

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

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## **Donating to First Congregational UCC**

If you are enrolled in automatic contributions, you may still participate in the weekly offering by submitting a Giving Card, found in the pews. Pledge cards are available in the pews and may be placed in the offering plates at any time. Checks can also be mailed to the church.

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

## **References to God**

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

## **Land Acknowledgement**

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

## **Online Streaming and Podcasting**

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on Facebook.com/FCUCCAppleton or at: [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream)

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

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

## **Hearing Loop**



There is a color-coded map by the AV desk at the back of the Sanctuary if you'd like to find out where you can get the best reception using our hearing loop.

If you have any questions, ask one of the ushers to help you.

# December 11 Highlights at First Congregational

<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Christmas Music of Scandinavia</b>	
<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Poinsettia Sunday.....</b>	<b>p. 16</b>
<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Back Bay Shrimp Sale .....</b>	<b>p. 15</b>
<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Advent Bible Study with Pastor Mary Jo, 11:00 AM.....</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>TODAY:</b>	<b>Children’s Choir Rehearsal, 10:30 AM</b>	
<b>December 14:</b>	<b>Advent Dinner, 6:00 PM .....</b>	<b>p. 14</b>
<b>December 14:</b>	<b>Youth Handbells, 5:45 PM (Sanctuary)</b>	
<b>December 14</b>	<b>Sanctuary Choir, 7:00 PM (Sanctuary/Choir Room)</b>	
<b>December 14:</b>	<b>Bible Study with Pastor Susan, 6:30 PM (Chapel)</b>	
<b>December 15:</b>	<b>Taizé Worship Service, 6:00 PM (Chapel).....</b>	<b>p. 15</b>

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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. Our next Baptism Sunday is December 18.

If you would like to be baptized or have a child baptized, please request a baptism registration form from the church office or download and print one from [www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism](http://www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship/baptism). Please return baptism registration forms to the church office a month ahead of your desired baptism date.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 11, 2022

9:30 AM

*Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor*  
*Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries*  
*Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Interim Associate Minister for Congregational Life*

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## PRELUDE

*When Jesus Christ Was Born of Mary*

Jean-François Dandrieu (1682-1738)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

## RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

## WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES – HOPE, PEACE & LOVE

Todd & Julie Thiel

## INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

One: Love's memory is long. As we come to the third Sunday of Advent, we recall the many times we have been here before,

**All: with still so much to do and so much love left unexpressed.**

One: The Hebrew Bible lesson today recalls a promise to King David, which the church has often understood to be fulfilled in the birth of Jesus. Love's promise is often kept in unexpected ways.

**All: God's love endures forever. In a world where even evergreens turn dry and brittle, God's love is the one reality on which we can rely. Today we prepare for the greatest expression of that love, as we listen once more for the Word in the words of the Prophet Isaiah.**

### Old Testament Scripture: Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

\* Please rise, in body or in spirit

**All: God's love endures forever. Through acts as simple and common as the birth of a baby, God transforms the world, and God's promises are kept. It is that expression of faithful love we anticipate and celebrate today. It is that promise that brings light to our deepest night...even now as we wait, we dare to hope...we yearn for peace... and we share love.**

One: We hold our hopes high as we light the first candle, naming it "Hope." We choose to be a peaceful presence as we light the second candle calling it "Peace." We light the third candle in eager anticipation of God's greatest promise fulfilled. What else can we do but name this candle: "Love?"

**Response sung by ALL** (see bulletin, p. 11)

*Light the Candle of Love*

Carl Schalk

**OPENING HYMN #119** (Please stand on cue, following the string introduction.)

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

PICARDY

arr. Chad Fothergill

**St. 1 - ALL St. 2 - Choir, only St. 3 - ALL in canon St. 4 - ALL**

## CHILDRENS MINISTRY

*At this time the children are invited to either stay in the worship service to enjoy our musical presentation or are welcome to go to the CYF building for children's ministry.*

## ANTHEM

*The Rose*

Ola Gjeilo

(Norwegian composer, b. 1978)

The lily has a smooth stalk, will never hurt your hand;  
But the rose upon her brier is lady of the land.  
There's sweetness in an apple tree, and profit in the corn;  
But the lady of all beauty is a rose upon a thorn.  
When with moss and honey she tips her bending brier,  
And half unfolds her glowing heart, she set the world on fire.

