

*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.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

December 24, 2022

7:00 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*

Carols of Christmas Trad.
String Quartet

There's a Star in the East (Rise Up Shepherd!) Spiritual
Joel Jicha, *bass* arr. Jicha

All Is Well W. Kirkpatrick/M. W. Smith
Michael Murphy, *tenor*

Come Love, Come Lord R. Vaughan Williams
text by Richard Crashaw
Jack Murphy, *tenor*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Merry Christmas (from The Three Kings) Anders Öhrwall
Vocal Ensemble John Aaholm, *percussion*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill toward all.

All: For out of God's own being, Jesus has come to bring love and light to all people.

One: Jesus is our Emmanuel-God with us-here to gather our tears and laughter, our work and play into God's love.

All: Praise be to God, now and forevermore. Amen.

* Please rise, in body or in spirit

*CAROL #132

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES
arr. D. Willcocks

*LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE The Wilterdink Family: Eric, Sarah, Jeremiah and Kyle

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

⁶ A 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.⁷ There 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."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

LESSON I: HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 11:1-6 (OT, p. 784)

CAROL #151

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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

LESSON II

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

DUET

Virgin's Slumber Song

Max Reger

Melanie Riley, *soprano* Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*

CAROL #135

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

St. 1 & 2- ALL

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"All the Way"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*CAROL #135

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

St. 3- ALL

CALL TO OFFERING

A MUSICAL OFFERING

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

Michael Murphy, *guitar* Lori Murphy, *violin* Jack Murphy, *piano*

(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

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.**

A LULLABY

Excerpt from *Geistliches Wiegenlied, Op. 91* (A Sacred Cradlesong) Johannes Brahms

Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*

*You who hover around these palms, in night and wind,
You holy angels, silence the tree-tops! My child is sleeping. . .*

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

John 1:1-14

CAROLS:

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.**

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT

Stanza 1, sung **in German by ALL** with guitar
then **Stanzas 1, 2 and 3 sung in English by ALL.**

1. *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!*
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!**

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.

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Mary Jo

*CAROL #134

Joy to the World

POSTLUDE

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729 (In Sweet Rejoicing)

J. S. Bach

TONIGHT'S MUSICIANS:

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ and piano*

Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*; Lori Murphy, *violin*;

Melanie Riley, *soprano*; Joel Jicha, *bass*; Jack Murphy, *tenor, violin, piano*;

Michael Murphy, *guitar, tenor, cello*; John Aaholm, *percussion*

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 Reading: 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

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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The background of the image is a dark blue night sky filled with numerous small white stars. A single, larger, multi-pointed white star is positioned in the upper center. At the bottom, a silhouette of a nativity scene is visible against the horizon. It features a simple wooden manger structure with a thatched roof. Inside the manger, the figures of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus are depicted. A bright light emanates from the manger, creating a soft glow. The foreground is a dark silhouette of grass.

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

Merry Christmas