

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

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

10:30 AM Children's Choir – Art Kitchen & Choir Room
4:30 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – Sanctuary & Choir Room
6:00 PM First Things First AA – Common Grounds

We are glad you are here today! Our service is livestreaming in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Narthex. Remember that if you feel more comfortable social distancing, you are welcome to worship in any of those areas as well.

Donating to First Congregational UCC

We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes and pledge cards are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates. Checks can be mailed to the church. You can also visit our webpage and click "[Give](#)" or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

References to God

References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

Land Acknowledgement

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

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Watch our services live on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) OR [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

Communion

All are welcome to receive gluten-free communion the first Sunday of each month.

Baptism

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month. To schedule a baptism, contact the church office six weeks before your desired baptism date.

Flowers

Today's flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Hearing Loop

Need help hearing our service? Ask an usher. They can help get you in the loop!

Open Door Announcements

Thank you for emailing articles to opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org or calling the office.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 29, 2023

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*

PRELUDE

Who is Like the Lord on High (Psalm 113:5)

Gregorian Chant
Setting by Gerald Near

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

*WELCOME

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Today we welcome Kristin Alfheim, Barb and Tim Bauer, Jackie and Andy Burton, Erik Gabbey & Tammy Thompson, Lori Mackey, Anne Planner, Jan and Monica Stage.

INTRODUCTION

UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

* Please stand in body or in spirit.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather to affirm that we are all united in God's sacred family;

All: **We are each different and unique, yet we are one as children of God.**

One: We gather to affirm that we are called to love and serve one another;

All: **We learn by Jesus example to love our neighbor in all that we do.**

One: We gather to affirm that each of us has gifts to offer;

All: **We are members of the one body, each blessed with gifts for God's service. Let us celebrate and worship as a family of God!**

*OPENING HYMN #477

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

Esther 4

MEDITATION

Just Such a Time As This: Our Responsibility for Justice

Rev. Nicholas Hatch

RESPONSIVE SERMON HYMN #271

Lead Me, Lord

LEAD ME, LORD

(We will sing the entire responsive sermon hymn as a refrain in-between preaching portions during the meditation.)

Lead Me, Lord

271

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy right-cous-ness, make thy way plain be-fore my face. For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord, on-ly, that mak-est me dwell in safe-ty.'

WORDS: Psalms 5:8, 4:8

MUSIC: Samuel S. Wesley, 1861

This music is from a Samuel S. Wesley anthem of the same name. Samuel Wesley was the grandson of Charles Wesley.

LEAD ME, LORD

378,548

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

(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).

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Grant Unto Us Thy Peace, O Lord

F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

Sanctuary Choir

*Grant unto us thy peace, O Lord, grant us thy peace enduring.
For there is none with the strength who could so firmly defend us.
For thou art our hope and safety.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord (from Elijah)

F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

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 #505

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ST. THOMAS

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

God of Grace and God of Glory (Cwm Rhondda)

Tune by John Hughes
Setting by Paul Manz

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist* Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Today's Children's Ministry Locations

Infants & Toddlers

Childcare Room

Preschoolers

Little Angels Room

K/1st Graders

Theater

2nd/3rd Graders

Art Kitchen

4th/5th Graders

Science Room

February 5 Worship, Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Scriptures: Acts 8:29-38

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir;
Children's Choir; Nancy Kaphaem, *cello*.

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.

Please call Pastor Mary Jo at 715-351-0450 or [email her here](#) if you have a new joy or concern you would like us to pray for, as well as any questions and other assistance needed. 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, her sister & her nephew, Darryl	Debra Stoner
Valerie Bales	Gloria Tate
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Jack Thiel
Harry Boll's family, upon his death	Peter Thiel
Nicholas Breitzman	James Totzke
Don Brittnacher	Sue Toussaint's father, Ted Healey
Dick Casperson	Jean Van Wagenin
Jim Edwards	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Diane White
Erstad family friend, Silas, and his family	Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer
Ester Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Pat Severin's friend	Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober
David Galow	Julie Schaller-Schmidt and John Schmidt's
Ken Geiger	grandson Aria Arthur Schmidt
Margaret Hankwitz	Tom Salm
Judy Hanson	Jan Scheibe
Ken Hocking	Larry Schiedermayer
Carol Huddleston and family	Pat Severin
Jean Jepson	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Ray Johnson	Paul Siket
Cole Stoffel	Mark Spindler
	Helen Wilson's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Pastor's Message

January 29, 2023

God' Gifts are Sitting Nearby in Our Pews

This Sunday we will welcome 10 new members to our congregation. We have been welcoming folks every two months. The last time we brought in new members was November 13 when 11 adults joined our church. So, this program year we have welcomed 22 new adults and with those families we also had 10 children and youth.

