

First Congregational UCC

COME GROW
with us!



—The Church of the Open Door—

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



*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 – 11:30 AM Valentines on the Bridge (Middle Schoolers & Kids) - *Bridge*
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Children’s Choir Rehearsal - *CYF Art Kitchen & Choir Room*
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM WISE presentation: Sue Kaiser - *Chapel*
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*

We are glad you are here today! Remember that if you feel more comfortable social distancing, you are welcome to worship in the Chapel, Upper Lounge and Narthex, where we’re livestreamed.

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 visit our webpage and click “[Give](#),” or you can 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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 12, 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

All Depends on Our Possessing

Tune by Johann Lohner
Setting by Kenneth T. Kosche

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

WELCOME

INTROIT

Fanfare (Danza)

Youth Handbells

T. Susato, arr. K. McChesney

***CALL TO WORSHIP** * Please rise, in body or in spirit.

One: Thank you, Lord, for the blueprints, the recipes, the guardrails.

All: Thank you, Lord, for the stories, the teachings, the hints.

One: That tell us what to watch for; that show us where the potholes lie.

All: Thank you for the Bible where dollops of wisdom are found, story by story.

One: So that we can live our lives, in light of Your example.

All: And take up the disciple's cloak, and walk in Your ways.

***HYMN #504**

God of Justice, God of Mercy (Stanzas 1, 2, 4 and 5)

HYFRYDOL

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Siyahamba (We are marching in the light of God!)

Youth Handbells

South African hymn
Setting, Anna Laura Page

SCRIPTURE READING

Barbara Schmidt

Matthew 18:23-35 (NT p 24)

MEDITATION

“The Root of Injustice”

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

HYMN #512

Let There Be Peace on Earth

WORLD PEACE

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Kyrie from Mass in G

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us.

Sanctuary Choir Allison Juarez Wunderlin, *soprano*

(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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Hear the Voice and Prayer (I Kings 8:28-30)

Thomas Tallis (c.1505-85)

LU Music Scholars

Hear the voice and prayer of thy servants that they make before thee this day;

That thine eyes may open toward this house night and day,

ever toward this place, of which thou hast said:

My name shall be there. And when thou hearest, have mercy on them.

PASTORAL PRAYER followed by

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.**

*HYMN #520

Restless Weaver

BEACH SPRING

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rise, Shine, You People!

Tune by Dale Wood
Setting by David Cherwien

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Sanctuary Choir

Allison Juarez Wunderlin, *LU Scholar soprano soloist*

Youth Handbells: Ross Erstad, Elena Eubanks, Avery Gentile, Celia Gentile,
Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton Piepenburg,
Eva Schmidt, Chase Wahl; Nathan Phillips, *substitute ringer*;
John Albrecht, *director*.

LU Music Scholars

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

Art Kitchen

2nd/3rd Graders

Science Room

4th/5th Graders

Scripture Tent

February 19, Transfiguration Sunday

Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Scripture: John 3:16-21

Music: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; LU Music Scholars

February 12, 2023

Pastor's Pen

Realm Really Can Be Fun! I Promise ***(And it is Super Helpful for Your Church Staff)***

Dear Friends,

I am still enjoying meeting you and learning your names! Some Sunday morning, I'd like to say, "Will Karen please stand up!" Do you want to know why?



I have found that there are 57 Karens at FCUCC! And, as a matter of fact, there are 149 Marys, 97 Michaels and 67 Steves. I found this information on *Realm*! I have been using *Realm* more and more ever since I walked through these open doors.

I am also learning that some of our newer members (including me!) and some of our long-time members and friends have either never heard of *Realm* or have never activated their accounts. *Realm* is the online software that First Congregational UCC uses which contains its member and guest lists, information about Congregational Life committees, Mission and Outreach groups, Church Council, and more. If you would like to volunteer, you can contact a chairperson or just add your name to the group list! If you want to call someone or send an email, phone numbers and email addresses are listed in each person's profile on *Realm*! If you have moved, or have a new email address or phone number, you can change it on *Realm*. You can also schedule an electronic funds transfer or make changes to your giving on *Realm* so that your monetary gifts can be faithfully given to the church even when you are away for a while. You can post a picture of yourself on your *Realm* profile by clicking the circle to the left of your name and then selecting a photo from your files. (Or send me your photo and I will post it.) You know, if everyone would activate their account, and add a photo, we would have a wonderful "member directory" online! ("Let me see, who was that I was talking to on Sunday...?")

If you would like to activate your *Realm* account, call Zaina Gonzales in the church office at 920-851-9832 or call me at 920-851-9455 or 715-351-0450. Or, if we notice that your account is not yet "activated," we will send you an email. In the subject line of the email, it will say something like, "Join your church community online." Click the link and follow the directions. 😊 Click your name and select "My Profile." Your first step will be to check all the contact and personal information in your profile to make sure it's accurate.



