



HOPE
Hope

A THRILL OF HOPE

THE WEARY WORLD

REJOICES...

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 ~ December 3, 2023

9:25AM – 12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Sunday Worship – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Poinsettia Sunday – <i>Narthex</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Back Bay Shrimp Sale – <i>Narthex</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	New Members Gathering – <i>Chapel</i>
10:45AM – 12:00PM	Advent Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
6:00 – 8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>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, 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

December 3, 2023 9:30 AM
First Sunday of Advent ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

As Dark Awaits the Dawn (Lucent)

Tune by Carl F. Schalk
Text by Susan Palo Cherwien
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

"As the dark awaits the dawn,
so we await your light.
O Star of promise, scatter night, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone."

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE-HOPE Erik Gabbey and Tammy Thompson

INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE Isaiah 60:2-3

"For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn."

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

UNISON PRAYER

All: O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of the bible, you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may be a people of hope in our world. Amen.

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 3)

Savior of the Nations, Come

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

This is one of the longest-running hymns in the church. Written in the fourth century by Ambrose of Milan, we hear the first stanza presented by a single voice in its original chant melody. This melody was later adapted into the chorale we know today by Martin Luther in the 16th century. The text scans the whole story from manger to cross. The result is to make "Come" embrace Advent's paradox: Christ's first coming, second coming, and coming to us here and now.

St. 1 – Soloist, singing the chant melody on the following text:

Redeemer of the nations, come; reveal yourself in virgin birth,
The birth which ages all adore, a wondrous birth, befitting God.

St. 2 & 3 – Choir, only ***St. 4 - 6 - ALL**

Savior of the Nations, Come

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's son, make here your home.
2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, but the mys - tic Breath of God,
3 Won - drous birth— oh, won - drous child— from his throne, a vir - gin mild!
4 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds, back to God his path - way leads;

Mar - vel now, O heav'n and earth: God has cho - sen such a birth.
was the Word of God made flesh, fruit of wom - an, blos - som fresh.
Ver - y God, and Mar - y's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
out to van - quish death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.

5 Now your manger, shining bright,
hallows night with newborn light.
Night cannot this light subdue;
let our faith shine ever new.

6 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord,
virgin's son, incarnate Word!
To the holy Trinity
praise we sing eternally!

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.)

The Coming of the Son of Man

“But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

“Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

The Necessity for Watchfulness

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.

Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

SERMON *“Waiting in Hope”*

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5 & 6)

Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending

HELMSLEY

St. 1 – Choir

St. 2 & 3 – ALL

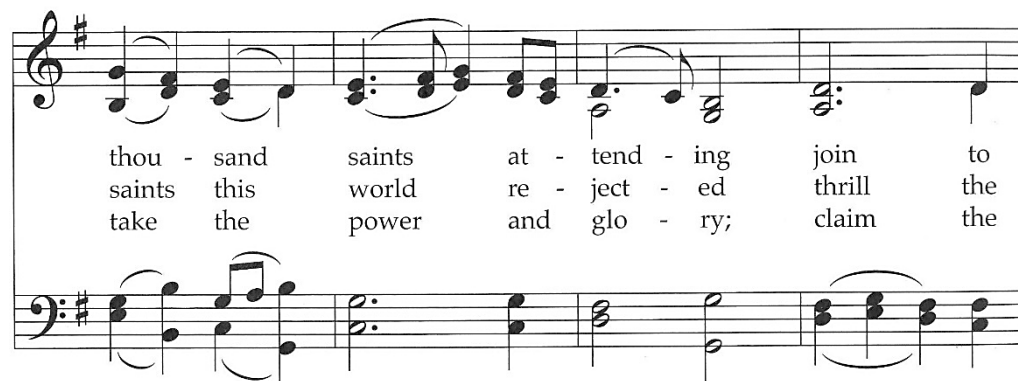
Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo, he comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
2 Now re - demp - tion, long ex - pect - ed,
3 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand,
comes in sol - emn splen - dor near; all the
high on thine e - ter - nal throne; Sav - ior,



thou - sand saints at - tend - ing join to
saints this world re - ject - ed thrill the
take the power and glo - ry; claim the

sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
 trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
 king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
 Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord

lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
 Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

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

Call to Advent

David Williams

A quodlibet on "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"
Sanctuary Choir

*SUNG RESPONSE (#114 ST. 2)

ALL: O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer

Our spirits by thine Advent here.

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor Nick: This morning we once again gather to receive the bread and the cup. We are an "Open Communion" church, meaning that we require no specific creed or confession in order to participate in this meal. These are the gifts of God for the people of God, and all are welcome to participate.

Pastor Mary Jo: Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks For calling all creation into being and for setting the earth on its foundations. You have filled the world with your creatures and have called all things good.

The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

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 Nick: In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Christ. Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love.

