



PEACE

*Peace*

PEACE ON EARTH

AND MERCY MILD,

GOD AND SINNERS

RECONCILED!

*Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.*

Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

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## **TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON ~ December 10, 2023**

9:25AM – 12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Back Bay Shrimp Sale – <i>Narthex</i>
10:45AM – 12:00PM	Advent Book Study – <i>Upper Lounge</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 - 5<sup>th</sup> 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 10, 2023 9:30 AM

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Choral Major Works ~ Joyful Noise Offering

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## PRELUDE

*Chaconne in F minor*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

## WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

The Burton Family

## INTRODUCTORY SENTENCES

READING OF SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

### UNISON PRAYER

**All: Eternal God, we thank you that through all the years you have given peace to your people. Help us to have your peace in our lives. We pray that, in this Advent season, we may, by what we do, embody your presence to the sick, to the hungry, and to the lonely, so that they too may have peace. Amen.**

\*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 3)

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

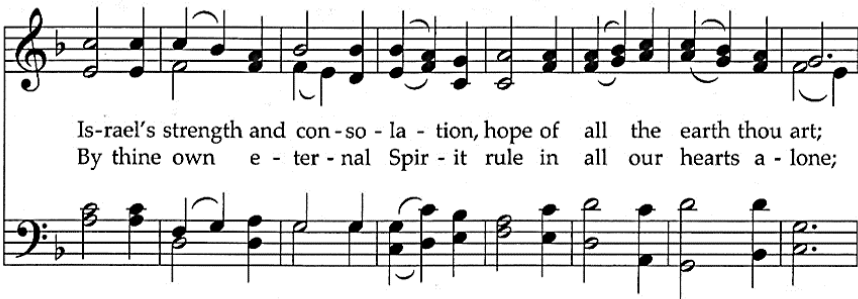
# Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring,



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

With its opening "Come," this hymn sounds the note of entreaty and invitation that characterizes the Advent season (from the Latin *adventus* = "coming"). Its blending of memory and hope helps us to give voice to our present faith as we stand between the past and the future.

TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744  
MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HYFRYDOL  
8.7.8.7.D  
(alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

**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.)

**A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING** (This month's offering will go towards waterproof gloves for children staying at Pillar's Family Shelter, where our HS Youth Group visits monthly.)

**CANTATA** (See *Music Director's Pen*, page 9, for notes on today's two cantatas.)

*Das Neugeborne Kindelein*, BuxWV13

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Sanctuary Choir, Strings and Organ

The infant Savior comes again,  
Takes to Himself the hearts of all,  
Brings in a year of life and peace,  
And grants to Christians all release.

O sing for joy, the angels call,  
Who gladly guard and keep us all.  
Resounding joy breaks forth in song,  
That God and all again are one.

We are God's own, and He's our Lord,  
Therefore we fear not hell nor sword.  
Fight devil, world, and pow'r of sin!  
The infant Christ grants peace within.

He brings a new and joyful year,  
What need have we of grief or tear?  
Awake, now is the time for song!  
This Child forgives our wrong.

Original text by C. Schneegass (1546-97)  
English translation by V. Gebauer, 1959, alt.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 1:1-8 NRSV

Pastor Nick Hatch

*The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'" so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

Three Christmas Carol Settings for Strings

*Es ist ein Ros (Lo, How a Rose)*

*Quem Pastores (Shepherds Sang)*

*Quelle est (What Is This Lovely Fragrance?)*

Praetorius

Trad. German

Trad. French

(arr. Keyte and Parrott)

\*SUNG RESPONSE (#114 St. 4 - *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*)

**ALL: O come, Desire of nations, bind**

**all peoples in one heart and mind;**

**bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;**

**fill the whole world with heaven’s peace.**

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

CANTATA

*In dulci jubilo, BuxWV52*

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

*In dulci jubilo*

Nun singet und seid froh!

Unsers Herzen Wonne

*Leit in praesepio,*

Und leuchtet als die Sonne

*Matris in gremio*

*Alpha es et O.*

With sweet rejoicing

now sing and be joyful!

Our heart’s delight

lies in a manger

and shines like the sun

on the mother’s lap.

You are Alpha and Omega.

*O Jesu parvule,*

Nach dir ist mir so weh.

Tröst mir mein Gemüte,

*O Puer optime;*

durch alle deine Güte,

*O Princeps Glorïae,*

*Trahe me post te!*

O infant Jesus,

My heart aches for you.

Comfort my soul with all your goodness,

O finest of boys;

by your great goodness,

O Prince of Glory,

Take me to heaven.

*O Patris caritas!*  
*O Nati lenitas!*  
Wir wärn all' verloren  
*Per nostra crimina;*  
So hat er uns erworben  
*Coelorum gaudia;*  
Eia, wärn wir da!

Oh love of the Father!  
Oh mercy of the Son!  
We would all be lost  
because of our sins,  
but he has obtained for us  
the joys of heaven.  
Oh, that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia?*  
Nirgends mehr denn da,  
Da die Engel singen  
*Nova cantica,*  
Und die Schellen klingen  
*In Regis curia.*  
Eia, wärn wir da!

Where are the joys?  
Nowhere more than there,  
where the angels sing  
new songs  
and the bells ring  
in the courts of the King.  
Oh, that we were there!

#### 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 #158

*Good Christians All, Rejoice*

IN DULCI JUBILO

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

*Gigue in D Major*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

This is the companion piece to the composer's well-known *Canon in D*.

Strings and Organ

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Emily Dupere, Greg Austin and Lori Murphy, *violins*

Mark Dupere, *cello*

Mark Urness, *bass*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

**Sanctuary Choir 2023-2024**

**Soprano**

Dana Abbo\*✓  
Kristy Albrecht  
Cheryl Benzsawel  
Isabella Cerdan\*✓  
Joni Conrad  
Emma Eggen  
Kelly Gingerich  
Kris Glenn  
Heather Hallett  
Jill Hoover  
Elizabeth Keggi  
Gale Korth  
Jennifer Kosloski  
Elaine Lewellyn  
Tanvi Thatai\*

**Alto**

Marilyn Askari  
Marlessa Benson  
Ellen Darcourt  
Sam Dill\*  
Cheryl Foster  
Pat Hansen  
Tami Johnson  
Casey Kollman\*✓  
Karen Leigh-Post  
Elizabeth Melchert  
Shelley Nulton  
Nancy Stanelle  
Ann Stein  
Beth Vercouteren  
Phyllis Zeiss

**Tenor**

Jesse Baumgart  
Evan Carlson\*  
David Cook  
Paul Eggen  
Ben Keating\*  
Preston Parker\*  
Adam Piepenburg  
Roger Spindler  
Bernie Wydeven

**Bass**

Curtis Anderson\*  
Daniel Boyd\*  
Daryl Brown  
Max De May  
Phil Gabrielson  
Terry Gottfried  
Steve Hirby  
Joel Jicha  
Bill Lenz  
Joel Schlabach  
Skip Wilson

\*LU Music Scholars

\*✓ LU Music Scholars singing today

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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>
<b>Childcare Room</b> Infants and Toddlers	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Little Angel's Room</b> Preschoolers
<b>Theater</b>	<b>Art Kitchen</b> K - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	<b>Science Room</b>
<b>Scripture Tent</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade		<b>Middle School Room</b>

### Sunday, December 17, 2023 Worship Service

*"The Love of Advent: An Interactive Meditation"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

John 1:6-8, 19-28

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; Youth Handbells; Children's Choir

### Advent and Christmas Worship Services

#### Wednesday, December 13 ~ Taizé Worship Service

**6:30-7:00 PM** A meditative service for those experiencing loss during the Christmas season, held in our Chapel. (see page 10 for more information)

#### Sunday, December 17 ~ Third Sunday of Advent: LOVE

**9:30 AM** **Family Worship/Bell Sunday** with the Youth Handbells, multiple Choirs, and intergenerational experiences. NO Children's Ministry, but there will be childcare. *Special Note: Everyone is asked to bring a bell to worship!*

#### **10:45 AM-12:00 PM, Intergenerational Caroling and Light Lunch After Worship**

Please contact the office to sign up *asap*, so we know if we should rent a bus.

#### Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24

**9:30 AM** *Fourth Sunday of Advent: JOY/Christmas Eve Service* with Candlelight and soloists. Childcare provided as well as a whole-group activity for children PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

**4:00 PM** *"Build-It-Yourself" Family Nativity Service* with Children's Choir and additional musicians. All children who are present will be invited to portray a shepherd, angel, or wise person. Participate in singing familiar carols. Childcare provided.

**8:00 PM** *Service of Lessons and Carols* with Candlelight and Communion, Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists, and vocal soloists. (NOTE the NEW TIME.) No childcare provided.



Dear First Congregational members and friends,

Today's worship service offers two Christmas cantatas of Dietrich Buxtehude (ca. 1637-1707), famed Baroque organist, composer, and church musician. His *Abendmusiken* (evening concerts at Lübeck's *Marienkirche* on the five Sundays before Christmas) were well-known throughout Europe. J. S. Bach considered Buxtehude a major influence and journeyed over 200 miles (at age 20, the age of several of our LU Music Scholars!) from Arnstadt to hear him perform.

