

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

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 or at: 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/

Written transcripts of the sermon can be downloaded at: www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/sermon-transcripts/

January 2 Highlights at First Congregational

January 3: Office Closed
January 5: Children’s Choir and Youth Handbell Rehearsals Resume p. 8
January 6: Meal Serving at Pillars p. 8
January 6: Great Lakes Zoom Webinar p. 8-9
January 9: Reception of New Members

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

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. Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

January 9, 2022	The Baptism of Christ	Rev. Nick Hatch
Scriptures: Psalm 104:14-16, John 2:1-11		
Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, <i>organ</i>		
Lay Reader: Sue Wisneski		

“Like” and “Follow” us on our new Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/FCUCCAppleton

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

January 2, 2022

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, Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission

PRELUDE

Ding Dong Merrily on High

arr. James Curnow

Shelley Nulton, *organ* Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

We gather in God's extravagant welcome today, eager to follow the star that guides us to the Christ child. May our songs and prayers be filled with joy, and our hearts overflow with praise! Amen.

OPENING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 6)

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (Jesus the Light of the World)

ELDERKIN

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 2:1-12 (NT, p. 2)

MEDITATION

"Overwhelmed by Joy"

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

MUSICAL REFLECTION

God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

arr. Robert Elmore

(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).

*EPIPHANY DOXOLOGY #161

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

WIE SCHON LEUCHTET

Stanza One, only, sung by ALL

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

INVITATION

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

People: We open our hearts to you, O God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God, who welcomes the stranger.

People: To the One who reaches across every border, we give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF COMMUNION

Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you....

Holy, Holy, Holy One.

God of justice and love.

Heaven and earth are full of your wonder.

Hosanna among us.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

SPECIAL MUSIC

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

traditional Spiritual
arr. Lloyd Larson

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 OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

God, this meal we shared together is a remembrance of your radical embrace of all people, the outcast and oppressed, the loved and the lowly. May it strengthen us as we continue on the journey on which you are calling each of us. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #168

As with Gladness Men of Old

DIX

CLOSING LITANY

Leader: Go forth, filled with the promise that the star of Bethlehem is calling you too!

People: Let us bring our gifts to the Christ child, wherever He might appear.

All: Let us go out with joy seeking after God.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus with Joy to the World

Rowland Prichard and Lowell Mason
arr. Christopher R. Brown

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *organ and piano*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

Heather Hallett, *soprano*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Thank you to Kris Henke 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.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

(Jesus, the Light of the World)

John 8:12; 9:5

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 2 Joy-ful, all you saints a-rise, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 3 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Je-sus, the light of the world;
 4 Hail the Bear-er of God's peace! Je-sus, the light of the world;

Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.

Refrain

We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the

dew-drops of mer-cy are bright, Shine all a-round us by

day and by night, Je-sus, the light of the world.

The original version of Charles Wesley's hymn has received various alterations throughout the years. This adaptation by George Elderkin utilizes a repeated ascription, "Jesus, the light of the world," and a refrain to create a rousing carol of praise.

Tune: ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. with refrain
 George D. Elderkin
 Arr. Jeffrey Radford, 1993

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
Barb Armstrong
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
Don Brittnacher
Christine Calhoun and Paul Siket
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Norman Clay
Colton and Misty, friends of Trudy Reilly
Dani, Fred's sister-in-law
Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law
Tom Dix
Jim Edwards
Helen Joan Evans
Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious health issue
David Galow
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther
Ken Geiger
Judy Hanson
Maggie Hendrick
Ken Hocking
Bill Hordinski

Jean Jepson
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Patty LeClair Kennedy, Carl Kennedy and their baby Owen
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Mike Mathews
Helen McKean upon the death of her son-in-law
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Mory, Anthony Padilla's son
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Cheryl Reissmann
Mary Rowland
Larry Schiedermayer
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jim Sheetz
Nancy Sieg
Jake Smasal
Cole Stoffel
Sue, friend of Mark Yonan
Gloria Tate
Elsa Thiel
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
Dolores Timm
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Beverly Trombla
Don Utschig
Jean Van Wagenin
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Dave Williamsen
Siri Witt

Worship and Music

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

Children's Choir and Youth Handbell Rehearsals Resume January 5

Our First Congregational Children's Choir (grades 2-6) rehearses on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:15 PM (masked and distanced), resuming on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.

Youth Handbells (gr. 7-12) also resume rehearsing that evening at 5:45 PM (masked and distanced.)

For new registrations, please contact **John Albrecht** at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or call him at the church, (920) 851-8097.

Thank you!

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Meal Serving at Pillars

First Congo will begin the first Thursday of the month commitment on January 6 to serve the evening meal at Pillars Adult Shelter. A sign-up sheet is available at: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eJXNfPb2Lw_1ndBQvMBnCb4DQVlyPW1mLwoHH5tYsXI/edit#gid=0

The Pillars Adult Shelter provides a safe place for shelter and includes comprehensive, client-focused solutions

across the full spectrum of housing needs. Currently they are averaging 60 people per night.

Contact Shelley Nulton at snulton@att.net with any questions.

Save the Date!

The next retreat for all those who identify as women will be March 4-6 at Moon Beach.

More details coming soon!



Zoom into Urgent Great Lakes Issue*

Thursday, January 6, 2022
6:30-8:00 PM Central Time

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

This is an opportunity for human water users:

- To educate themselves about how Enbridge oil/gas pipelines endanger our Great Lakes Basin
- To understand the implications of the Environmental Impact Statement released on December 16, 2021 with a public response period up until March 4, 2022

- To learn about actions to protect Great Lakes water against the imminent threat posed by Enbridge Line 5

This ninety-minute Webinar consists of:

- Ten-minute presentations by each of four environmental and legal experts speaking about real and threatened impacts of Enbridge oil/gas pipelines on/in water, waterways, and wetlands
- Suggestions for individual or corporate responses to the Line 5 re-routing issues and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Impact Statement
- Q&A period

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_swkr1wwgTaOHjzdk_oqXbA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

*A webinar sponsored by First Congregational UCC Appleton with support from the Wisconsin UCC Creation Care Team and a Wisconsin Conference UCC's Kairos/Catalyst grant.



Outreach Ministries/Mission and Service Invites You to the Table

Interested in getting better connected with the many outreach ministry opportunities here at First Congregational? We hope you'll join us at our next Outreach Ministries meeting!

We invite anyone who is interested to attend our monthly meetings to learn about the various organizations and to take part in our outreach work. We meet the third Thursday of every month. We meet virtually on Zoom. If you would like to join us, please call Jill Smith at (920) 221-2146 and she will send you an invite. Our next meeting will be January 21.

Outreach Ministries is happy to report three new representatives from three organizations have joined our group this year. Sandy Gillum represents College of the Menominee Nation Scholarship. Lauren Aaholm represents Project NOAHH (Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand) and Mary Dees is our Native Justice Coalition representative.

Other representatives are Wanda Van De Hey (Kenya Sponsorship), Chris Danz (Samaritan Counseling), Tim De Hart (Habitat for Humanity), Ken Jahnke (Back Bay Mission), Eilene Hoft-March (Menikanaehkem, Rights of Nature, MMIWG2S), Kiara West (LEAVEN), Shelley Nulton (Pillars) and Jill Smith (ESTHER and Co-Chairperson). Nancy Brown-Koeller is our Co-Chairperson. Pastor Laurie leads our work. We are currently looking for a representative for the Appalachian Service Project.

Our table is open to anyone who would like to participate and celebrate how we relate to our community.

Thank you and have a blessed day,
Your Outreach Team

Stewardship

*Putting faith into action with our time,
passion, skills and financial gifts.*

Thank You for Your Pledge

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their annual pledge! This is so important to help the church budget and plan what services can be provided in the coming year.

If you haven't had the opportunity to do so, please take a moment to decide what is on your heart and in your means to pledge - it would be very much appreciated if you would consider doing it as soon as viable. There are many easy ways to submit your pledge:

1. Fill in pledge card and put in the pledge box in the Narthex
2. Enter online through Realm:
<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/realm/>
3. Call the church office at: 920-733-7393
4. Email Beck in the church office at:
bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org

Administration

Spam Alert!

It has come to the attention of church staff that there is a SPAM email going around. Our pastors would NEVER ask any church member to purchase gift cards for them. PLEASE DO NOT answer these SPAM emails!

New Facebook Page!

Our virtual ministry offerings have continued to suffer from outside influences which have both disrupted our livestreams and are now affecting our other content as well. In an effort to keep our community's ties strong for those who join us virtually, we are launching a new Facebook page.

We invite you to please "like" and "follow" us again on the new page as our current page at Facebook/1stCongo will eventually be deleted. Please share with your friends as well! We ask for your patience as we work to transfer everything over.

Link to our new Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/FCUCCAppleton