Once you are logged in, you can view the church directory. By default, your personal and contact information is visible to all registered users of our church's *Realm* site. You can choose who can see the information in your profile by clicking on "Manage Privacy."

Realm is "fun" and easy! Really! You can join a committee or a group, give your monetary gifts to the mission and ministry of the church, or just look around and see who's who!

Consider yourself "nudged," people of First Congregational UCC, to join in the electronic "*Realm*" of this congregation! **This door** is wide open to you too if you just take these easy first steps!

Let this be your mantra today: Philippians 4:13, New International Version:

¹³I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

Say a little prayer and have a great day!

58 Toms, 96 Johns, 107 Sara(h)s.

Thank you, God, I found you on *Realm*.

Pastor Mary L.

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](#) if you have a new joy or concern you would like us to pray for, as well as any questions and other assistance needed.

In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew, Darryl Valerie Bales	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald Tom Salm
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Larry Schiedermayer
Harry Boll's family, upon his death	Pat Severin's friend
Nicholas Breitzman	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Don Brittnacher	Paul Siket
Christ Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Rick Smith and the rest of Jill's family, upon her death
Dick Casperson	Mark Spindler
Jim Edwards	Debra Stoner
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Janet Ann Bond Sutter's family, upon her death
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Gloria Tate
Ester Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Jack Thiel
David Galow	Peter Thiel
Ken Geiger	James Totzke
Margaret Hankwitz	Sue Toussaint and the rest of Ted Healy's family, upon his death
Judy Hanson	Jean Van Wagenin
Ken Hocking	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Carol Huddleston and family	Diane White
Jean Jepson	Helen Wilson's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Ray Johnson Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt	
Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer	

Did You Donate Stock?

The church received a contribution of stock shares into our broker's account but we have no information on who the donor is. If you donated stock through your broker, please contact the church office to let us know. We want to record it as the proper member's contribution! Thank you.



Listening Sessions

February 19, 10:45 AM, Session #4
"What Are You Hoping For? What Do We Seek in a New Senior Leader?"
Childcare Movie: *Shrek*

Online Listening Session #4
Monday, February 20 at 6:00 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87504143180>
Meeting ID: 875 0414 3180

Did you miss a Listening Session or have not yet responded to some of the questions? No worries! You can give your feedback electronically. Simply choose which session's questions you'd like to answer below.

[Session 1 Questions](#)

[Session 2 Questions](#)

[Session 3 Questions](#)

Congregational Life

*Embracing God,
welcoming others, knowing ourselves*

Churches & Mental Health: GATHERING TODAY

Sue Kaiser will be our guest TODAY, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM, to talk about how the WI UCC Conference is addressing mental health issues through its Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) initiative. Join us so you can learn how we can each help our church get involved. [Learn more about this very important initiative in the Wide-Open Door.](#)



"LET'S TALK 2023"
A Resource for Sacred,
Transformational,
Conversations
on Race

Beginning February 23, this adult curriculum has been designed to invite UCC members and their guests to engage in safe, meaningful, substantive, and bold conversations on race. [More details are in the Wide-Open Door.](#)

Choose when to attend on Realm:
[Tuesdays 1:00 PM via Zoom](#)
[Wednesdays 6:30 PM In-Person](#)
[Thursdays 8:00 PM via Zoom](#)

Youth and Families

Faith, fun, and service

Children's Ministry

Today we begin a new rotation titled *Jesus and John the Baptist*. Each week children will hear Bible stories of the work John did to share God's message about Jesus. We'll discuss ways that WE can share Jesus with others in 2023. We'll discuss Jesus' baptism and ways that John and Jesus showed us how to listen.

Sunday Morning Teachers Needed

As we look ahead to spring, we need Children's Ministry teachers. Our AMAZING volunteers miss in-person worship each week so they can help our young ones grow in their faith. Four volunteers have taught almost every Sunday since September. Perhaps you can teach just one Sunday, to gift a fellow church member the chance to pause and reflect on *their* faith during a the service?

Or maybe you'd like to join our fun team in one of the program year's final rotations, March 12-April 2 or April 12-23?

Each easy lesson is typed and emailed to you ahead of time. Please [email Sarah Wilterdink](mailto:Sarah.Wilterdink) a date or dates that work for you! Thanks for considering.



What's the Best reason to buy clearance Valentine's candy??

To put it in Easter eggs,
of course! 😊

The tradition continues... Please help us fill eggs for our MASSIVE egg hunt on Easter morning after the service. Individually wrapped candy, stickers, and any trinkets that fit in a plastic egg are wonderfully appreciated!

So Many Ways to Help:

- Grab a few bags of empty eggs on your way out of church on Sunday. Fill the eggs with treats and bring them back.
- Purchase treats and drop them off at church office.
- Purchase treats, call the office, and one of us will pick them up from your house!
- Send a monetary donation in an envelope labeled *Easter Egg Hunt* and we'll purchase the treats.

