

*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/

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.

RAINBOW CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2022

2:00 PM

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

PRELUDE

Music of Christmas Various
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

WELCOME

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Tonight, the promises of God are fulfilled in our time and place.

All: Tonight, the people of God see new hope, and dare to believe that God is on our side.

One: Tonight, the promises of scripture have new meaning for us. Faith comes to life in a child.

All: Tonight, we see that the light of that Christ-child is also born in us. Tonight, we celebrate because we see that God recognizes each one of us as God's own precious and beloved child.

*OPENING CAROL #132

O Come All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: This night the words of faith are fulfilled. The promises of God are true. The gifts of God are real.

All: God is stronger than empires and wiser than despair. God gives us the gifts of hope and love and life's richest blessings.

One: The wonder of this miracle lifts our spirits and brings us joy. For the promise of God has come to us. God's light burns in our hearts. So, we light the candle at the center of our wreath, the Christ candle.

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

LIGHT CANDLES FOR OTHERS

Light a candle for someone you know who needs God's hope this Christmas. The pastors will light a candle for each person who was killed at Club Q in Colorado Springs last month: Raymond Green Vance, Kelly Loving, Daniel Aston, Derrick Rump, Ashley Paugh.

CAROL #150 (Please stay seated to sing the carols while the candles are being lit.)

Away in the Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

CAROL #153

What Child is This

GREENSLEEVES

READING

Isaiah 9:2-7 (OT, p. 781)

Kevin Clavers

CAROL #148

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

STANZAS 1-2. ES IST EIN' ROS'

READING

Isaiah 11 (OT, p. 784)

Susan Forsythe

CAROL #151

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

St. 1 & 2- ALL **St. 3 - Organ, only (meditate on text)** **St. 4 - ALL**

READING

Luke 2:1-7 (NT, p. 71)

Rev. Nick Hatch

CAROL #147

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

ZLOBIE LEZY

READING

Luke 2:8-20 (NT, p. 71)

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

***CAROL #137**

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

OFFERING

CALL TO OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

All Is Well

W. Kirkpatrick/ M. W. Smith

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

(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).

CONTEMPORARY READING ON TRADITIONAL BIBLICAL FAMILY VALUES

“a nativity” by johanna e.h.

Rev. Peggy O’Connor

HOMILY

“If Only”

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

SOLO

There’s A Star in the East (Rise Up Shepherd and Follow!)

Spiritual

Joel Jicha, *bass and arranger*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Nick Hatch

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.**

PASSING OF THE LIGHT

CAROL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

*(1. Solo) Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!*

**2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.**

**3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love’s pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

While we sing this carol, please take the light and pass it to the person next to you, a symbol of the way that we share our lights with one another and make this world a brighter place.

BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 (In Sweet Rejoicing)

J. S. Bach

TODAY'S MUSICIANS:

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Joel Jicha, *bass and arranger*

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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The church office will be closed Monday, December 26 and Tuesday, December 27. In order to receive a tax credit on church donations for the 2022 year, all contributions must be received in the church office by 3:00 PM on Thursday, December 29 or postmarked by December 31.

Upcoming Worship Schedule

December 25, 2022 at 9:30 AM

Christmas Day

Rev. Nick Hatch

In-person and livestreaming

Scripture: Psalm 98

Music: Congregational Carols; Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Dylan Schang, *tenor*

May the peace and hope of Christ's birth be with you now and in the days ahead.

Gifts for the 2022 Advent Display

In celebration of:

The parents of Pat Hansen and Bill Lenz, given by Pat Hansen and Bill Lenz
My greatest loves; daughter, Quinn and goddaughter, Bellamy

In honor of:

Friends in Christ, given by Jane Hempel
Peter Larsen, given by Dave and Julie Gamm
Malin Joel Cartier & Harlow Karen Cartier
Pastors Nick, Susan and Mary Jo, given by Rick and Sue Detienne

In loving memory of:

Carlton and Arlene Beyer, given by Joan and Steve Hawkins
Adele & John Bowman / Marion & Elmer Gosse, given by Karen and Dick Gosse
Philip Edmund Crawford, given by Karen Crawford
Joel Cartier & Karen Gibson
Dolores & Jack Frederick and Judy & Norman Clay,
given by Dave & Carolyn Frederick family
Thomas Hempel, given by Jane Hempel
Loved ones lost, given by the Murphy and Murphy-Pociask families
Margie & Warren Gamm, and Dominick & Nancy Piccione,
given by Dave and Julie Gamm
Everett Erstad, John Mendonca, and Dorothy Heckner Mendonca,
given by their children and grandchildren
Rev. Harvey Kandler, given by Nancy Kandler and family