Pastor Mary Jo: Yet, kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts, and emperors were troubled by his reign. This Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, this Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death.

Rejoicing in all that God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Pastor Nick: Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit, in this bread and in this cup. We remember how Jesus took

bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you."

Pastor Mary Jo: After supper, he took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me."

GATHERING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Nick: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor Nick: Let us pray.

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us...

**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.**

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Pastor Mary Jo: Friends, when the Communion baskets are passed, you are invited to eat the bread individually. We will drink the juice together after all have been served. We receive this sacrament with Jesus's promise to be present in our midst.

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

Pastor Nick: The cup of blessing that we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ. Emmanuel, God with us, in the hopes and fears of all our years, we come for comfort, for peace of mind and peace on earth. We come for a blessing on our hands and the bread that we will receive in them; we come for a blessing on our lips and the cup that we will lift to drink. Amen.

Come, for all things are now ready... (The Communion Servers come forward.)

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Unexpected and Mysterious (St. Helena)

Tune by Calvin Hampton
Text by Jeannette M. Lindholm
Setting by David Lasky

"We are called to ponder myst'ry and await the coming of Christ,
to embody God's compassion for each fragile human life.
God is with us in our longing to bring healing to the earth,
while we watch with joy and wonder for the promised Savior's birth."

After all have been served:

Pastor Mary Jo: (Holding the cup) Take and drink of God's love!

Let us give thanks:

All: Loving God, in gratitude for this moment, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people because we have shared food for our journey and cannot remain the same. Shed your grace, brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel, God-With-Us, to whom we give thanks, and honor and glory, now and forever. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #116

People, Look East

BESANCON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata on Savior of the Nations, Come Tune from Geistliche Gesangbüchlein, 1524
Setting by Paul Manz

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

Dana Abbo, *soprano*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Join us today for the New Member Gathering
Sunday, December 3 at 10:45AM
Held in the chapel and on Zoom

Sunday, December 10, 2023 Major Choral/Orchestral Work

"Preparing the Way for the Prince of Peace" Pastor Nick Hatch

Mark 1:1-8

Music and Musicians: Two Cantatas by Dietrich Buxtehude:

"The Infant Jesus" and *"In dulci jubilo"*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir and strings, with Emily Dupere, *concertmaster*

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

Worship Notes (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30AM Worship, Major Choral Works, Joyful Noise Collection

Wednesday, December 13

Taizé Service of Healing & Hope in the Chapel, 6:30-7:00PM

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30AM Family Worship/Bell Sunday

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve, 9:30AM Worship;

Childcare provided as well as a whole-group activity for children PreK - 8th grade.

Family Build-It-Yourself Nativity, 4:00PM Worship. Childcare provided.

A Service of Lessons and Carols, Candlelight & Communion, 8:00PM Worship;

Childcare is not provided for this service.





Pastor's Pen

December 3, 2023

Dear friends,

Did you know...the new Church Year begins today? We, as Christians, will begin this *new year, as we do year after year*, by re-visiting the stories in the life of Jesus. The anticipation of his birth begins now as traditions of the season of Advent and the approaching season of Christmas already surround us.

One tradition of the Church Year, originating in the 4th century, is to use color to differentiate the “liturgical seasons.” Look around. There are blue banners and blue Advent candles that were not being used last week! **Blue** is the “liturgical color” for Advent. It’s the color of the night sky and symbolizes Christ, who, in one ancient Advent song, is called the “Dayspring.”

The colors of the Christmas season (Dec. 24-Jan. 5) are **white** or **gold**, symbolizing joy! The “12 days of Christmas” invite the church to reflect on John 1:14: “The Word became a human being and lived among us, and we have seen his glory....”

The season after Epiphany, Jan. 6th, spreads the Good News of Jesus Christ from its source in the Jewish community to all nations on earth. The liturgical color for Epiphany, is **green**, the color of growth.

The Season of Lent, symbolized by **purple**, is bracketed by the *mourning* **black** of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

The liturgical color for the Easter Season is the “celebratory” **white** or **gold**. When the season ends on Pentecost Sunday, white is replaced with **red**, reminding us of fire—a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

The longest season of the church year, “Pentecost,” during which we explore the mission of the church we again use the color **green** to symbolize growth.

Our journey through the seasons of the church year begins again each Advent! The use of these traditional colors in decorations, banners and stoles connects us with the wider church, the Body of Christ, and brings to our minds the stories in the life of Jesus that we treasure *by heart*.

In the coming weeks, as you carry your decorations of the “season” down from the attic, may you also treasure each story *they* tell, remembering that Jesus is the reason...

On this first Sunday of Advent, hang up a bell of hope and ring it!

