

*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.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

December 24, 2022

4:00 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
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

Various

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND GREETING

CHORAL INTROIT

What Can I Give Him? (from In the Bleak Midwinter)

G. Holst

Poem by Christina Rossetti

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol

First Congregational Children's Choir

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On a night long ago, when the stars shone brightly in the sky,

People: Jesus was born.

Leader: Underneath the light of one especially bright star,

People: Jesus was born.

Leader: In a plain and simple manger,

People: Jesus was born.

Leader: With animals gathered all around,

People: Jesus was born.

Leader: Wrapped in a mothers embrace and a father's care,

People: Jesus was born.

Leader: So that we might know God better.

People: Jesus was born.

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

*OPENING CAROL (Stanzas 1, 2 and 3)

O Come, Little Children

IHR KIN DERLEIN KOMMET

1. **O come, little children, O come, one and all,
to Bethlehem run, to the manger so small,
and see this glad gift God has sent you this night
to be your great gladness, your joy and delight.**
2. **He's born in a stable for you and for me;
draw near by the bright gleaming starlight to see,
in swaddling clothes lying so meek and so mild
and purer than angels, the heavenly child;**
3. **See Mary and Joseph with love beaming eyes
are gazing upon manger bed where he lies;
the shepherds are kneeling with hearts full of love
while angels sing loud alleluias above.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Through the messages of ancient prophets we have caught glimpses of the light that was promised. Now, though the wreath is ablaze and the candles of hope, peace, joy and love, have been lit, still, there is another prophecy to hear.

**All: With eyes wide open, ears attuned and hearts unguarded, we gather,
longing to receive the Word within the words of the prophet.**

Old Testament Scripture:

Isaiah 9:6-7 Common English Bible

⁶A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom, establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

All: This night these words are fulfilled in our hearing and in our living, for the promise of God has come to us. No longer do we seek light from another source; now the light burns in our hearts and we become love's lamp.

One: So, we light the candle at the center of our wreath and of our faith. We light it in the name of the One who is the light, and, as Mary did so long ago, we name this light "Jesus."

CAROL (Stanza 4)

O Come, Little Children

IHR KINDERLEIN KOMMET

4. **Dear Christ Child, what gifts can we children now bring?
No riches or treasures, but carols to sing
and hearts filled with praise we would offer today;
we offer them gladly; accept them, we pray.**

BRIEF MEDITATION

“Christmas Treasures”

Rev. Nicholas Hatch

INVITATION TO OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

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).

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

AN UNEXPECTED CHRISTMAS

A SURPRISE VISIT

CAROL (Stanzas 1 and 2)

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

1. **Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.**
2. **The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

THE SHEPHERDS KEEP WATCH

CAROL (Stanzas 1 and 2)

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

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.**
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!**

ANGEL GREETINGS

CAROL (Stanzas 1 and 2)

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

1. **The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**
Chorus: Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.
2. **They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Chorus***

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT JESUS

CAROL (Stanzas 1 and 2)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

1. **O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark street shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**
2. **For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.**

THE WISE MEN FOLLOW A NEW STAR

CAROL (Stanzas 1 and 2)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

KINGS OF ORIENT

1. **We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

Chorus: **O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

2. **Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never
over us all to reign.**

Chorus: **O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.**

CAROL (Stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the king of angels;
- Chorus:* O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Chorus*
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Chorus*

CLOSING WORDS

*CAROL

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

1. Joy to the world! The Lord has come:
let earth receive her king;
let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
let men their songs employ
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

THE BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 (In Sweet Rejoicing)

J. S. Bach

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

First Congregational Children's Choir

John 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

Christmas Day

Rev. Nick Hatch

In-person and livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Scripture: Psalm 98

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

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

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

Merry Christmas

