

First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 29, 2023

LET THE WHOLE  
EARTH BE FILLED  
WITH HIS

*Glory.*

Psalm 72:19



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.

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## TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25 – 12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Church Family Handbells – <i>Amistad Room</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
11:00 – 12:00PM	Covenant Economics Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Al-Anon – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds</i>

*We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, or Narthex. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.*

**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.

**Childcare** is available for ALL infants and toddlers. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

**Communion:** The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Communion elements are gluten free. All are welcome to join us!

**Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton:** We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes 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. \*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

**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!



**Online Streaming and Podcasting** are available on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) or [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

**Open Door Announcements** can be shared by emailing [opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org) or calling the office.

**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.

**Sunday School:** Our PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 29, 2023 9:30 AM  
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

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## PRELUDE

Grave & Allegro from *Concerto Saint Marc* Tomaso Albinoni (1671-1751)  
John Daniel, *trumpet* Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

## WELCOME

Dianne Droster

## CHORAL INTROIT

*Behold Us, Lord* LaVahn Maesch  
(FCUCC Organist/Music Director from 1922-1972)

*\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Dianne Droster

Leader: We are called to love God and love our neighbor!

**Right side: Love with all our heart!**

**Left side: Love with all our soul!**

Leader: We are called to love God and love our neighbor!

**Right side: Love with all our mind!**

**Left side: Love with all our strength!**

Leader: We are called to love the whole world as God loves us!

**Right side: Love with our whole selves!**

**Left side: Love whole and holy!**

Leader: Come, let us love together!

**All: Let us share God's love in this time of worship!**

## \*OPENING HYMN #469

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* EIN FESTE BURG

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Derek Elkins

(During the sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to Church School.)

## ANTHEM

*O Word of God* MUNICH

Sanctuary Choir, trumpet and timpani

**Full congregation joining on final stanza, see bulletin page 3.**

# O Word of God

William W. How

MUNICH  
Gesangbuch, Meiningen  
Arranged by CRAIG COURTNEY  
(ASCAP)

*Sing when directed*

The musical score is written on five staves in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "O\_ make Your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of \_ pur - est gold, to \_ bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light\_ as of old. O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see You face to face."

O\_ make Your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of \_ pur - est  
gold, to \_ bear be - fore the na - tions Your  
true light\_ as of old. O teach Your wan - d'ring  
pil - grims by this their path to trace, till,  
clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see You face to face.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:34-40 NRSV

Heidi Erstad

The Greatest Commandment

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

SERMON *"This Is a Test"*

Derek Elkins

\*HYMN #459

*Jesu, Jesu*

CHEREPONI

OFFERING

Derek Elkins

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

*Andante from Concerto Saint Marc*

T. Albinoni

\*DOXOLOGY (#27 *Now Thank We All Our God* – St. 3 only)

**ALL: All praise and thanks to God almighty now be given.**

**To God the three-in-one, who reigns in highest heaven.**

**The one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,**

**For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Dianne Droster

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

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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 (see bulletin page 6)

*The Lord Is God*

AZMON

\*BENEDICTION

Derek Elkins

POSTLUDE

*Allegro from Concerto Saint Marc*

T. Albinoni

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Derek Elkins

Pastor Dianne Droster

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

John Daniel, *trumpet*

Victoria Daniel, *timpani*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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**Children's Ministry Locations for Today**

<i>Upstairs, to the Left</i>	<i>Upstairs, to the Right</i>	<i>Downstairs</i>
<b>Childcare Room</b> Infants & Toddlers	<b>Nursery</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Graders	<b>Little Angel's Room</b> Preschoolers
<b>Theater</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Graders	<b>Art Kitchen</b>	<b>Science Room</b>
<b>Scripture Tent</b> K & 1 <sup>st</sup> Graders		<b>Middle School Room</b>

**Sunday, November 5, 2023 Worship Service**

*"The Communion of Saints"*

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Matthew 5:1-12 The Message

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Youth Handbells; Sanctuary Choir; Cantor soloist

# The Lord Is God



1 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise  
2 With all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and might,  
3 At night or day, at home, a - way, to - geth - er and a - part,  
4 The Lord is God, the Lord a - lone! Give hon - or, thanks, and praise



to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.  
O peo - ple, love the Lord your God, the source of truth and light.  
O chil - dren, take these ho - ly words and keep them in your heart.  
to God, the mak - er of all things and giv - er of our days.