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	Kathy Lannoye
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Nancy Kandler
Don Brittnacher	Kandy Kueler
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	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	Gretchen Revie
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Larry Schiedermayer
Phil Gabrielson	Judy Schneider
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
Jean Jepson	Joe Wells
	Diane White

The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events, please visit our website, weekly e-newsletters, and social media.

UPDATE: The Chapel is now up and running and will once again be an alternative place for people to enjoy the service on Sunday mornings.

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale: Three Sundays: **December 3, 10 and 17.** Pick up a package (or two!) of individually flash-frozen-right-on-the-boat gulf shrimp. Available in our narthex in 1lb packages, your purchase supports Back Bay Mission. Our price of \$15 per package allows you to enjoy delicious gulf shrimp and helps the only UCC ministry on the Gulf Coast. We are grateful to Jacobs Meat Market in Appleton for supplying shrimp for the sale again this year.



Come Sing in the 8:00PM Christmas Eve Choir! Rehearsals for additional singers on Wednesdays, December 13 & 20, 7:00 – 8:30PM - RSVP

Our Sanctuary Choir welcomes additional *high school age through adult singers* for our *8:00PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols!* (NOTE: This is our single evening service, at the new time of 8:00PM)

Each year we include familiar carol arrangements, in addition to new music. Returning college students, young adults, choir family members, spouses and partners of choir members, members and friends who love singing, etc. . . . *all are welcome!* We ask that you join us for 7:00 – 8:30PM rehearsals on **Wednesday, December 14 and Wednesday, December 21** to rehearse the music. Your **attendance at BOTH rehearsals is preferred**, of course, but let me know if only one of the dates is possible for you. Instrumentalists will make music with us, too.

Interested? Questions? **RSVP via e-mail to John Albrecht at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org**, or call John at the church, 920-851-8097 (direct line), or speak with John or Nathan, our organist, *so that our choir librarians can prepare a choir folder for you.* Thank you!

Pillars Meal Sign-up: Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **December 7, 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.

Library Committee Help Wanted: We are looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to help on Sundays after church (10:30-11:00AM) with book checkout. If interested please contact Mary Sullivan, msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

Mental Health Task Force: Our next meeting will be Monday, **December 11**, 6:00–8:00PM in the Upper Lounge. Our guest speaker will be church member Scott Radtke, the Chief Clinical Officer at Catalpa Health. All are welcome to join us. For more info, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

Economic Justice Work Group Hybrid Presentation: Two speakers, Vaya Lauren Jones and Denise Fenton, will talk to us on Monday, **December 4** from 7:00-8:00PM in the Upper Lounge and by Zoom. Jones is the Social Determinants of Health Team Lead at ThedaCare and Appleton Alderperson District 10. Fenton is Appleton Alderperson District 6 and worked in information technology for close to forty years. Of top concern for Jones is the availability of affordable housing in Northeast Wisconsin, as well as a comprehensive approach to health care that recognizes issues such as income, transportation, housing, and food insecurity that play roles in health care access. Fenton also sees affordable housing as affecting the whole economy: businesses need workers with housing near their jobs. Fenton supports changes to city zoning ordinances and other regulations that make it easier to provide housing. Join with this Zoom link: <https://EJWGHPDec4>

Last Chance to Support the Turtle Trekkers! Twenty-three people from FCUCC Appleton collectively walked at least 2,300 miles (100 miles per person) this fall to raise funds for our mission partner, Re-Member. Donations to the Turtle Trek will support the purchase of winter fuel for the Oglala Lakota people on Pine Ridge reservation. If you wish to sponsor our trekkers and give to this fund-raiser, please make your checks out to “FCUCC Appleton” with a note in the memo line indicating “Turtle Trek Challenge.” Please contribute before **December 15**.

Adult Education Session: You are invited to attend a session on **January 7, 2024**, 11:00AM-12:30PM in the Upper Lounge on the topic of "Challenges and Opportunities for Ministering with Older Adults." For over a year, John and Susan McFadden have been participating in the Wisconsin and Michigan Conferences' Innovative Conversations on Older Adult Ministries. Susan will highlight the work they have been doing with this group and will report on the results of survey responses they have collected from congregations about their older adult ministries. The ways faith communities in the Fox Valley have been contributing to efforts to make our region more age and dementia-friendly will also be shared.

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.

1st Wednesday Night Dinner: Join us Wednesday, **December 6**, 6:00-6:30PM for soup and sandwiches. 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). Also, we could use a few extra hands in the kitchen for any 1st Wednesday Night Dinners. Time commitment is from about 4:30-6:45PM. Are you willing and able to help do a little prep work and serve? We'd love to have you!



Christmas Caroling Adventures for All

Indoor Caroling



Bring a Travel Mug for Warm Beverages
Christmas Hats & Festive Dress Encouraged!
Come as a Single, Couple, Extended Family...



