not in part, but the whole -
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Refrain:

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Stanza 4:

Oh God, speed the day that is filled with your light,
when clouds are rolled back as a scroll;
The trum-pet shall sound and Lord shall ap-pear,
"ev-en so" - it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

CLOSING LITANY

Leader: Our Loving God built a creation of mercy, justice and peace. Yet we are driven toward self-preservation.

People: May we be renewed with courage. May our hearts break for every person and circumstance that breaks the heart of God.

Leader: We live in fear when God calls us to trust. We live in scarcity when God insists on abundance. We build walls instead of bridges of connection.

People: The Holy Spirit is driving winds of change. Will we respond with courageous love or will we cower?

Leader: We are equipped for the journey, and the path has been provided.

People: We will know what it is to be actively anti-racist, to shout for justice, and to work for peace.

Leader: God forgives and affirms the promise of hope in a future of equity, mercy, justice, and peace.

People: We will live with the knowledge of this forgiveness in our hearts. We will seek the path of God.

Leader: Go forth, then, you beloved and you who are forgiven. Step into all that is made possible through Jesus Christ.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

America the Beautiful

Samuel Ward
arr. J. M. Stevens

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

David Cook, *assistant organist*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

Thank you to Michael Weaver for serving as our lay reader this morning!

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**Livestream our Worship Service on Sundays at 9:30 AM on Facebook
or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream/**

Daily Prayer Chapel Live on Facebook: Monday-Friday at Noon

Upcoming Worship Schedule

July 12, 2020

“What’s the Funniest Passage in Scripture?”

Music: Anthony Padilla, *guest pianist*; Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo soprano*;
Ashleigh Kreider, *soprano*

Lay Reader: Jerry Dees

Rev. Steve Savides

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

God is still speaking,
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



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
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Arlene Beyer
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks
Don Brittnacher
Chris Calhoun
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
Jim Edwards
Rachel DeMoss Edwards
Margitta Furnner
Esther Gehrt
Ken Geiger
Ivo Geurts
Linda Glancey, Lane Pittner's mother
Rev. Nick Hatch
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Carolyn and Jim Huddleston
Immigrants/refugees seeking a better life
Jean Jepson
Our Kenyan partners and students
Sylvia King
Ervin Klesmit
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law

Carrie Brooks McClory and her triplets
Mike Mathews
Shari Mitchell
Our country's military around the world
Ellie Olson
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Families and children of Palestine
Diane Ragus
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Cheryl Reissmann
Ken Rheingans
Don Roehrborn
Mary Rowland
Rev. Steve Savides
Judy Schneider
Frank Severin
Jake Smasal
Amanda Spindler
Cole Stoffel
All those in need of suicide prevention and
compassionate caregivers
Jack Thiel
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
Don Utschig
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jean Wegner
Jennifer Wild
The World in the midst of the pandemic

THE OPEN DOOR

A Message from Pastor Nick

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know that starting July 13, I am taking an extended leave of medical absence. Much to my surprise, my prior spinal surgeries have been ineffective in repairing my congenital spinal condition. It's a mixture of bad luck, under-treatment, and misdiagnosis. I am now under care at Mayo and scheduled for surgery July 17. I have an extraordinarily high chance of a successful outcome, which is a permanent repair. I am focusing on that good news combined with the knowledge I have a whole department working collaboratively on my case! However, the surgery required is extensive and will require a long recovery time. I plan on being away three months and if it's successful, I should be able to return to light duty in October. The full recovery takes one year. As you can imagine, this is greatly complicated by the pandemic and has forced some difficult choices for me and my family.

I know many of you have experienced the frustration and disappointment of major life set-backs. Both the pastors and our church leadership are working together to insure sustainable pastoral coverage during these times. My family and I are blessed by FCUCC's support, great health insurance, and access to one of the nation's premier orthopedic spine groups. We also have additional resources as well if we should need them. However, I deeply treasure my ministry with all of you and look forward to the day where I can return whole, and ready for our mission together! I will miss this community while I am gone.

In the meantime, prayers or cards are appreciated! I will not check email while I am away but our address is on Realm. Until we see one another again, I pray that we all can continue to praise God for everyday we have on this beautiful earth, for the blessings of our time together, and the promise of a future filled with hope!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nick



Worship and Music

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

Online Worship and Music Satisfaction Survey

The First Congregational Worship and Music team has been pleased with the largely positive response to our online worship offerings during the pandemic, but we also recognize that our sense of this response has been based primarily on anecdotal evidence.

In consultation with the church council, we are attempting to reach out and request feedback more systematically. This seems especially important now that council has committed to continuing to only offer livestream worship through Labor Day.

We are looking to improve the online worship experience in any ways we can that are financially feasible and prudent.

Earlier this week you should have received an email with a survey from Survey Monkey. Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey. If you did not receive an email or do not have an email address on file with us, you can access the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9SV2HFL>. Thank you for your participation!

Welcome Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright

We are excited to announce Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright as our new Designated Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions!

You can read a complete bio about Laurie on the First Congo website under the **News and Events** section.