"Thank you," from your CYF children.

Worship and Music

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

Ash Wednesday: February 22

6:00 PM Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service,
led by our confirmands
and our Sanctuary Choir.

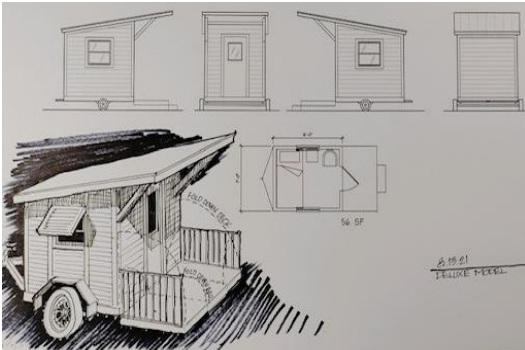


Fox Valley Flute

Winter Concert: February 19

The Fox Valley Flute Choir will perform
a winter concert in the Church Sanctuary
on Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 PM.

[Read more about this amazing 15-person
flute choir here!](#)



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice*

Brunch Tickets Available

Get your tickets today through February
24, for the Sunday, February 26,
Southern Comfort Food Brunch. What's
on the menu? Cozy Corner pulled
pork, coleslaw, mac and cheese, green
beans, collard greens, dinner rolls,
cinnamon muffins (GF), peach cobbler,
brownies.

Tickets available in the narthex after
services, through [Realm](#), or by calling
the church office.

Back Bay Director

Will Be Our Guest Preacher

On the 26th James Pennington, Director
of Back Bay Mission, will deliver the
Sunday message and be available for
questions at the brunch. The Mission is
the only UCC ministry in Mississippi
and they need the support of the whole
UCC. Proceeds from the brunch will go
towards our goal of giving \$20,000 to
Back Bay Mission to build five tiny
houses on wheels. The Silent Auction at
the Brunch will support the food pantry.
Watch the progress on the bulletin
board at church!

First Congregational UCC Weekly Highlights

Monday, February 13

3:30PM - 4:30PM IPAC - *on Zoom*
4:00 PM - 8:00 PM Prayer Shawl - *Common Grounds*
6:00 PM - 7:30 PM Mental Health Task Force - *Upper Lounge*
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, February 14

8:45 AM - 10:15 AM Strong Bodies - *South Fellowship Hall*
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Library Committee - *Library*
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00 PM - 9:15 PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, February 15

12:15 AM - 1:00 PM Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Peabody Chapel Worship
5:45 PM - 6:25 PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*
6:25 PM - 8:35 PM Child Care - *Infant/Toddler Room*
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Wed Night Bible Study - *Chapel*
6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Middle School Youth Group - *CYF Wing*
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary*

Thursday, February 16

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Strong Bodies - *South Fellowship Hall*
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM Finance Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*
6:30PM - 8:00 PM Family/Friends Mental Illness Supper Group - *Upper Lounge*
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 17

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Bulletin Assembly - *Library*
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM AI-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

Saturday, February 18

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

Zaina Gonzales, Temporary Office Manager and Administrative Assistant

Siri Witt, Bookkeeper

Kalyn Vander Grinten, Childcare Provider & Temporary Administrative Assistant

Ann Hage, Temporary Administrative Assistant

Matt Feuerhelm, AV Coordinator

Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor

Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant

Pat Metoxen, Custodial Assistant

Tim Krause, Weekend Custodial Assistant

Danielle Bruce, Childcare Provider

First Congregational United Church of Christ

724 East South River Street

Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org

tickets
\$18 age 13+
\$10 age 6-12
free age 5 and under



Fundraiser for the UCC's
BACK BAY MISSION

"Providing food and shelter
on the Gulf Coast for 100 years"
Guest of Honor

Back Bay Director, Rev. James Pennington



Southern Comfort Food Brunch Sunday, Feb. 26

catered by **The Cozy Corner**

First Congregational UCC

724 E. South River St., Appleton

Fellowship Hall

Serving 10:45 to Noon

Open to all, bring friends and family!

A church service poster for Easter Sunday. The background is a soft-focus landscape with a tree in the center, birds flying in the sky, and a sunburst effect. The text 'Easter' is written in a large, white, cursive font, with 'SUNDAY' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. Two service times, '8:45 AM' and '10:30 AM', are listed in white, sans-serif font on either side of the tree.

Easter

SUNDAY

8:45 AM

10:30 AM

Large-print bulletins are available. Please ask the ushers for a copy.

Welcome to our Home of Homes.

We are “The Church of the Open Door,” a welcoming and inclusive Christian community. We’re committed to tolerance, justice and exploration - not dogma and rules. So no matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

