

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

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## **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. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

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

## **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](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream).

Video recordings of our live stream services can be found at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/previous-livestream-services/)

Written transcripts of the sermon can be downloaded at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/)

# July 25 Highlights at First Congregational

**TODAY:** Summer Choir  
**August 8:** Guest Preacher Dianne Droster  
**August 8:** Karma's Mailbox Performs in Worship

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## 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. Our prepackaged communion is gluten free.

## Baptism

Starting September 19, baptisms will be held on the third Sunday of each month.

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](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism). Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 25, 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  
Dianne Droster, Sabbatical Support Interim

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*(We invite you to place your offering in the offering plates in the back of the sanctuary as you enter or during a convenient time in the service. Those with prayer requests are invited to fill out a Prayer Request card found in the pew racks and drop them in the prayer basket in front of the chancel. As always, we encourage our online worshippers to submit prayer requests to the church office via email, REALM, or phone.)*

## PRELUDE

*Adagio cantabile from Sonata in C Minor, Op. 13*

Ludwig van Beethoven

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

## WELCOME

\*OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

**God of the powerless, you stand beside those kept silent.**

**God of the marginalized, you are there, on the fringes.**

**God of the mistreated, you are there, to comfort.**

**Give us courage to stand where you stand, O God,**

**And to lead with love for those deemed unlovable. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN #500 (see bulletin, p. 6)

*O For a World*

AZMON

Used with permission of Medical Mission Sisters

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 11:1-15 (OT, p. 352)

## MEDITATION

“Content Warning”

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*The Summons*

John Bell  
arr. B. Fisher

Summer Choir Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

(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).

\* Please rise, in body or in spirit

**\*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.**

**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.**

**RECITATIVE AND ARIA**

*Comfort Ye and Every Valley from Messiah*

G. F. Handel

Dylan Schang, *tenor* Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

**\*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 7)**

*Take, O Take Me as I Am*

TAKE ME AS I AM

**Sung three times by ALL**

**\*CLOSING LITANY**

Leader: Remember, we are held in the palm of God's loving hand.

**People: Remember, we are whole and beloved in God's merciful eyes.**

Leader: Remember, all that God has done and is doing still.

**People: Remember, that God's love is stronger than any human capacity for evil.**

Leader: Remember, there is no one God cannot love.

**All: Help us remember, God, that You are love.**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*O for a World (Azmon)*

Tune by Carl G. Glaser  
Setting by Eleanor Whitsett

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Summer Choir

Dylan Schang, *tenor*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

**Thank you to Sue Wisneski for serving as our lay reader this morning!**

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

### **Upcoming Worship Schedule**

August 1, 2021

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Nick Hatch

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Scripture Reading: John 6:30-34; Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Murphy Family Musicians (*violin, voices, guitar*)

# O for a World

500

1. O for a world where ev - ery-one re - spects each oth - er's ways,  
2. O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,  
3. We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice  
4. The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.  
5. O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,

where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.  
where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, and e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.  
that o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.  
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.  
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter, 1987, alt.

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; adapt. Lowell Mason, *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

AZMON  
CM

Miriam Winter, professor at Hartford seminary, takes her inspiration from Charles Wesley's hymn, 'O for a thousand tongues.' It was written for a Presbyterian Women's conference.

Words © 1987  
Medical Mission Sisters

# Take, O Take Me as I Am

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts with a treble clef, a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall". The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef, the same key signature and time signature, and features a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me." The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note pattern, ending with a double bar line.

The brevity of this text and tune invite repeated singing, either as a sustained chain of sound or as a sung response in a series of prayers. It offers a more reflective approach to the same theme of self-dedication evident in older hymns such as "Just as I Am" (see no. 442).

TEXT and MUSIC: John L. Bell, 1995  
Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

TAKE ME AS I AM  
7.7.7.4

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## 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  
Christine Calhoun and Paul Siket  
Dick Casperson  
Steve Chapin  
Norman Clay  
Lynn Cook  
Beth Detienne  
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law  
Tom Dix  
Jim Edwards and Rachel DeMoss Edwards  
Helen Joan Evans  
Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious health issue  
David Galow  
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther  
Ken Geiger  
Joan Gruenstern  
Judy Hanson  
Maggie Hendrick

Ken Hocking  
Michelle Jahnke  
Jean Jepson  
Blake and Tami Johnson on the death of his father  
Elizabeth Keggi's stepmother, Jeanne  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law  
Jennifer Lemmert  
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman  
Mike Mathews  
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle  
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Sharrie Robinson  
Mary Rowland  
Family of Eric Roycraft  
Gwen Salonen  
Jan Scheibe  
Frank Severin  
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie  
Jim Sheetz  
Jake Smasal  
Cole Stoffel  
Sue, friend of Mark Yonan  
Gloria Tate  
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

Dear Members and Friends,

Blessings to each of you and peace in the name of Jesus Christ. I am taking the second half of my sabbatical from July 19 – August 30 and will miss all of you while I am away. Pastor Nick will serve as Head of Staff in my absence. We are blessed to also be able to rely on Pastor Laurie's leadership and service as our Designated Interim Pastor for Congregational Life and Mission. During my absence, we will also rely on the faithful ministry of Dianne Droster. My profound thanks to all of you for this wonderful opportunity for renewal.



I will spend half of my sabbatical away from Appleton highlighted by two weeks in Hawaii.

I will be taking a weeklong class on Biblical Archaeology: Past and Present. I also have a tall stack of books, some focused on the Congregationalists' missionary work in Hawaii (inspiring and disgraceful), on church leadership in anxious times, biblical commentaries on Matthew and Jeremiah and devotional materials meant to feed the soul. I also will bring along a play that (apparently) will not write itself. It will be a time of learning and stretching and, I hope, exercising and good self-care.

My prayers are with you, especially those undergoing difficult times. I give thanks for your support and for the wonderful clergy, staff and lay leaders of our church!

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves.*

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## Volunteers Needed: iCan Shine's Bike Camp

Covey is seeking volunteers to assist individuals with disabilities ages 8 and older to ride a bike at the iCan Bike Camp on August 23-27 at the Boys and Girls Club in Appleton.

Volunteers will be assigned one rider during a 90-minute session, with the option to volunteer for all five sessions and work with the same rider to build a connection with the rider.

For more information or to register, email [info@covey.org](mailto:info@covey.org).

## Volunteers Needed: Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry

Ruby's Pop-Up Pantry is seeking volunteers age 13+ to assist with setup, registration, food distribution, traffic coordination and cleanup on the first Tuesday of the month beginning August 3 at First English Lutheran Church (326 E. North St., Appleton) to help fight hunger in the Fox Cities. Kids ages 12 and under can participate with an adult.

For information, visit [www.rubyspantry.org](http://www.rubyspantry.org) or contact Deni at 920-358-0554 or [dkuchler@felc.com](mailto:dkuchler@felc.com).

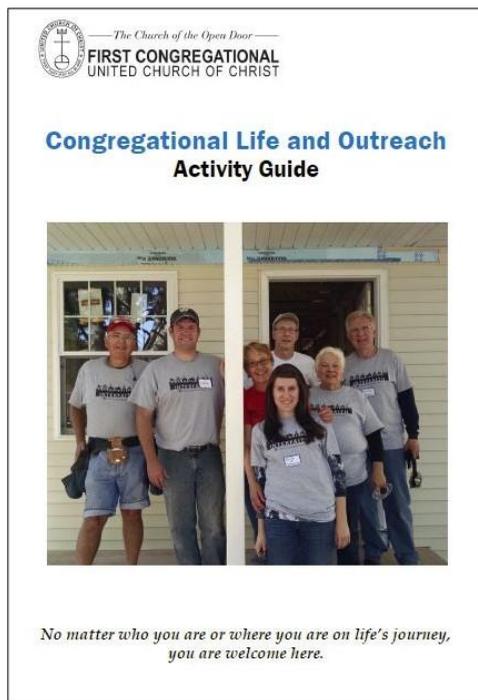
## NEW! Congregational Life and Outreach Activity Guide

Would you like to get more involved at First Congo?

You can find details about our current (2021-2022) congregational life and outreach opportunities in our new activity guide.

Download the booklet from the Congregational Life or Mission and Service section of our website. Hard copies will also be available in the Narthex.

Reach out and get connected!



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# Worship and Music

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

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## Save the Dates for “Meet-a-Laurie” Events!

We are excited to announce that the Church Council has affirmed the recommendation for Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright to be elected permanent Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission! Pastor Laurie’s “trial” sermon and candidating Sunday will be September 19. Be sure to mark these other important dates on your calendar so you can get to know Laurie.



- **Sunday, August 15:** Q & A session with Pastor Laurie in the chapel immediately after our worship service.
- One-on-ones with Pastor Laurie. Folks can sign up for a zoom or in-person session on the following dates:
  - **Tuesday, August 17** from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
  - **Thursday, August 19** from 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM
  - **Saturday, August 21** from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sign up for a 20-minute block of time by calling the church office at (920) 733-7393 or emailing Beck at [bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org).

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# Youth and Families

*Faith, fun and service.*

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## Children, Youth and Families Poll

Dear First Congo Families,

Welcome to the **2021-2022** Program year!

To plan our fall programming, we would like to get a head count of the number of children/youth that would possibly attend this fall.

If you are interested in having your child/ren or youth participate in fall activities (in-person) this year, please let us know your children’s/youth’s names and grades. Full registration will happen at a later date. Thanks for your help in our planning process. **We ask for a response prior to Monday, August 2.**

To indicate your child/youth interest respond to our poll at:

<https://onrealm.org/firstcongoappleton/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=MjE1MzllMzYtODEzZi00ODE3LTlmNTETYWQ2YzAxMjZhY2Vk>

If you have any questions, or to respond via phone, please contact Beck (CYF Coordinator) at 920-851-6938 or email [bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org).

We look forward to sharing this year of ministry with your children!

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# Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice.*

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## Called to Care

Do you feel called to caregiving? Can you provide a listening ear to someone who is alone, elderly or homebound? The Stephen Ministers, Friends in Christ and Card Ministry are all looking for more volunteers.

Current caregivers in these programs and those interested in learning more are strongly encouraged to attend our Called to Care workshop on **Saturday, September 25, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**

We will review Safe Conduct training, elder abuse prevention, Advance Directives, memory care and information on caregiving.

Please register on Realm or email Beck at [bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org).



## Register for the Women's Fall Retreat!

October 29-31

It is time to register and pay for our fall retreat. Enjoy the friendship and fellowship of all those who identify as women at First Congo in the beautiful setting of Moon Beach Camp in St. Germaine, Wisconsin. The retreat runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright will be our leader. The theme will be *Transcendence: Even Jesus Took Breaks.*

Our retreat inspires conversation and builds relationships among those who attend. Newcomers are warmly welcomed to join this circle of companionship.

Register and pay soon through Realm to ensure your spot. The cost is \$170 and includes Friday dinner, 3 meals on Saturday, Sunday brunch and housing for 2 nights. Pictures and more information about Moon Beach are available at [UCCI.org](http://UCCI.org), our Wisconsin Conference camps' website.

Watch for an emailed questionnaire in late September as we will be gathering additional info from you regarding the following:

- Food allergies/preferences
- Medical needs
- Preferences for accommodations / limitations
- Pronoun preferences

If you prefer not to drive, we have drivers available who can take you. COVID-19

safety precautions appropriate to late October will be in place.

If you have any questions please contact Barb Uehling at [buehling@gmail.com](mailto:buehling@gmail.com) or 920-475-2212.

## You're Invited to the Woman's Hour

Join us on Women's Equality Day Thursday, August 26 at 4:30 PM at Perry Hall on the University of Wisconsin-Fox Cities Campus for *The Woman's Hour*, featuring award-winning author, journalist and speaker Elaine Weiss.



In her book, *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*, Weiss provides a gripping account of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Steven Spielberg's Amblin TV is currently developing *The Woman's Hour* for television with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton serving as executive producer.

A wine and hors d'oeuvre reception will precede the program, which starts at 5:45 PM. Elaine Weiss will sign copies of her book following the program.

Tickets are \$5 and are required in advance. No tickets will be sold at the door. **Registration deadline is August 15, 2021.**

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-womans-hour-tickets-161256090307?utm-campaign=social%2Cemail&utm->

[content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-source=strongmail&utm-term=listing](#)

*This event is presented by the Fox Valley 19th Amendment Centennial Coalition.*

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## Administration

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### BEWARE Scam Emails!

We have been alerted by members of the congregation that they have received an email from Pastor Steve asking them to do him a favor. The email continues by asking you to purchase gift cards in various denominations and then get back to him with the numbers on those cards. **NO** pastor or other staff member of First Congregational will ever contact you to purchase gift cards for them. If you are ever unsure, please contact the church office (920-733-7393) before making a gift card purchase.

# The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor

Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries

Reverend Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions

Reverend Art Wille, Pastor of Visitation

Dianne Droster, Sabbatical Support Interim

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist

Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Holly Volkman, Administrative Assistant for Communications

Beck Fritsche, Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Scott Knutson, Temporary Technology Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Patrick Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Lauren Micke, Weekend Custodial Assistant

First Congregational United Church of Christ

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