

First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 15, 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>
10:45 – 11:45AM	E2F Pan Hand out – <i>Narthex, Bridge</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
11:00 – 12:00PM	Covenant Economics Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
1:00 – 4:30PM	ESTHER/WIVVEC Advocacy Workshop – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
5:00 – 6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00 – 8:30PM	Al-Anon – <i>Chapel</i>
7:00 – 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 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 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 - 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

October 15, 2023 9:30 AM
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Our Bulletin Cover is from **The Living Psalms Book** and is created by **UCC Witness & Worship Artists' Group**, a Network of UCC connected artists, activists and ministers bridging the worship and liturgy of the local church with witness and action in the community. Today's living psalm is based on our call to worship **Psalm 106 1-6, 19-23**: as created by Erin Beardemphl.

PRELUDE

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Tune by Guillermo Cuéllar
Setting by Lynn L. Petersen

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP (Adapted Psalm 106:1-6)

One: Praise the LORD! O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; for God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: Who can utter the mighty doings of the LORD, or declare all the Lord's praises?

One: Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.

All: Remember us, O LORD, when you show favor to your people; help deliver us to your goodness.

One: May we see the prosperity of your chosen ones, may we rejoice in the gladness of your nations,

All: May we glory in your heritage and offer our truest praises!

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

VAMOS TODOS AL BANQUETE

Refrain introduced by the Choir, then repeated by ALL

St. 1 – Soloist **St. 2 & 3 – ALL**

This text and tune are by Guillermo Cuellar (b. 1955) from his *Misa popular salvadorena*. This hymn is known from memory by many in El Salvador and throughout Latin America, welcoming "the poor and the hungry to the banquet of justice and good."

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.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Baptism of HARLOW JULIET DESANTOS

Parents: Samuel and Nicole DeSantos

Godparents: Melody Mancl and Cory Rued

The Baptism of WYN MARIE SCHUMAN

Parents: Zachary and Jaclyn Schuman

Godparents: Alexia Szabo Marcin and Jon Marcin

INVITATION

WORDS OF COMMITMENT

CONGREGATION (when prompted): **All: We promise our love, support and care.**

PRAYER OF BAPTISM AND ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

All: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for Harlow and Wyn, and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to befriend these new members of the Body of Christ. Give Harlow and Wyn strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ who makes us one. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306 *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*

STUTTGART

PSALM ANTHEM

The Lord's My Shepherd (based on Psalm 23)

BROTHER JAMES' AIR
arr. Mack Wilberg

The Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 22:1-14

Jerry Dees

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not

worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

SERMON *"The Hope of Becoming the Church: Part 2"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

Welcome Table

WELCOME TABLE

The Welcome Table is a traditional American gospel and African American folk song by an anonymous author, who was likely enslaved. In the 1950s and 1960s the song was modified (and known as the "Freedom Table") and served as an anthem of the Civil Rights Movement as one of the Freedom Songs. American novelist Alice Walker wrote a short story of the same name.

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

Beautiful Savior

Silesian Folk Tune

Setting by David Cherwien (b. 1957)

Andrew Schmidt, *euphonium*

*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 #336

Go With Us, Lord

TALLIS' CANON

First sung in unison by ALL, and then in a 3-part canon by ALL as led by the Choir

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Sonata in G Major

Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

Andrew Schmidt, *euphonium*

John Aaholm, *percussion*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Sunday, October 22, 2023 Worship Service

"After Church"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Matthew 22:15-22

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

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		Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
Theater K - 5 th graders will be in the theater together today.		

Let Us Go Now to the Banquet

Vamos todos al banquete

Refrain / Estribillo



Va - mos to - dos al ban - que - te, a la
Let us go now to the ban - quet, to the



me - sa de la crea - ción; ca - da cual con su ta - bu -
feast of the u - ni - verse. The ta - ble's set and a place is



re - te tie - ne un pues - to y_u - na mi - sión.
wait - ing; come, ev - 'ry - one, with your gifts to share.



1 Hoy me le - van - to muy tem - pra - no; ya me es -
1 I will rise in the ear - ly morn - ing; the com -
2 God in - vites all the poor and hun - gry to the
3 May we build such a place a - mong us where all



pe - ra la co - mu - ni - dad; voy su - bien - do_a - le - gre la
mu - ni - ty's wait - ing for me. With a spring in my step I'm
ban - quet of jus - tice and good where the har - vest will not be
peo - ple are e - qual in love. God has called us to work to -



cues - ta, voy en bus - ca de tu_a - mis - tad.
walk - ing with my friends and my fam - i - ly.
hoard - ed so that no one will lack for food.
geth - er and to share ev - 'ry - thing we have.

Refrain / Estribillo

2 Dios invita a todos los pobres a esta mesa común por la fe, donde no hay acaparadores y a nadie le falta el conqué. Estribillo

3 Dios nos manda a hacer de este mundo una mesa donde haya igualdad, trabajando y luchando juntos, compartiendo la propiedad. Estribillo

Welcome Table

1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

The first system of music features a treble and bass clef in G major and 4/4 time. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

The second system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

The third system continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

I'm goin' - a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

The fourth system concludes the melody and bass line. The lyrics are aligned with the notes.

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
 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
 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



An announcement..... about announcements!

Our church has a lot of wonderful things going on! We do! We have bible studies, youth groups, wonderful choir and music offerings. We minister across this country and this world volunteering to be Christ's hands and feet. We have many gifted members living out their callings in a myriad of ways, and we always want to share and encourage participation and support in all the best ways possible.

On Sunday we gather, as a community, to worship God. We worship God through spoken elements, experiences such as the sacraments, in music and prayer. The worship itself is our weekly invitation to do everything we as a community seek to do. Worship exists to fill us up, provide sanctuary, re-focus our efforts for the coming week, and meet us where we are to provide a timely and uplifting message of the hope we share in Jesus Christ. This is a high bar, so we must be very thoughtful as to how our time together is used.

On Sunday, we also share the life of our community with specific invitations meant to build awareness and encourage participation. The primary way of doing this is through our monthly Wide-Open Door newsletter, social media, weekly bulletins, and weekly emails. But at the beginning of worship, we have a long history of briefly sharing some community opportunities directly after the pastor welcomes everyone. We have also received clear and unanimous feedback that the beginning of worship sets the tone for our hour together. We want to re-affirm an equitable way for those announcements to happen that honors our time and the worship service.

- Requests for announcements must come to both pastors a week in advance (not the week or day of the service). These must be submitted in writing and less than 100 words; these are brief announcements!
- We have a maximum of three announcements a week; first come first serve at the discretion of the pastors. Multi week announcements are discouraged.
- Generally, the pastor leading the worship service that week makes the announcement themselves. Exceptions are made.
- If the pastor cannot fit this request into worship, it will go into the bulletin and the one making the request notified as time allows.

Isaiah says: "*Let them announce and declare to us what shall happen. Declare the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or show us things to come.*"

We want to do this, but we need everyone to follow these guidelines from here on out and refrain from asking for personal exceptions. If we cannot make the announcement, or the announcement is late in getting to us, please show us some grace! A pastor or staff member might know an even better way of encouraging involvement or addressing a need other than a Sunday morning announcement. Lastly, there may be times where a Moment for Mission is necessary. These are longer, more robust, and critical to the life of the congregation and/or world events. There will be only one Moment for Mission in a given service.

Thanks for your help in being transparent, joyful, and prepared! If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to the pastors.

Pastor Nick & Pastor Mary Jo

The Open Door Announcements

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

E2F (Empty to Full Pans): HAND OUT TODAY: Sunday, **October 15** from 10:30-11:00AM
Collection: Sunday, **October 22** from 9:30-10:00AM

Church Family Handbell Workshops - Come Ring! Church Family Handbell



Workshops begin on **Sunday, October 22 in the Amistad Room at 10:30AM (right after worship.)** Come experience ringing our refurbished Whitechapel Handbells and have fun learning a variety of techniques under the leadership of Beth Vercouteren! Open to **elementary age through adults; families are encouraged to come ring together!**

Workshop rehearsals continue each Sunday morning at 10:30AM (you do not need to attend every week) with **a dress rehearsal on Saturday, November 18** (time tba, based on schedule of the participants.) We will **perform in 9:30AM worship on November 19**, with special music that celebrates Thanksgiving.

To register, please contact Beth Vercouteren at (920) 740-3571, or speak with our music staff, John and Nathan.

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 or making a pot of Sloppy Joe's. Fill out a sign-up sheet (found in the narthex) or contact Sheila at svanrooy@firstcongoappleton.org or 920-851-4518, by **Wednesday, October 18.**

October Economic Justice Work Group Meeting: The EJWG is meeting on Tuesday, **October 17, 2023**, 7:00-8:00PM in the Chapel and Zoom via link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84321376123?pwd=YThsWE9MVINKK0V6SVM3VzErOWN6UT09>. Join us to learn about the current state of homelessness in the Fox Cities and the Housing First approach from Lisa Strandberg, Executive Director of Pillars. Monk Elmer, EJWG leader, will also share information on Community Land Trust activities from the Affordable/Attainable Housing Roundtable meetings coordinated by Zion Lutheran, Appleton.

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.

1st Wednesday Night Dinner: Wednesday, **November 1**, 6:00-6:30 PM. 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.)

“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, age 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 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 Sunday October 22 – Sunday, November 5.

NOAHH Requests: A mother unifying with her 1 year old daughter needs: a stroller, a baby gate, and appropriate age toys; a family working towards reunification with their 7 year old needs a twin bed and box spring; a family struggling financially needs a king mattress, a full mattress, and fishing items for their son; a family is in need of 2 queen mattresses, a pregnant teenager is moving in with her grandma and her uncle. They had to leave their previous home as well as all their belongings; a mother with 3 boys who are on community long term support needs 2 dressers; a student going to FVTC needs a coffee table; H.H. has been in foster care since 2013. She will turn 18 in February 2024 and will graduate from Mauston High School in May 2024. She currently is placed with a non-licensed family who is not getting paid for her care at this time. There is fee of \$85 for her cap, gown and tassels that is due by 10/22/23 that we are hoping to have covered ASAP. Please call Barb Mincheff at Human Services 920-832-5515. Thank you, Sue Ahrens

Upcoming ESTHER Events:

Moving from Charity to Justice: Advocacy Workshop [Read More](#)

Date: Sunday, October 15, 2023, 1:00-4:30PM; Location FCUCC, Fellowship Hall

Registration Cost: \$5.00. Register online at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/myvoice>

Community Living Room: Join Us for Coffee and Connection - a non-clinical, non-judgmental, safe space for talking through life's challenges. There is no cost, and it's completely confidential.

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 5:00-8:00PM; (plus 3rd Wednesdays in Nov. & Dec.)

Location: First Congregational UCC, Common Grounds

ESTHER 2023 Online Auction [Read More](#)

Date: begins Monday, October 30, 2023, 8:00AM

Location: <https://esther-foxvalley.org/auction>

• Preview begins Monday, October 30, at 8:00AM

• Bidding from Thursday, November 2 at 8:00AM through Sunday, November 5 at 9:00PM

ESTHER 2023 Annual Banquet [Read More](#)

Date: Sunday, November 12, 2023, 5:00PM

Location: Grand Meridian, 2621 N Appleton St, Appleton

Register now to take advantage of early-bird pricing (\$65 per person). Ticket prices increase to \$70 beginning November 2

World Relief Fox Valley is looking to train new Good Neighbor Teams and General Volunteers. World Relief is our local agency that helps settle refugees in the Fox Valley. WR is preparing to welcome 350 new refugee neighbors in FY24 (which begins Oct. 1) For more information about getting involved, please contact: Ann Gain, Mission and Outreach World Relief representative, anngain@gmail.com or 920-540-5830 (call or text)

This Week's Schedule

Monday, October 16

11:30AM – 12:30PM

Worship Staff-Upper Lounge

4:00 – 6:00PM

Outreach Ministry – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

6:30 – 8:30PM

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, October 17

9:00 – 10:00AM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

12:00 – 1:00PM

Staff Meeting – *Common Grounds*

1:00 – 2:30PM

Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30PM

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

6:30 – 8:00PM

Safety Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Economic Justice Work Group Meeting – *Chapel and Zoom*

7:45 – 8:45PM

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, October 18

10:00 – 11:00AM

Adult Ed – *Upper Lounge*

12:15 – 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*

2:00 – 3:00PM

Peabody/Heritage Worship – *Peabody Chapel*

5:00 – 8:00PM

ESTHER – *Community Living Room – Common Grounds*

5:30 – 7:30PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

5:45 – 6:25PM

Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*

6:30 – 7:30PM

“Blessed Are the Crazy” Book Study, Ch. 6 – *Upper Lounge*

6:30 – 7:30PM

MS Community Collaborations – *@ Touchmark on W. Prospect*

7:00 – 8:30PM

HS Group – *@ Pillars Emergency Shelter*

7:00 – 8:30PM

Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, October 19

9:00 – 10:00AM

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship Hall*

11:00 – 12:30PM

Finance Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

12:00 – 1:00PM

AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

12:00 – 1:30PM

Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House*

6:30 – 8:00PM

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

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

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

Friday, October 20

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:30PM

Saturday, October 21

11:00AM – 12:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Sunday, October 22

9:25AM – 12:00PM

9:30 – 10:30AM

10:30 – 11:30AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

10:45 – 11:45AM

11:00AM – 12:00PM

11:30AM – 1:00PM

5:00 – 6:00PM

6:00 – 8:30PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

7:00 – 8:00PM

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Debtors Anon – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*

Children’s Choir – *Choir Room*

E2F Pan Collection - *Narthex*

Parents’ Book Discussion – *HS Room*

Covenant Economics Book Study – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

Trunk or Treat – *CYF Parking Lot*



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

Al-Anon – *Chapel*

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common 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:



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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**



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