This number of new members would be normal for a church our size during most years, but there are two reasons why this is something to celebrate. We are coming out of a pandemic when many families have been questioning whether to go back to worship and because our church is in an interim period.

Why are we welcoming so many families? What I have discovered in talking to the newest families among us is that they are searching for a church which is progressive. They are searching for a place where people respect the Bible but do not take it literally. They are finding that our worship services are both serious and relaxed at the same time. They like that we can laugh. They also appreciate that we strive in our church, to put our faith in action. We try to serve in the community and ask hard questions about what it means to follow Christ today.

In the new classes I am finding some folks hail from Appleton, but it is not uncommon for people to drive 15–30 minutes because it is important to find a church which is serious about faith but modern in its outlook. As we get to know all these new people and get re-acquainted with each other after the pandemic, I hope we will see each other as God's gifts to this place.

Blessings,
Pastor Susan

Listening Sessions

If you were not able to attend one, or both, of the listening sessions and have not yet submitted answers to our questions, we would appreciate you taking the time to answer via the below links or write your answers and bring them to the church office. THANK YOU!

[Session 1 Questions](#)

[Session 2 Questions](#)

February 5 at 10:45 AM

“Changes and Disappointments: What challenges shaped us and informed our journey?”
Childcare Movie: *Cars*

February 19 at 10:45 AM

“What Are You Hoping For? What Do We Seek in a New Senior Leader?”
Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service

Valentines on the Bridge

Children, come join the middle schoolers on Sunday, February 12, as they lead you in fun crafts on the bridge!

1st Wednesday Dinner

Please join us for pizza, veggie sticks, cookies and perhaps some candy hearts! Call the church office or sign up here:
[Wednesday, February 1 Dinner Sign Up](#)

Worship and Music

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

Taize Services PAUSED

Thank you to all who have participated in these beautiful services! We will resume Thursday evening Taize services for Lent in March.

We Will Have 2 Easter Services

Come celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us during one of our two services! There was a misprint in the times last week; the correct Easter services times are:

8:45 AM & 10:30 AM

Come Serve in Music Ministry!

Please join us by contacting John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*,
jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org
920-851-8097.

Sunday Rehearsals

Children's Choir & LU Music Scholars

Wednesday Rehearsals

Youth Handbells & Sanctuary Choir



Congregational Life

*Embracing God,
welcoming others, knowing ourselves*

TODAY'S Economic Justice Wrap Up Session

There will be an Economic Justice "Mind the Gaps" Bible Study Wrap Up Session TODAY at 11:00 AM in the chapel and on Zoom: Meeting ID: 812 9860 2535 <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81298602535>

Rev. Sekinah will be "with us."
Join us in person or by Zoom!

2023 Spring Women's Retreat

Our women's retreats have been so successful we have another one planned for Friday April 21 through Sunday April 23, 2023 at Moon Beach. We are excited to announce Julie Garber will again be our retreat leader at our **Spring Women's Retreat Friday, April 21 - Sunday, April 23, at Moon Beach!** Julie led the October 2022 retreat and her complete bio can be found at <https://ucco.org/board-of-directors/>. Housing, rides, and the cost (\$170) will remain the same. More information and registration coming soon. In the meantime, [email Barb Uehling](mailto:Barb.Uehling) or call 920-475-2212 with questions.

"LET'S TALK 2023"

A Resource for Sacred, Transformational
Conversations on Race

This adult curriculum has been designed to invite UCC members and their guests to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. Written by five gifted authors with decades of experience teaching about race and privilege, this curriculum intends to help people "see" power and privilege, their manifestations and their impacts. It aims to illuminate how white people in America, at every economic stratum and in a myriad of ways, receive privileged consideration simply because they are white. It is not about guilt or shame - it is presented in the hope that those who choose to engage in this dialogue can develop higher degrees of awareness of privilege and its consequences. If you're open to it, this curriculum is an invitation to wholeness.