(Christina Rossetti, 1830 - 1894)

## INVITATION TO OFFERING

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Ecce Novum*

Ola Gjeilo

*Ecce, novum gaudium,  
Ecce, novum mirum!  
Virgo parit filium,  
Quae non novit virum.  
Sed ut pirus prium*

*Gleba fert papyrus  
Florens liliū.  
Ecce, quod natura  
Mutat sua iura!  
Virgo parit pura  
Dei filium.*

Behold, a new joy,  
Behold, a new wonder!  
A Virgin, who knew not a man,  
Bears a son.  
She knew not a man, but as the pear tree bears the  
pear,  
The flourishing papyrus brings  
The lily from the soil.  
See how nature  
Changes her laws!  
A pure virgin bears  
The son of God.

(Trad. Latin Text from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582)

(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).

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE & READING

Luke 1:26-38 (NT, p. 1)  
Rev. Nick Hatch

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## EXTENDED CHORAL WORK

*The Three Kings*

Anders Öhrwall

(Swedish composer and conductor, 1932 - 2012)

Sanctuary Choir, Narrators, and Orchestra

### 1. **Nobis est natus**

*Nobis est natus hodiā  
de pura virgine  
Rex victoriā, victoriā.*

*Videmus stellam ejus in Oriente  
et veni, venibus*

*cum numeribus adorare Dominus.  
Alle, alle, alleluja, alle, alle, alleluja.*

*Alle, alle, alleluja!*

*Amen.*

To us is born today  
from a virgin pure,  
The king of victory.

We have seen the star in the East  
And are come to adore the Lord.

## 2. Merry Christmas (Goder afton)

Merry Christmas, merry Christmas, all together we sing!  
Merry Christmas, merry Christmas, all together we sing!  
The season is here when we all wish to bring the joyous news of Jesus,  
and all the bells will ring!

In Bethlehem's manger so wondrous a boy, in Bethlehem so peaceful  
was born a baby boy.

A star shining bright lit the heavenly sky.  
Come join the holy chorus when the angels sing with joy!  
Let your voice join the chorus to praise the Lord on high!

## 3. God's Own Band (Hovkapellet upp i höjden)

Angels sang with heav'nly voices, shepherds listened when Christ was born.  
Praise to Jesus praise and glory on this holy Christmas morn'!  
Glory, glory, glory, glory to our God on high, to God on high!  
Praise to Jesus, praise and glory on this holy Christmas morn'!

Listen to the joyous singing! Hear the beauty in each voice!  
Band of angels, trumpets ringing, God's own chorus will rejoice.  
Now descending, all elated, band of angels tuning in.  
Heavenly chorus is created: Angels, shepherds, all begin!

## 4. Three Wise Men (Tre vise män)

Fa la la. . .

*Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo.*      Glory to God in the Highest.  
*et in terra pax hominibus, bonæ voluntatis!* And on earth, peace to all those of good will.

In a manger in a stable, a mighty wonder came to be.  
There a Savior, Lord Jesus was born for all people to see.  
Then the Kings started their journey, and in the sky above was a star.  
Their hearts full of gladness, they traveled days and nights from afar.  
Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, Deo!

They were kings led by a mission, they carried frankincense and gold;  
precious gifts from their tradition among the gifts they would unfold.  
And the star twinkled to guide them, its dazzle bringing hope and delight.  
They arrived at a stable in little Bethlehem one night.  
Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, Deo!

Little Jesus, sweet baby was born on straw in a lowly shed,  
With oxen and donkeys to keep watch 'round his bed.  
The kings knelt around him when bringing gifts to their king.  
All the world will praise Jesus, and all the bells in heaven will ring!

Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, Deo.  
et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis!  
Gloria, gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo, Deo, Deo, Deo.

### **5. Mary, Holy Virgin (Maria, helga jungfrun)**

Three kings who heard the news of joy, there's born today a baby boy,  
went to find Lord Jesus.

A holy star shone high above to guide them on to Bethlehem.  
"Christ, now come release us!" Joyous news for them!

Holy Mary in the faintest light was holding baby Jesus tight,  
starlight so bright above them.

The royal gifts to Jesus fair were precious stones for him to behold  
lending light from heaven, light of purest gold.  
For all that's graced by God's own love  
gives us daily pleasure from the Lord above.

### **6. King Herod (Kung Herodes)**

King Herod was ruling in the land of the Jews.  
King Herod was cruel, he was a cruel and angry king!  
With all his might he did declare he wished to kill sweet Jesus fair.  
King Herod was cruel, he was a cruel and angry king!

King Herod commanded with thunderous noise  
his soldiers to slaughter all newly born boys.  
His killing sword was in his hand and by his side another he rode  
in search throughout the land for Jesus and his Mother!  
King Herod was cruel, he was a cruel and angry king!

Oh Herod, the tyrant, a cold-hearted king,  
How save to spill all the innocent blood!  
How cruel to threaten the Sweet Lamb of God!

### **7. Mary and Joseph (Maria och Josef)**

Mary and Joseph, hand in hand, fled with haste 'cross the desert sand.  
"God, please guide us to the land of Paradise", pray Joseph and sweet Mary.

"Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me hold our child divine.  
God's reward to all that's thine in Paradise", so prays the Virgin Mary.

"Gladly Mary, lady mine, I will hold this child of thine.  
God's own light on us will shine in Paradise", as prays the Mother Mary.  
Holy, holy, Lord on high in Paradise, eternal hope and glory!

## 8. Praise God in All Lands (Prisa Gud i alla land)

Holy kings came one night bringing gifts of delight to a child, so meek and mild.  
Christ our Saviour Jesus dies for us and frees us.  
To him praise, praise, praise; to him praise, praise; to him praise alone:  
Christ our Saviour Jesus.

Praise the Lord on high above!  
All rejoice: God is Love!  
For to us Jesus Christ by grace lending; faith to us you're sending.  
To Thee, praise, praise, praise! To Thee, praise, praise!  
To Thee praise, oh Lord, praise and love unending!  
Amen!

## CLOSING PRAYER & GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, email to a pastor for confidentiality.)

### 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 #137

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN  
arr. David Willcocks

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*Angels from the Realms of Glory*

tune by Henry T. Smart

*For Unto Us a Child Is Born from Messiah*

G. F. Handel  
setting by Edwin C. Johnson



## TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir (see below)

Narrators: Heather Hallett, Joel Jicha, Jennifer Kosloski, Bill Lenz

Orchestra (see next page)

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

### Sanctuary Choir (active roster) Fall, 2022:

#### Soprano

Dana Abbo\*

Kristy Albrecht

Cheryl Benzschawel

Joni Conrad

Emma Eggen

Kelly Gingerich

Kris Glenn

Heather Hallett

Allison Juarez Wunderlin \*✓

Elizabeth Keggi

Gale Korth

Jennifer Kosloski

Elaine Lewellyn

Meredith Plamann

Tanvi Thatai\*

#### Alto

Marilyn Askari

Marlessa Benson

Carman Danz

Ellen Darcourt

Sam Dill\*

Cheryl Foster

Pat Hansen

Tami Johnson

Casey Kollman\*✓

Karen Leigh-Post

Elizabeth Melchert

Shelley Nulton

Nancy Stanelle

Ann Stein

Beth Vercouteren

Phyllis Zeiss

#### Tenor

David Cook

Paul Eggen

Ben Keating\*✓

Preston Parker\*

Adam Piepenburg

Roger Spindler

Bernie Wydeven

#### Bass

Daniel Boyd\*✓

Max De May

Phil Gabrielson

Terry Gottfried

Steve Hirby

Joel Jicha

Bill Lenz

Joel Schlabach

Quinn Vincent\*

Skip Wilson

\* LU Music Scholars

✓ LU Music Scholars singing in this service

**Orchestra:**

Greg Austin and Lori Murphy, *violins*

Matthew Michelic, *viola*

David Veum, *cello*

Mark Urness, *bass*

Beth Kinzel, *flute*

Leslie Outland Michelic, *oboe*

Theresa Martin, *clarinet*

Susan McCardell, *bassoon*

Bruce Atwell, *horn*

Victoria Daniel, John Aaholm, and Kristen Henke, *percussion*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

John Albrecht, *Director*

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**Upcoming Worship Schedule**

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*; Children's Choir; Youth Handbells;  
Sanctuary Choir

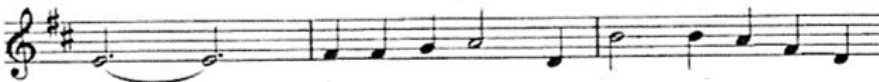
An Advent Candlelighting Carol  
**Light the Candle**

Jaroslav J. Vajda  
Gently  
*p*

Carl Schalk



Light the can-dle of LOVE to-day, the Gi-ver of love is



here! \_\_\_\_\_ Wel-come the love we live and die for, but



on - ly Christ can give. \_\_\_\_\_ Flick-er and flame and



glow \_\_ with love, light up the world a - round you.



Flick-er and flame and glow with love, light up the world a -



round \_\_\_\_\_ you. \_\_\_\_\_

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Tune copyright © 1988 Carl Schalk. Used by permission.

# THE OPEN DOOR

December 11, 2022

## Pastor's Message

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If Jesus were a guest on Finding Your Roots, it would be a very interesting episode. Jesus descended from a mix of people - Abraham Isaac and Jacob, the earliest ones to enter the covenant with God. His DNA includes that of Kings David, Solomon and Josiah the most respected rulers of Israel. Jesus descended from prophets like Hezekiah and Amos. Matthew begins his story of the birth of Jesus with this list of impressive ancestors.

But Matthew doesn't stop there, and Matthew mentions that Jesus descends from Ruth a Moabite, from Tamar a Canaanite sex worker, and from Rahab, another Canaanite prostitute who used her street smarts to help some Hebrew spies escape. Christ's genealogy includes a Hittite named Bathsheba, who was the victim of King David. Then Matthew finishes his genealogy with people no one has ever heard of, like Zerubbabel. It's an odd list, to be sure.

Why does Matthew begin his story of the birth Jesus this way? He seems to be showcasing the most embarrassing people on the family tree. It almost reminds you of the Disney movie, Encanto, where everyone starts singing about how they aren't supposed to mention Bruno, the skeleton in the family closet that they are dying to tell you about.

Matthew seems to say we all have a Bruno or two. We all have people in our family tree that we aren't supposed to mention but can't stop wondering about or talking about. We all have people who betrayed the family's trust. We all have people who married in and became some of our favorites. Jesus is no different.

The Bible says that one of the things that makes him so special is that he comes from brave women who worked the streets but had integrity. He comes from a mix of Hebrews and Canaanites, Hittites and Moabites. That diversity is the making of him, not something to be embarrassed about. What made Christ the Son of God wasn't his Hebrew bloodlines but his way of greeting everyone along life's path as a fellow child of God. He brought dignity to every interaction because he knew he came from men and women of character who happened to be an assortment of Jews and Gentiles who all had faith. Matthew starts his gospel reminding us of this truth.

I hope that you smile when you hear this story and remember that Jesus came to show us how precious we all are.

Blessings,  
Pastor Susan

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  
Nicholas Breitzman  
Clair Brown  
Don Brittnacher  
Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother  
Dick Casperson  
Steve Chapin  
Colton and Misty, friends of Trudy Reilly  
Lynn Cook  
Dani, Fred's sister-in-law  
Jim Edwards  
Rachel Edwards  
Heidi Mendonca Erstad  
Erstad family friend, Silas and his family  
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  
Ken Hocking  
Carol Huddleston and family  
Larri Jacquart, daughter of Helen Wilson  
Jean Jepson  
Ray Johnson  
Nancy Kandler  
Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law  
Gerald Otto, brother of Stephen Otto  
Sharon Radke  
Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher  
Aria Arthur Schmidt, grandson of Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt  
Jan Scheibe  
Larry Schiedermayer  
Pat Severin  
Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie  
Paul Siket  
Mark Spindler  
Cole Stoffel  
Debra Stoner  
Gloria Tate  
Jack Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
James Totzke  
Jean Van Wagenin  
Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter  
Diane White

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# Congregational Life

*Embracing God, welcoming others,  
knowing ourselves*

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## Advent Adult Education Opportunity

**What:** Book study of the *Light of the World, A Beginner's Guide to Advent* by Amy-Jill Levine.

**When:** Sunday Mornings, November 27, December 4, 11, and 18 at 11:00 AM.

**Where:** The Chapel and via Zoom

Led by Mary Dees and Pastor Mary Jo.  
Contact Pastor Mary Jo if you would like to sign up.

