



First Congregational United Church of Christ

Your October 2023 *Wide-Open Door*

Reminder: Our Ministry Plan for Program Year 2023-2024



For those of you who were on vacation or missed the “Council Corner” from July 23, here is a reminder of our plan that is unfolding for our ministry as we continue our Pastoral Search process.

The First Congregational United Church of Christ Church Council has approved a plan, created by church leadership in collaboration with Pastor Nick for the Program Year, 2023-2024. This will allow us to provide familiar meeting and worship patterns, and hope-filled and honest communications while the Search Team continues its work to find a settled Senior Pastor.

The plan involves moving from a three-pastor to a short term two-pastor model. Pastor Nick, having seniority on the staff, will assume a leadership role which will be titled, “Temporary Head of Staff.” During this short-term staffing model, Sarah Wilterdink will oversee all Children, Youth and Families activities as the Director of CYF. Pastor Nick will support Sarah in her position, as well as the rest of the staff, but will not be involved in the implementation or leadership of any CYF programs while he is the Temporary Head of Staff. No worries - he will continue to lead worship events such as Children’s Messages, the Hanging of the Greens Service, etc. CYF programming and registration will be coming your way soon. As we move forward...

- We will continue to have one service of Worship in-person and online.
- We will be using the Revised Common Lectionary for the program year with primary texts being taken from the Gospels.
- We will continue to utilize lay leadership for the scripture reading.

Pastor Mary Jo will continue to serve as our Interim Associate Pastor at least until the end of the program year. Throughout the year we will have opportunities to receive updates from the Senior Pastor Search Committee and from Church Council. Meantime, we are blessed to continue ministering with many active and gifted lay-leaders as we strive to continue to be The Church of the Open Door!

If you have any questions, ask one of the Church Council Members:

Rick Behm
Nancy Brown-Koeller
Kevin Clavers
Chris Danz
Kelly Fenton
Chip Gabbey
Dale Hansen
Kris Hietpas
Eilene Hoft-March

Ken Jahnke
Wayne Lannoye
Ted LaPine
Shari Mitchell
Howard Niblock
Bill Ritcey
Emma Slowinsky
Jack Vanden Boogaard
Mary Willems

Some of the fun from Rally Sunday...



A graphic featuring colorful balloons and bunting flags above the text "Rally Sunday" in a cursive font.

Rally Sunday



Submitting items to the Monthly Newsletter/Wide-Open Door and Sunday Bulletin/Open Door

Submit your full article to be included in the **Monthly Newsletter/Wide-Open Door**. Monthly Newsletter/Wide-Open Door articles can also include pictures and clipart and links for people to “learn more.” Answer all the following questions that apply:



- Who? What church group or committee is doing this
- What? The event title or name
- When? Date and time of event, include the deadline to sign up as well
- Where? Which room in the church you'll use, the off-site address or the virtual link
- Why? Any event information and details
- How? Contact person's name/email/phone number
- Cost? What is the cost/how to pay

Deadline for submitting articles for the Monthly Newsletter/Wide-Open Door is the 25th of the month.

Articles submitted for the Sunday Bulletin are limited to 2 Sundays per month and are subject to editing for clarity and/or space available.

Deadline for submitting articles for the Sunday Bulletin is 4:00PM on Tuesday.

Submit articles, questions, or ideas to opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org

Congregational Life

Embracing God, welcoming others, knowing ourselves

Vandersall Summary Report

The Church Council has completed a summary report of the Vandersall Collective's Engagement with First Congregational UCC plus a bit of history on how we arrived at this point and what's next. Copies are available in the narthex and on the website via this link [Vandersall Summary Report](#). The Vandersall team was part of several building study and future-looking committees at FC-UCC that focused on how our facilities can best meet the ministry needs of today and tomorrow and how our church can live more fully as the Church of the Open Door. There will be discussion sessions on the following days for anyone interested in hearing more about the report and status. **October 2, 6-7PM; October 4, 5-6PM; October 6, 12-1PM; October 8, 1-2PM.**

Church Library News

Hours: The church library will be open Sundays after church and staffed with volunteers. It is also open during the week when the church office is open for self check-out.

October book of the month – Changing Minds: the go-guide to mental health for family and friends by Dr. Mark Cross and Dr. Catherine Hanrahan

From Amazon - This compassionate and insightful guide will demystify mental health issues and help anyone concerned about themselves or loved ones.

Leading psychiatrist Dr Mark Cross, from the acclaimed ABC TV series Changing Minds, feels strongly that everyone should have easy access to information they can trust about common mental health problems, whether for themselves or to help family or friends.

The result is this empowering guide, written with Dr Catherine Hanrahan, which aims to cut through the myths and taboos about mental health and offer clear, practical help. It covers a wide range of common issues, from bipolar, anxiety, personality and eating disorders, to depression, post-traumatic stress and schizophrenia, and includes how to get help, what treatments are available and how to live successfully with a mental illness.

