

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 5, 2023



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

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>Sanctuary</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Al-Anon – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</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, Narthex or Childcare Room.

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.

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 or by 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 - 5th 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

November 5, 2023 9:30 AM

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost ~ All Saints Sunday ~
Communion Sunday ~ Youth Bells Sunday

PRELUDE

Hanson Place (Shall We Gather at the River)

Tune by Robert Lowry
Setting by Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

INTROIT

Abundant Praise!

Sandra Eithun

Youth Handbells

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP *When Jesus Calls His Friends to Eat*, by Mary Luti ©2023

One: When Jesus calls his friends to eat, God's spirit searches far and wide;
she finds us all and brings us home for sweet communion side by side.

**All: In numbers small, in powers slight, in short supply the church appears;
but faith perceives what eyes can't see: the universe is gathered here.**

One: Here, all the living and the dead, here all the saints and angels blessed;
and in profusion, honored guests: the meek, the shunned, the poor oppressed.

**All: God's church assembles for the Feast in numbers countless and unknown,
so in this house where Love presides no child need ever eat alone.**

One: Unbounded by our human time, untethered to one little space,

All: God dreams a dream, and it comes true: for all, belonging and a place!

*Note: During the Opening Hymn, please come forward, if you wish, to light a vigil candle
in memory of loved ones who have passed away during the past year. Also, please print that
person's name on the slips of paper, that can be found on the table in front. The Pastors will
read the names later in this service.*

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin pages 3 and 4)

For All the Saints

SINE NOMINE

ALL are welcome to sing in harmony on stanza three, as printed.

326

For All the Saints



1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who
 2 Thou wast their rock, their for - tress, and their might;
 In Harmony 3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!
 4 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long,
 5 From earth's wide bounds, from o - cean's far - thest coast, through



thee by faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy
 thou, Lord, their cap - tain in the well - fought fight;
 We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet
 steals on the ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, and
 gates of pearl streams in the count - less host,



name, O Je - sus, be for - ev - er blest.
 thou, in the dark - ness drear, their one true light.
 all are one in thee, for all are thine.
 hearts are brave a - gain, and arms are strong.
 sing - ing to Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost,



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

3 O blest com - mu - nion, fel - low - ship di - vine!

We fee - bly strug - gle; they in glo - ry shine; yet

all are one in thee, for all are thine.

to stanza 4
Al - le - lu - ia!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 5:1-12, The Message: *You're Blessed* Faye Binsfeld

When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said: "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule. "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you. "You're blessed when you're content with just who you are – no more, no less. That's the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can't be bought. "You're blessed when you've worked up a good appetite for God. He's food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat. "You're blessed when you care. At the moment of being 'care-full,' you find yourselves cared for. "You're blessed when you get your inside world – your mind and heart – put right. Then you can see God in the outside world. "You're blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That's when you discover who you really are, and your place in God's family. "You're blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God's kingdom. "Not only that – count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort, and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens – give a cheer, even! – for though they don't like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

SERMON *"The Communion of Saints"*

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

***HYMN #374**

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

SERVANT SONG

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

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER
arr. Ron Mallory

*This arrangement opens with random bell ringing and uses
wind chimes to suggest the mystery of the cross.*

Youth Handbells

*DOXOLOGY

**ALL: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

Pastor Nick: We are an open communion church, meaning we require no specific faith confession or church membership to join us at table. These gifts are for all those who wish to know the presence of Christ and the community of Christ's people.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Mary Jo: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor Mary Jo: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Mary Jo: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Mary Jo: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor Nick: Blessed are you; God of creation and all beginnings,
God of Abraham and Sarah, God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah, God of Ruth and David,

Pastor Mary Jo: God of the priests and the prophets, God of Mary and Joseph,
God of apostles and martyrs, God of our mothers and fathers,
God of our children to all generations.

Pastor Nick: And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full
of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Pastor Mary Jo: Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ. By the baptism
of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to the church, delivered us
from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water
and the Spirit.

Pastor Nick: On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor Mary Jo: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor Nick: And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving, as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Pastor Mary Jo: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Pastor Nick: (*prayer requests*)

Pastor Nick: On this All Saints Sunday, we pray that you renew our communion with all your saints. O God of both the living and the dead, we praise your holy names for all your servants who finished their course in faith.

Please join in singing the refrain below after hearing it introduced by the choir. Then join in singing it, on cue, throughout this musical setting that names and celebrates the Saints who have passed during the last year.

REFRAIN: *All of Us Go Down to the Dust* M. Mummert (b. 1965)
Text: Kontakion for the Departed, Eastern Byzantine Rite, attrib. Thesphanes (d.c. 842)
Daniel Boyd, *cantor*

All of Us Go Down to the Dust

Refrain

All of us go down to the dust, yet e-ven at the grave we make our song:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Kontakion for the Departed, Eastern Byzantine Rite, attrib. Thesphanes (d. c. 842)
Music: Mark Mummert © 2003, 2013 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Permission is granted for reproduction of this item for non-sale local use only, provided that each copy carries the copyright notice.

(Pastor Nick and Pastor Mary Jo will read names. After each name, a bell will toll.)

Tom Barnes

Lynn Boenker

Harry Boll

Gary Bowman

Clair Brown

Dick Casperson

Charles Eggenberger

Matthew Loofboro

Dick McConnell

Sharon Radke

Bill Radtke

Peggy Rosenthal

Jill Smith

Mike Vance

Patricia Warrick

Dave Williamsen

Pastor Nick: Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, strengthen us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Pastor Mary Jo: Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

Pastor Mary Jo: 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.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

Pastor Nick: The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

Pastor Mary Jo: The cup of blessing that we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Pastor Nick: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Ave verum Corpus

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

Sanctuary Choir Sam Dill, *alto*

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary; truly suffering, sacrificed on the cross for all; from whose pierced side flowed water and blood. Be for us a foretaste (of heaven) at death's trial, O sweet Jesus, O loving Jesus, O Jesus Son of Mary.

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

All: We give you thanks, most gracious God, for allowing us to share in this feast as your family and to be fed with the bread of heaven. We give you thanks for the communion of the saints who surround us, guide us, and live in us as we make our way through the pilgrimage of life. Give us grace that we all may grow in love, glorifying you in all things, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin page 10)

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in G

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Youth Handbells: Henry Clothier, Will Clothier, Elena Eubanks, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton Piepenburg, Eva Schmidt, Chase Wahl; John Albrecht, *director*

Sanctuary Choir

Sam Dill, *alto*

Daniel Boyd, *cantor*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

Sunday, November 12, 2023 Worship Service

"The Wise and the Foolish"

Pastor Nick Hatch

Matthew 25:1-13

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Jann Kostecke, *flute*;

Children's Choir; Sanctuary Choir; LU Music Scholars

375 Shall We Gather at the River

1 Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2 On the mar-gin of the riv-er, wash-ing up its sil-ver spray,
 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-ery bur-den down;
 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv-er; soon our pil-grim-age will cease;

with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God?
 we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day.
 grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown.
 soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.

Refrain

Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

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

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.

Why not “First Congo” anymore? At the Church Council meeting last week, the Council unanimously voted to change our domain name and website address and no longer refer to ourselves as “First Congo.” There is good reason for this decision given our current awareness of, and interest in, promoting racial equity. Appropriation is a term defined as the action of taking something for one’s own use, typically without the owner’s permission. We are proportionately a white church and using the name “Congo” implies otherwise. In conversation with a person of color, who happens to be a UCC Pastor, she stated, “I would never step foot in a white church by that name.” In addition, we now have and will continue to have families from the Republic of the Congo in the Fox Cities. What would it be like for one of them to come to our church based on that name? We need to be sensitive to unintentionally causing harm to persons from the Congo and other persons of color.

This won’t happen overnight as we have long established habits and we may need to kindly remind each other. It will take some time to get the domain changes in place and you will be kept updated as we proceed.

With gratitude, The Racial Equity Group

November Economic Justice Work Group Meeting: Monday, November 6, 2023

7:00-8:00PM Zoom only via link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82544862424?pwd=cWtYRlgYOEp3ekhFMHZmdi9USEE2dz09>

If you are interested in learning about pursuing genuine, intentional economic justice in our Fox Cities communities, please join us to learn about new plans for worker-cooperative business development. Ted Toussaint, our guest speaker and co-founder of the Generative Local Community Institute, will discuss ways to address financial insecurity, food insecurity, and health in Appleton. Ted grew up in Appleton and was part of the FC UCC 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. All are welcome to learn about these practical, humanitarian solutions.

PS: Save **December 4**, 7:00-8:00PM for EJWG’s next speaker, Vaya Jones, Appleton alderperson (District 10) and specialist in Social Determinants Health. Hybrid In-Person & Zoom meeting.

HoHoHo Let's GoGoGoto the Annual Alternative Christmas Market!

Stroll on into the Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, **November 12** from 10:30AM-12:00PM to support our mission partners and our bakery sale. There will be live music, coffee, and a breakfast snack during our joyful gathering. **We are in need of donations for the bakery sale**, which can be delivered Saturday morning or Sunday before worship and the market.

Mental Health Task Force - The next meeting of the Mental Health Task Force will be Monday, **November 13** from 6:00-7:30PM in-person only in the Upper Lounge. Our guest presenter will be Beth Clay from the NEW Mental Health Connection. All are welcome. Please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452 with questions.

Membership Exploration Gathering: 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 approximately 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.

If you have 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**.

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 or 920-851-9907 for more information.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, November 6

5:30 – 7:00PM

6:30 – 8:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Facilities Ministry Area – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Economic Justice Work Group Meeting – *Zoom only*

Tuesday, November 7

9:00 – 10:00AM

10:00AM – 12:00PM

1:00 – 2:30PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 9:00PM

7:45 – 8:45PM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Worship and Music Ministry Team – *Upper Lounge*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, November 8

12:15 – 1:00PM

5:30 – 7:30PM

5:45 – 6:25PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

MS Youth Group – *MS Youth Room*

HS Youth Group – *HS Youth Room*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, November 9

9:00 – 10:00AM

12:00 – 1:00PM

4:30 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

ESTHER – *River Room*

TnT SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*

Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, November 10

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

AI-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, November 11

8:00AM – 2:00PM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Alternative Christmas Market Set-up – *Fellowship Hall*

Debtors Anon – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, November 12

8:00AM – 1:00PM

9:25AM – 12:00PM

9:30 – 10:30AM

9:30 – 10:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

5:00 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Alternative Christmas Market – *Fellowship Hall*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Sunday Worship – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

Children's Ministry – *CYF Wing*

Children's Choir – *Choir Room*

Family Handbells – *Sanctuary*

Parents' Book Discussion – *HS Room*

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

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds*

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.