

*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/FCUCCAppleton](https://www.facebook.com/FCUCCAppleton) 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/

May 8 Highlights at First Congregational

TODAY:	Music Sunday	
TODAY:	Back Bay Mission Video in the Narthex.....	p. 13
May 15:	Confirmation Sunday	
May 15:	Vandersall Collective – Town Hall Meeting.....	p. 14
May 15:	One Great Hour of Sharing.....	p. 14
May 21:	Viola Recital to benefit LU Scholars (more details coming soon)	
May 22:	Selections from Previous Intergenerational Musicals	

Flowers

Cindi Ritcey Fox designed this morning's flower arrangement that was donated through the Claire Langstadt Gehin Trust Fund in honor of Mother's Day. The red roses in the arrangement were donated in loving memory of Joyce and Len Hanstedt by their family.

Communion

All are welcome to receive communion the first Sunday of each month. We currently use TrueVine prefilled communion cups and gluten-free wafers.

Baptism

Baptisms are 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

May 15, 2022 Fifth Sunday of Easter / Confirmation Sunday Rev. Nick Hatch
Livestreaming at 9:30 AM
Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER / MUSIC SUNDAY

May 8, 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

PRELUDES

Prelude on Psalm 23:2 *By Still Waters He Leads Me*
Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

Charles Callahan
text by Jean Janzen
tune by Carolyn Jennings
setting by David Cherwien

"Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know."

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ* Lori Murphy, *violin*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION:

The Church Year in Scripture and Song: "*. . . through the Church the song goes on!*"
John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

CHORAL INTROIT

Locus iste

Kevin A. Memley

This place was made by God; a priceless holy place,
It is without fault.

(Gradual for commemorating the Dedication of a church.)

LU Music Scholars

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This is the promise of God in the rainbow: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

People: **For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.**

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

Leader: Today we celebrate a Festival of the Church Seasons:

People: Blue Advent – a time of expectation and hope;

Leader: Christmas and the miracle of Immanuel - God among us and one of us;

People: White Epiphany, when the light shines and spreads to all the dark corners of our world;

Leader: Purple Lent, when we encounter and confess the darkness inside of us;

People: Shining Easter - the fear and bonds of death are broken and darkness flees in the bright dawn of Resurrection;

Leader: Red Pentecost, when Christ's Spirit touches us like a sheet of rain, a gathering fire, a joyous party, and the gentle descent of a dove.

People: Thank you, God of all times and colors and seasons. May your blessings surround through all the seasons of our lives.

All: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN #28**

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

GROSSER GOTT

CHILDREN'S SERMON / BIBLE PRESENTATION

Grace Bodoh, Casey Brahe, Evan James Gabbey, Aralise Eve Gingerich,
Mark Hallett, Ruth Hallett, Riley J. Handevitd, Lexi Kaitlyn Kons,
Ethan Mees, Laney Schmidt, Ellarie Scribner, Owen St. Clair

WORDS OF BLESSING

Congregation: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We hope as you read the Bible, you will bring not only your faith, but also your doubts and your questions, too. We promise to be a loving, supportive, listening and teaching community. We want you to grow with you in knowledge, faith, and love.

ADVENT: This first season of the Church year (beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ending on Christmas Eve) is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming," anticipating Christ, the Deliverer. Advent marks a time of hopeful anticipation.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 11:1-9 (OT p. 784)

ANTHEM: *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* (Psalm 24:7-10)

William Mathias

Sanctuary Choir

CHRISTMAS: This 12-day season celebrates the Incarnation of God and the realization of *Emmanuel* (“God is with us.”) While two of the gospels (Mark and John) skip the nativity story altogether and begin with Jesus’ ministry, Luke and Matthew present distinct versions of the narrative that we know and love today.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 2:1-15 (NT p. 71)

CAROL: *The Huron Carol*

setting, Howard Niblock

Premiere presentation, dedicated to our Sanctuary Choir

(see composer’s notes, p. 12)

EPIPHANY: We observe this season of Epiphany (*to make known*) from the twelfth day of Christmas (January 6) until Ash Wednesday. It celebrates the manifestation of Christ to the wide world, inclusive of all people.