The first cantata we share today ("The Infant Jesus," sung in English) is one of the only instances where Buxtehude uses a hymn text without using the hymn tune as a unifying *cantus firmus*. Instead, he sets the text as a through-composed song, while still preserving its strophic form. Alternating the chorus with instrumental *ritornelli*, the work's text suggests that it may have first been performed for a New Year's service, as it celebrates the arrival of the Christ Child and the joy of starting a new year in the confidence of God's loving protection against enemies and suffering.

The second cantata, "In dulci jubilo" (with sweet rejoicing) is a setting of a *macaronic* carol (constantly alternating phrases between *two* languages -- Latin and German.) The alternating languages (and their accompanying sets of diction rules) have been an *exciting* challenge for our Sanctuary Choir (says their fearless director!) The work takes the form of a varied strophic chorale cantata (prominently using and embellishing the carol melody with each stanza), again in alternation with the strings and organ. Listen for the triumphant "trumpet fanfare figure" in the strings during the final stanza (and as it is used in the middle section of "The Infant Jesus," too.) This carol has been set by multiple generations of prominent composers, including the famed organ setting of J.S. Bach (which sometimes concludes our Christmas Eve services.) This morning's closing hymn, "Good Christians All, Rejoice!" invites us all to sing this beloved carol.

May today's service draw you closer to the Christ "with sweet rejoicing!"

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

## **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
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,	Jean Van Wagenin
Eric Montross	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Joan Jenson's son, John	Joe Wells
Jean Jepson	Diane White

### **Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing and Hope**

You are invited to join us on **Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 PM** in the chapel, for a service that speaks to those who have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief. It does not matter if you have lost someone to death this year or are grieving the loss of many over the course of several years like I am, you are most welcome.

In the spirit of a Taizé prayer service, we will share a quiet and reflective time with beautiful poetry, scripture and music. We will let go of the stress of the holidays and simply be present in the moment with each other and our God. We will sing and pray and sit in the silence and find our rest in the blessed assurance that we are not alone.

Peace, Pastor Mary Jo Laabs



## 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: December 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 **CASH ONLY** 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.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:msullivan623@yahoo.com) or 920-740-9452.

**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](mailto: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!

**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](mailto:bforseth@firstcongoappleton.org) or 920-851-9907 for more information.

**World Relief Updates:** World Relief is grateful for our collection of 30 coats plus hats, gloves, and scarves! There currently is not enough interest to form a Good Neighbor Team from our congregation. Volunteers of all types are needed at World Relief. If you are interested in helping independently, please contact the World Relief Volunteer coordinator. Trinity Vang, 920-714-3550, [tvang@wr.org](mailto:tvang@wr.org)

**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.

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### 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."



## 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!**

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**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!




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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



## This Week's Schedule

### Monday, December 11

3:30 – 5:00PM

4:00 – 8:00PM

6:00 – 8:00PM

### Tuesday, December 12

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

IPAC Meeting – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Mental Health Task Force - *Zoom*

Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Racial Equity - *Zoom*

Library Committee - *Library*

Wild Women of First Congregational – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Technology Committee Meeting – *Zoom*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

This Week's Schedule continued on page 14

Wednesday, December 13

8:30 – 10:30AM Kenya Trip Meeting - *Library*  
12:15 – 1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*  
5:45 – 6:25PM Youth Handbells – *Sanctuary*  
6:30 – 7:30PM Taizé Service of Healing and Hope – *Chapel*  
6:30 – 7:30PM MS & HS Christmas Parties – *Youth Rooms*  
7:00 – 8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, December 14

9:00 – 10:00AM Strong Bodies – *S. Fellowship*  
12:00 – 1:00PM AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*  
4:30 – 6:00PM ESTHER – *River Room*  
6:30 – 7:30PM Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*  
6:30 – 8:00PM SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*  
7:00 – 8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, December 15

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

Saturday, December 16

11:00AM – 12:00PM Debtors Anon – *Common Grounds*  
7:00 – 8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, December 17

9:25AM – 12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*  
9:30 – 10:30AM Sunday Worship/Family Service: Bring Your Bells to Ring! (No Children's Ministry) – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*  
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*  
10:45AM – 12:30PM 3rd Sun. Family Day: Caroling  
7:00 – 8:00PM AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*  
7:00 – 8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds*

### 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.



**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  
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Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM