

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 – 12:00 PM Southern Comfort Food Back Bay Brunch
10:45 AM – 11:30 AM Children’s Choir – *CYF Kitchen & Choir Room*
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM LU Scholar Rehearsal – *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

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

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

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

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

Tune by Martin Luther
Setting by Friedrich Wilhelm Zachau

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Return to Me (Joel 2:12-13)

R. Proulx

Sanctuary Choir

*OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

We forget that we are made in your image.

We forget that we are made of star dust and to the dust of stars, we shall return.

We forget that when we wander in the wilderness we are never far from Your notice.

We forget that you send Jesus here today to call us to service.

We forget that you need us to take up our crosses and follow Him.

We forget, or don't want to remember that we belong to you, Holy One.

Call to us. Speak our names and bring us home to You.

Call to us we pray the words Christ taught us saying...

*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.**

*OPENING HYMN # 353

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING

MEDITATION

Rev. James Pennington Sermon

Sermon Text: John 12:8 "For you always have the poor with you but you do not always have "Me."

HYMN #356

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

CANONBURY

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

What Does the Lord Require? (Micah 6:6-8)
Sanctuary Choir

Eric Nelson

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.)

*CLOSING HYMN #355

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ABBOT'S LEIGH

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Tune by William M. Runyan
Setting by J. Bert Carlson

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
Science Room

2nd/3rd Graders
Scripture Tent

4th/5th Graders
Art Kitchen

“Churches are Changing but Spiritual Hunger Isn't Going Away”

The elephant in the room in churches these days is the PANDEMIC. This one experience changed American churches more profoundly in our lifetime than anything else, since World War II. It has introduced online worship, which is here to stay. It has added the option for hybrid meetings which is a big plus. But it has caused 40% of clergy to consider retiring early or leaving the profession. It came when churches were already struggling to keep members, and it has challenged us to our core.

In our own church I believe it has added stress we may under-estimate. I wonder if we really understand how deeply we have been affected by the pandemic. It took away time – time to enjoy our choir, time to be together, time hear Pastor Steve preach or act in a musical. The pandemic struck at the heart of religious communities and robbed us of worship as we knew it for well over a year.

As you may know, Peggy and I have interviewed fifty pastors about their experiences in the recent pandemic. With hour-long conversations, we asked about the challenges they faced, the creativity they found and the impact of the crisis on them and their churches. We met some amazing church leaders from eight denominations and twenty-three states. We heard incredible stories of resilience and faith.

We also emerged from those interviews more aware of the enduring widespread cultural hunger for real spiritual leadership in communities across the country. People everywhere are looking to their churches to do what only faith communities can do – remind them of the wisdom in the Bible, comfort those who are struggling, help the poor, and protect those who need an advocate. From Florida to Alaska, we found pastors who rose to this occasion, re-defined the Church and meeting the new needs laid bare by the pandemic.

That is something to be celebrated. Let's keep seeking ways to make this church relevant to the spiritual hunger we find in our community today. *Blessings, Pastor Susan*

Q&A - Join us After Worship - March 5

In the Listening Sessions we learned that you want more opportunities to talk and have important conversations about the future of this church. Join me in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. on March 5 to ask your questions. I can't promise you I will answer them all, but I'll try.

Sunday, March 5, Worship Service

2nd Sunday in Lent Rev. Dr. Susan Cartmell

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ; Sanctuary Choir; Lori Murphy, violin

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](mailto:maryjo@stjohns.org) 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

Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara

Harry Boll's family, upon his death

Nicholas Breitzman

Don Brittnacher

Christ Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober

Dick Casperson

Jim Edwards

Heidi Mendonca Erstad

Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family

Ester Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken

David Galow

Ken Geiger

Leigh Grube's sister, Judie

Margaret Hankwitz

Judy Hanson

Ken Hocking

Carol Huddleston and family

Jean Jepson

Ray Johnson

Pastor Mary Jo's son, Chris Knospe

Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Betty Masaros

Richard Miller's son-in law, Richard Kramer

Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald

Gretchen Revie

Tom Salm

Julie Schaller & John Schmidt's

Grandson, Aria Arthur Schmidt

Larry Schiedermayer

Frank and Pat Severin

Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie

Paul Siket

Rick Smith and the rest of Jill's family,
upon her death

Mark Spindler

Debra Stoner

Janet Ann Bond Sutter's family, upon her death

Gloria Tate

Jack Thiel

Peter Thiel

James Totzke

Jean Van Wagenin

Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya

Diane White

Eric, and Sarah, Wilterdink's stepfather, John

Congregational Life

Today's the Day!

Southern Comfort Food Brunch with Children's Activity

Table and Silent Auction. Join us after the service in the Fellowship Hall, continuing our opportunity to speak with Rev. James Pennington, Back Bay Mission's Director.

Walk-ins welcome as long as food lasts. Tickets \$18 for age 13+, \$10 age 6-13; age 5 and under free.

We are raising funds to build tiny bedrooms on wheels and stock the shelves of their food pantry.

Our Library

Did you know that FCUCC has a library? Have you wondered what books are in there? Have you noticed that there are FREE BOOKS in the Narthex?

Our Library Committee has started to reorganize the library and that means we will be removing old, outdated materials. These will be available in the Narthex for a couple of weeks and then will be donated.

In spring, when we have put everything back together, there will be an Open House of the library. People will be able to check books out and see what is available in the library.

For more information, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

NAMI Mental Health 101

Would you like to learn to define mental health vs. mental illness? Can you recognize warning signs of a mental health condition? Do you know where to find mental health support in our community? NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of the Fox Valley will present Mental Health 101 on **Sunday, March 5th in the Chapel 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM.** Please join us to learn more. Contact Mary Sullivan, msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452 for more information.

Your Ministry Team

CPR & First Aid Training

Many thanks to the seventeen AV volunteers, children's ministry teachers and FCUCC staff who became trained in CPR, First Aid and AED use this week! Knowing there are people with these skills in worship is appreciated.

Did you know we have an AED unit in the sanctuary? It is by the AV desk. An AED unit has specific and simple directions right on it so that anyone can use it!



Monday, February 27

6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, February 28

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Library Committee – *Church Library*

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Church Council Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

7:00 PM – 9:15 PM

Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, March 1

12:15 AM – 1:00 PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Piano Lessons - *Sanctuary*

5:45 PM – 6:25 PM

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

First Wednesday Dinner-*Fellowship Hall*

6:25 PM – 8:35 PM

Child Care – *Childcare Room*

6:30 PM – 07:30 PM

Wed Night Bible Study - *Chapel*

6:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Youth Groups – *Youth Rooms/Fellowship Hall*

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Let's Talk – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary*

Thursday, March 2

8:45 AM – 10:15 AM

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship Hall*

10:00AM – 11:30 AM

Membership Committee- *Pastor Mary Jo's Office*

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Theology Discussions Group – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Family/Friends Mental Illness Supper Group – *Upper Lounge*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Taize Worship - *Chapel*

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, March 3

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Bulletin Assembly - *Library*

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge, N.A. – Common Grounds*

Saturday, March 4

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, March 5

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Q & A with Pastor Susan - *Sanctuary*

