First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 28, 2024





TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

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
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – HS Youth Room
10:45AM-12:00PM	IPAC "We Are Still Here Speaker Series: Marcus Lewis" - Fellowship Hall
4:30-5:30PM	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

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 "<u>Give</u>," 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 <u>Facebook: FCUCCAppleton</u> or Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton.

Open Door Announcements can be shared by emailing <u>opendoor@uccappleton.org</u> 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

April 28, 2024 9:30 AM Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ Camp Sunday

PRELUDE

Now the Green Blade Rises (Noël Nouvelet)

French carol Setting by Valerie A. Floeter

Lori Murphy, violin

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, piano

WELCOME

*Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God our Savior,

All: the hope of all, even of those who are furthest away from you.

One: By your power, you formed the mountains, All: and by your strength you calmed the seas.

One: You still the chaos and turmoil **All: in our hearts and lives and relationships.**

One: Awesome and wonderful you are! All: Every morning, as the sun rises,

One: every evening, as the day fades into night, All: all creation is drawn into song

One: declaring your beauty and glory. **All: Oh, to join in the song!**

One: Let us worship God almighty!

*OPENING HYMN #208

Now the Green Blade Riseth

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.)

ANTHEM

Abide in Me (based on John 15:4-5) Sanctuary Choir Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

SCRIPTURE READING John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Lori Murphy, violin

NOEL NOUVELET

Karen Gosse

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

SERMON *"Deeply Connected"*

Rev. James Schleif

TENDERNESS

*HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

Touch the Earth Lightly 1: Solo

2-4: All

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

O Blessed Spring

Text by Susan Palo Cherwien; Tune by Robert Buckley Farlee Setting by David Cherwien

Violin and Organ

"O blessed spring, where word and sign embrace us into Christ the Vine: here Christ enjoins each one to be a branch of this live-giving Tree.

Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree, be praised for this blest mystery: that word and water thus revive and join us to your Tree of Life."

*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 #386

We Are One in the Spirit

***UNISON BENEDICTION**

One: Scripture tells us that "creation waits with eager longing for the children of God to be revealed."

All: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To open our eyes to the devastation in our world.

All: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To put the needs of the most vulnerable above the greed of the powerful. **All: Creation is waiting for us.**

One: To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right. All: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self. All: Creation is waiting for us.

One: To remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts. All: Creation is waiting for us.

One: In all these things and more, creation waits for us to assume our roles as its servants and protectors.

All: With God's help, we will answer creation's call.

POSTLUDE

With High Delight Let Us Unite (mit freuden zart)

Medieval European tune Setting by William Bliem

Violin and Piano

ST. BRENDAN'S

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey Pastor Dianne Droster Karen Gosse, *lay reader* Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ* Lori Murphy, *violin* Sanctuary Choir Preston Parker, *LU Music Scholar soloist* John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

<u>Membership Exploration Gathering</u>: Are you new to First Congregational and want to learn more about our faith community? Would you like to find a place to ask your questions of faith and call your faith home? Then join Pastor Katherine and Pastor Nick



after worship Sunday, **May 5**, 11:00AM-12:00PM in the Upper Lounge. We'll be talking about our journeys of faith. We will share about this church, our theology, and get to know one another. We hope to listen to the story of your spiritual journey and the questions that have guided you to seek new answers.

Please RSVP for the new Membership Exploration Gathering by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or by contacting the front office at <u>info@uccappleton.org</u>.

New members will be introduced in worship on Sunday, May 19.