This hymn paraphrases the *Shema* (Deuteronomy 6:4–9), an ancient and central affirmation of Jewish monotheistic faith that observant Jews still recite twice a day. Jesus knew it well and called it the first and great commandment (Matthew 22:38/Mark 12:28–29/Luke 10:26–28).

TEXT: David Gambrell, 2011

MUSIC: Carl Gotthelf Gläser, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1839

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AZMON  
CM



Dear friends,

As I write this note, I am thinking that I have, perhaps, divided the congregation with the words I spoke from the pulpit last Sunday, October 22...insofar as some of you know that the title of my message was, "After Church" and some of you do not. Here is the "nutshell" version of my message: Johnny's mother looked out the window and noticed that he was "playing church" with Minnie, the family cat. He had placed her on a lawn chair and Johnny, pretending to be a Pastor, seemed to be "preaching" to her. Johnny's mother shook her head, smiled, and went about her work.

It wasn't long before she heard yelling, meowing, and hissing. She ran back to the open window. Now, it appeared as though Johnny was attempting to *baptize* the cat in a tub of water. She called out, "Johnny, stop that! You should know that Minnie is afraid of water!"

Johnny, still wrestling with Minnie, looked up and said, "Well, she should have thought about that before she chose to join my church."

On Sunday December 4, following Worship, Pastor Nick and I will be hosting a New Member Gathering. We will chat with you who are considering joining in the membership of First Congregational UCC, Appleton. We promise "pleasant" conversation, even if you are afraid of water!

I'd like to draw your attention to what it means for each one of us when we join in communal "belonging" and make a commitment to "being the church" together. Read: Matthew 22:15-22

**Why be a church?** Can't we worship God in a fishing boat or on the walking trail on Sunday mornings? Can't we gather with our friends at the Performing Arts Center and be entertained by music of the Masters and be assured of a good seat and valet parking? Isn't it good enough to give a yearly donation to the Red Cross and drop off food at a food pantry? Can't we satisfy our spiritual craving by reading a "self-help" book or listening to YouTube "music for mediation"?



That would be one side of the coin that Jesus is talking about. We are not involved in a coin-toss organization. I believe that when Jesus tells US to: "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." (NRSV) We are drawn into a holy "belonging."

In the United Church of Christ, we do not **test one another**, nor do we place expectations on one another that require us to conform to certain beliefs. What drew you to this community of faith? Were you "church shopping"? Or did you just feel compelled to walk through these doors; when you did, you felt a clear *call to belonging*? It has been much more than a Sunday morning appointment with God. You found *real people* here who remembered your name. Where would you have had the opportunity to worship, pray, praise, join in fellowship, laugh and cry with this group of people if you hadn't walked through these doors???

Belonging to the church is becoming part of a community of faith where all are welcome, no matter who it is or where they are on life's journey.

Why do you think I chose the words, "After Church?" I want to suggest *a bit of a change* from now on. Whenever you find yourself saying, "After Church, we are taking a ride up north." Or, "After Church, let's stay for coffee hour." STOP and think, and know that it really is **ALWAYS CHURCH**, whoever we are, whatever we are doing. whatever day it is. Church is a way of living and loving. I am the church. You are the church. We are the church together.

There really is no such thing as, "*After Church!*"

Take a deep breath. Let it out.

