

First Congregational United Church of Christ

January 21, 2024



And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.'

Mark 1:17 NRSV

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 & Installation of Dianne and Sarah in their “New” Roles – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30 – 10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30 -11:30AM	Family Day: CYF Installation Coffee Hour – <i>Nursery, Art Kitchen</i>
10:30 – 11:45AM	Musical Read-Through, Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:30AM – 12:00PM	Kenya Trip Meeting – <i>Common Grounds</i>
10:45AM – 11:45PM	Small Group for Parents – <i>CYF High School Room</i>
4:15 – 5:15PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
7:00 – 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

January 21, 2024 9:30 AM
Third Sunday after Epiphany

PRELUDE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Thomerson/Houston) Tune by Kathleen Thomerson
Setting by George Hamilton (b. 1959)
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

COMMISSIONING OF KENYA PARTNERSHIP REPRESENTATIVES
Our team includes Deb Burich, Aimee Eubank, Mark Dougherty & Julie Gamm

All: You are our eyes, ears, and witness. As you break bread and share stories, may you do so on our behalf – sharing our love and prayers with those you meet. Allow the Spirit to open your hearts to all you will encounter. We journey with you in prayer and support.

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Good Shepherd calls to us, the sheep of his hand.

All: We hear his voice and know him.

One: He invites us to drink from the quiet pools.

All: We are thirsty for the living water.

One: He calls us to green meadows in which to feed.

All: We hunger for the good things of God.

One: Most of all, he calls us to follow him.

All: With joy and thanksgiving, we follow our shepherd.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

THOMERSON

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

LITURGY OF BLESSING FOR PASTOR DIANNE DROSTER &
DIRECTOR SARAH WILTERDINK

Pastor Dianne is now serving our church half time as Pastor for Visitation and Youth Ministry. Sarah Wilterdink has adopted a wider role in the life of our young members as Director for Children, Youth & Family Ministry.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ. May God bless our efforts together and bless your calling to serve among us.

(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.)

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:14-20

Faye Binsfeld

The Beginning of the Galilean Ministry

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

SERMON "He Sees You"

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN #304

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

GALILEE

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

Lord of the Dance

SIMPLE GIFTS
arr. Neil Harmon

Sanctuary Choir Barbara Armstrong, *flute*

*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 6)

O Jesus, I Have Promised

NYLAND

*UNISON BENEDICTION (Adapted Romans 8)

One: The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from sin and death!

All: Who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

One: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God;

All: So if God is for us, who is against us?

One: Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or persecution, or hunger, or war?

All: No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through God who loves us!

One: Neither death, nor life, nor things present, nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Let us go in love and peace to serve the lord, Amen!

POSTLUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised (Nyland/Kuortane)

Finnish folk tune
Setting by Mark Sedio (b. 1954)

BRIEF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

(For the purpose of electing officers and council members whose terms expired at the beginning of 2024 to begin their terms of service.)

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

O Jesus, I Have Promised 725

Capo 3: (C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b B^b E^b



1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me feel you near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

(C) (Am7) (Dm) (G) (C) (G7) (C)
 E^b Cm7 Fm B^b E^b B^b7 E^b



be now and al - ways near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be too.

(Am) (D) (G) (F) (G)
 Cm F B^b A^b B^b



I shall not fear the bat - tle if you are by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

(C) (Am7) (F) (G) (C) (Dm) (G) (C)
 E^b Cm7 A^b B^b E^b Fm B^b E^b



nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw still near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, true guard - ian of my soul.
 now give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Barbara Armstrong, *flute*

Sanctuary Choir

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
Theater K/1st Graders	Art Kitchen 2nd/3rd Graders	Science Room 4th/5th Graders
Scripture Tent		Middle School Room

Sunday, January 28, 2024 Worship Service

"We Have Good News to Tell!"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Mark 1:21-28 The Message

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

Worship Notes (space for your personal notes/thoughts)



So, What's Next?

What a wonderful weekend we had this last week here at First Congregational. I want to thank the Pastoral Search Committee for their hard work, Pastor Katherine and her family for being so adventurous to make it here, our many worship leaders on Sunday, and the many hands and discerning hearts that brought us to this occasion! **We have much to celebrate and much to be thankful for.**

The psalmist says: *Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. Psalm 100:3-4*

So now everyone wants to know: "What's next and when?" Since we officially called Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey to be a co-pastor here at our church last week, she has just let her church community of thirteen years know that she is leaving. So, she has obligations to them to end her time there with love and grace. Plus, she and her family have to move! So, we have two wonderful dates to look forward to:

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31: This will be Pastor Katherine's first official day with us! Easter morning will be the first day she will be on site and here as our pastor. That coming week she will move into her office and start being available. She will preach on April 14 and April 21.

The arrival of Pastor Katherine also signals the departure of Pastor Mary Jo as our interim pastor. Mary Jo has become more than a colleague to me, she is a dear friend, and I am deeply grateful for her dedication, can-do attitude, honesty, and grace. As an interim pastor she accompanied our church during a challenging time of transition, and she has done an excellent job. I also know her skill set is in high demand! So, it is with mixed emotions I share this second date:

SUNDAY, APRIL 7: This will be Pastor Mary Jo's final Sunday as our Pastor. She will preach, and we will celebrate her with a Litany of Farewell in worship and a reception following. We hope to see you there to celebrate a grace filled interim ministry wonderful ministry. It is possible that she will be serving as interim pastor in another congregation soon after she leaves us.

Meantime, Mary Jo and I will continue to share in our leadership of First Congregational. We have many reasons to offer our praise and enter God's gates with thanksgiving! We have a bright future ahead of us. God is doing something wonderful here, and I look forward to a long period of relational stability, spiritual growth, deepening of our mission, and faithfulness to our amazing God. It is a privilege to serve you, the people who are faithfully responding to God's particular calling to be The Church of the Open Door.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Nick

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.

Sue Ahrens	Kandy Kueler
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Don Brittnacher	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Karen Crawford and her niece, Lori	Gretchen Revie
Beth Detienne's mother	Larry Schiedermayer
Jim and Rachel Edwards	Frank and Pat Severin
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
David Galow	The families of Heidi Mendonca Erstad,
Art Gandler	Esther Gehrt, Cheryl Benzschawel,
Ken Geiger	Lynn Meyer and Paul Siket, as they grieve
Margaret Hankwitz	their passing into eternal life.
Judy Hanson	Roger Spindler
JoAnn Helms	Kinsley Tarr
Shirley Hoft	Gloria Tate
Misty Hofman	Jack Thiel
Joan Jenson's son, John	Peter Thiel
Jean Jepson	James Totzke
Kathy Lannoye	Jean Van Wagenin
Nancy Kandler	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
	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.

Mental Health Task Force (MHTF): Due to scheduling conflicts, the MHTF will meet on Monday, **January 22**, 6:00–7:30PM in the Upper Lounge. In February we will return to our regular schedule – the 2nd Monday of the month. If you have questions, please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

“Come Away – A Women’s Day Retreat on Prayer”

Retreat Guide: UCC Pastor Nancy Zorn Micke

Date: Saturday, **February 10**, 9:00AM – 4:00PM at First

Congregational United Church of Christ

Cost: \$30.00

What’s Provided?

- Morning refreshments/snacks and lunch
- Anne Lamott’s book “HELP THANKS WOW: The Three Essential Prayers” (See Pastor Mary Jo to get a copy of the book and read its 102 pages prior to the retreat)
- Prayer Bead Kit

Register and make note of any dietary restrictions on or before Friday, January 26 through REALM or call the church office. Contact Debbie Hoogesteger at djhooge@gmail.com or Pastor Mary Jo at mjaabs@firstcongoappleton.org with any questions.



“Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life” Book Study, by author Fr. Richard Rohr, led by Derek Elkins: Join us in the Upper Lounge or by Zoom from 10:45AM-12:00PM on these Sundays: **January 28, and February 4, 11, and 18 (note: change of start date.)** Description of the conversation: If you've ever felt like there is an important difference between getting older and growing up, then I hope you will join us for a conversation about Fr. Richard Rohr's book, "Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life." Fr. Richard offers a breath of fresh air to anyone seeking wisdom as we age and trying to understand how to turn life's suffering, loss, and failure into sources of meaning and hope. You can order a copy of the book from any local bookstore or online retailer and read the first few chapters before our first gathering right after worship on January 28. We'll gather and discuss the rest of the book on February 4 and 11. We'll watch a short video of Fr. Richard discussing the main themes of the book on February 18. Everyone is welcome to join us for any and all of these gatherings! Childcare will be provided.

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNERS - Mark Your Calendars! Join us on Wednesday, **February 14** (that's Ash Wednesday -- we're making an exception on the 'first' part for the month of February!) 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!

A Coffee "Talk" is planned after the service on Sunday, **January 28** (weather permitting). Did you know that for the last several years Ron and Cheryl Reissmann have made coffee for our weekly coffee hours? (We need to give them a Golden Mug for that....seriously!) Their cup has been filled as coffee gurus, and though they say it's 'bean' fun, it's time for some other 'mugs' (singles, 'cup'-ples!) to carry on the task!!! Ron and Cheryl will be hosting this "how to" session in hopes that we can continue coffee hour and also find more willing participants to host coffee hour. (Right now, our sign-up sheet is well, empty!) Our Fellowship team is sure there are plenty of "splenda-id" people out there that will work to keep this part of our church life 'perking'. See you on January 28! We cannot 'espresso' our appreciation in advance enough!

NOAHH Requests: Rear facing car seat, full size box spring, dresser for a 14-year-old female who is moving in with her grandmother, a bassinet for a 16-year-old pregnant teen with a baby due in May, cost for driving school. To arrange for pick up contact Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 or questions contact Sue Ahrens at 561-531-3211. Thank you.

The 2024 Back Bay Mission trip is scheduled for **April 7-13**. Volunteers will work with the housing rehabilitation ministry. There are also opportunities to work at the Micah Day Center and the food pantry. Join us at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi for some fun and fellowship. I need to know by March 1 if you are interested in joining us. Please contact Ken Jahnke at kjahnke@new.rr.com or call 920-427-5996 with your questions.

Community Living Room: Connection is so important for our mental health. Sometimes it's hard to find someone who will listen. Often, we don't take the time to talk, to hear each other. Come find space to be seen, heard and valued for who we are. Come for meaningful conversation. In honor of Jill Smith, a former member of FCUCC and the ESTHER board, the ESTHER/FCUCC Mental Health Task Force is hosting a Community Living Room facilitated by Ebb and Flow on **Sunday, January 28**, 10:45AM-12:00PM in Common Grounds. For more info, please contact Mary Sullivan at msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

LEAVEN Hygiene Drive: January 21 through February 4. LEAVEN helps clients in financial crisis with limited monetary assistance and referrals to existing programs in the community for which they are eligible. When available, LEAVEN distributes basic hygiene products to clients to help ease the burden of purchasing these items. All hygiene items distributed to clients are donated to LEAVEN - no budgeted funds are used. It is through the generosity of hygiene drives/collections that LEAVEN is able to keep a closet stocked with cleaning supplies and hygiene items. Boxes will be in the Narthex starting January 21 and ending on February 4, when the final collection will take place. **Needed items include:**

- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Shampoo (please, no jumbo-sized bottles)
- Conditioner (please, no jumbo-sized bottles)
- Disposable Razors (in small packages; please, no refillables)
- Shaving Cream
- Laundry Detergent (small bottles or packages)

Representatives from LEAVEN will be on site at First Congregational after service on January 28 and February 4 to collect items and answer any questions.



Winter Solstice Storytelling Event: Land of the Menominee Stories and History with guest storyteller, Joey Awonohopay. Wednesday, **January 27** from 1:00-2:30PM. At Fox Valley Technical College Entrance 16 Room HS114AB. For more information contact 920-931-2535, 920-560-4298, www.firstnationsoutreachinc.org or www.fvtc.edu

Coming! A panel discussion on Indigenous Solutions to Climate Change, February 19 from 6:00-9:00PM at Huron/Ontario Room at Radisson in Green Bay. Attendees can sample Indigenous cuisine from 6:00-7:00PM. Discussion begins at 7:00PM.