Invite Friends! Show them how awesome it is to spread God's love with FCUCCI!

We need to know ASAP if we should rent a bus!

All Church Caroling

10:30-10:45 Eat a Quick Sub Lunch
10:45-11:00 Drive to Carolina Assisted Living
11:00-11:20 Carol at Carolina Assisted Living
11:20-11:35 Drive to Touchmark
11:35-11:55 Carol at Touchmark
11:55-12:05 Drive to Heritage
12:05-12:20 Carol at Heritage
12:20-12:30 Drive Back to Church

Scan to
Sign up for Dec. 17th!



Scan to
Sign up for Dec. 20th!



MS & HS Youth Groups

6:00-6:15 Eat a Quick Dinner
6:15-6:25 Drive to Eagle Point
6:25-6:40 Carol at Eagle Point Memory Care Center
6:40-6:45 Drive to Betty Messaros' Home (Retired CYF Director)
6:45-6:55 Carol Outside Betty Messaros' Home
7:00-7:15 Drive to Pillars Family & Adult Shelter
7:15-7:25 Carol at Pillars Family & Adult Shelter
7:15-7:25 Drive to City Park for a Photo by the Christmas Tree
7:25-8:00 Drive Back to Church

Please sign up by scanning the QR code, emailing, or calling the church office.
info@firstcongoappleton.org / 920.733.7393

“Here is the gracious response from the Fall 2023 College of the Menominee Nation recipient of our Scholarship.....”

Fall 2023
First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton Recipient

Dear Ms. Gillum,

It is an honor to be chosen for the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton Scholarship for the Fal 2023 Semester. I am currently studying for my Associate Degree in Early Childhood Education. I am enjoying my studies, especially my education-based courses.

I work full time as a waitress, and I volunteer at our local Family Center once a week. I enjoy working with children. After graduation, I plan to become a lead daycare teacher.

I am truly grateful for this scholarship support, as well as your generosity. This scholarship allows me to work less hours and focus on my studies and additional educational opportunities. Thank you for your support of College of Menominee Nation students.

Sincerely,

Taylyn Paiser
Taylyn Paiser



Advent/Christmas Floral Donation Form

Donations support this special season’s display, and help fund the Sanctuary flowers throughout next year.



Your Name _____

Amount _____ (\$25 suggested)

Please word the following as you would like it to appear in the Christmas bulletin.:

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Drop this form off in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Wednesday, December 20, 2023.

Make check out to FCUCC and in memo field, write “Advent Flowers.”

In dulci jubilo!
with sweet rejoicing

Christmas Cantatas of
Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

“Infant Jesus” BuxWV13
and
“In dulci jubilo” BuxWV52

Sanctuary Choir, Strings and Organ

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Appleton, WI

Sunday, December 10, 2023
9:30 AM Worship

firstcongoappleton.org

A free-will offering will be received to support the ministries of the church

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 4

5:30 - 7:00PM

7:00 - 8:00PM

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 - 10:00AM

11:00AM - 12:00PM

1:00 - 2:30PM

6:30 - 7:30PM

7:00 - 9:00PM

7:45 - 8:45PM

Facilities Ministry - *Upper Lounge*

Economic Justice Work Group - *Upper Lounge/Zoom*

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*

This Week's Schedule continued on page 18

Wednesday, December 6

10:00-11:00 AM

Adult Education Committee - *Upper Lounge*

12:15 - 1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

5:30 - 7:30PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

5:45 - 6:25PM

Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*

6:00 - 6:30PM

"First Wednesday" Dinner - *Fellowship Hall*

6:00 - 7:30PM

MS Youth Group: 1st Wednesday Dinner, Clean Up/Hang Out

6:00 - 7:30PM

HS Youth Group - 1st Wednesday Dinner & 6:30 HS Group

7:00 - 8:30PM

Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, December 7

8:00AM - 12:00PM

Carpet repair/replace - *Chapel*

9:00 - 10:00AM

Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*

12:00 - 1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

12:00 - 1:30PM

Theology Group - *Chefo's Pancake House*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, December 8

7:00 - 8:00PM

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

7:00 - 8:30PM

N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, December 9

9:00 - 11:45AM

Major Work Dress Rehearsal - *Sanctuary, Narthex, Choir Room*

11:00 - 12:00PM

Debtors Anon - *Common Grounds*

7:00 - 8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, December 10

9:25AM - 12:00PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

9:30 - 10:30AM

Sunday Worship/Major Choral Work/Joyful Noise

Collection: Bring Your Coins - *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

Back Bay Shrimp Sale - *Narthex*

10:45AM - 12:00PM

Advent Book Study - *Upper Lounge*

6:00 - 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting - *Commons Grounds*

7:00 - 8:00PM

AL ANON - *Chapel / Alateen - 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.



—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