

First Congregational United Church of Christ

February 11, 2024



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

9:25AM–12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30–10:30AM	Sunday Worship with Joyful Noise Collection – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30–10:30AM	Children’s Ministry ~ Valentines on the Bridge – <i>CYF Wing, Bridge</i>
10:30–11:45AM	Musical Rehearsal/ Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45–11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
10:45AM–12:00PM	Book Study, “Falling Upward” – <i>Upper Lounge and by Zoom</i>
4:15–5:15 PM	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, 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

February 11, 2024 9:30 AM
Transfiguration Sunday ~ Joyful Noise Offering

PRELUDE

Visionem: Mode 1

Gregorian Chant Melody
Setting by Gerald Near

Matthew 17:9: Tell no one the vision you have seen until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Let Everything that Has Breath Praise the Lord (Psalm 150:6)

J. Martin and B. Nix

This song is included in our upcoming Children's Musical,
"Creation Celebration!," to be offered in worship on March 17.

First Congregational Children's Choir

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP (in unison)

One: Something drew us together this morning

All: Something we can't name but which we experience in worship

One: Some holy mystery we call God

All: Some sacred calling we hear in the life of Jesus

One: Some indescribable hope we feel when we gather in the Spirit

**All: May our experience of the Divine transform our doubts and fears and
prepare us to love the world.**

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

O Wondrous Image, Vision Fair

DEO GRACIAS

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 the CYF building.)

A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

(This month's A Joyful Noise Offering will help provide Lenten Bags to send home with families to enrich their Lenten experience.)

SOLO

Hear My Prayer, O Lord

Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Isabella Cerdan, *soprano*

The Transfiguration

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!” Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus.

The Coming of Elijah

As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

SERMON *“Coming off the Mountain”*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!

POTSDAM

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

Dazzling as the Sun

Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Text by Delores Dufner, OSB (b. 1939)

Sanctuary Choir

Dazzling as the sun,
 the face of Jesus on the mountain,
 like the face of Moses
 coming down from Sinai
 ready, strong to lead his people
 out of bondage into freedom,
 to the promised land.

Transfigured for disciples’ eyes,
 God’s servant who would suffer
 as Isaiah prophesied.
 Revealed in garments glistening white,

the glorious Son of Man
whom Daniel had foretold.

Then the cloud of presence,
then the voice of witness:
"This is my beloved Son
on whom my favor rests.
Listen to him." Hear him!

Gazing on the Lord
by radiant light transfigured,
see the pattern of our lives:
cross embraced to Easter splendor.
Claim the Gospel vision wondrous:
we are God's beloved ones.
Claim the transformation promised:
destiny of glory!

– music & text: © 2006 E. C. Schirmer Music Company

***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)**

Christ, Be Our Light

CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT

***UNISON BENEDICTION**

One: May God now send us back down the mountain of our worship.

All: We have been changed.

One: We can't be silent anymore.

All: We have seen the Light of the World. Let us go and share the radiance of love!

POSTLUDE

Christ, Be Our Light

Tune by Bernadette Farrell
Setting by Sally Drennan Mossing

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Sarah Wilterdink, *Director for Children, Youth & Family Ministry*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

Children's Choir

Isabella Cerdan, *soprano*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Children's Ministry Locations for Today		
Upstairs, to the Left	Upstairs, to the Right	Downstairs
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery	Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
K-5th Graders ~ Valentine Crafts on the Bridge		

Sunday, February 18, 2024 Worship Service

"Testing" Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Mark 1:9-15

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; LU Music Scholars; Preston Parker, *tenor*

Oh, Wondrous Image, Vision Fair



1 Oh, won - drous im - age, vi - sion fair of
2 With Mo - ses and E - li - jah nigh the in -
3 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ
4 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by
5 O Fa - ther, with the e - ter - nal Son, and

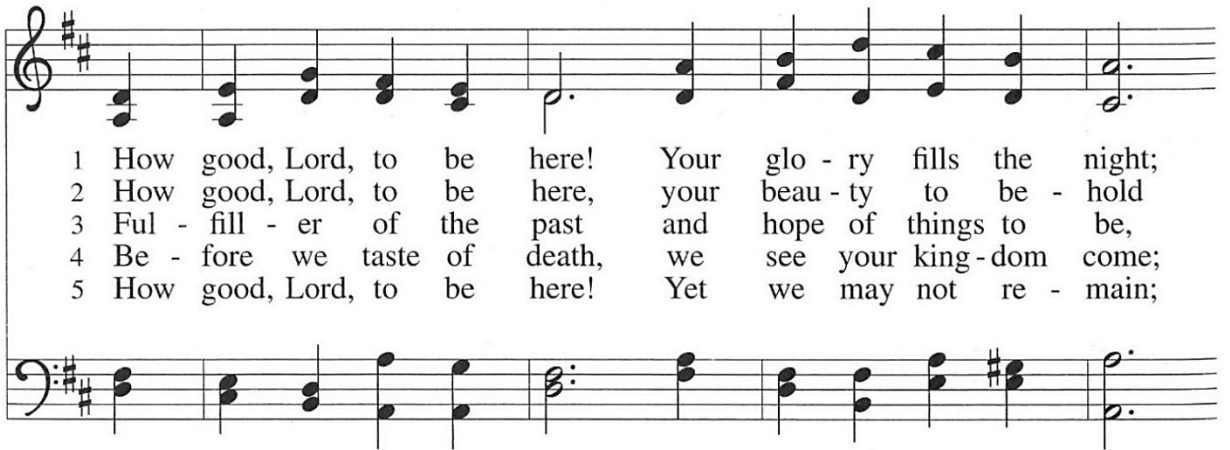


glo - ry that the church may share, which Christ up - on the
car - nate Lord holds con - verse high, and from the cloud, the
deigns to man - i - fest to - day what glo - ry shall be
this great vi - sion's mys - ter - y; for which in joy - ful
Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er one, we pray you, bring us

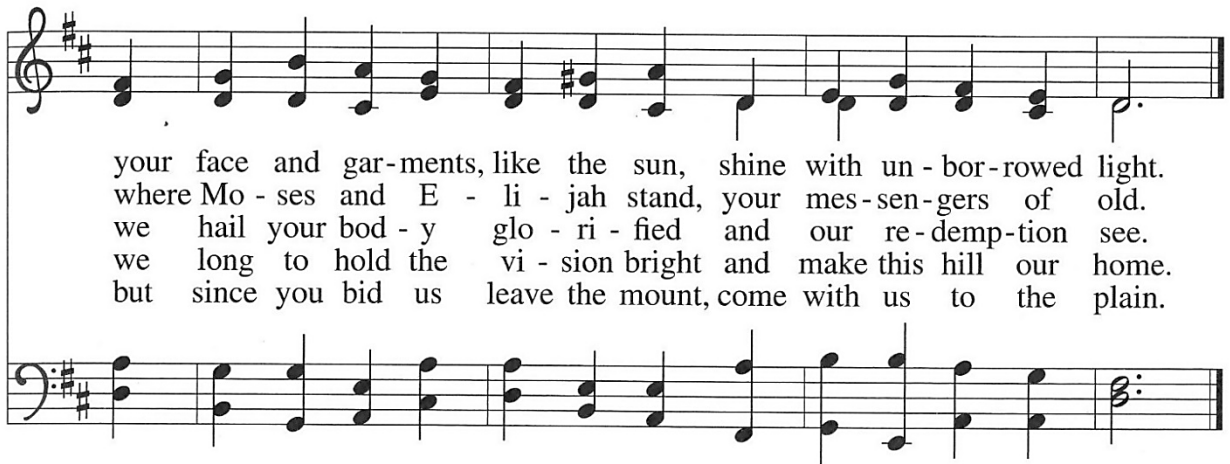


moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun he glows!
Ho - ly One says, "This is my be - lov - ed Son."
theirs a - bove who joy in God with per - fect love.
song we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.
by your grace to see your glo - ry face to face.

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community

Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

Please call the church office if you have a prayer request: 920-733-7393

In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

<p>Sue Ahrens Bruce Anderson David Andrus & Family Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Linda Breitzman on the death of her sister, JoAnn Reischel and her mother, Clara Baumann Don Brittnacher Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober Karen Crawford's niece, Lori Beth Detienne's mother Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family The families of Kandy Kueler, Jim Edwards, Heidi Mendonca Erstad, Esther Gehrt, Cheryl Benzsawel, Lynn Meyer, Paul Siket and Roger Spindler, as they grieve their passing into eternal life. David Galow Art Gandler Ken Geiger Margaret Hankwitz Judy Hanson JoAnn Helms Shirley Hoft</p>	<p>Misty Hofman Joan Jenson's son, John Jean Jepson Kathy Lannoye Nancy Kandler Bill Lenz's cousin, David Andrus, who is living with end-stage brain cancer Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya and our FCUCC Kenya travelers. Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald Gretchen Revie Larry Schiedermayer Frank and Pat Severin Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie Kinsley Tarr Gloria Tate Jack Thiel Peter Thiel James Totzke Jean Van Wagenin Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya Diane White Those living with mental illnesses.</p>
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The Open Door Announcements