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-7 (OT p. 844)

*HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus the Light of the World)*

ELDERKIN

(see bulletin, p. 9)

LENT: In much the same way that Advent is a period of preparation for the Incarnation, Lent is a time of preparation for the Resurrection, focusing on repentance and our need for God’s grace. The 40 days of Lent have rich symbolic meaning (Moses, Noah, Jesus in the desert), and span from Ash Wednesday through Easter, without counting Sundays.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalms 51: 1-14 (OT p. 640)

ORATORIO CHORUS: *See What Love* (from *St. Paul*)

Felix Mendelssohn

(I John 3:1)

HOLY WEEK: Lent concludes with Holy Week, starting with Palm Sunday and continuing with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. *Maundy* is derived from the Latin word *mandatum* meaning “commandment,” recalling not only the Last Supper but Jesus’ last commandment to his disciples: “love one another as I have loved you.”

UNISON SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 3:2:1-11

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

(continued on next page)

Who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

ANTHEM: *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears*

Orlando Gibbons

First setting: Sanctuary Choir Second setting: LU Music Scholars

EASTER: The greatest festival in the Church Year, this celebration of Christ's Resurrection continues for 50 days. The color of this season is festal white.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 15:51-58 (NT p. 216)

ORATORIO EXCERPT: *Messiah*

G. F. Handel

(I Cor. 15:54-57)

RECITATIVE: *Then Shall be Brought to Pass*

Hannah Jones, *mezzo-soprano*

DUET: *O Death, Where Is Thy Sting?*

Hannah Jones, *mezzo-soprano* Preston Parker, *tenor*

CHORUS: *But Thanks Be to God*

(Those gathered in person can place their offerings in the plates located at the back of the sanctuary. Those online invited to share 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 place your prayer requests in the basket on the chancel. You can also submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office or by email to a pastor for confidentiality.)

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.**

*EASTER RESPONSE #216 (Sung by ALL)

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

Stanzas 1 and 3

PENTECOST: Pentecost Sunday (50 days after Easter, *Pentecoste* meaning "fiftieth day" in Greek) borrows from the Jewish tradition of celebrating the harvest festival of *Shavout* 50 days after the feast of Passover. Our Christian tradition celebrates Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit (often symbolized with fire) to the church.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 4:23-31 (NT p. 148)

*HYMN: *Come Down, O Love Divine* (see bulletin, p. 10)

DOWN AMPNEY

*BENEDICTION

(Please be seated to receive the Choral Benediction Response.)

CHORAL RESPONSE

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Robert Lowry
arr. Matthew Culloton

POSTLUDE

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

tune by J. Wyeth
setting by Greg Scheer

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

LU Music Scholars

Hannah Jones, *mezzo-soprano*

Preston Parker, *tenor*

Lori Murphy, *violin*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

John Aaholm, *timpani*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

Happy Mother's Day! Please take a flower from the communion table floral arrangement and present it to a woman who has been of deep meaning to your life.



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

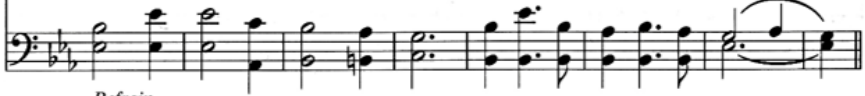
Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.; adapt. George D. Elderkin; alt.



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;



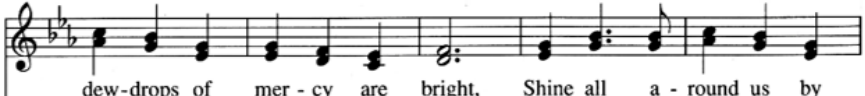
Glo-ry to the Christ-child bring, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Join the tri-umph of the skies, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Word, Je-sus, the light of the world.
Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je-sus, the light of the world.



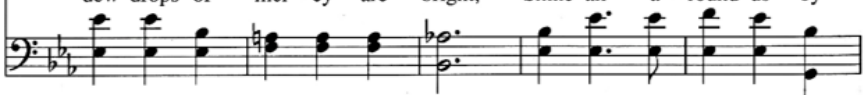
Refrain



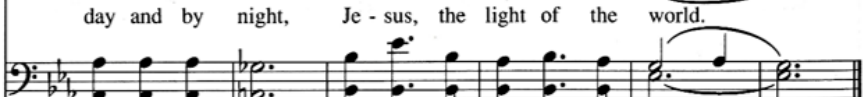
We will fol-low the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the



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

Come Down, O Love Divine

1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,

and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.

O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

TEXT: Bianco da Siena, c. 1367; trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867, alt.
MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

DOWN AMPNEY
6.6.11.D

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
Scott Baehman
Valerie Bales
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Aidan Bero
Clair Brown
Don Brittnacher
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Christine Calhoun and Paul Siket
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Colton and Misty, friends of Trudy Reilly
Lynn Cook
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
David Galow
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther
Ken Geiger
Dylan Glick
Norm Goodacre and family
Micki Guyette and her family
The Haberland family
Margaret Hankwitz
Judy Hanson
Ted Healey, father of Sue Toussaint
Maggie Hendrick

Steve and Pat Hirby's son, Mike
Ken Hocking
Bill Hordinski
Jean Jepson
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Michael and Peg Mathews upon the death of
Peg's father
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Debbie Pias, friend of Anne Sheridan
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Aria Arthur Schmidt, newborn grandson of
Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt
Larry Schiedermayer
Pat Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jim Sheetz
Jake Smasal
Mark Spindler
Cole Stoffel
Debra Stoner
Gloria Tate
Andrea Tatlock
Elsa Thiel
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Noel Townsend
Jean Van Wagenin
Tom Van Wyk
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Diane White
Sue Wisneski

The Huron Carol - Composer's Notes by Howard Niblock

May 8, 2022

"The Huron Carol," possibly the earliest Christmas carol to originate in North America, has an extremely complex and fascinating history.

Jean de Brébeuf, a Jesuit missionary who worked with and among the native Huron tribe in Canada during the early 17th century, created the song in the Huron language. The piece is occasionally known as "Jesous Ahatonhia" (Jesus is born), which was apparently the original title in Huron. The English text that appears in our hymnal dates from the 1920s. Jesse Edgar Middleton, a reporter for the Montreal *Herald*, wrote a very free "translation" of a French version (which itself differed from the original).

Middleton's English lyrics contain a curious and unsettling mixture of references, with God as the "mighty Gitchi Manitou" (actually the Algonquin and not the Huron name for God) and the Magi as "chiefs" whose gifts for the baby Jesus are fox and beaver pelts. The words are an especially beautiful fit for the melody, but I can well understand why many native North Americans find them patronizing and inappropriate. Speaking of the melody, it was taken from a French chanson ("Une Jeune Pucelle") that was already at least a century old in the early 1600s. The carol consequently exhibits the strict Ballad form (aab+refrain), a form that was especially common for a French chanson in the Medieval period. As you can see, this carol exhibits multiple influences from Native North American, French, and Canadian cultures spread over more than 500 years of history!

My arrangement attempts in several ways to reflect the tensions, mixtures, and ambiguities inherent in the piece and its history. The opening introduction exclusively uses harmonies based on 5ths and 4ths rather than 3rds, never establishing an actual key. Later, when the main melody enters it is altered at the very beginning, replacing the initial 4th with a 3rd (G#-B instead of F#-B). This weakens the feeling of B as tonal center; and in addition, cadences on that B are often harmonized with a G# minor triad, creating even more tonal ambiguity. Of course, given its origin in the Medieval period, the melody was modal rather than truly tonal anyhow; and in the 4th stanza I have loosely imitated the Medieval polyphonic practice of parallel organum (also based on 5ths and 4ths), but with a noteworthy change. Early organum took pains to avoid and eliminate tritone intervals (the "devil's interval"), whereas I have not only allowed them but actually emphasized them at many crucial moments throughout the setting.

Doing this both appropriates and distorts the deep cultural roots of what are essentially Western musical materials. To my mind this resembles the way the English text both appropriates and distorts the deep cultural roots of native North Americans. Most importantly, however, the blending and bending of various traditions ultimately underscores the primary significance of Jesus and his mission on earth: He came to serve all peoples!

Worship and Music

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

Save the Date!

Sunday, June 19

Be sure to reserve Sunday, June 19 for the celebration of Pastor Steve's ministry with us - along with all that Steve and Dee have brought to our church and the wider community! A presentation will follow the 9:30 AM service, after which a reception will be offered.

The planning committee asks that you RSVP for the reception so that an appropriate amount of food and beverage (and of course the traditional church sheet cake!) can be served.

Please sign up no later than May 22 via Realm, the sign-up sheet in the Narthex, or by calling the church office at (920) 733-7393.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Project NOAHH Needs List

Please take a look at the newest Project NOAHH (Neighbors Offering a Helping Hand) Needs List for Outagamie County clients. Note that new items are wonderful but are not requested. Gently used items are very welcome.

The Project NOAHH team is no longer able to move items to the families'

houses, so donors are responsible for arranging delivery of both large and small items. Thank you for helping families snuggle into their homes with your generous gifts!

Contact Penny Jane Strauss at PennyJane.Strauss@outagamie.org if you have any questions. Download the Needs List for May at:

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/NOAHH-list-of-needs.pdf>

Back Bay Mission Video

For the second in our series of monthly updates from our Mission Partners, we are sharing a 4-minute video from Back Bay Mission, a community ministry of the UCC.

First Congregational has been sending volunteers consistently to Biloxi since 1992 and this year we captured some of the nine 2022 volunteers in action. Back Bay Mission has been serving the Gulf Coast for 100 years!

Below is a link to the video, or you may watch it in the Narthex after the worship service on May 8.

<https://youtu.be/jYJOTBr--kM>

In case you missed it, last month we had a Mission Partner update from the College of Menominee Nation in which the first recipient from our scholarship talks about her life and goals. You can still view that on our YouTube site or at <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/mission-service/local-mission-projects/>.

Eagle Scout Project

Luke LaViolette is doing his Eagle Scout project for our church. He is updating and renewing the Labyrinth Garden as well as painting the shed and sign.

If you would like to donate for new plantings, please contact Luke or his mother, Elizabeth Melchert, at (920) 450-5935 or email elizabethm@new.rr.com. Thank you!

Administration

You Are Invited: Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, May 15 after worship
Fellowship Hall

Presentation of the Report from
Vandersall Consulting

Continental Breakfast Included

Next Sunday after worship, you are called to gather for a Town Hall Meeting in the Fellowship Hall to receive the Presentation of the Report from Vandersall Consulting. This report will be vital to this time of transition and the future of the church. It is based on the results of the congregation polling done in January and February, interviews with community partners, two leadership retreats, and conversations with our Vandersall Steering Committee and Church Council.

A continental breakfast will be enjoyed as we hear back from our consultants about what they found and what they suggest moving forward. There will be

time for questions, comments, and conversations.

God has richly blessed First Congregational through its proud history, skilled leadership, community focus, and deeply committed congregation. **Please plan to join us next Sunday in Fellowship Hall after our morning worship service!**

Your thoughts, commitment, and inspiration are needed as we transition into the future that God has dreamed for us.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Sunday, May 15

Would you like to put your love for others into actions? Putting love into actions is a call to us to help our neighbors, near and far, as we have the ability. The Apostle Paul reminds us, just as he did the Corinthians so long ago, that the greatest expression of our connection to others is the way we love them.

Your generous gift to One Great Hour of Sharing – United Church of Christ enables our church and our worldwide partners to make a difference in the lives and communities around the world. Together, we are responding to disasters, supporting sustainable farming, education, and health initiatives, as well as pitching in to assist people fleeing violence from their home communities.

We receive this offering with joy, believing that, with everything else going on in the world, love remains.