Touch the Earth Lightly



Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931 Music: Colin Gibson, b. 1933 Text and music © 1992 Hope Publishing Company TENDERNESS 5 5 10 D

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOCATIONS FOR TODAY				
Upstairs, to the left	Upstairs, to the right	Downstairs		
Childcare Room	Nursery	Little Angel's Room		
Infants & Toddlers	2nd/3rd Graders	Preschoolers		
Theater	Art Kitchen	Science Room		
	4th/5th Graders			
Scripture Tent		Middle School Room		
K/1st Graders				

USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO

APRIL USHERS: **TEAM 4**: Rick Detienne, Sue Detienne, Tim DeHart, Sheryl DeHart, Mary Gay Hornseth, Phil Hornseth, Sandra Hurm, Ron Hurm, Bill Ritcey, Gene Spindler, Cheryl Spindler MAY USHERS: TEAM 3 & 6 AUDIO & VIDEO: Shannon Glenn, Rick Behm, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

"Abiding in the Freeing Love of Christ"

Pastor Nick Hatch

John 15:9-17

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ; Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR				
Wednesday, May 1	6:30-7:30PM	Faith & Fellowship with Pastor Katherine (sign up required)		
Sunday, May 5	11:00AM	New Member Exploration		
Sunday, May 19	9:30-10:30AM	Honoring Our Graduates during Worship Service		
	10:30-	Churchwide Pentecost Picnic		
	11:30AM			
Monday, July 8	0.00 11.00 A M	Vacation Bible School		
-Friday, July 12	9.00-11.00AW	Vacation Dible School		
Tuesday, July 16		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock		
-Saturday, July 20		Island, IL		



<u>Reminder</u>: Kwik Trip cards (to support the 2024 Youth Trip) are available for purchase on the first Sunday of the month (next date May 5) after worship in the narthex, and ALWAYS available for purchase in the church office during office hours.

Joys and Concerns of C	Our Faith Community
Please keep these people in your prayers and gree	et them with a loving word when you see them.
Please call the church office if you ha	ave a prayer request: 920-733-7393
In cases of a pastoral emergen	cy, please call 920-810-2600.
Sue Ahrens	Joan Jensen's son, John
David Andrus & Family	Jean Jepson
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Kathy Lannoye
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Nancy Kandler
Don Brittnacher	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	JoAnn Ott
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Rev. Ralph Di Biasio-Snyder	Gretchen Revie
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Larry Schiedermayer
The families of Barbara Airis and Ginger	Frank and Pat Severin
Uehling, as they grieve their passing into	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
eternal life.	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
David Galow	Kinsley Tarr
Ken Geiger	Gloria Tate
Margaret Hankwitz	Jack Thiel
Judy Hanson	Peter Thiel
JoAnn Helms	James Totzke
Shirley Hoft	Those living with mental unwellness.
	Wilma Wydeven
Please call or email the church office if someo	
Thank	you!

From United Church Camps, Inc....

All Are Welcome! United Church Camps Inc. (UCCI) invites you to the sacred experience of gathering at Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, and Cedar Valley. In these places set apart, you will be warmly welcomed by a loving community and have the time to recharge and connect deeply with God, nature, and each other.

UCCI offers year-round camps, retreats, and events for all ages at three unique locations in Wisconsin. Moon Beach in the Northwoods, Daycholah Center on Green Lake in central Wisconsin, and Cedar Valley in the rolling countryside of southeast Wisconsin. Camp AweSum provides camp opportunities for children on the autism spectrum and their families.





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The outdoor ministry of UCCI welcomes people of all faith backgrounds or no faith backgrounds. We provide modern and comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, toasty campfires, and a team eager to serve you. Nature shares the wonder of the sun, stars, water, and trees. The Spirit of God will meet you here. We hope you will join us at one of our many camps, retreats, and other gatherings at our beautiful sites!

What is Outdoor Ministry? Outdoor ministry is where community, nature, and faith intersect and interact. Moon Beach, Daycholah Center, and Cedar Valley each have a long history of providing meaningful camps, retreats, and events that nurture connections.

UCCI is pleased to offer a variety of sessions including family camps, youth camps, workshops, retreats, and more. Everyone is welcome and invited to explore the events offered or create a retreat that fits your needs.

Or join our team! The hospitality and event programs we offer at Cedar Valley, Daycholah Center, and Moon Beach depend on finding passionate and caring people who thrive in a growth environment. The UCCI team brings hospitality to life by providing outstanding service to our guests! Everything we do is focused on providing the best experience for our guests.

