

*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 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/

July 3 Highlights at First Congregational

- July 4: Church Closed in Honor of Independence Day**
 - July 4: Lunchtime Organ Recital: Annual 4th of July Sing-a-long p.17**
 - July 6: Loving Acceptance Meditation Resumes in Upper Lounge p.15**
 - July 7: “Theo Group” Book Discussion p.15**
 - July 7: Monthly Meal Serving at Pillars p.18**
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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. 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

July 10, 2022 at 9:30 AM Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. Dave Harder
Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*
Lay Reader: Dave Frederick

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 3, 2022

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Rex Koury

Peace in Christ

N. Day

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

*WELCOME & GREETING

(During the greeting you are invited to greet one another by Passing the Peace by saying, "The Peace of Christ Be with you" and then replying, "And also with you.")

*INVITATION TO WORSHIP (bold in unison)

Leader: Come!

Come into the place where God listens!

Where you need no money, no status, no fine clothes!

All: Come as we are

Broken, whole

Sick, well

Satisfied or with deep needs

Leader: Come to sing

Come to cry

Come to hear

Come to see

Come and be ready or

Come to be made ready

All: We are here

God is here too.

*OPENING HYMN #531

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

AMERICA

CHILDRENS MOMENT

*UNISON GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:1-6 (NT, p. 86)

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. ² He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord

of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. ³ Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. ⁴ Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. ⁵ Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' ⁶ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.

SECONDARY SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 6:1-2 (NT, p. 233)

SUMMER CONVERSATIONS WITH LUKE

OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

The Greatest of These Is Love (from A New Creation)

Rene Clausen

1 Corinthians 13: 1-2, 4-8

(You are invited to place your tithes and offerings in the offering plates. If you prefer 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

Leader: We do not come to this table because we have the answers.

People: We are welcome as seekers, in need of healing and forgiveness.

Leader: We come because Jesus Christ invited us – all of us – not because of our power or righteousness, but because He loves us.

People: We come as Christ's guests to the heavenly banquet.

Leader: God in Christ breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves and divide us from one another.

People: We are the body of Christ. At this table, we embody our faith. The body broken is restored, the broken world is made whole.

PRAYERS OF PEOPLE

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.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

For the healing You have given us in Your presence expressed through bread and cup, we thank you. For the community with whom we share this meal, we thank You. For the courage and strength to follow Your way of love, we pray and we thank You. Send us forth from this place with new determination so that justice and peace might be lived out with Your gentleness. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #98

God of the Sparrow God of the Whale

ROEDER

St. 1- Soloist St. 2 - 6, ALL

*AFFIRMATION & CHALLENGE (in unison)

I believe in a Soft God.

I believe in a Soft God who cries and mourns with us for all the ways our lives have been violated or shattered or murdered or broken or unloved or erased.

I believe in Jesus, Soft God incarnate, who holds our breaths and breathes love back into our lungs and arteries when we no longer have the strength.

I believe in the Soft Spirit who - out of the depths - tenderly swings by to empower us in the sounds of our own voices, of our sorrows, of our cries and the Earth's, of our strengths.

I believe in a church that listens to the susurrus of the Earth, that feels the pain circulating in its body, that is not indifferent to violence, that believes in the cries of those who name violence.

I believe in the communion of ancestors and saints and sinners and creation, living and non-living, who have thoughts that feel and feelings that think. Communities that will not allow hate and intolerance to win, but who will come to the table hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder to move softly forward in radical joy and acceptance and hope and earthly togetherness. Amen.

* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Magnetic Rag

Scott Joplin

Thank you to all those who served in worship leadership this morning:

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

Rick Behm

Trish Brehm

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Rev. Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder, *Guest Preacher*

Matt Feuerhelm

Karen Gosse

Rev. Nick Hatch

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

Pat Nelson

Guest Preacher Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder



First Congregational welcomes Rev. Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder to the pulpit today. Rev. DiBiasio-Snyder served First Congregational Church, Oshkosh as a co-pastor with his spouse, Carol, for twenty-seven years before retiring in 2015.

In retirement he spends his time gardening, playing classical guitar, a little golf and making way more espresso than any one person should. He is also a writer of eulogies, with theeulogywriters.com.

Liturgical Resource: *Liturgies from Below: Praying with People at the End of the World*, by Cláudio Carvalhaes

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THE OPEN DOOR

July 3, 2022

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

Dee and I are thankful beyond measure for the wonderful and very moving celebration held on my last Sunday as your Senior Pastor. What you may have missed was the moment we opened the gift from the congregation to help us do some traveling. We both burst into tears, stunned by your generosity, and so deeply touched by your love.

I praise God for the many close and loving relationships I've had with so many of you in the church. I'm also conscious of those not-so-good relationships. Perhaps those relationships have suffered because of mistakes I made or because I had a style that simply didn't "work" for you. To you I say, come home. If I have been a stumbling block for you, then it's time now for you to come home to your church, a place and community that outlasts its leaders and transcends their failings.

It's tempting to use my last e-blast to offer you all some words of advice as you face the future. As one familiar with Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, however, the image of Polonius prattling on in well-meaning tedium to his children Laertes and Ophelia springs to mind and cautions me against such windy exercise. The truth is that I am no longer a part of this church's future. That future is for you and your Pastors and leaders to discern and for all of you to discover. I hope you understand that the church will need you more than ever during this time of transition.

As I say good-bye to you as your Senior Pastor, please know that we will still be friends with a bond of love that isn't broken by time or distance because it has been forged by God. May God's name be praised for this blessing. It is the blessing I cherish beyond all others bestowed on me in our fifteen years together.

Your friend and fellow person of faith,
Steve Savides



Introducing Rev. Susan Cartmell



It is with great excitement that the Interim Search team announces our new interim pastor, Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, to her calling at First Congregational Church.

Susan comes to us from the Congregational Church of Needham, MA. Needham is a Boston suburb. She served there as lead pastor for 18 years. While there, she wrote a book on preaching entitled, *Uncommon Preaching: An Alternative to the Lectionary* and has led workshops on preaching in New England and the Midwest. Most recently, Susan has interviewed fifty clergy from across the country about how the pandemic has affected them and their church. She is working on this research with her wife, the Reverend Peggy O'Connor, an experienced interim pastor, herself.

Susan is a graduate of Mount Holyoke College, Harvard Divinity School and Andover Newton Theological School. Susan has long been intrigued by the reputation of First Congregational Church of Appleton and by its progressive vision. She and Peggy are looking forward to moving to Appleton, learning more about our church and our community. Susan brings with her the enthusiasm and the calm that we need at this time of transition. Her experience with a church in transition will be valuable, and we thank God that she has been called to our church at this pivotal time in our history. Susan has already begun planning for our future with Pastor Nick and Pastor Laurie. You can learn more about Susan's work and see more pictures at susancartmell.com

Be watching for many opportunities to get to know Susan prior to her start on September 1. Susan is so excited to get to know our congregation and you will be seeing her soon in worship. Thank you all for your patience and steadfast love during this process of discernment while making the interim pastor selection.

The Interim Pastoral Search Committee,
Kris Hietpas, Chip Gabbey, Julie Gamm, Todd Needham, Tori Schultz, Cindi Ritcey-Fox

Our Summer and our Transition Plan

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray this letter finds you with a heart full of gratitude and trust in your journey of faith. It certainly is a season of change at First Congregational Church of Appleton (FCUCC). The Apostle Paul speaks about change in

2 Corinthians which is paraphrased here, saying *from now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view. See everything has become new! All this is from God who has given us the ministry of reconciliation and entrusted this message to us.* Paul was challenging the Corinthian church to experience his ministry and the works of Christianity through trusting and faithful hearts. This was his point - we all share together in this ministry because we are all ambassadors of the Christian faith and of our particular church. To this end we want to communicate some basic information that you can count on as a firm foundation for our life together and the future ahead.

1. First, our church has called Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell to serve as our Interim Senior Pastor. Pastor Susan will be working part-time, remotely, to cover important Head of Staff functions through the summer until joining us in-person and full-time August 28th. At that time Susan will become the primary preacher until her tenure here ends. There will be opportunities to meet her, virtually, in the near future.
2. Neither Pastor Nick nor Pastor Laurie will be serving as Interim Head of Staff. They have different callings, and we need them focused on their respective ministries for the purposes of rebuilding and re-energizing our congregation post covid. It is also appropriate that neither of our Associate Pastors assume Head of Staff roles in lieu of Steve's retirement, such as being the primary preacher. Staff needs time to process Pastor Steve's retirement, as do the members and friends of the church.
3. For the next eight weeks in summer worship, Pastor Nick or Laurie (or both!) will prepare and lead worship. For preaching we will have a mixture of guest preachers and sermons led by Vandersall Collective who are both ordained pastors.
4. At the invitation of Church Council, Vandersall Collective will be on-site for most of the month of July. Their purpose is to help us move forward with our important visioning work, equip and inspire our church and its leadership for our work ahead, and help research important information that is necessary for decision making. Their work will be highly relational and equipping. They will not be making decisions for us nor exerting undue influence in our visioning

process. There are more specifics about Vandersall's work and some FAQ in an attached sheet.

5. Vandersall Collective is being hired on a temporary consulting basis. They will not be assuming any temporary Head of Staff duties nor be considered for any permanent pastoral leadership positions at FCUCC.
6. There will be a weekly reflection time, after worship July 10, 17 and 24 where we as a church can bring our questions and reflect on emerging core values explored in sermon times.
7. The Settled Senior Pastoral Search team is hard at work meeting weekly and putting together the Church's Profile and establishing a Position Description. Our visioning work with our consultants will provide critical information for the Settled Senior Pastor Search Team. They hope to be advertising our Senior Pastor position by this fall. The shortest reasonable time frame until we have a permanent Senior Pastor is one year.
8. Council, Vandersall Collective and our lay team collaborating with them are committed to giving frequent updates so please check the bulletin and read your mid-week eblast.

There much going on and there is a lot of change taking place; but there are also things that we can count on that will stay the same. We can count on the continuation of a ministry that has lasted for over 150 years to be an inclusive and progressive light to the Fox Valley. We can count on wonderful worship and music, meaningful service and fellowship, a talented and devoted staff, a strong Children's and Youth Ministry, and a dedicated Church Council at the helm. We can count on our Interim Pastor Susan Cartmell to help steady our community and prepare us for the next new chapter.

In everything, we pray that we are honoring your individual role as an ambassador of faith with clear communication and upholding our congregational structure. We pray that even though some things about our future are unknown, we all take heart in the firm foundation that is in place that is *The Church of the Open Door*. We pray that as we move forward, we do so full of gratitude, trust, allowing opportunities for voices to be heard and questions to be raised, and room for the Spirit to Work. For this is our ministry of reconciliation to which we have been entrusted. Praise God for the ministry and mission of First Congregational!

In Faith and Trust,

The Church Council

Summer 2022 FAQs

What is Vandersall Collective?

Offering a radically human approach to reaching people; raising money; and reimagining the future, Vandersall Collective works with congregations and non-profits as they face the challenges of communicating, property, fundraising, and visionary, strategic work for a new era. The team from Vandersall Collective working with First Congregational is made up of Principal Consultant, Mieke Vandersall and Consultant Dave Harder. Mieke is also an ordained Presbyterian pastor, professional fundraiser, and deeply concerned about the future of the church. Dave is a church planner and works in the area of church and property.

What does it mean to explore with developers and city planners?

We are in the process of listening to the city as well as vetted, trusted property developers and other potential partners. It is important that any reimagining on the site is in alignment with the city plan as well as connects to the mission and objectives of the First Congregational. Any changes or plans will be considered and approved by the congregation at large.

What is a strategic filter? A strategic filter is a set of objective criteria that serves as a rubric for current and future strategic decisions.

Are we selling the building?

No. You have a beautiful building in a great location with lots of unused land that could be a benefit to the community as well as be a source of income to your mission. We are discovering what could be possible at the existing location.

Why are Dave and Mieke with us this summer?

To engage in the necessary work on the ground and be a presence on Sundays in July where we explore the emerging core values of the congregation.

What are Dave and Mieke's roles this summer?

Dave and Mieke come to us as consultants with a clear scope of work. They are to:

- Preach or coordinate preaching for four Sundays—with the possibility to explore emerging core values in worship and hear from community members;

- Continue the work with the steering team has done to define core values and our purpose;
- Explore that work with a larger circle of congregational stakeholders, including of course the Church Council;
- Turn our core values into a strategic filter for decision making;
- Work on a process for engagement with all our subcommittees and groups to consider the core values, purpose and strategic filter for the fall;

What is Rev. Susan’s role this summer? Rev. Susan Cartmell will be working part-time remotely, virtually, covering such things as Staff Meetings, Council, Finance, Stewardship, and HR. She is preparing our worship theme for the coming year. She will not be fully available to the wider church until late August.

What are Rev. Nick Hatch’s and Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright’s roles this summer? Rev. Nick Hatch is Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries. His focus is upon working with the new Director of Children’s and Middle School Ministries to prepare for the next program year’s ministry and reach out to families and encourage their participation. Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright is Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions. She will be focusing upon the spiritual nurture of our congregation and continue to resource and nurture our various service teams.

Who and what is the Steering Committee?

The Steering Committee was put in place in the fall of 2021 to understand more deeply the past and discern the future of First Congregational Church. They were led by Pastor Steve and the Vandersall Collective team. They underwent a series of interviews, retreats, and we heard from the congregation through a survey. The team also identified needs for growth in the wider Appleton community. Results were reported to the congregation in May 2022. The Steering Committee continues its work to deepen our core values, create a strategic filter and explore property usage. Steering Committee members meet regularly and it is composed of Georgia Bureau, Steve Hirby, Kris Hietpas, and Mike Radtke.

- Meet with community partners to explore needs for a community hub. Based on findings, recommend qualities that the search committee will explore for a new leader;
- Meet with city planners, developers, and others as we consider how our physical plant might be better utilized.

Who exactly is the church leadership? The church council consists of officers Kris Hietpas, Julie Gamm, Ted Lapine, and Kelly Fenton, along with co-councilors Jim Park, Wayne Lannoye, Mary Dees, Kevin Clavers, Shari Mitchell, Jill Smith, Nancy Brown-Koeller, Chip Gabbey, Ryan St. Clair, Rick Behm, Howard Niblock and standing committee members Kris Henke and Bill Ritcey. Kris Hietpas is the Council Moderator. These individuals are elected every two year and serve terms of two years or more. They are the governing body for the church.

Who is on the settled pastor search committee? The members of the settled pastoral search include Mike Radtke (Chair), Sandra Vanden Boogaard, Mary Ballerstein, Julie Gamm, Sophia Guttormsen, Bob Pagel, Marcus Lewis, Susan Robertson.

What is the timeline for the settled pastor search committee? The Settled Senior Pastoral Search team is hard at work meeting weekly and putting together the Church's Profile and establishing a Position Description. Our visioning work with our consultants will provide critical information for the Settled Senior Pastor Search Team. They hope to be advertising our Senior Pastor position by this fall. The shortest reasonable time frame until we have a permanent Senior Pastor is one year.

Where do I go with questions? For questions about the process exploring our core values and building usage, go to Kris Heitpas (Moderator of Council) or Julie Gamm (Vice Moderator). For questions about the process of Vandersall Collective contact Steve Hirby. For pastoral questions contact Pastor Nick or Pastor Laurie. For questions that should be answered by the Head of Staff save them for Rev. Susan. Cartmell in August. Consider bringing your questions to the Reflection time after worship on Sundays in July.

What can I do to help? Pray for the church and the ways we are discerning how we can live into our core values. Ask your questions to the leadership so that we are engaging in what is rather than what might be. Approach this time with a sense of love and trust as we seek our future together.

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.

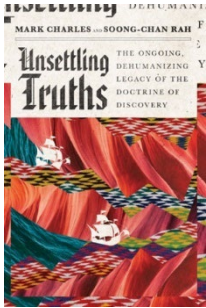
Jill Anthony's sister
Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl
Scott Baehman
Valerie Bales
Sherry Bassett
Paul Bauman
Katie Behl
Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister
Aidan Bero
Clair Brown
Don Brittnacher
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother
Christine Calhoun and Paul Siket
Dick Casperson
Steve Chapin
Colton and Misty, friends of Trudy Reilly
Lynn Cook
Dani, Fred's sister-in-law
Tom Dix
Jim Edwards
Erstad family friend, Silas and his family
Helen Joan Evans
Sary Farrell
Friend of Pat Severin
David Galow
Steve Gehrt, son of Esther
Ken Geiger
Dylan Glick
Norm Goodacre and family
Micki Guyette and her family
Margaret Hankwitz
Judy Hanson
Ted Healey, father of Sue Toussaint
Maggie Hendrick

Steve and Pat Hirby's son, Mike
Ken Hocking
Carol Huddleston and family
Jean Jepson
Sylvia King
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law
Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle
Bruce and Eenie Nissen on the death of Eenie's
brother
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Debbie Pias, friend of Anne Sheridan
Sharon Radke
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
Elsa Thiel
Jack Thiel
Peter Thiel
James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke
Jean Van Wagenin
Tom Van Wyk
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter
Diane White

Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,
knowing ourselves*

Book Discussion: *Unsettling Truths*, by Mark Charles and Soong-Chan Rah



On **Thursday, July 7**, First Congregational's Theology Discussion Group ("Theo Group" for short) will begin discussing its next book, *Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of*

the Doctrine of Discovery.

In this prophetic blend of history, theology and cultural commentary, Charles and Rah reveal the far-reaching, damaging effects of the Doctrine of Discovery. In the 15th century, official church edicts gave Christian explorers the right to claim territories they "discovered." This authority became the basis for a national framework that justifies American triumphalism, white supremacy, and ongoing injustices.

The result is a dominant culture that idealizes a history of discovery, opportunity, expansion and equality, while minority communities have been traumatized by colonization, slavery, segregation and dehumanization. The book will make you think hard about crucially important questions of Christian doctrine, American history

and God's standards of justice. Mark Charles spoke at First Congregational Appleton during worship on October 20, 2019. The sermon he gave then can be seen on YouTube at

<https://youtu.be/9-IDTGBfdgA>.

If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality, justice, and growth in faith, 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**, with some participants gathering in-person at Chefo's Pancake House in Kimberly and taking part via Zoom.

For more information about Theo Group, visit:

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/adult-ministries/study-groups/> or contact Steve Hirby through Realm or through the church office.

Loving Acceptance Meditation

**Resumes in person in the
Upper Lounge on July 6**

12:15-12:45 PM

Every Wednesday throughout the year

Also available via telephone conference: contact AI for the link at 920-284-8367.

We're excited to be entering our 13th year of this weekly meditation! Our 30-minute meditation over the lunch hour on Wednesdays focuses on loving acceptance of self, others, and the world. It is a way of "ending the war" with our experience, and placing our lives in God's Light to open us into true

relationship with ourselves, the people in our lives, and the world we live in.

Join us from 12:15 to 12:45 PM every week for this liberating and revitalizing experience.

- Albert Bellg

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service

Save the Dates for Summer Socializing!

Children's Sunday School will be for K-5 graders during the 9:30 AM worship service. 6-8 graders will attend Wednesday nights 6:30 PM-7:30 PM.

Our church school breaks will continue to follow the AASD's school calendar. The only change is that **our 6 graders are MOVING UP to Wednesday nights.**

Please register through Realm, by contacting Beck Fritsche at bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org, or contacting the main office at (920) 733-7393.

Youth entering 6-8 Grade

Wednesday, July 20, 5:30 PM-7:00 PM
S'mores and socializing at Sarah's home. More info to come - hopefully we can look at schedules and plan another gathering that night!