Most importantly, it shows how families can help a loved one through what can be a very challenging time. This book is for everyone.

Fall Creation Care Retreats

Dear friends in Christ: We're writing on behalf of the Wisconsin Conference Creation Care Team to invite you to attend a Creation Care retreats we've planned for this fall. The cost is \$250 for two nights, with one-day options available.

On Friday and Saturday Oct. 13-14, we'll meet at UCCI's Daycholah Center, on beautiful Green Lake. There, the keynote speaker will be the Rev. Daniel Cooperrider, a UCC pastor, writer and teacher. An avid outdoorsman, he writes at the intersection of theology, environmental ethics and climate justice and is the author of "Speak with the Earth and It Will Teach You," which will provide the theme for his talk. Daniel is co-pastor of Flicker Wild Church, a pop-up outdoor gathering. The rest of the program will mirror that at Moon Beach.

[Daycholah Retreat Oct. 13-14](#) Registration deadline is Oct. 5.

In faith, The Revs. Bob Ullman and John Helt
Co-chairs Wisconsin Conference Creation Care Team

Come to Green Lake! Register now for the Fall 2023 Women's Retreat!

October 27-29, 2023

This year our fall retreat will be at Daycholah Center, formerly Pilgrim Center, on Green Lake.

It is now time to register and pay for the fall retreat. Enjoy the friendship and fellowship of First Congo women in the beautiful setting at

Daycholah Center. The retreat runs from Friday evening through Sunday morning. Pictures and more information about Daycholah Center are available at UCCI.org, our Wisconsin Conference camps' website.

I am excited to announce our leader will be Tamara Dassow Cox. Tamara has helped in churches for as long as she can remember, starting as a youth. She completed her Lay Ministry training in 2008, attending the Wisconsin Conference UCC Lay Academy for two years and completing two years through Dubuque Theological Seminary. She has

been serving as a pulpit supply pastor since then in various churches around central and northern Wisconsin. As of 9/1/23, she began serving as the settled Pastor at Community UCC in Medford, WI. Tamara is also a Master Certified Life Coach, specializing in Spirituality, Mindfulness, and Healthy Living. Tamara has taught all levels from preschool all the way up through 96 years old. She has also led various faith formation classes including Sunday School, confirmation, book study, Bible study, and youth group. Tamara has joined with others to lead various retreats for youth and adults in the past. Leading people is something she has always been a part of; she also works a full-time position as a manager in research. In her free time, she loves gratitude journaling, art journaling, basket making, furniture flipping, reading, creative writing, spending time with her husband and kids, and spending time with her dog and tortoises. She also loves the outdoors and spends as much time as possible outside. Developing our faith into a heart and soul matter is a primary goal of hers.

Our retreat inspires conversation and builds relationships among those who attend. Newcomers and women who have not been at a retreat before are also warmly welcomed to join this circle of companionship.

Register and pay soon through Realm to ensure your spot. [Women's Retreat 2023](#) The cost is \$170 (same as last year) and includes Friday dinner, 3 meals on Saturday, Sunday brunch and housing for 2 nights. We need a minimum number of participants for this retreat. I am sure we will do more than meet it!

Watch for an emailed questionnaire in late September as we will be gathering additional information from you regarding the following:

- Food allergies/preferences
- Medical needs
- Preferences for accommodations / limitations
- Pronoun preferences
- We will ask if you can drive. If you prefer not to drive, we will arrange a ride for you.

If you have any questions, please contact Chris Calhoun at (920) 540-1560 or ChristineCalhoun902@gmail.com



Children & Youth

Faith, fun, and service

JOIN US!

CYF Sponsored "First Wednesday Meal" Wednesday: October 4 from 6-6:30PM

Dinner is held on the first Wednesday of the month. Everyone is welcome; you don't need to be involved in other Wednesday evening activities! The more people at First Congregational UCC on Wednesday night, the merrier we'll all be.

Many Hands Make Light Work 4 Volunteers Needed Each Sunday for Children's Ministry

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

One volunteer needed for ONLY ONE HOUR each month.

2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6:30-7:30PM - Help us have more meaningful conversations by chatting with a small group of youth for 20 minutes. Talk about whatever they need/want to, BUT Sarah will have discussion questions and prompts ready to go as well. Just come ready to chat - you will not be expected to answer hard questions! Come be a safe adult with a listening ear as our youth ponder living a Christian life in Appleton, 2023.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Three volunteers needed for ONLY ONE HOUR each month.

1st Wednesday of the month, 6:30-7:30PM - Help us have more meaningful conversations by chatting with a small group of youth for 20 minutes. Talk about whatever they need/want to, BUT Sarah will have discussion questions and prompts ready to go as well. Just come ready to chat - you will not be expected to answer hard questions! Come be a safe adult with a listening ear as our youth ponder living a Christian life in Appleton, 2023.

2nd Wednesday of Each Month, 6:30-7:30PM - You and one other adult volunteer will hang out in the High School Youth room with up to a dozen youth. Some of our teenagers crave time together. Can you help provide it for one hour this school year?

Outreach Ministry

Building relationships, serving others, pursuing justice

E2F (Empty to Full) Program

This fall members of the congregation will once again have an opportunity to participate in the E2F (Empty to Full) Pans program. Empty pans are handed out to willing participants. Each one includes a grocery list, recipe for preparation & a prayer. The cost for groceries is approximately \$13.

The person taking the pan purchases the groceries and assembles the recipe to fill the pan. All of the recipes are easy and require very little cooking. The assembled pan is frozen or kept cold until returned to church, on the date shown, for delivery to the recipients.

**Hand out: Sunday, October 15,
10:30-11:00AM (after worship)**

**Collection: Sunday, October 22,
9:30-10:00AM (before worship)**

If you are unable to return the pan on the given day, please call the church to make sure there is access to the church for drop off the week before. Please call Cindi MacSwain 920-606-6699 or email cmacswain@new.rr.com if you have concerns about pick up or drop off. Please provide your name, phone number & address and any other helpful info when leaving a message.

The filled **E2F (Empty to Full) Pans** primarily provide meals for **Pillars**, homeless shelters and low-income, affordable housing resources. After meeting the needs of Pillars, two more non-profits also became recipients. **Apricity**, offers a full spectrum of care for those impacted by substance use disorders, including treatment, employment, and recovery support services and **COTS**, who provides transitional shelter. Their goal is to enable individuals to transition to self-sufficiency and stable, independent living. **Thank you for your generous service in this adjusted ministry!**

Indigenous Exhibit

“Strong Unrelenting Spirits” is a Ho-Chunk portrait show on display at newARTspace gallery 124 N. Broadway in downtown De Pere until October 15. The artist’s large scale color photographs are embellished with masterful beadwork.

“The work is such an admirable showcase of Indigenous culture... the portraits are filled with individuals wearing traditional attire and regalia.....an impactful experience.....There is so much culture and language and history and humanity in these portraits.” (Review quote by Xav Horkman, Oneida writer)

If you have not seen this exhibit already, please check it out! It is a wonderful cultural presentation that can help us better understand our Indigenous neighbors. Go to newARTspace124.com for varied hours.



8th ANNUAL

INDIGENOUS

PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION 2023

October 9, 2023
5-7 p.m.
Lawrence University
Main Hall Green (outdoor)
501 E. College Ave., Appleton, WI
Free and open to the public.
All ages welcome.

FEATURING:
Tribal Leaders: Jon Greendeer, President of the Ho-Chunk Nation; Gena Kakkak, Chairwoman of the Menominee Nation; Dennis Kenote, Menominee Elder; and Lawrence University President Laurie A. Carter.
Performances and Poster Creations by AASD Students
Pow-Wow Demonstration (Oneida Nation)
Woodland Indian Art, Inc.
Indian tacos available for purchase

Rain site: Buchanan Wellness Center Gym

LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY
APPLETON, WISCONSIN

Sponsored by Lawrence University I.D.E.A.S. Division, Diversity and Intercultural Center (D&I/C), Office of Student Engagement for Activities and Leadership (SEAL), Lawrence University Native Alliance (LUNA), Appleton Area School District Diversity Equity and Inclusion Department, and Oneida Nation Tourism.

We collectively acknowledge that Lawrence University is situated on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee and Ho-Chunk people.

“We Are Still Here” Celebration!

The Indigenous Peoples’ Allies Committee (IPAC) is excited to invite the community to First Congregational UCC’s inaugural Indigenous celebration, “We Are Still Here.” This is an intergenerational event to celebrate the living legacies of our local Indigenous communities. All are welcome!



Join us for the following activities:

- Listen to traditional Indigenous stories, told by Debra Morningstar-Westenberger (FCUCC church member and Oneida Storyteller/ Artist)
- Create your own Story Stick at an intergenerational art workshop, led by Debra Morningstar (participants under 10 years old must be accompanied by an adult)
- Watch traditional dancers perform
- Enjoy some of the favorite foods served at Indigenous celebrations
- And other activities...

Date: Saturday, November 4, 2023

Time: 11 AM to 3 PM

Location: First Congregational United Church of Christ, Fellowship Hall (Lower Level)

Pre-registration is highly encouraged. Please use the sign-up sheet at the Sunday Coffee Table.





Moving from Charity to Justice Advocacy Workshop

In Partnership with
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Wisconsin Interfaith Voter Engagement Campaign
ESTHER Affiliate of WISDOM Network



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 from 1:00-4:30pm
First Congregational UCC Church
724 E South River St
Appleton, WI



- Examine our faith roots of Advocacy
- Further our commitment to faith-based social justice
- Training in Nuts and Bolts of Effective Advocacy

REGISTER HERE by Oct 12:
<https://esther-foxvalley.org/myvoice>



wivec.wichurches.org
wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.org
<https://esther-foxvalley.org>

QR Code to Register
for 10/15 Event




You are invited to the Community Living Room

Join Us for Coffee and Connection

You are welcome to this non-clinical, nonjudgemental, safe space for talking through life's challenges. There is no cost, and it's completely confidential.

ESTHER
First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E South River Street, Appleton

The 3rd Wednesday of the month:
Sept 20, Oct 18, Nov 15, Dec 20
5 - 8 pm.

Fun Resources:

- Listen to the "Real Vibes Only" Podcast on Spotify.
- Visit www.ebbandflowcooperative.com to learn about Emotional CPR and more.

www.communitylivingroom.org/



Fellowship - Online Auction - Raffle - Music - Awards - Celebration

ESTHER 19TH Annual Banquet

Sunday, November 12, 2023 5:00PM

Grand Meridian, 2621 N. Oneida St., Appleton

Reignite Your Fire for Justice!



Keynote Speaker:
Ana Garcia-Ashley

Ana Garcia-Ashley's family emigrated from the Dominican Republic during the 1960s to flee the chaos of Trujillo's dictatorship. Intensely interested in the intersection of politics and faith, Ana developed a foundation for organizing congregations. During her tenure as lead organizer, Milwaukee's MICAHA won a \$5 million reinvestment commitment from the city's banks. Ana was a founding organizer for WISDOM and became Executive Director of The Gamaliel National Network in 2012. Ana's deep sense of organizing as a ministry, her interest in social justice and her experience as a naturalized immigrant dovetail perfectly with the goals of ESTHER and WISDOM. We are "a community of people living out our faith and values to collectively transform our communities and bring about justice locally, nationally and globally."

Early-Bird Special through November 1: \$65 per ticket - Starting November 2, \$70 per ticket

Order online: esther-foxvalley.org/banquet - call 920-843-8083

Mail checks payable to ESTHER: PO Box 784, Neenah, WI 54957



Sponsored by:



Attorney George Curtis
Apex Accident Attorneys, LLC
Curtis Law



—The Church of the Open Door—

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

724 E South River Street, Appleton WI



JOIN US FOR A HALLOWEEN TRUNK ^{or} TREAT

Free Sloppy Joe Lunch,
Bounce House & More

SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 22

Raindate: Saturday, Oct 28

11:30AM - 1:00PM

How Can I Help Make This a Success?

FAMILY NAME _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

I WILL PROVIDE A TRUNK OR TREAT VEHICLE

- 1. Non-scary, family-friendly decor & costumes.
- 2. Please arrive with your decorated vehicle by 11:30AM.
If attending worship, you'll have time to decorate after the service!
- 3. An adult must remain with the vehicle at all times.
- 4. Vehicles must remain on site until 1:00PM.
- 5. If possible, bring goodies to handout to 40 children. We'll have extras.
- 6. If you know your trunk theme already, tell us what it is: _____

I WILL MAKE A CROCKPOT OF SLOPPY JOES

Please bring it to the church office on Friday, Oct 20 (9AM-3PM), or bring it to church by 10AM that Sunday.

I WILL DROP OFF CANDY OR GOODIES, OCT 1-18.

Need inspiration? Checkout the non-food Christian goodies at orientaltrading.com.

To let us know how you can help us make this a success, return this form, email swilterdink@firstcongoappleton.org, or call 920-851-4518. THANK YOU!

First Congregational United Church of Christ
724 E. South River Street
Appleton, WI 54915

firstcongoappleton.org

920.733.7393

Office hours: Monday-Friday, 9:00AM-3:00PM

Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of First Congregational UCC - was the home, hunting, gathering, and farming land of the First Peoples of this territory: the Ho Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation. Other tribes were forcibly re-located to this region by the actions of colonialism. Despite centuries of reprehensible treatment, the peoples of these sovereign nations are robust and enduring among us.

We are truly saddened by the genocide of their ancestors, the seizure of their lands, and the repression of their cultures and languages. We acknowledge that we benefit from the economic and social legacy left by settler colonialism.

We are grateful that many members of these original Nations have honorably served and defended the United States. We strive to honor their cultures and their insightful stewardship of this land and all creatures on it, recognizing our common interest in protecting its air, water, soils, and web of life for all future generations.

We commit ourselves through study and immersion experiences to learn the history and cultures of these peoples and their traditional knowledge.



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