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

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNERS - Mark Your Calendars! Join us on Wednesday, **February 14** for our monthly meal in the Fellowship Hall. Serving is from 6:00-6:30PM. EVERYONE is welcome for these meals. You don't have to be involved in Wednesday night activities. There is no advance registration. There is no cost -- though a free will offering is very much appreciated. The schedule (and menu) through spring is:

- * February 14 (**SECOND** WEDNESDAY - just for February!) - Pizza
- * March 6 - Lentil soup and bread
- * April 3 - The return of "Hot Dogs on the Run"
- * May 1 - Salad Extravaganza Mark your calendars! See you there!



After dinner on Wednesday, **February 14** join us for...

Ash Wednesday Worship, led by the Youth and the Sanctuary Choir

Church Library News: Each month in 2024 the library will focus on a theme and display books related to the theme. In January our theme is Black History Month. Please check the display - you may find something worth reading.

The Small Group for Parents will be starting a new format in which we will be going through discussion questions related to the Scripture reading from service (no prep required!) beginning on Sunday, **February 18**, so it is a great time to join! The group meets in the High School Room every Sunday from 10:45-11:30AM. Feel free to join at any point - we'd love to have you! Come as you are able and get to know other parents in the church. For parents with kids participating in the Children's Musical/Children's choir, we meet during rehearsals. For all other kids, **CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE** in the childcare room. Any questions, contact Jackie Burton at burton.jackiem@gmail.com.

UCCI Rep Needed! United Church Camps is our partner camp system here in Wisconsin. With three amazing locations and thousands of camper days spent every year, it's an example of faith in action taking place in the richness of creation. UCCI is a non profit with a Board of Directors and currently has an opening for one person to be part of their governing structure. If you have a passion for camping or love of one of the UCCI sights, and think you might have the interests and skills for a once a month board position, please reach out to Pastor Nick.

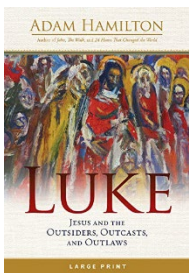
Project Isaiah News: Last October, a team from the Church Council completed a summary report of the Vandersall Collective's 2020-2022 engagement with First Congregational, plus a bit of history on how we arrived at this point and what's next. Discussion sessions were held for those interested in hearing more about the wrap-up report and status. We've now moved into the implementation phase, calling this Project Isaiah.

We're also adding discussion sessions on the following days:

Sunday, **February 11**, 10:45 - 11:45AM

Thursday, **February 15**, 6:00 - 7:00PM

Both will be held in the Project Isaiah Room, aka West Conference Room, lower level, across from Fellowship Hall. Anyone joining a Project Isaiah Task Force or new to the Church Council is especially encouraged to attend. Please read the Vandersall wrap-up report before the discussion session. Copies are available in the narthex and on the website via this link <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/project-isaiah>



Lent Book Study: The Adult Education committee invites you to a book study: *“Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws,”* by Adam Hamilton. **Sundays during Lent from 10:45AM -12:00PM** beginning February 18 and running through March 24 in the FCUCC Upper Lounge and Zoom. (One chapter per meeting.) Mary Jo Dees and Pastor Mary Jo will lead the discussion. **“Used” Books are \$8.50.** Sign up in the church office.

WISDOM and Partners Host End the Lockdowns Community Forum in Green Bay:

WISDOM, Empowerment Solidarity Truth Hope Equity Reform (ESTHER) and Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action (JOSHUA) host End The Lockdowns Community Forum on Thursday, **February 22**, 2024 from 6:00-8:00PM at St. Norbert College (Mulva Library) 400 3rd Street, De Pere, WI 54115. Join us to meet Green Bay elected officials, learn about **WISDOM’s End the Lockdowns Campaign** and provide input on transformational justice priorities in Wisconsin. This event follows successful events in Milwaukee and Madison with elected officials.



