

August 16 Highlights at First Congregational

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Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are donated by Andrea and Tom Tatlock in loving memory of Jennifer Ann Tatlock. The arrangement was designed by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 16, 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

Praise to the Lord

arr. Brant Adams

Shelley Nulton, *piano* Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

YOUTH PRAYER

Mikey Wildes

WELCOME

UNISON CALL TO WORSHIP

God calls us together to worship this morning. From our work and play within the world, God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness, for the strength to labor, for the wisdom to relax. From amidst our friends and family, God brings us to this moment to participate in a community of faith, Christ's people, a new family. From everyday conversations, talk, and chatter, God invites us to engage one another in dialogue, to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, to pray freely. Let us heed God's call and rejoice in what God enables. Welcome to worship.

OPENING HYMN #403

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Stanza 1:

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Stanza 2:

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

(continued on next page)

Stanza 3:

**Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.**

Stanza 4:

**Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, in my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Renee Taylor

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:9-13

MEDITATION

"What Are You Looking For? Who is Greater, the One Seated at the
Table or the One Who Serves?"

Rev. Glenn Svetnicka

Executive Director of United Church Camps, Inc.

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Amazing Grace

arr. Jim Curnow

(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).

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, email
to a pastor for confidentiality or share your prayer requests in real time in the Comments section
under the live stream video.)

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.**

PRAYER RESPONSE

It Is Well With My Soul

Bliss/Roberts

Andrew Schmidt, *baritone horn*

RESPONSIVE BLESSING

Leader: The peace of God go with you this day, reigning within you, and in your families.

People: God’s peace will make a difference in our lives, in all our relationships.

Leader: Walk in confident friendship with Christ, who suffers and rejoices with you.

People: Christ’s presence will transform and strengthen us, wherever our journeys take us this week.

Leader: Live by the Spirit, acknowledging God’s rule in your hearts and in your actions.

People: We welcome the fires of the Holy Spirit, the refreshing wind of God’s surprising grace.

All: Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE #351 (see below)

Go Now in Peace (Shalom Chaverim)

SHALOM



Go now in peace, go now in peace, go now in peace.
Sha - lom cha-ve-rim, sha - lom cha-ve-rim. Sha - lom, sha - lom.



We'll meet here a-gain, we'll meet here a-gain, go now in peace.
Le - hit - ra - ot, le - hit - ra - ot, sha - lom, sha - lom.

WORDS: Traditional Hebrew blessing

MUSIC: Israeli melody

Shalom is the familiar traditional Hebrew word of greeting - suitable for meeting or parting

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POSTLUDE

Where'er You Walk (Semele)

George F. Handel
arr. Clair W. Johnson

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*

Andrew Schmidt, *baritone horn*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries, baritone*

Thank you to LouAnn Graf for serving as our lay reader this morning!

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Today's Special Guest

First Congo welcomes Glenn Svetnicka to the pulpit today. Glenn is the Executive Director of UCCI (United Church Camps, Inc.) and oversees the outdoor ministry programs at Pilgrim Center and Moon Beach. **Join us for a Zoom Fellowship and Sermon Talk Back with Rev. Svetnicka immediately after worship today at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84850672863>

Upcoming Worship Schedule

August 23, 2020

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Laurie Lyter Bright

"Can I Find a New Life Here?"

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:1-4 and John 1:1-5

Music: Roots (American Folk Music) Ensemble of voices, guitars, banjo and harmonica!

Lay Reader: Susan McFadden

**Don't Miss Our Daily Prayer Chapel:
Live on Facebook – Monday-Friday at Noon!**

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
Becky, Karen Leigh Post's mother
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Arlene Beyer
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks
Don Brittnacher
Dick Casperson
John Cawthon
Steve Chapin
Lynn Cook
Dana and Tony who are battling cancer
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
Ervin Klesmit
Sylvia King
Our Kenyan partners and students

Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Rev. Kathryn Kuhn
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Billie Logan, Linda Loomis's mother
Carrie Brooks McClory and her triplets
Mike Mathews
Shari Mitchell
Ellie Olson
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Families and children of Palestine
Diane Ragus
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Ken Rheingans
Don Roehrborn
Mary Rowland
Judy Schneider
Frank Severin
Jake Smasal
Amanda Spindler
Cole Stoffel
Rev. Sylvia
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

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Fall Women's Retreat Canceled

You all knew this was coming.... 😞

Moon Beach has postponed all events through the end of the year due to the Coronavirus, so we are unable to have our fall women's retreat in-person this year. They will be holding a weekend for us in 2021 so we do have something to look forward to!

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Barb Uehling at buehling@gmail.com or Jean Coenraad at jmcoenraad@aol.com.

Book Discussion: *Stand Your Ground*, by Kelly Brown Douglas

On August 20, First Congo's Theology Discussion Group ("Theo Group" for short) will begin discussing its next book, *Stand Your Ground: Black Bodies and the Justice of God*, by Rev. Dr. Kelly Brown Douglas.



The book was prompted by the 2013 acquittal of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in the killing of Trayvon Martin. Zimmerman prevailed because of a "stand your

ground" defense. This book explores the roots and sources of such laws in the white supremacist history of the United States. Then it asks, "What, then, of the Justice of God."

If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality and faith development, we invite you to join us as we begin reading this new book together.

Theo Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from noon to 1:30 PM. While we hope someday to resume gathering in person over lunch, for now we are meeting via Zoom.

For more information about Theo Group, visit www.firstcongoappleton.org/adult-ministries/study-groups/ or contact Steve Hirby on Realm or through the church office.

Nature is Not Canceled - We Need Outdoor Fun and Fellowship!

On the first and third Tuesdays of August and September O.F.F. will be hosting opportunities for casual conversation, connections and an easy walk in a few of the delightful Fox Cities parks and nature centers!

While observing social distancing, Nancy Brown-Koeller and Sandy Gillum will welcome all who would like to take a "breather" and get outside for a bit of conversation. Directions for an optional easy walk in the park area will be also be shared.

Meet at 10:00 AM at the following locations. No rain dates. Bring a lawn chair, a beverage and a face mask.

Tuesday, August 18: Riverside Park

- Address: 500 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah
- Meet by the water fountain.
- Restroom available

Directions:

With GPS – use address above

With map – From Hwy 41, take Main St. exit. Go east and follow Main Street to the park. (Main St. turns into Wisconsin Ave. in downtown Neenah.) Street parking is available in front of the fountain.

A walking route is available around the park or to Kimberly Point.

Tuesday, September 1: Mosquito Hill Nature Center. Whispers of Fall?

- Address: W3880 Rogers Road, New London
- Restroom available

Directions:

With GPS – use address above

With map - Hwy 15 to Hortonville, north on County M, then left (west) on County S, then Turn Left (south) to Rogers Road. Nature Center parking lot at end of road. Many walking routes available, ranging from easy to challenging.

September 15 location will be announced in a few weeks.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Anti-Racism Task Force

Are you ready to take a hard, honest look at yourself, our church and our community in terms of racism?

The First Congo Anti-Racism Task Force believes that God is calling us to do the hard work necessary to educate ourselves about the systemic racism present in ourselves, our church, and our community. Will you join us? Can we as a group learn to dismantle racism and be the change that needs to happen? We welcome more Task Force members (if interested please contact Pastor Laurie) and we invite the entire congregation to join this learning and discussion opportunity.

We will be using the UCC White Privilege Let's Talk curriculum. This curriculum is intended to help people to "see" power and privilege, their manifestations, and their impacts. Only after getting honest about how white privilege has functioned and continues to be perpetuated, can there be dialogue about how to address its causes and the necessary reparations and redistribution of power and opportunity.

We plan to offer opportunities that will accommodate different schedules via Zoom. There may be some small masked group options for those not interested in using Zoom.

Please contact the church office at 733-7393 to report your interest in either day or evening Zoom sessions or small group

opportunities. While we know this is a lifelong learning process, we plan to begin the conversation in September with six hour and a half long sessions. Be sure to also check out the virtual convening about *Antiracism, Belonging and Community* coordinated by Imagine Fox Cities on August 20.

Want to Be More Involved in ESTHER's Work? Come and See!

Anyone who is interested in the issues we focus on is welcome at task force meetings (held by Zoom teleconference!) If you have a heart for justice, or if the issues have affected your life or a loved one's, we invite you to join us! **All are welcome.** Request a Zoom invitation at the links below.

Prison Reform: 1st Monday, 6:00 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/prtf

Oshkosh ESTHER: 1st Tuesday, 4:00 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/oetf

Mental Health: 1st Friday, 6:00 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/mhtf

Immigration: 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/itf

Public Transit: 3rd Tuesday, 6:30 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/pttf

Environmental Justice: 4th Tuesday, 7:00 PM,
Zoom invite at esther-foxvalley.org/ejtf



Addiction Recovery Coach Training: Help Others in Recovery

September 14-18

ESTHER's Mental Health Task Force has received a COVID-19 emergency capacity-building grant from Forward Community Investments, with additional financial support from First Congo. These funds will support the training of people as recovery coaches (at a greatly reduced cost) to assist those who are recovering from substance abuse and other addictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly increased the need for recovery coaches, and this project is designed to assist in meeting this need in our area.

The five-day training will be conducted by **Helios Recovery** from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM on September 14-18, using the Adobe Connect digital platform.

Read more about the content, cost, and format of the training, the computer requirements, and registration information at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/content/addiction-recovery-coach-training>.

ESTHER is working cooperatively with Menikānaehkem, as well as counties and tribes in our area to identify people who would like to be trained. If you live in Northeast Wisconsin and have an interest in becoming a recovery coach, please contact ESTHER Organizer Bill Van Lopik at billv@esther-foxvalley.org.

Antiracism, Belonging and Community Virtual Convening

Thursday • August 20

12:30 PM – 5:00 PM

Are you looking for ways to promote social justice and healing in these divisive times?

Register today for the virtual convening about *Antiracism, Belonging and Community* coordinated by Imagine Fox Cities. Speakers include:

- Lawrence University professor of Ethnic Studies, Jesús G. Smith will engage participants with “The Changing Face of Race,” a guided activity and discussion to help people understand that racial classifications are socially and legally constructed.
- Nationally recognized antiracist, essayist and author Tim Wise will deliver the keynote address “Becoming an Antiracist” and include a live Question and Answer session.

In addition to these local and national experts, participants will also hear from Fox Cities community leaders and activists!

To learn more and to register, visit <https://imaginefoxcities.com/event-directory/>.

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