10:45 AM – 11:30 AM

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

11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

NAMI – FOX Valley Mental Health 101 – *Church Chapel*

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

LU Scholars Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

Taizé Prayer Services in the Chapel

Thursdays in March, 6:00– 6:30 PM

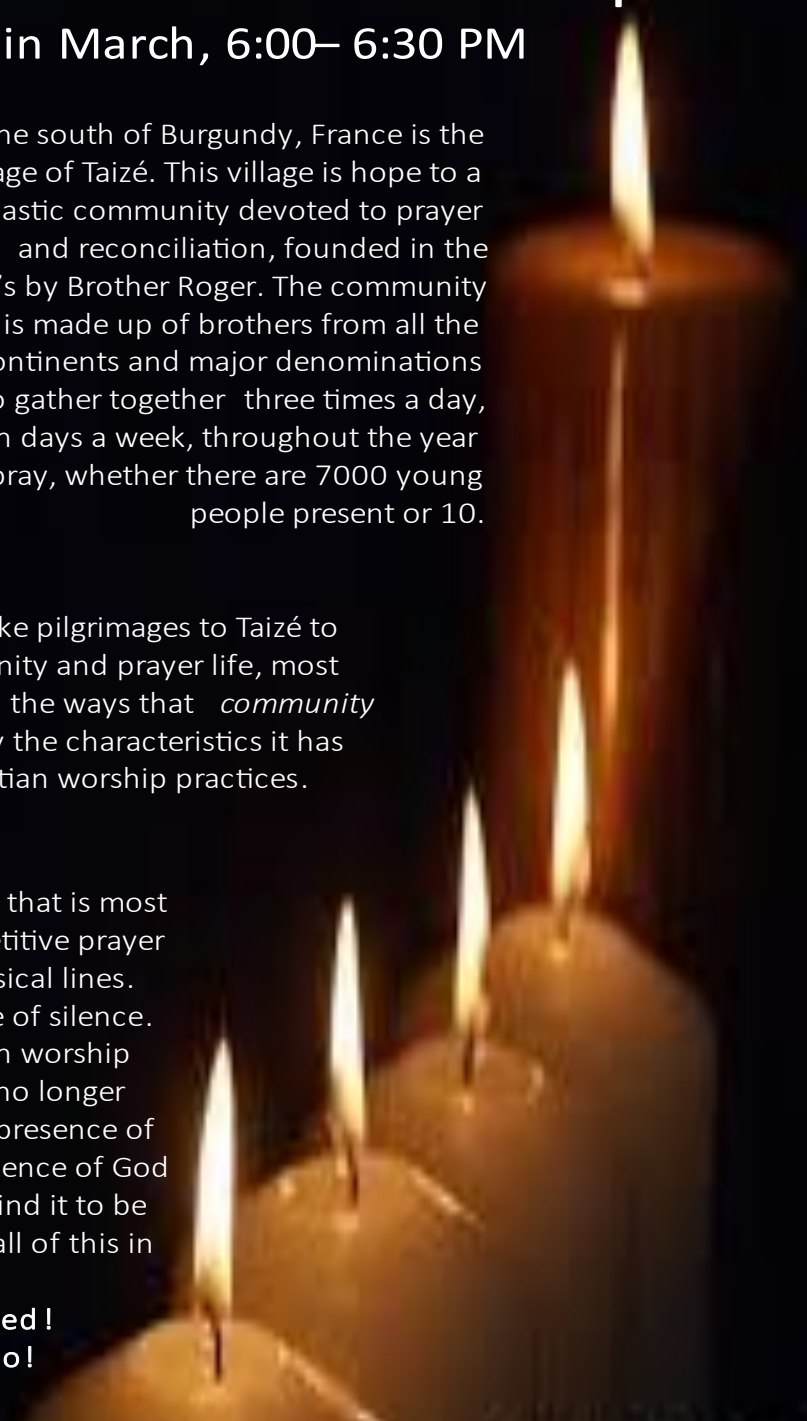
In the south of Burgundy, France is the village of Taizé. This village is home to a monastic community devoted to prayer and reconciliation, founded in the 1940's by Brother Roger. The community is made up of brothers from all the continents and major denominations who gather together three times a day, seven days a week, throughout the year to pray, whether there are 7000 young people present or 10.

While many people make pilgrimages to Taizé to experience the community and prayer life, most experience Taizé through the ways that *community* comes to us, namely by the characteristics it has contributed to Christian worship practices.

The characteristic of Taizé worship that is most familiar is the use of a kind of repetitive prayer and biblical texts set to simple musical lines. Taizé worship is generous in its use of silence. Like repetition, the use of silence in worship has a rich history that many of us no longer experience. Praying silently in the presence of others, or simply sitting in the presence of God takes some practice, but you will find it to be calming. We will be experiencing all of this in the flicker of candlelight.

You will be pleasantly surprised!

All are welcome this place, too!





Our Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 2, 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday Worship

Thursday, April 6, 7:00PM – 8:00 PM

Good Friday Ecumenical Worship

Friday, April 7, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

*UCC, Methodist, ELCA and Presbyterian churches are joining together at
United Methodist Church, 740 E College Ave, Appleton*

Easter Sunday 1st Worship Service

Sunday, April 9, 8:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Easter Sunday 2nd Worship Service

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

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724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915



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!

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.

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