Call Wanda Van De Hey at 920-203-1500 or Mary Dees at 920-915-0177 with questions.

Choose Which Group You Attend:

[Tuesdays, February 28–April 4](#)

1:00-2:30 PM via Zoom

[Wednesdays, March 1–April 5](#)

6:30-8:00 PM In-Person, with Childcare

[Thursdays, February 23–March 30](#)

8:00-9:30 PM via Zoom

Sign up for *Let's Talk 2023* on Realm by clicking the dates above or call the church at 920-733-7393 by **February 14th**.

Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Donations to Support Back Bay

We need donations for our auction!
In commemoration of Back Bay Mission's 100th year of service on the Gulf coast, we are raising funds to stock their food pantry and build five tiny homes. **Please drop off auction donations at the church office before February 19.** Gift baskets, individual items, gift or service certificates are appreciated donations. Thank you for your support! Questions? [E-mail](#) or call 920-731-2620 Sheryl De Hart.

Monthly Meal Serving at Pillars

Thursday, February 2 is Ground Hog's Day! It is also the day FCUCC prepares the meal for Pillars Adult Shelter at 1928 W. College Avenue.

Start the New Year out right by helping prepare and serve a meal on Thursday, February 2, 2023! A kitchen is a great place to get to know each other- and the FCUCC volunteers are great people to get to know!

OR simply provide some of the needed ingredients.

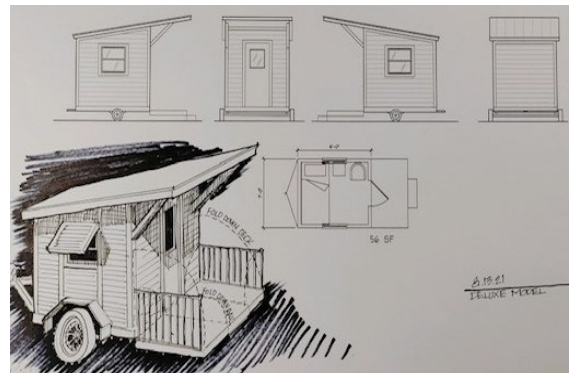
Sign up or get your questions answered using this [Google link](#), [email Shelly Nulton](#), or call 920-202-4419. You will receive more information via email once signed up.

****Southern Comfort** Back Bay Brunch**

[Sign up here](#) for our Sunday, February 26, Southern Comfort Brunch! Meet Rev. James Pennington, Ex. Director, while he is here to talk about how Back Bay Mission has been seeking justice and transforming lives for 100 years.

In honor of this inspiring milestone, let's raise \$20,000 to fund five tiny houses! The tiny houses are on wheels so they can be moved in hurricanes and are not permanent shelters (which are prohibited in Biloxi). The Mission provides a day shelter, but after hours, people only have the streets.

Let's get on a roll for the tiny houses on wheels! Tickets will be on sale Sundays in February after services and can also be purchased through [Realm here](#).



First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

Monday, January 30

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, January 31

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

6:00 PM -7:30 PM

Congregational Life – *Upper Lounge*

Wednesday, February 1

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

Child Care – *Childcare Roo*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Middle School & High School Youth Groups – *CYF*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Susan's Bible Study – *Chapel*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary/Choir Room*

Thursday, February 2

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 3

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Bulletin Assembly – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

NA – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, February 4

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

All Weekend

Confirmation Winter Retreat – *Chicago*

Sunday, February 5

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Worship, Children's Ministry, Childcare

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

Children's Choir – *Art Kitchen & Choir Room*

4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Santuary & Choir Room*

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

Zaina Gonzales, Temporary Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Danielle Bruce, Toddler/Infant Care Provider

Kalyn Vander Grinten, Toddler/Infant Care Provider

First Congregational United Church of Christ

724 East South River Street

Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org

Valentines on the Bridge

Sunday, February 12th, 10:30AM



Children of All Ages:

Come create Valentines right after the service.

Meet us on the bridge!



Led by Our Very Own Middle School Youth!



SAVE THE DATE

SOUTHERN COMFORT FOOD BRUNCH

SUNDAY, FEB. 26, 10:45AM

FUNDRAISER FOR BACK BAY MISSION

GUEST OF HONOR, REV. JAMES PENNINGTON



8:45 AM

10:30 AM