Panelists include:

- Lea Zeise - a founding member of Oneida White Corn Co-op
- Al Gedicks - executive director, Wisconsin Resources Council & professor, UW La Crosse
- Bazile Mino Giizhigaabo Panek - member Red Cliff band, Lake Superior Ojibwe member & Tribal Environmental Professionals consultant
- Chris Borden - national tribal liaison USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Tickets are free. Here's a link to register for a ticket if you are interested:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/indigenous-solutions-to-climate-change-tickets-781010873547>

ESTHER hosts a listening session: Your Community, Your Voice You are invited! Thursday, **February 8, 2024, 4:30–6:00PM** at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street, Appleton. ESTHER wants to hear about what matters to YOU in our community. We value your experience and your voice. There will be a group discussion and smaller conversations. We hope you can be there for most of the meeting or just stop in. And come eat free pizza with us! Good news! We can provide free childcare if we find some of you would like to use it for your kids. The registration link will let us know you are coming, ask you to answer a few other questions including dietary restrictions, and if you plan to bring children with you, how many and what are their ages. **HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.** This discussion will help ESTHER with decisions about OUR next steps and perhaps be helpful to other groups too!! [Register here.](#)



Or use this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKHdxRjmcXaK1EFNjADQwc2B75G6xDtzoQvhZklzszKdEZ9w/viewform>

A NEW Children’s Mini-Musical

Presented During Worship on Sunday, March 17

Singing Together, Narrator Parts, Vocal Solo Parts,
and Fun Movement...

Reminding Us to Be Good Stewards
of God’s Creation!

Main Cast is Open to All Children in Grades 2-6

1st Read-Through in the Choir Room ~ Sunday, January 21, 10:30–11:45AM

Rehearsals ~ Every Sunday, January 28–March 3, 10:30–11:45AM

Two Dress Rehearsals ~ Sunday, March 10, 10:30AM–12:30PM,
and Saturday, March 16, TBD

Grades K-1

Kindergarten and 1st graders are invited to participate in a smaller way by singing short sections of songs in the musical. They will rehearse songs during Children's Ministry and then will attend a portion of both final dress rehearsals.

Parents, please email John Albrecht at jalbrecht@firstcongoappleton.org to register for the main cast or to be one of the K-1 participants!

This Week's Schedule

Monday, January 22

6:00-7:30PM

6:30-8:30 PM

Tuesday, January 23

9:00-10:00AM

11:00AM-12:00PM

6:00-7:30PM

6:30-7:30PM

7:45-8:45PM

Wednesday, January 24

12:15-1:00PM

5:30-7:30PM

5:45-6:25PM

6:30-7:30PM

6:30-7:30PM

6:30-7:30PM

7:00-8:30PM

Thursday, January 25

9:00-10:00AM

12:00-1:00PM

6:00-8:00PM

7:00-8:00PM

Friday, January 26

7:00-8:00PM

7:00-8:30PM

Saturday, January 27

7:00-8:00PM

Sunday, January 28

9:25AM-12:00PM

9:30-10:30AM

9:30-10:30AM

10:30-11:45AM

10:45-11:45AM

10:45AM-12:00PM

11:00AM-1:00PM

11:00AM-1:00PM

4:15-5:15 PM

7:00-8:00PM

7:00-8:00PM

Mental Health Task Force - *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

Council Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*

MS Youth Group - *MS Youth Room*

HS Group Out with a Purpose - *HS Youth Room*

Bible Study: Romans Lesson 4 - *Zoom only*

Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

SOAR Fox Cities - *Fellowship Hall*

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

N.A - *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

Sunday Worship - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

Children's Ministry - *CYF Wing*

Musical Rehearsal, Children's Choir - *Choir Room*

Small Group for Parents - *CYF High School Room*

Book Study, "Falling Upward" - *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

ESTHER Community Living Room: In Memory of Jill Smith

- *Common Grounds*

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

First Things First AA Meeting - *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*

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