Year-round, we have opportunities for full-time, part-time, and flexible team members. Each summer, there are a variety of needs and positions for seasonal team members. UCCI is committed to building a diverse team and culture. We recognize that there are many aspects of one's life experience that contributes to the growth of our organization. If you believe in our values and mission and want to contribute to the work we do, we want to hear from you.

Visit UCCI.org for this and more information.

The Open Door Announcements

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

Grounds Care Volunteers Needed: Interested in gardening and plant care or helping to maintain the church grounds? First Congregational is blessed with a wonderful property. It includes 3 gardens: the Labyrinth Garden, the Memorial Garden, and the Hillside Garden. In addition, we have the ravine area which also has the potential to be a very beautiful space. We are seeking volunteers who might be interested in forming a garden club to help with maintenance tasks associated with the upkeep and improvement of these spaces. Some of the activities might include: a short meeting (with a beverage and snack) with a discussion of garden topics, or out on the grounds activities including: weeding, addition of new plantings, watering, mulching, applying deer and rabbit repellant, etc. Anticipate meeting at least twice a month during the summer months. Time of meetings would be based on volunteer availability. Interested? Contact Wayne Lannoye via Realm email or in person.

IPAC "We Are Still Here Speaker Series: The Indigenous People's Allies Committee (IPAC) "We Are Still Here – Speaker Series" continues today, Sunday, **April 28**, from 10:45AM -12:00PM in Fellowship Hall. It will feature Dr. Marcus Lewis, discussing the "Impact of Ho-Chunk Boarding Schools." All are welcome to attend.

Most people have heard of the Trail of Tears that five Native Nations suffered during the 1800s, but did you know there are similar stories that took place right here in Wisconsin? This presentation will discuss the numerous forced removals that the Ho-Chunk People endured from 1832 to 1865 and the Indian Boarding School period that followed. Dr. Lewis will share oral histories from Ho-Chunk Elders about the removals and the boarding schools. Attendees are encouraged to practice self-care during the presentation, as the topics and stories will be challenging.

Dr. Marcus Lewis has worked in diversity, equity, and inclusion for over a decade. He is a nationally trained Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) facilitator and education leader. Dr. Lewis has dedicated his career to working in higher education and inclusive advocacy. He is also the owner and founder of Key Change Consulting, LLC, a firm dedicated to promoting inclusive excellence for education, business, and community organizations. Dr. Lewis and his family moved to the Fox Valley in 2021 and are members of First Congregational UCC.

<u>**Pillars Meal Sign-up**</u>: Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **May 2**, 2024. Check out the link to sign up! <u>PILLARS SIGN UP</u> 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.

<u>First Wednesday Dinners</u>: Join us on Wednesday, **May 1** for our next (and final) 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, and there is no cost -- though a free will offering is very much appreciated. Mark your calendar! See you there!

Cabin Fever Craft Circle: Ladies! Come craft with us! Saturday, May 4, 1:00-5:00PM

- Bring whatever project you're working on!
- Feel free to bring a snack to share!
- Come join us for fellowship & fun!
- No need to register Just come on out!
- Let's get CRAFTY!

Questions? Email Debra Morningstar at <u>dawest@centurytel.net</u>

<u>E2F (Empty to Full) Pans</u>: On Sunday, May 5 & 12, we will once again participate in a project to allow members to prepare food in their own home for these shelters: Pillars, COTS & Apricity. It's simple:

- Pick up an empty pan on Sunday, **May 5** after the church service
- Follow the simple grocery list & purchase the ingredients to make the dish (Approx. \$13.00)
- During the week prepare the simple recipe & fill the pan (So simple...no cooking required, not even the pasta)
- Place the prepared pan in your refrigerator or freezer
- Sring the prepared pan with you to church on Sunday, May 12
- Enjoy the great feeling of using your gifts to nourish others

