

*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/

July 31 Highlights at First Congregational

TODAY:	Collecting Donations for Pine Ridge (through August 3)	p. 14
August 3:	Lunchtime Organ Recital with Jeffrey Verkuilen	p. 12
August 4:	Monthly Meal Serving at Pillars	p. 13
August 5-7:	Menominee Nation 2022 Pow-Wow	p. 14
August 7:	Kathryn Kuhn Memorial Fund Video	p. 13
August 14:	“ALL-CALL” Summer Choir	p. 11
August 24:	Music for Food Concert	p. 12-13

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

August 7, 2022 at 9:30 AM Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Rev. John McFadden
Scripture Reading: Luke 20:27-33
Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Joel Jicha, *bass*; John Aaholm, *marimba*
Lay Reader: Karen Gosse

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 31, 2022

9:30 AM

PRELUDE

In Memoriam, Op. 71 No. 3

Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

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 (in unison)

Psalm 24:3-6

³ Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?

And who shall stand in the Lord's holy place?

**⁴ Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false
and do not swear deceitfully.**

**⁵ They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from the God of their salvation.**

**⁶ Such is the company of those who seek the Lord,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin, p. 6)

Hope of the World

DONNE SECOURS

Stanza 1 – *soloist* Stanzas 2-5, ALL

*UNISON GOSPEL READING

Luke 14:16-24

¹⁶ Then Jesus said to him, "Someone gave a great dinner and invited many.

¹⁷ At the time for the dinner he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is ready now.' **¹⁸ But they all alike began to make excuses.**

The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land, and I must go out and see it; please accept my regrets.' **¹⁹ Another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please accept my regrets.'** **²⁰ Another said, 'I have just been married, and therefore I cannot come.'** **²¹ So the slave returned and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the town and bring in the**

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame.’ ²² And the slave said, ‘Sir, what you ordered has been done, and there is still room.’ ²³ Then the master said to the slave, ‘Go out into the roads and lanes, and compel people to come in, so that my house may be filled. ²⁴ For I tell you, none of those who were invited will taste my dinner.’ ”

MEDITATION

MUSICAL OFFERING

If With All Your Hearts from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn

(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).

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

MUSICAL REFLECTION

(During our musical reflection you may enter into a time of individual prayer with God, or you are welcome to turn to a neighbor and ask them about their joys & concerns and pray for them. Do what feel comfortable & genuine. Once the musical reflection ends, we will join in the Lord’s prayer together. Also, you are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, 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.**

*CLOSING HYMN #454

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

*AFFIRMATION & CHALLENGE (in unison)

**Let us move with gratitude away from needing to know exactly what happens next.
Let us move with curiosity toward a path that only God can imagine for us.
Let us move with trust that our foundations are strong and believing the promises
that in Christ all things become possible. Amen.**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Gott sei gelobet und gebenedeiet (O Lord, we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee)

Heinrich Scheidemann (1595-1663)

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

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Rick Behm and the A/V team

Faye Binsfeld, *lay reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Matt Feuerhelm, *A/V Coordinator*

Dave Harder, *guest preacher*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet (pre-recorded)*

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright, *Pastor for Congregational Care and Mission*

Cathy Paynter and the Usher team

Dylan Schang, *tenor*

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Dave Harder is the owner and Principal Consultant of Parish Properties, and Associate at Trinity Centres Foundation. He has over 20 years of pastoral experience and executive leadership experience in the religious nonprofit arena. Dave convenes ministry leaders, teaches, and consults with organizations seeking human flourishing in particular neighborhoods and leveraging land and buildings for sustainable mission, community impact and long-term financial sustainability.

Dave loves his city, Ottawa, and can be found curating conversations at local coffee shops, scheming new social initiatives that seek human flourishing or engaging the deeper spiritual longings of his neighbors. You can learn more about Dave and Parish Properties at <https://www.parityproperties.ca>.

Stanza 1 - soloist
Stanzas 2-5, ALL

Hope of the World



1 Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com - pas - sion:
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
4 Hope of the world, who by thy cross didst save us
5 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent;
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
show - ing to wan - dering souls the path of light:
from death and deep de - spair, from sin and guilt:
who by this sign didst con - quer grief and pain:



save us, thy peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
still let thy Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
we ren - der back the love thy mer - cy gave us;
we would be faith - ful to thy gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
to heal earth's wounds and end our bit - ter strife.
lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.
take thou our lives and use them as thou wilt.
thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er reign!

This winning entry by a groundbreaking woman theologian was selected from over five hundred others in a search for a hymn to be used at the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Evanston, Illinois, in October 1954. The theme of the assembly was "Jesus Christ, Hope of the World."

TEXT: Georgia Harkness, 1954
MUSIC: Genevan Psalter, 1551
Text © 1954, ren. 1982 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

DONNE SECOURS
11.10.11.10

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THE OPEN DOOR

July 31, 2022

“On Curiosity” – A Message from Rev. Susan Cartmell



There is an ad on Public Television for Viking Cruises. The CEO, Torstein Hagen, founder of Viking, talks about his childhood and the values his family instilled in him. As pictures flow of his Norwegian family, he mentions the qualities instilled in him as a child, kindness, honesty, hard work, to which he adds a fourth, curiosity. With his deep Norwegian brogue, he tells us to be curious about the world around us, its history and culture and travel with an open mind and heart. It is a great ad for selling luxury cruises. Whether you are taking a trip on a river cruise, or a family vacation or a mission trip, curiosity is an essential quality. Hagen is right that on all the journeys of life we should go with an open mind and heart.

Along life’s path, it’s curiosity that makes the trip an adventure. Curiosity inspires us to take the detours that only come along once in a while. Curiosity leads us to engage in conversations that help us get to know a stranger. Whether you are miles away or home studying your family’s genealogy, it is curiosity that keeps life fresh and fascinating. Those who are curious about life will age, but they never seem to grow old. Curiosity keeps them young.

These days there is a lot to be curious about. Curiosity is one of the core values of this church. This summer it may feel like there are more questions in the air than usual. What will the Vandersall Collective discover? What will the fall be like? What new journeys will God be calling us to explore in the months ahead? I hope we can look to this future with curiosity. When curiosity is our guiding principle, it changes us and how we face the future.

My wife Peggy O’Connor and I have had an adventure this year, led largely by our own curiosity. In the spring of 2021, we led some clergy workshops on preaching and discovered many of our colleagues wanted to talk about their adventures leading churches during the pandemic. They told us about the challenges they faced, how they figured out online worship, how they kept their people together. They also talked about how this experience of the last two years has changed them as pastor. So, we decided to explore this topic with more clergy and set up a process for interviewing 50 clergy from six Protestant denominations. We built a website and talked to people from Rhode Island to Alaska, Florida to California. We heard so

many stories of courage, determination and creativity as church leaders navigated this crisis.

With each interview we felt like explorers, ourselves. We did not know what these pastors would say. So, we listened intently and carefully. We were often surprised at the grit of these church leaders and heartened by their devotion to their congregations. It felt like a real privilege to hear their stories.

There is still so much we don't know about this COVID 19 pandemic, and it is stressful when we don't have enough answers. But each day we have a choice about how to approach what lies ahead. If we can practice the discipline of curiosity and stay open to the surprises planted in each new adventure, somehow, it's a different experience.

During the six months of our interviews, we were humbled in those conversations by how the Church of Christ has been challenged and changed by this pandemic. Even the brightest of our colleagues had more questions than answers. We learned that as the Church of Christ evolves through this hinge moment in history, we need one another, and we need to listen to each other with open minds and deep wells of curiosity.

Core values are only as strong as our commitment to them. But I believe that curiosity will be a key component in shaping our vision. So, stay curious about the world, about one another, about strangers, and about the Church as we look to the future.

Blessings,

Pastor Susan Cartmell
Interim Senior Minister

Our Summer and Transition Plan

- 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 28. 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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. More specifics about Vandersall's work and some **FAQ's can be found at:**
<https://files.constantcontact.com/17b433b2701/975d27ed-d728-4491-88fc-467a9fc976d9.pdf>
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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!

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
Heidi Mendonca Erstad
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 Scheurman
Drew Michyeta, Eilene Hoft-March's uncle
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto
Sharon Radke
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher
Aria Arthur Schmidt, newborn grandson of
Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt
Jan Scheibe
Larry Schiedermayer
Pat Severin
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Jim Sheetz
Jake Smasal
Mark Spindler
Joni and Rod Sternhagen
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

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service

Confirmation 2022-2023

Hello Parents of Future Confirmands!

We're extending this invitation for your high school youth to join us in the 2022-2023 Confirmation experience at First Congregational! I hope you are excited; truly this will be an enriching time with many opportunities for you and your child to grow in your relationships and faith.

All enrolled in grade 9 or higher are welcome. Please contact Beck at (920) 851-4518 or email bfritsche@firstcongoappleton.org with any questions. Registration packets have been mailed, but are also available online at <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/children-youth-families/confirmation/>

We look forward to our time together and the memories we share!

In Christ,
Pastor Nick Hatch



Worship and Music

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

Save the date for "ALL-CALL" SUMMER CHOIR

August 14, 8:30 AM rehearsal

All vaccinated adults, youth & children are invited to praise God in our "All-Call" Summer Choir on Sunday morning, August 14! We will gather at 8:30 AM in the Sanctuary to rehearse an anthem and hymns for the 9:30 AM service. Dress is comfortable and casual; all First Congregational friends & members are welcome! To help with music planning, please let me know as soon as possible that you plan to participate, by e-mailing me at: jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org or by calling my direct line at church at (920) 851-8097.

We look forward to singing with YOU!
John M. Albrecht
Director for Music Ministries



Summer Choir from July 2021

Lunchtime Organ Recital Series

Wednesdays, 12:15–12:45 PM

- August 3 – Jeffrey Verkuilen
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

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

Jeffrey Verkuilen Organ Recital

Wednesday, August 3

12:15-12:45 PM

First Congregational UCC



Jeffrey Verkuilen serves as Organist and Sanctuary Choir Director at First United Methodist Church in Green Bay, as well as diocesan liturgies for

the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay.

He provides organ instruction as an Adjunct Instructor of Music for St. Norbert College and is an active member of the American Guild of

Organists (AGO), for which he has earned his Fellowship, the highest level of certification in the Guild.

Jeff serves the AGO on the national Finance and Development Committee. Formerly, he was the Competition Coordinator and Education Coordinator for the North Central region. He is a past Dean of the Northeastern Wisconsin Chapter and served as the chairperson when the chapter hosted the 1997 regional convention.

Jeff is an honors graduate of St. Norbert College with majors in Accounting and Music (organ and choral emphases) and is an MBA honors graduate from the University of Wisconsin - Oshkosh. He is the owner and president of Verkuilen & Associates CPAs, Inc. in Green Bay, and is a certified public accountant.

Jeff lives in Howard and is happily married to Karen; they are proud parents of two grown children, John and Katherine (Katie).

Music for Food Concert

August 24

Music for Food is a nonprofit organization that uses concerts to generate funds for food pantries; turning the ineffable into the tangible. In this time of pandemic that has revealed and exacerbated devastating imbalances in our society's distribution of resources, musicians can still use their art to combat the food insecurity crisis.

Piano students from Lawrence University have generously donated

their talents to create a beautiful video program. The program allows for on-line donations directly to a food pantry; the concert stays up for several weeks after the initial release.