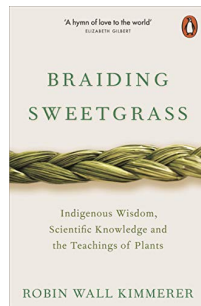
Zoom link for the class:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83219370163>

## Chrysalis' New Book for the New Year: Join Us!

Do you want a new year's resolution that you are most certain to reach your goal?

If so, join the Chrysalis group for the reading of the book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, by Robin Wall Kimmerer.



The spiritual formation group, Chrysalis, meets twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays at 1:00 PM in the Upper Lounge. They will start their new book and discussion January 3 with Pastor Mary Jo leading the discussion time. Additional questions can be directed to

Trish Brehm [trishbrehm@yahoo.com](mailto:trishbrehm@yahoo.com) or Sheryl De Hart [tdehart@new.rr.com](mailto:tdehart@new.rr.com).  
Come and share your thoughts as we discuss the book together and reach a new year's resolution as a group together.

## Advent Dinners

**There will be a 6:00-6:30 PM dinner EVERY Wednesday in Advent:**

November 30, December 7, December 14 and December 21.

Please register at the link below or email [info@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:info@firstcongoappleton.org) if you plan to attend.

Main dishes are listed on the Google sign up. Gluten free/dairy free options will be available if you tell us ahead of time. A \$4 donation, \$12 per family, is suggested.

Sign up at:

<https://forms.gle/g86Y7Sp5q3QR1L599>

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## Worship and Music

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

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### Come Sing in the 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Choir!

Rehearsals for additional singers on  
Wednesdays, December 14 and 21  
7:00-8:30 PM - RSVP

Our Sanctuary Choir welcomes *additional vaccinated & masked high school age through adult singers for our 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols!*

Each year we include familiar carol arrangements, as well as new music. Returning college students, young adults,

family members, spouses and partners of choir members, members and friends who love singing, etc. ... *all are welcome!*

We ask that you join us for 7:00-8:30 PM rehearsals on Wednesday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 21 to learn the music.

**Your attendance at BOTH rehearsals is preferred**, of course, but let me know if only one of the dates is possible for you. Additional instrumentalists will make music with us, too.

Interested? Questions?

**RSVP via e-mail to John Albrecht at [jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org)**, or call John at the church, 920-851-8097 (direct line), or speak with John or our organist, Nathan, *so that our choir librarians can prepare a choir folder for you.* Thank you!

## **Come Serve in Music Ministry!**

You are invited to make music, celebrating the joy we share in Christ!

Please contact John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*, at 920-851-8097 or [jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org) with questions or to register.

Sanctuary Choir (high school - adults)  
**Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 PM**

Youth Handbells (grades 7-12)  
**Wednesdays, 5:45-6:25 PM**

Children's Choir (grades 2-6)  
**Sundays, 10:45-11:30 AM**

LU Music Scholars (college)  
**Sundays, 5:00-6:00 PM**

## **Taizé Prayer Services**

**On Thursday nights during Advent from 6:00-6:30 PM**, we will gather in the chapel for a Taizé Prayer Service.

Like repetition, the use of silence in worship has a rich history that many of us no longer experience. Praying silently in the presence of others, or simply sitting in the presence of God takes some practice, but you will find it to be calming. We will be experiencing all of this in the flicker of candlelight.

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## **Mission and Service**

*Building relationships, serving others,  
pursuing justice*

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### **Annual Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale**

TODAY, December 11  
After Worship Service

Pick up a package (or two!) of individually flash-frozen-right-on-the-boat gulf shrimp. Available in 1-lb packages, your purchase supports Back Bay Mission.

### **2023 Back Bay Mission Trip**

The 2023 Back Bay Mission Trip is scheduled for March 26 - April 1, 2023.

Please register by sending an email to Ken Jahnke at [kjahnke@new.rr.com](mailto:kjahnke@new.rr.com) or calling (920) 427-5996.

Ken will be available after worship service on both the 11 and 18 to answer questions about the trip. He would like to have the number of people who will be going on

the trip by January 15 so he can give Back Bay an estimate.

The cost of the trip is \$250 per person, made payable to Back Bay Mission upon arrival on March 26. There will be additional costs for food and travel to go to Biloxi, Mississippi.

## **Alternative Christmas Market**

If you missed the Alternative Christmas Market or want additional gifts, it is not too late to support the 10 Mission Partners and check off your special folks on your Christmas list.

A **dedicated, self-serve table in the Narthex** will have gift bags available up until Christmas. Take home the gift bags of your choice.

Contact JoAnn Shropshire, 920-851-7744 for any questions/feedback.

## **Poinsettia Sunday Sunday, December 11**

Poinsettias and addresses will be available to deliver to our home-bound and older members – please help with this wonderful ministry!

Stop by the table in the Narthex to pick up the flowers. Don't forget to include one of the cards made by our middle school students.

Drop off one or more on your way home from church on Sunday, December 11.

Please contact Jean Coenraad at (920) 810-0014 or [jmcoenraad@aol.com](mailto:jmcoenraad@aol.com) with any questions.

## **NOAHH Request**

NOAHH is asking for two sleeping/camping cots for two children to sleep on. Right now, the children are sleeping on the floor.

Please contact Barb Mincheff by email at [hsvolunteers@outagamie.org](mailto:hsvolunteers@outagamie.org) if you are able to fulfill this request. Thank you for your generosity and awareness!

## **Free Holiday Drive-In Movie *The Grinch***

**Saturday, December 17**

**5:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Appleton West High School Gym  
610 N Badger Ave, Appleton

- Blanket Drive/Donation
- Pre-movie entertainment and raffle

Aaron's Heart of Gold Fundraiser will be serving hot chocolate, apple cider, nachos, hot dogs, popcorn and candy for purchase.

Visit <https://esther-foxvalley.org/for> more details.



## Calendar for December 11 – December 17

### Sunday, December 11

9:25 AM – 11:35 AM

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Child Care** – *Toddler Room*

**Worship** – *Sanctuary*

**Children's Ministry** – *All CYF Rooms*

**Children's Choir Rehearsal** – *CYF Art Kitchen/Choir Room*

**Back Bay Shrimp Sale** – *Narthex*

**Poinsettia Delivery** – *Narthex*

**Advent Adult Education with Pastor Mary Jo**, *Chapel*

**Flute Choir Concert** – *Sanctuary*

**LU Scholar Rehearsal** – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

**First Things First AA Meeting** – *Fellowship Hall*

### Monday, December 12

4:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Prayer Shawl** – *Common Grounds*

**Fox Valley Flute Choir** – *Sanctuary*

**Boy Scout Troop 8** – *Fellowship Hall*

### Tuesday, December 13

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:45 PM – 8:45 PM

**Strong Bodies** – *Fellowship Hall*

**Wild Women of First Congregational** – *Stone Arch  
Brewpub*

**Living Sober AA Group** – *Common Grounds*

**Fireside AA Group** – *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, December 14

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

**Loving Acceptance Meditation Group** – *Upper Lounge*

**Youth Handbells** – *Sanctuary*

**Advent Dinner** – *Fellowship Hall*

**Child Care** – *Toddler Room*

**Bible Study with Pastor Susan** – *Chapel*

**Middle School Group**

**High School Group**

**Sanctuary Choir** – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

### Thursday, December 15

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

**Finance Committee Meeting** – *Upper Lounge*

**AA – Search for Serenity Group** – *Common Grounds*

**Taizé Worship Service** – *Chapel*

**TNT SOAR** – *Fellowship Hall*

**Fox Valley 94 AA** – *Common Grounds*

**Friday, December 16**

7:00 PM – 8:45 PM

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

*N.A. – Common Grounds*

*Al-Anon – Upper Lounge*

**Saturday, December 17**

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

*Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds*

## **The Ministry**

Reverend Susan Cartmell, Interim Senior Pastor

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

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs, Associate Interim Minister for Congregational Life

Reverend John T. McFadden, Pastor Emeritus

John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist

Sarah Wilterdink, Director for Children's and Middle School Ministries

Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Holly Volkman, Administrative Assistant for Communications

Lashawnda Maulson, Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Tim Krause, Weekend Custodial Assistant

Danielle Bruce, Toddler/Infant Care Provider

Kalyn Vander Grinten, Toddler/Infant Care Provider

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