WISDOM’s End the Lockdowns Campaign seeks to raise awareness on the detrimental effects of lockdowns to people who are incarcerated in Wisconsin’s prisons and their loved ones, urging Governor Tony Evers to use his authority to take action. It aims to close prisons, reduce the prison population, and reinvest spending into community resources that decrease crime and strengthen communities.

Register in advance at: <https://bit.ly/greenbayendthelockdowns>. For inquiries about the event, you can email WISDOM Transformational Justice Campaign Coordinator Mark Rice at ricemark@gmail.com.

AIC KERIO Valley Scholarship Committee
P. O BOX 11036
Eldoret Kenya
February 4, 2024

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
724 E South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915

Dear Deb,

Our love and greetings from your brothers and sister here in Kerio Valley Kenya. Our Greetings to our sisters Deb, Julie, Aimee, and our brother Mark. The Kenyan committee are indeed grateful that you were able to visit, eat with us during this very few days that you were with us. The committee are saying Karibu tena and asante sana! The entire teams of Baraka, Kerio Valley DCCs' leaders, the high school and Bible Colleges students are each saying thank you to each one of you and the Church of UCC. We are kindly asking you to pass our love to your family members, the church and especially to the sponsors and the committee who never came our way here.



The committee on our side takes this opportunity to inform you that the time we had as a team was indeed enriching to each one of us. We consider your coming to us as a great moment of learning and sharing love and friendship in meaningful and in a better way . The team expressed their satisfaction in the way you people shared with students. The team believes that our students will perform better this term for the way you really encouraged them. The students felt that they are very important because you came and visit, shared, and cheered them. The team learned new ways of doings through the conversation we had with you. The time we had with you was cemented and deepened once again.

The team is looking forward to when you are coming to their second home again. The coming is always that of friends coming to fellowship, share stories about everything ranging from our families, churches, students, parents, and sponsors of our students. The time we fellowshiped, prayed, and shared stories of the program has just elevated us to operate in a new dimension. The Kenyan committee have learned to set aside time so that they can serve the students in a better way.

Yours Sincerely
Mildred Chepkona - Secretary

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Palm Sunday Celebrations

Sunday, March 24, 2024

Worship Service & Children's Ministry 9:30AM

Annual Youth-Led Pancake Brunch 10:30AM

Easter Lily Delivery to Church Members on your way home

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Thursday, March 28, 2024

Worship with Communion 7:00PM

Easter Sunday Worship

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Worship 8:45AM & 10:30AM~ Pastor Katherine's first official day with us!

Easter Egg Hunt following Worship (No Children's Ministry on Easter)

This Week's Schedule

Monday, February 12

1:00-2:30PM

6:00-8:00PM

6:30-8:30PM

6:30-8:30PM

Tuesday, February 13

9:00-10:00AM

11:00AM-12:00PM

1:00-2:30PM

1:30-3:00PM

2:00-4:00PM

6:00-8:00PM

6:30-7:30PM

7:00-8:00PM

7:45-8:45PM

Prayer Shawl - *Common Grounds*

Mental Health Task Force - *Zoom only*

Prayer Shawl-*Common Grounds*

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

HR Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

Racial Equity Meeting - *Zoom only*

Library Committee Meeting - *Church Library*

Wild Women of First Congregational - *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Technology Committee Meeting - *Zoom only*

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

This Week's Schedule continued on page 15...

Wednesday, February 14 ~ ASH WEDNESDAY

12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*
5:30-7:30PM Childcare - *Childcare Room*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*
6:00-7:30PM Ash Wednesday Dinner and Worship Led by the Youth and the Sanctuary Choir - *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary*

Thursday, February 15

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
11:00AM-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 NAMI Mental Illness Support Group-
Fellowship Hall
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 16

7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, February 17

7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, February 18

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare - *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry - *CYF Wing*
10:30-11:30AM 3rd Sun. Family Day: Chat After Church - *Nursery, Art Kitchen*
10:30-11:45AM Children's Musical Rehearsal - *Choir Room*
10:45-11:45AM Small Group for Parents - *CYF High School Room*
10:45AM-12:00PM Book Study, "Falling Upward" - *Chapel*
10:45AM-12:00PM Lenten Study - *Upper Lounge*
4:15-5:15 PM LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*
7:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting - *Fellowship Hall, Common 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, soil, 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.



We are "The Church of the Open Door," a welcoming and inclusive Christian community.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.



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