Children entering K-5 Grade

Sunday, July 24, 9:30 AM-10:30 AM at church. Crafts and socializing after the children's sermon.

PLEASE email or call with any questions or to introduce yourself. We can set up a meeting at church or a porch visit if you'd like. I would love to connect!

Sarah Wilterdink

Director for Children's and Middle School Ministries

swilterdink@firstcongoappleton.org

(920) 851-9559

CYF projects need help!

Would you be willing to help our CYF team with a few minutes of your time, in your own home, while watching your favorite show?? The below projects are super easy but time consuming for one person to do. Many hands make light work.

Markers

We are blessed to have a plethora of markers.

But which ones work after our Covid departures?

Will you help us determine which are still good

and recycle the rest, if you could?

Construction Paper

So much paper, thankfully bought and donated.

But we don't know where each color is located!

They're all mixed up in a great big stack

Can you please separate each color and bring them back?

Glue Bottles

Many glue bottles were opened pre-Covid
Are they too dried up to be used by a kid?
Please take some home and try them out.
Then we'll know which ones work, without a doubt!

These projects are sitting right inside the church doors. Stop in to grab a bucket or two during office hours OR email me and I will gladly drive them right to your front door! It would be such a help to have these supplies reorganized as we look forward to starting the next church school year in a (hopefully) more typical manner.

Thank you for considering!
Sarah Wilterdink
Director for Children's and Middle School Ministry

Worship and Music

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

Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays during the summer
12:15-12:45 PM

The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series returns to the Fox Valley this summer after a two-year hiatus in what will be its 25th anniversary season.

Recitals are held on Wednesdays from 12:15-12:45 PM throughout the summer

at local churches (see full schedule below). The concerts are free and open to the public. A free-will offering is taken to offset costs associated with the administration of the series, as well as to fund a scholarship program for new organists.

For more information, please visit <http://www.lunchtimeorganrecital.org>. Chapter information can be found at newago.org.



Daniel Schwandt

2022 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15-12:45 PM

- MONDAY, July 4 - Daniel Schwandt
Lawrence Univ. Memorial Chapel
- July 13 - Dr. Naomi Rowley
Faith Lutheran Church
- July 20 - Dr. Paul Weber
First United Methodist
- July 27 - Dr. Mark Paisar
St. Mary Catholic Church
Menasha

- **August 3 – Jeffrey VerKuilen,**
FAGO
First Congregational UCC
- August 10 – Donald Verkuilen
Zion Lutheran Church
- August 17 – Dr. Benjamin Stone
First English Lutheran Church
- August 24 – Blake Doss
First Presbyterian Church
Neenah

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Meal Serving at Pillars

Thursday, July 7

This month's Pillars warming shelter meal will be on Thursday, July 7. Please share generously of your cooking / serving talents or donation of food for this meal for our community's homeless neighbors.

Below please find the link to sign up to help. Questions - please feel free to contact Chris Danz 920.428.7412.

Thanks in advance for your help with this ongoing mission project!

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_qiPI5oLqTivpnN3AR1JMF3KH7WNc21iQxm_ye6Ijls/edit?usp=sharing_eil_m&ts=62b3b1e8

Volunteers Needed at LEAVEN

For 35 years LEAVEN has assisted people in our local community in

financial crisis who have basic needs that cannot be met elsewhere.

Although services were provided remotely for over half the year, LEAVEN responded to 4,216 requests for assistance from 3,233 unique households in 2021. On a daily basis, LEAVEN depends upon 20-25 volunteers serving in various roles for 3-4 hour shifts to meet the needs of our clients.

LEAVEN receptionists greet clients and visitors, answer phones and schedule client appointments. Interviewers meet directly with clients to complete the electronic LEAVEN intake process for anyone requesting financial assistance. LEAVEN caseworkers investigate, document and verify client requests for assistance.

Would you consider joining our group of generous, compassionate, hard-working volunteers? LEAVEN volunteers must be 18 or older and serve between the hours of 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Mondays, and 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Tuesday-Friday at our office in Menasha. Contact Kiara West at kiara.west@leavenfoxcities.org or (920) 257-5696 for more information.