*Pastor Mary Jo*

## 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	Jean Jepson
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Kathy Lannoye
John Breitzman	Nancy Kandler
Don Brittnacher	Kandy Kueler
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Brian Chirchir Kiptoo, Kenya student who is living with cancer	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Beth Detienne's mother	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Jim Edwards	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Anne Planner's brother, Bill Planner
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Gretchen Revie
Phil Gabrielson	Larry Schiedermayer
David Galow	Frank and Pat Severin
Art Gandler	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Paul Siket
Ken Geiger	Mark Spindler
Margaret Hankwitz	Kinsley Tarr
Judy Hanson	Gloria Tate
JoAnn Helms	Jack Thiel
Shirley Hoft	Peter Thiel
Misty Hofman	James Totzke
Phil & Mary Hornseth's nephew, Eric Montross	Jean Van Wagenin
Joan Jenson's son, John	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
	Joe Wells
	Jake Whisler and his family
	Diane White

## The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events,  
please visit our website.

**Parking Lot Update:** A third of our parking lot is currently under construction. Until further notice, please DO NOT walk through the construction area. If you choose to park in the main parking lot, please park as far back as possible from the construction and use the South River Street sidewalk to access the front door. Parking is also available in the CYF parking lot.

**Membership Exploration Class:** Are you new to First Congregational and want to learn more about our faith community? Would you like to find a place to ask your questions of faith and call your faith home? Then join Pastors Mary Jo and Nick after worship Sunday, **December 3, 2023** (10:45AM - until approx. noon) in the Upper Lounge.

We'll be talking about our journeys of faith. We will share about this church, our theology, and get to know one another. We hope to listen to your spiritual journey and the questions that have guided you to seek new answers.

**Please RSVP for the new Membership Exploration Gathering by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or by contacting the front office at [info@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:info@firstcongoappleton.org).**

If you have already completed one of the former classes and are ready to join the church, we will be introducing all our new members to the congregation during worship on Sunday, **December 17**.

**1st Wednesday Night Dinner:** Wednesday, **November 1**, 6:00-6:30PM. Dinner is held on the first Wednesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to be involved in other Wednesday evening activities, you do not need to sign up in advance, and there is no cost (although a freewill offering will be taken).

**November Economic Justice Work Group Meeting:** The EJWG is meeting on Monday, **November 6, 2023**, 7:00-8:00PM Zoom only via link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82544862424?pwd=cWtYRlgyOEp3ekhFMHZmdi9USEE2dz09>. Join us to learn about new plans for worker-cooperative business development that aims to address financial insecurity, food insecurity, and health in Appleton from Ted Toussaint, co-founder of the Generative Local Community Institute. Ted grew up in Appleton and was part of the FCUCC family. He has spent his career working in health delivery systems to develop and scale new care models for equitable primary care and population health. He is now working to get upstream on the social determinants of health through local economic and food system development.

**FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU!**

Over 300 people, including at least 200+ very tired kiddos and I (I was also very tired), thank you for your help in a successful **Trunk or Treat!**

This multi-generational community-outreach activity was a huge success thanks to our amazing church community.

You provided:

...over three *heaping* Nescos full of sloppy joes - around 90 pounds of meat - (with very little left over!)

...thousands of trinkets, pretzel bags and candies (NONE were left over- we ran to the store twice).

...25+ trunks that were decorated with love and creativity.

...placing door hangers on nearby homes and apartments.

...praying, encouraging, and promoting via word-of-mouth and social media.

Humbly & graciously,  
*Sarah, Your CYF Director*



(See more Trunk or Treat pictures next week in the FCUCC November Newsletter.)

**“We Are Still Here!” – Indigenous Celebration:** Saturday **November 4**, 10:00AM-3:00PM, Fellowship Hall, FCUCC. This intergenerational event celebrates the living legacies of our local Indigenous communities. All are welcome!

- 10:00AM – Welcome, Opening of Native Artisan Tables
- 10:15AM-12:00PM – Indian Story Stick Project (for children & youth, ages 5-10 must be accompanied by an adult)
- 12:00PM – Traditional Indigenous food
- 1:00-1:45PM – Youth Smoke Dancers
- 2:15-2:45PM – Native American Storytelling
- 3:00PM – Drawing winners announced

Activities & lunch are free, but please pre-register for Story Stick Workshop at 920-733-7393 or sign up at the Sunday Coffee Table.

**Volunteers and Supplies Needed:** Volunteers needed for Saturday, **November 4** Indigenous celebration, “We Are Still Here!”

