

First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 8, 2023

LET THE WHOLE
EARTH BE FILLED
WITH HIS

Glory.

Psalm 72:19



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 – 11:35AM	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>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
11:00AM – 12:00PM	Covenant Economics Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
1:00 – 2:00PM	Vandersall Report Discussion – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00 – 8:30PM	Al-Anon – <i>Chapel</i>
6:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Alateen – <i>Upper Lounge</i>

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary. Due to technical difficulties, livestreaming in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, Narthex, and the Nursery will be unavailable today.

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 – 7-year-olds. 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 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.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 8, 2023 9:30 AM
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Bible Sunday

PRELUDE

There in God's Garden

Tune by K. Lee Scott

Setting by Robert Buckley Farlee (b. 1950)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Now I Walk in Beauty

Gregg Smith (1931-2016)

Sanctuary Choir

Now I walk in beauty, beauty is before me, beauty is behind me, above and below me.

This setting of a Navajo Prayer is offered in recognition of Indigenous Peoples' Day, October 9.

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Who comes to this house today?

People: We come from the east to celebrate our God who has created the rising sun and has given us a new day.

Leader: Who comes to this place of worship?

People: We come from the north to remember that the One who made us has also shaped the face of icy mountains and snow-swept valleys.

Leader: Who enters into this place of sanctuary?

People: We come from the west, singing of our Maker's love and dancing with the red sun at our backs.

Leader: Who gathers as the church today?

People: We come from the south, our voices rising with the desert winds as we praise the Giver of all life.

Leader: Let us now join together as one body.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON

This hymn text was written by the first Native American Dakota to be ordained in the Presbyterian ministry, John B. Renville, and was published in the Dakota hymnal he edited.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PRESENTATION OF 4TH GRADE BIBLES

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

Congregation: We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We hope as you read the Bible, you will bring not only your faith, but also your doubts and your questions, too. We promise to be a loving, supportive, listening and teaching community. We want to grow with you in knowledge, faith, and love.

RESPONSE HYMN #103 St. I

Jesus Loves Me!

JESUS LOVES ME

**ALL: Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.**

ANTHEM

Blessed Be the Lord, My Rock (Psalm 144)

Abbie Betinis (b. 1980)

LU Music Scholars

*Blessed be the Lord, my rock and my fortress,
My stronghold, my deliverer,
My shield and he in whom I take refuge.
We are like breath, our days are like a passing shadow.
Bow thy heav'ns, O Lord, come down!
Stretch forth thy hand from on high, rescue me, deliver me.
I will sing a new song to thee, O God.*

SCRIPTURE READING MATTHEW 21:33-46

Debbie Hoogesteger

"Here's another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

"The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. 'Surely,' he thought, 'they will respect my son.'

"But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. 'This is the heir! Let's kill him and have it all for ourselves.' They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

"Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?"

“He’ll kill them – a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.”

Jesus said, “Right – and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out is now the cornerstone.

This is God’s work; we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

“This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”

When the religious leaders heard this story, they knew it was aimed at them.

They wanted to arrest Jesus and put him in jail, but, intimidated by public opinion, they held back. Most people held him to be a prophet of God.

SERMON *“The Hope of Becoming the Church: Part 1”*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

WAREHAM

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

Nettleton (Hear the Good News of Salvation)

American Melody

Setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

*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.

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

(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 8)**

God's Work, Our Hands

EARTH AND ALL STARS

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Earth and All Stars (God's Work, Our Hands)

Tune by David N. Johnson

Setting by David Cherwien (b. 1957)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir LU Music Scholars

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>
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery	Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
Theater	Art Kitchen 4 th & 5 th Graders	Science Room K & 1 st Graders
Scripture Tent 2 nd & 3 rd Graders		Middle School Room

Sunday, October 15, 2023 Worship Service

"The Hope of Becoming the Church: Part 2" Rev. Nick H

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

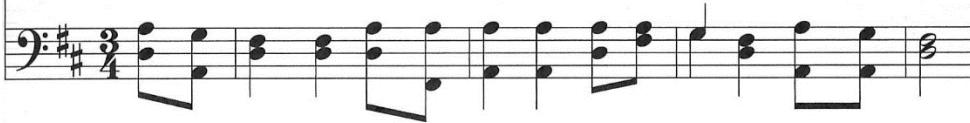
Hear the Good News of Salvation

Wotanin waste nahon po



1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.

1 *Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:*
2 *Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,*



Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:

to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - si - ma - da ce.



Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!

Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -



How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.

ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.



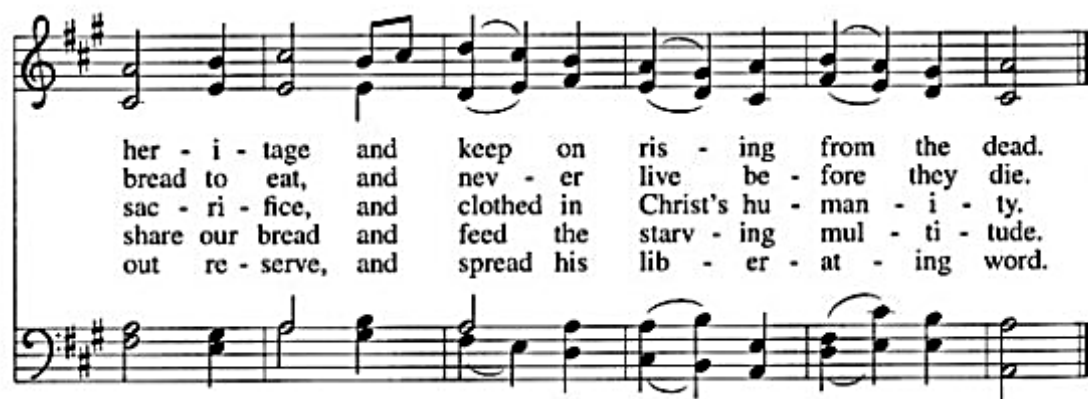
The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -

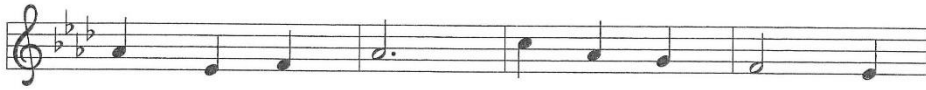


change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

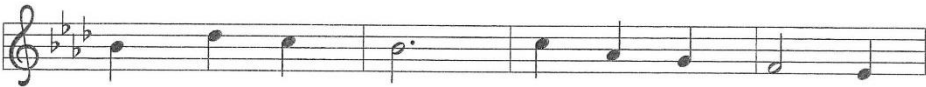
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.



What We Have Been Entrusted

I write this to my church, especially those amazing families and youth that I have ministered with closely these past few years. As you know, we have faced some unusual circumstances in identifying new pastoral leadership. Over the summer, I worked with staff and church leadership to put together a plan for ministry for our church given we would only have two pastors. That plan was presented to Council and approved in July.

When I came back from sabbatical, I became the Temporary Head of Staff. This role helps keep everything going until we find a more permanent arrangement. The purpose of my role is to bring familiarity and stability, promote joy-filled worship, and help create better communication and collaboration between staff and lay leadership. These changes directly impact our children and youth ministry, especially my beloved high school group. Believe me this all pulls on my heart strings! But for the grace of God, I have grown a skillset that allows me to quickly step into this kind of leadership for a time like this.

As it says in Luke 12:48: From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required, and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded.

The fact remains that I can only do so much. I hold a deep love for CYF ministry: evening fires and bible studies, mission prep, hanging out at Pillars - they bring me great joy and energy. But I know my calling is to love our whole church through this time. Over sabbatical I learned to see this time as a chance to do something new and to live faithfully in the moment as God is unfolding something truly wonderful before our eyes.

Given all the transitions I cannot say what my role will look like permanently moving forward. Those choices are just emerging and will come through council leadership and ultimately to the church. But I do know that our church will remain committed to our vibrant children, youth, and families ministry.

Meantime, feel free to reach out and come to worship on Sundays! Pray for our Council and Pastoral Search Committee in their work. Know that more Q&A sessions will be held so we can move forward with everyone's voices being heard. Trust that God has amazing things in plan because you, you are an amazing church full of life. During this time, it might also be good to ask yourself "From what I have been entrusted, what more might be required?"

Grace and Peace
Pastor Nick



KB's Nova runs with Orion hunting grouse in Oconto County

The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events, please see our monthly newsletter [*Wide-Open Door*](#).

The NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Fox Valley Walk is Saturday, **October 14**, 9:00–11:00AM at Fox Cities Stadium. Please join the FCUCC team Faith, Hope and Love either by walking with us or donating. It's a 5K with a great group of people and we're raising money to support the wonderful programs offered by NAMI to help those who live with mental health conditions. Use this link to either donate or join us on the walk <https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1374> Remember our team name – Faith, Hope and Love. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.



The FCUCC Mental Health Task Force will meet on Monday, **October 23** at 6:00PM by Zoom. We will be planning educational programs for the coming year. Please contact Mary Sullivan (msullivan623@yahoo.com) if interested to get the Zoom link.

ESTHER Silent Auction: ESTHER is seeking donations for their 19th Annual Silent Auction, which is their main fundraiser. Do you have an idea for a service you can provide? Do you want to donate a gift basket, gift certificate, or a pre-owned valued item? We need auction donations by **October 15**. Please help to make our auction a success. Contact Sheryl De Hart tdehart@new.rr.com or through Realm or 920-731-2620 for pick up or drop off at the church office. Thank you for joining other voices and efforts to build an equitable and just community in the Fox Cities.

E2F (Empty to Full): 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** from 10:30-11:00AM (after worship)

Collection: Sunday, **October 22** from 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. Thank you for your generous service in this adjusted ministry!

ESTHER/WIVVEC Advocacy Workshop: WIVVEC is thrilled to join with First Congregational Church UCC, ESTHER, and WI Faith Voices for Justice to present our advocacy workshop, MOVING FROM CHARITY TO JUSTICE on Sunday, **October 15** from 1:00-4:30PM at First Congregational Church UCC. This workshop introduces participants to the challenges and opportunities for congregational engagement in advocacy; dispels myths about whether a non-profit can engage in public policy work; and trains participants in the nuts and bolts of advocacy – how to write a Letter to the Editor or an Op-ed; how to conduct an advocacy campaign; how to present testimony before a school board or a legislative committee hearing; and how to make a lobby visit to your elected officials. Please use this link to register:

<https://esther-foxvalley.org/myvoice>. Please contact WIVVEC's Interfaith Organizer, Rhonda Lindner, at rhonda@thi-milwaukee.org if you have any questions.

Halloween Trunk or Treat: Sunday, **October 22**, 11:30AM – 1:00PM. Help us make this a successful event by providing a Trunk or Treat vehicle, making a pot of Sloppy Joe's or dropping off a bag of candy or goodies. Fill out a sign-up sheet (found in the narthex), email swilterdink@firstcongoappleton.org or call 920-851-4518. Thank you!

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
 Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara
 John Breitzman
 Don Brittnacher
 Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober
 The family of Richard Casperson as they grieve his passing
 Brian Chirchir Kiptoo, Kenya student who is living with cancer
 Beth Detienne's mother
 Jim Edwards
 Heidi Mendonca Erstad
 Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family
 David Galow
 Art Gandler
 Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken
 Ken Geiger
 Paul and Leigh Grube's grandnephew, Leo
 Margaret Hankwitz
 Judy Hanson
 JoAnn Helms
 Shirley Hoft
 Misty Hofman
 Phil & Mary Hornseth's nephew, Eric Montross
 Joan Jenson's son, John
 Jean Jepson
 Kathy Lannoye
 Nancy Kandler

Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
 Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
 Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
 Anne Planner's brother, Bill Planner
 Cheryl Reissmann
 Gretchen Revie
 Larry Schiedermayer
 Frank and Pat Severin
 Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
 Paul Siket
 Mark Spindler
 Kinsley Tarr
 Gloria Tate
 Jack Thiel
 Peter Thiel
 James Totzke
 Jean Van Wagenin
 Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
 Joe Wells
 Jake Whisler and his family
 Diane White
 Our friends in Kerio Valley: banditry killings have increased in the past few weeks. A member of Liter church, where we have worshipped and stayed, was killed this past week
 Prayers for the hundreds of staff and teachers at UW Oshkosh facing layoffs and furloughs and for their families

This Week's Schedule

Monday, October 9

8:00 – 9:00AM

1:00 – 2:00PM

3:00 – 4:30PM

4:00 – 7:00PM

6:30 – 8:30PM

Tuesday, October 10

9:00 – 10:00AM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

1:30 – 3:00PM

2:00 – 4:00PM

4:00 – 5:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:45 – 8:45PM

Wednesday, October 11

12:15 – 1:00PM

5:30 – 8:00PM

5:45 – 6:25PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Thursday, October 12

9:00 – 10:00AM

12:00 – 1:00PM

4:30 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

6:30 – 7:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Friday, October 13

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Saturday, October 14

11:00AM – 12:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Kenya Trip Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Vandersall Report Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

IPAC Meeting – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

Staff Meeting (Working) – *Upper Lounge*

Racial Equity – *Wanda's Zoom*

Library Committee – *Church Library*

Memorial Garden Committee – *Upper Lounge*

Wild Women of First Congo – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Technology Committee – *Ken's Zoom*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

Childcare – *Infant/Toddler Room*

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

“Blessed are the Crazy” Book Study, Ch. 5 – *Upper Lounge*

MS Youth Group / HS Youth Group – *CYF Youth Rooms*

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

ESTHER Board Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

TnT SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*

Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Debtors Anon – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

This Week's Schedule continued on page 14...

Sunday, October 15

9:25 – 11:35AM

9:30 – 10:30AM

9:30 – 10:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

1:00 – 4:30PM

5:00 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Sunday Worship – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*

Children's Choir – *Choir Room*

E2F Pan Hand out – *Narthex and Bridge*

Parents Book Discussion – *High School Room*

Covenant Economic Book Study – *Upper Lounge*

WIVVEC Advocacy Workshop – *Fellowship Hall*

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

Al-Anon – *Chapel*

First Things First AA Meeting – *Commons Grounds*

Alateen – *Upper Lounge*

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 MICAH 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

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.

—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**



724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
920.733.7393 | firstcongoappleton.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM