

May 2 Highlights at First Congregational

TODAY:	Drive Thru Communion (11:00 AM-12:00 PM)	
TODAY:	Zoom Fellowship and Sermon Talk Back with Pastor Nick.....	p. 6
TODAY:	E2F Pans Collection (10:15 AM-11:15 AM)	p. 11
TODAY:	Ashlynnne Mike Annual Memorial Walk (11:15 AM).....	p. 11
May 5-8:	MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) Virtual Race.....	p. 12
May 8:	Memorial Service for Rev. Kathryn Kuhn.....	p. 10
May 12:	Membership Exploration Class (on Zoom).....	p. 10

Flowers

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are donated by Joni Conrad in memory of her parents; Joseph and Kathryn Simons. 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

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on 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 OF EASTER

May 2, 2021

9:30 AM

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

PRELUDE

Noël Nouvelet (Now the Green Blade Rises)

arr. Mark Sedio

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

YOUTH PRAYER

Meredith, Hazel and Veronica Plamann

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Searching God, we have wandered from home, gone off looking for something; some vague longing; something that thrills or excites; something that takes away this empty gnawing inside. We have wandered far, gotten lost, given up ever finding that which satisfies.

Loving God, you have been with us in the search, you have beckoned us home. You have prepared a table for us, a huge welcoming party. And all heaven rejoices. Thank you for seeking us again and again. Amen.

OPENING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 7)

Now the Green Blade Rises

NOËL NOUVELET

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

PSALM

Laudate Dominum from Vespers, K. 339

W. A. Mozart

Grace Drummond, Senior LU Music Scholar soprano

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise him, all ye peoples.

For his lovingkindness has been bestowed upon us,

And the truth of the Lord endures forever. – Psalm 117

Glory be to the Father. . . Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

MEDITATION

“Something Strange in Our Wanderings”

Rev. Nick Hatch

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Modimo

Traditional Sesotho/isiZulu
arr. M. Barrett

LU Music Scholars (*pre-recorded*) Moreau Halliburton, *djembe*

Modimo re boka wena.

God, we praise you.

Tsothle di enstswe ke wena.

Everything is created by you.

Wanyamalala umthwalo wezono zami.

He took away my burden (sins.)

(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

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office or email to a pastor for confidentiality. Prayer requests submitted in the Comments section during livestream worship will be prayed over during the week ahead.)

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

(You are invited to share the elements you have prepared at home or to receive the elements at "drive-thru" communion in the church parking lot from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM this morning.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for allowing us to share in this feast as your family, gathered around our own family tables, and to be fed with the bread of heaven; give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING WORDS

CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 5-6)

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA

John Aaholm, *djembe*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Nuestro Padre nos invita (God Extends an Invitation)

Miria T. Kolling
arr. Anne Krentz

"God extends an invitation to the table of creation, where there's wine and light and bread. Here we gather in thanksgiving and we offer all our living. Here the feast of life is spread."

Miria Theresinha Kolling was a lay sister who worked in the archdiocese of São Paulo, Brazil. This tune is a *cueca* or *vals* that uses a repeated rhythmic phrase and the key of D minor to ponder God's invitation to the wonder of the eucharistic table.

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

LU Music Scholars with Moreau Halliburton, *djembe (pre-recorded)*

Grace Drummond, *Senior LU Music Scholar soprano*

John Aaholm, *djembe, percussion*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries, percussion*

Thank you to Ross Erstad for serving as our lay reader this morning!

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona

Refrain, sung twice each time

Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your prais-es; all our
Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa ro - na, di tha -

hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - jah! We sing your
bi - le ka - o - fe - la. Ha - le - lu - ya! Pe - lo tsa

prais - es; all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.
ro - na, di tha - bi - le ka - o - fe - la. *Fine*

1 Christ the Lord to us said: I am wine, I am bread.
2 Now he sends us all out, strong in faith, free of doubt,

Originally created in the Sotho language, this ecstatic South African hymn reached English by way of a Swedish translation and is now found in numerous hymnals. It can serve as a powerful sending hymn for connecting what happens at the Lord's Table with our mission in the world.

TEXT: South African; trans. Gracia Crindal, 1984
MUSIC: South African; arr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984
English Trans. and Music Arr. © 1984 Utryck (admin. Walton Music Corp.)

HALELUYA! PELO TSA RONA
6.6.6.8 with refrain

Repeat stanza, then sing refrain

I am wine, I am bread: give to all who thirst and hun-ger.
 strong in faith, free of doubt. Tell to all the joy - ful gos-pel.

**Join us for a Zoom Fellowship and Talk Back with Pastor Nick
 immediately after worship today at:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88461452674>

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

May 9, 2021 Sixth Sunday of Easter Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright
 "God's Special Favorites"
 Scriptures: Acts 10:34-48
 Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; LU Music Scholars; Logan Willis, *tenor and oboe*
 Lay Reader: Dave Frederick

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: French carol

Text © Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET

11 10 10 11

Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-714899

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.

Lyndee Aleman
Jill Anthony
Jill Anthony's sister
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Aidan Bero
Arlene Beyer
Clair Brown
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Olive Bopp
Alyssa Villarreal Brooks
Don Brittnacher
Charlie and Britt Carlson and infant son, Miller
Stephen Carlson
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Norman Clay
Lynn Cook
Dana and Tony who are battling cancer
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
Jim Edwards and Rachel DeMoss Edwards
Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious
health issue
Phil Gabrielson
David Galow
Ken Geiger
Joan Gruenstern
Lynn Hanna
Jayne Heinrich
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Ron Hurm

Elizabeth Keggi's stepmother, Jeanne
Jean Jepson
Our Kenyan partners and friends
Allen Korth
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Helen Kratzer
Jennifer Lemmert
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Mike Mathews
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle
Shari Mitchell
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Our country's military around the world
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Sharrie Robinson
Mary Rowland
Gwen Salonen
Jan Scheibe
Frank Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jake Smasal
Cole Stoffel
Sue, friend of Mark Yonan
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
Brenda Timm
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
Don Utschig
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Jean Wegner
Family of Rev. Art Willie upon the death of his
sister

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves.*

Calling All Birders!

Building New Bird Monitoring Partnerships

Oneida Nation of Wisconsin & Northeastern Wisconsin (NEW) Audubon are calling birders of all skills to join in bird surveys in meadows, wetlands and shoreland areas that have been restored by Oneida Nation.

Register to volunteer at <https://forms.gle/Z3UqKY4vGjeT5nzc7> (Migrate to the website quickly...Zoom training is May 4!)

O.F.F. (Outdoor Fun and Fellowship) is also building a list of birders for future adventures. Contact Sandy Gillum for more information.



Memory Camp 2021!

August 16-19

Join us at Memory Camp 2021 as we relax and enjoy camp activities at beautiful Moon Beach Camp in St. Germain, WI. Memory Camp is for people living with dementia and their families.

Because of the pandemic, we couldn't have Memory Camp in 2020, but now we're excited about our upcoming camp session, **August 16-19, 2021**. All staff will be fully vaccinated by then. You can read more about safety protocols on the registration page:

<https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessionDetail.aspx?idCamp=340&idSession=298397&campCode=ucc>

In 2018 and 2019, our campers ranged in age from 5 to 95! Every family gets its own place to stay with up to four bedrooms, a full bathroom, extra sink, and living area. Many of the "cabins" are accessible for walkers and wheelchairs with walk-in showers.

Registration for Memory Camp is now open and slots may go quickly as we're all so eager for events like this.

Register at:

<https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessionDetail.aspx?idCamp=340&idSession=298397&campCode=ucc>

For general information about the camp, go to <https://ucci.org/moon-beach/>.

If you don't do websites, feel free to call or email Susan McFadden; (920) 739-8695 or susan.h.mcfadden@gmail.com with questions or call Phoebe Spier at the camp and she can help you with the registration and answer your questions. Below is Phoebe's contact information:

Phoebe Spier, Managing Director at Moon Beach (Phoebe@ucci.org or call (715) 479-8255.)

Membership Exploration Class (via Zoom)

Wednesday, May 12

6:00 – 7:30 PM

The Membership Exploration Class is designed for people who are considering membership with First Congregational United Church of Christ.

The class explores the history and polity of the United Church of Christ, the history and programs of First Congregational UCC, the faith and theology of the church, discernment of spiritual gifts for serving God, and more.

Please contact the church office at (920) 733-7393 to let us know if you plan to attend so that we can get you the corresponding materials.

Zoom link for the class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6758906571>

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Church School News

The final “Sunday School at Home” lesson was presented last week on Sunday, April 25.

It has been a different year for Church School but there have been a devoted group of children who have signed in online each Sunday as lessons were presented. Many families have sent pictures of the completed art projects that were included in the lessons and have shared other stories of the ways the children have participated in lessons even

though we have not been able to gather in person.

Many thanks to all of the children and their families who made presenting the lessons and putting together the “Sunday School at Home” kits so much fun! Let’s all keep praying that we will be able to gather for in person Sunday School next year. Blessings and thanks to you all!

- Miss Colleen

Worship and Music

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

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn Memorial Service

Saturday, May 8

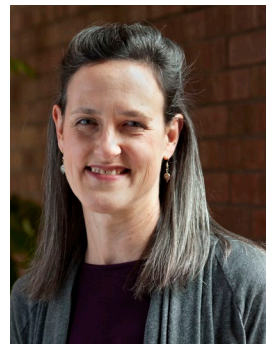
A memorial service for Kathryn Kuhn will be held on **Saturday, May 8 at 11:00 AM.**

The service will be at Peace United Church of Christ in

Kewaskum, with a reception to follow at River Hill Park, also in Kewaskum.

Rev. Kim Henning will be presiding, with support from Rev. Becky Johnston, Rev. Steve Savides, Rev. Nick Hatch, Rev. Eric Kirkegaard, and Clare Kuhn.

Seating in the sanctuary will be limited, but there are three other avenues for people to participate in the service.



- Livestreaming and a recording of the service will be available for any who wish to participate from home.
- Livestreaming will be available in the church fellowship hall.
- Livestreaming will be available at River Hill Park under a large shelter.

Registration links to sign up for the sanctuary, church fellowship hall, and River Hill Park are now available on the Caring Bridge page for Kathryn: (<https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kathrynkuhn/journal>).

A livestream link is posted there as well.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

E2F (Empty to Full Pans)

**Hand In: TODAY, May 2
10:15 AM-11:15 AM**

Drive- thru in main parking lot

The E2F (Empty to Full) Pans Program will have a no contact, drive thru system for collection of the E2F Pans TODAY. This collection will provide prepared pans of food for **Apricity**. Apricity provides those impacted by substance use disorders a full spectrum of care including treatment, employment and support services in a safe, progressive recovery community.

Volunteers will collect the pans from you while you are in your vehicle and bring the collected pans to freezer space at

Apricity. There will not be any direct contact.

If you are unable to return a pan at the designated time or have questions, please contact Cindi MacSwain at **cmacswain@new.rr.com** or call (920) 606-6699.

Ashlynnne Mike Annual Memorial Walk

**TODAY, May 2
11:15 AM**

TODAY, May 2, at 11:15 AM, we invite you to walk from our church parking lot at First Congo in and around the Fox River. We will gather on behalf of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW), a non-profit organization in the United States. Kristin Welch of Waking Women Healing Institute and member of the Wisconsin Department of Justice Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) Task Force has helped spearhead the following plan:

<https://www.doj.state.wi.us/sites/default/files/ocvs/finalmmiwplan-kit.pdf>

On the afternoon of May 2, 2016, 11-year-old Ashlynnne Mike, and 9-year-old Ian Mike, didn't make it home from school. Instead, when they got off the school bus in Shiprock, New Mexico, on the Navajo Reservation, a predator tricked them into getting into his van. Hours later, passersby found Ian alone, wandering the desert. Police located Ashlynnne's body the



next day. She had been sexually assaulted, strangled and bludgeoned repeatedly with a tire iron. Had there been an Amber Alert on reservation land, the chances of Ashlynnne being found sooner and possibly still alive, would have greatly increased. Her mother, Pamela Foster, spent the next 4 years advocating to get the Amber Alert on all reservation lands. She worked closely with congress and the Amber Alert organization, tirelessly, telling her horrific story, so that other children would not meet Ashlynnne's fate.

Last year, President Trump signed Ashlynnne's Law, and the Amber Alert program is currently being brought to the native lands. On the 5-year Anniversary of her death, we are hoping to raise enough money to buy Ashlynnne the gravestone she deserves. Her mother has picked out a large heart, flanked by 2 angels, but she cannot afford it at this time. Ashlynnne deserves a beautiful headstone and Pamela deserves a special memorial for her daughter's final resting place. Please help us reach our goal and make this happen.

Thank you for your help! You can donate on their gofundme page at <https://gofund.me/c1229425>. Any additional donations will be given to the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) non-profit organization. If you are unable to walk with us on Sunday, May 2, please consider MMIW's nation-wide walk May 5 through May 8. You can sign up for this virtual race and donate to make MMIW awareness grow in the Fox Valley. If you are a walking

anyway, this is a great way to dedicate your walk!

Thank you from our Racial Equity Exploration Group and the MMIW support group here at First Congo. It is our hope to walk for and alongside our brothers and sisters of all colors!

Meet in church parking lot at 11:00AM, we will follow CDC guidelines for outdoor gatherings. Please wear face masks if you would feel more comfortable.

Any questions, please contact Julie Gamm at Julgamm@gmail.com or (920) 858-0833.

MMIW Virtual Event 2021

May 5-8

May 5 has been designated a national Day of Recognition of the ongoing tragedies in our state and our nation.

MMIW (Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women) is a movement promoting awareness and working with the Wisconsin Department of Justice, local police departments, port facilities, and communities in an attempt to end this violence against our Indigenous neighbors. If you would like to help raise awareness among folks around you and contribute to the movement, consider participating in this event described below.

The MMIW Virtual event is a race at your own pace and place. You can run, walk,



bike, hike; basically, any movement anywhere. The mission is to be in solidarity with Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirits, grieving families, and individuals working on the frontlines to end this epidemic of violence against Indigenous people.

Price: \$35.00 Race Fee + \$3.00 sign-up fee
Register at:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/MN/Anywhere/2021MMIWVirtualEvent>

Volunteer(s) Needed to Coordinate Project NOAHH

Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand (NOAHH) is a partnership between community members and Outagamie County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to assist their clients with their unmet needs. The mission is to improve the quality of life for children and families involved with DHHS. Among other things, NOAHH collects furniture and kitchen utensils for people moving from shelters into apartments, builds twin and bunk beds, and provides mattresses and bedding. Our First Congo coordinator is the liaison between the church and the social services agency and with Lyle Van De Hey, who coordinates deliveries and bunk bed building. Some storage space (garage, basement) is a plus but not essential. What we need most is someone with attention to detail and a willingness to jump in and learn the ropes from the current coordinator. The new coordinator(s) will have support from the

Mission and Service Ministry and will not have to step into this cold. It's a great opportunity for a team of sisters / brothers / friends / partners and a way to build camaraderie while working to fulfill our mission to serve others in our community while also finding out more about the church's outreach ministries.

Contact Pat Hauser at phauser1@new.rr.com or Pastor Laurie at llyerbright@firstcongoappleton.org for more details or to say, "Put me in, Coach!"



Racial Equity Exploration Group Recommends

Quick read: *What is the Difference Between Equity and Equality?*

Read the article at:
<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/625404/equity-vs-equality-what-is-the-difference>



Intro to Religion & Rape Culture Workshop

Saturday, June 26
10:00–11:30 AM (CST)

Save the date for this important workshop based on Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright’s dissertation, “The Body and the Word: at the intersection of religion and rape culture.” A zoom link will be emailed out a later time.

Please sign up at this link if you are interested in attending so that we can plan accordingly:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8t74JIqK9BEe0Me4lGoP3YbJluZwdrqEghk2UqtgzvtQE2w/viewform>

Contact Laurie at laurielyterbright@gmail.com with any questions.

Administration

Welcome Beck Fritsche

Please welcome First Congo’s new Administrative Assistant, Beck Fritsche!

Some background on Beck:

“I grew up in Stevens Point and recently relocated to Oshkosh from Milwaukee. I have a fire science degree and paramedic studies degree from Mid-State Technical College in Wisconsin Rapids. I have worked as a firefighter/paramedic in Stevens Point and Milwaukee.

I’ve managed several restaurants in the Milwaukee area, I’ve been an account manager for an insurance company as well as a travel

agent. I’ve done it all and I’m excited to bring my diverse work background here!

In my free time I enjoy playing any kind of game. I also enjoy spending time with my spouse Andrea, our dog Sweet Pea and cat Lup. All of us can usually be found curled up watching a movie. “

Beck will assist in the front office and with the CYF (Children, Youth and Families) Team.