- From 10:00AM-12:00PM, we need three child-wrangers to help with the Story Stick Craft Workshop.
- From 11:00AM-2:00PM, we need three volunteers to help in the kitchen.
- From 1:00PM-3:00PM, we need one or two volunteers to read aloud children’s books about Native American heritage to youngsters in our library.

Contact Eilene Hoft-March at [Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu](mailto:Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu) to volunteer.

Supplies for this event: beads, yarn, ribbon, buttons, small scraps of material. Items can be deposited in the church office before November 4.

**Shoe Drive:** Check your/your kids’ closets! Seeking gently used boys’ and girls’ athletic shoes for youth of all ages. Menominee Tribal Youth Services helps K-12 youth pursue their passion for sports. Sports include football, cross-country, volleyball, basketball, and wrestling. Please put your best foot forward by dropping off shoes in good condition in the box in the narthex through Sunday, November 5.



**World Relief is Collecting Winter Coats:** World Relief needs winter coats, hats and gloves of all sizes for new refugees who are arriving without warm outerwear. If you are able to help, please bring new or clean-used items to the World Relief table at the Alternative Christmas Market on November 12. If you are not able to donate that day, collections will be received in the narthex through November 26.

**Helper(s) Wanted:** We are looking for a helper(s) for the Christmas Eve services, this person would be paid to be on hand to do snow removal, help pastors with set-ups, and minor custodial clean up. They can contact Bart at [bforseth@firstcongoappleton.org](mailto:bforseth@firstcongoappleton.org) or 920-851-9907 for more information.

**Pillars Meal Sign-up:** Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **November 2, 2023**. Check out the link to sign up! [Pillars sign up](#) We will be making soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. It's a great way to meet new people and enjoy fellowship. For questions contact Shelley Nulton, snulton@att.net or 920-202-4419.



**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](http://esther-foxvalley.org/banquet) - call 920-843-8083  
 Mail checks payable to ESTHER: PO Box 784, Neenah, WI 54957



Sponsored by:




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 Apex Accident Attorneys, LLC  
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**Native American Heritage Month**  
**Featuring Oneida Storyteller**  
**Debra Morningstar**

**Thursday, November 16**  
**Neenah Public Library**  
**7pm**

Sponsored by 

## This Week's Schedule

### Monday, October 30

3:00 - 4:30PM

IPAC Planning Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

6:30 - 8:30PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

### Tuesday, October 31

9:00 - 10:00AM

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*

1:30 - 2:30PM

Racial Equity Meeting - *Zoom*

6:30 - 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*

7:45 - 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, November 1

12:15 - 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

5:30 - 7:30PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

5:45 - 6:25PM

Youth Handbells - *Sanctuary*

6:00 - 7:00PM

1st Wednesday Dinner - *Fellowship Hall*

6:00 - 7:30PM

MS Youth Group Dinner Clean Up & Hang Out - *Fellowship Hall & MS Youth Room*

6:30 - 7:30PM

HS Youth Group - *HS Youth Room*

7:00 - 8:30PM

Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

### Thursday, November 2

9:00 - 10:00AM

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*

12:00 - 1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

12:00 - 1:30PM

Theology Discussion Group - *Chefo's Pancake House*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley AA - *Common Grounds*

### Friday, November 3

10:00AM - 4:00PM

"We Are Still Here" set-up - *Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

7:00 - 8:30PM

"We Are Still Here" set-up - *River Room*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 - 8:30PM

N.A - *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, November 4

10:00AM - 3:00PM

"We Are Still Here" - *Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

11:00AM - 12:00PM

Debtors Anon - *Common Grounds*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

### Sunday, November 5 ~ Daylight Saving Time ends

9:25 - 12:00PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

9:30 - 10:30AM

Sunday Worship - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

9:30 - 10:30AM

Children's Ministry - *CYF Wing*

10:30 - 11:30AM

Children's Choir - *Choir Room*

10:30 - 11:30AM

Family Handbells - *Sanctuary*

10:45 - 11:45AM

Parents' Book Discussion - *HS Room*

5:00 - 6:00PM

LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

6:00 - 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting - *Commons Grounds*

7:00 - 8:00PM

AL ANON - *Chapel / ALA Teen - Upper Lounge*

### 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.



**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.**