Additional details and a link to the program are coming soon.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Monthly Meal Serving at Pillars

Thursday, August 4

Thank you to Chris Danz for leading the team of volunteers providing and serving the evening meal at **Pillars Adult Shelter** on July 7.

Continuing our first Thursday of the month commitment, FCUCC will serve the evening meal at **Pillars Adult Shelter** on August 4. Our menu will be E2F Pans of soup along with pulled chicken sandwiches, salad and dessert. Thank you to everyone who participates in creating these pans, the clients at the shelter love the soup!

We would love to have you join us. Please check out the sign-up sheet below to volunteer to provide food items or to come and help serve.

For questions, please contact Shelley Nulton at snulton@att.net or (920) 202-4419.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eJXNfPb2Lw_1ndBQvMBnCb4DQVlyPW1mLwoHH5tYsXI/edit#gid=0

Kathryn Kuhn Memorial Fund

Our hearts still grieve, yet we also live in gratitude for the opportunity to have been part of Kathryn's life. On Sunday, August 7 we will celebrate the Kathryn Kuhn memorial fund. The fund was established to support theology and faith formation scholarships for women in Kenya and/or educational support within the Kenya Partnership.

Join us after worship on August 7 in the Chapel as we share a video of testimonials that will also be shared with recipients of the scholarships, so that they may know who Kathryn was and the legacy they will carry on through their lives. Share your stories with us as well, as we remember Kathryn!

Petition for Brothertown Nation Restoration

Wisconsin has 12 indigenous tribal nations. One of these tribes -The Brothertown Indian Nation - is not Federally recognized, even though this Christian Indian Nation was for many years treated as a sovereign nation by the United States Government.

They had purchased land from the Oneida Nation in New York and established a Brothertown, New York, but were forced to move to unimproved land east of Lake Winnebago. There they built another town and established the first Methodist Church in the state of Wisconsin.

A Supreme Court decision in 1823 encoded the Doctrine of Discovery into

American Law. This decision said that Indigenous People had the right of occupation but not to ownership of their land. The Brothertown nation agreed to give up their Tribal sovereignty to stay in Wisconsin. In 1839, the Brothertown Nation became US Citizens and lost their Tribal recognition. More than half of the reservation was sold off to incoming immigrants from Europe.

Today the Brothertown Indian Nation is asking to have their tribal sovereignty restored. This is not a handout - they are only asking to be recognized as the Indigenous Christian Nation they have always been. **There is a petition in the Narthex with additional information on these good people, our neighbors. Please check it out and if the spirit moves you to sign, bless you.** This would not be justice for the Brothertown Nation, but it would be a start. Contact Phil Gabrielson with any questions: pgabrielson51@gmail.com.

Donation Requests: Pine Ridge

Our congregation will be represented by a small group of volunteers working with our partner, Re-Member, on Pine Ridge reservation, August 5-12. We invite you to participate in our work by donating personal care products and school supplies. A complete list of the items requested can be found at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/17b433b2701/44402ad3-bb28-43d0-bf41-cf791031bb29.pdf>

Please bring your donations to the church between July 18 and August 3.

Look for the donation box in the Narthex. Questions? Please contact Eilene Hoft-March, (920) 735-0166 or Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu.

Menominee Nation 2022 Pow-Wow

August 5-7

Woodland Bowl, Keshena, WI

First Congregational UCC-Appleton generously supports a scholarship for each semester at College of Menominee Nation. The college has kindly extended a blanket invitation to attend the Menominee Nation 2022 Pow Wow August 5-7 in the beautiful Woodland Bowl at Keshena. For complete details of the event including admission costs, download the flier at:

<https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/2022/07/menominee-nation-2022-pow-wow/>.

Plant a Row

Our Plant-a-Row location at 1465 Opportunity Way has already yielded over 600 pounds of produce including peppers, carrots, beets, peas, lettuce, zucchini, yellow squash and cucumbers. A special thank-you to Lyle for building a compost bin!