If you aren't able to bring back the pan on May 12, it can be brought to the church kitchen the week before. Check in at the office. Please don't take the pan directly to the shelter. If this doesn't work, please contact Cindi MacSwain: <u>cmacswain@new.rr.com</u>

EJWG & ESTHER Save the Date!! The Economic Justice Work Group & ESTHER are cosponsoring a showing of "The Invisible Class" on Tuesday, **May 7** at 6:00PM in our sanctuary. This documentary on homelessness in America records a 24-hour period in cities all over the US to give a balanced portrait of the social reality. The film also points to the local, state, and federal policies that have increased homelessness exponentially in the last five decades. The filmmakers suggest that targeting the systemic causes of homelessness with humane, supportive, and less costly alternatives could get us back to safe, affordable housing for virtually all. Following the film showing, a panel of local experts will discuss the experience of the unsheltered in the Fox Cities. Film contains strong language; not recommended for young viewers. Free admission. Doors open at 5:30PM. Please use west doors closest to Lawe St. (east doors will be locked.)

Diaper and Bedding Drive for World Relief: Accepting any size disposable diapers, new sheet sets (full or twin), new or gently used comforters (full or twin). Donations will be collected in the narthex in the "Pack and Play." Volunteers of all types are needed at World Relief. Move-in Team and Transport Assistant are especially needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact the World Relief Volunteer coordinator, Trinity Vang, 920-714-3550, <u>tvang@wr.org</u>

Mark your calendars for the next...



-Come play games with our youth, your family, your friends, or new friends! -We'll have lots of "classic" board games and card games available to choose from. -You're welcome to bring your own game that is well-known or easy to learn!

Intergenerational Game Night at FCUCC 6:00-7:30PM Wednesday, May 15 Hot Dog Dinner, Board Games & Cards

RSVP by 8AM on Wednesday, May 15 by emailing swilterdink@appletonucc.org or





This Week's Schedule

Monday, April 29	
6:30-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir - Sanctuary
<u>Tuesday, April 30</u>	
9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
11:00AM-12:00PM	Staff Meeting (Program Development) - Upper Lounge
1:30-3:00PM	Racial Equity – Upper Lounge
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – Common Grounds
7:45-8:45PM	Fireside AA – Common Grounds
Wednesday, May 1	
12:15-1:00PM	Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - Upper Lounge
5:30-8:30PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
5:45-6:25PM	Youth Handbells - Amistad Room
	This Week's Schedule continued on page 14

6:00-6:30PM	1 st Wednesday Dinner – Everyone is welcome to attend! – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
6:00-7:30PM	MS Youth Group – 1 st Wednesday Dinner, Clean Up & Hang Out – Fellowship Hall, Kitchen
6:30-7:30PM	Meet the Pastors (sign up required) – Upper Lounge
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir – Sanctuary, Choir Room
<u>Thursday, May 2</u>	
9:00-10:00PM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds
12:00-1:30PM	Theology Discussion Group – Chefo's Pancake House
12:00-2:30PM	Clergy Support & Study Group - Upper Lounge
2:00-3:00PM	EJWG Subteam Meeting - Library
6:30-7:30PM	Project Isaiah Meeting – Project Isaiah Room
6:00-8:00PM	SOAR Fox Cities – Fellowship Hall
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
<u>Friday, May 3</u>	
7:00-8:00PM	Al–Anon – Upper Lounge
7:00-8:30PM	N.A – Common Grounds
<u>Saturday, May 4</u>	
1:00-5:00PM	Craft Circle – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
<u>Sunday, May 5</u>	
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, Chapel
10:30-11:30AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising - Narthex
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – MS Youth Room
11:00AM-12:00PM	Mandatory Pre-Youth Trip Meeting - HS Youth Room & Zoom
11:00AM-12:00PM	New Member Exploration Gathering – Upper Lounge
4:30-5:30 PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - Choir Room, Sanctuary
6:00-8:00PM	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 | uccappleton.org Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM