

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 23, 2025



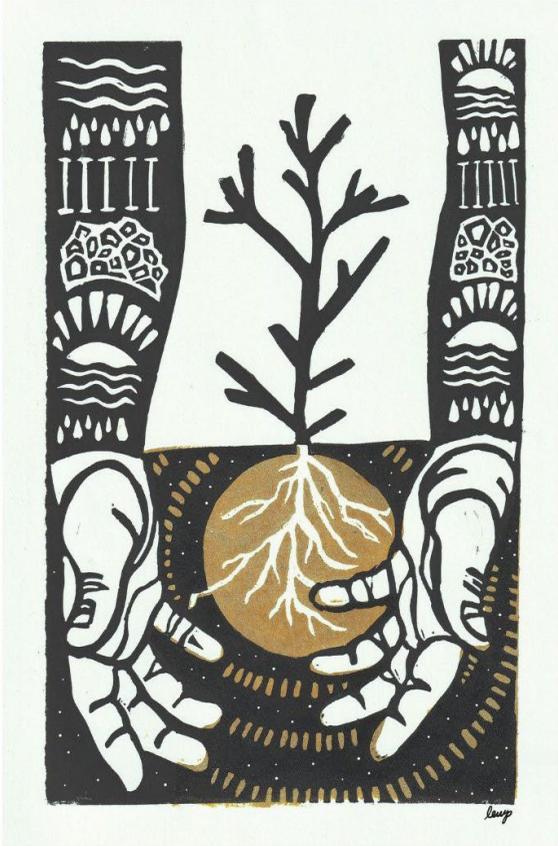
Full
to
the Brim

*You
are
worthy*

You Are Worthy
by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 13:1-9
Block print with oil-based ink

How often does society wish us to feel like we are wasting soil? The whole capitalist system lurches forward, powered by our collective sense of unworthiness and our searching for worth based on what we produce. This parable upends the notion that we are what we produce, and speaks truth: you are worthy. You deserve rest and care simply for existing. What a gift!

In this image, I wanted the fig tree to look unremarkable, surrounded by the hands of the Gardener reaching down to lovingly massage the soil. The sleeves contain patterning of simplified visual references to everything a plant needs to not only survive, but to thrive. Starting close to the roots and moving upward, the patterns include water, air, sunlight, nutrients, and space. The emphasis in this image is on what is happening below the surface, in the depths of the dirt. The roots stretch toward the hands of the Gardener as the specks of dirt seem to also image the stars of the vast universe. Within us, despite what we produce, despite what can be seen at the surface, we contain multitudes. We bear the image of God, and our mere existence makes us worthy of Sabbath and the loving arms of the Gardener reaching out to provide us with everything we need.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 23, 2025 9:30AM

Third Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

As the Sun with Longer Journey

Text by John Patrick Earls
Tune by Carl F. Schalk
Setting by Sherri Hansen

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

*"As the sun with longer journey melts the winter's snow and ice,
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life."*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

***OPENING HYMN (see bulletin pages 5 & 6)**

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

RESTORATION

St. 1 – Choir; Refrains and St. 2-4 - **All**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Holy God, we treat our self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;
but you know this even better than we do.**

**Instead of trusting that we are made good,
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,
we stockpile our value in earthly things—**

in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.

Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.

**Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts that we won't be forgotten if we slow
down. We won't be forgotten if we rest. Gratefully we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Say it with me—

All: We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.

We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE #183**

What Wondrous Love Is This (St. 1)

WONDROUS LOVE

**What wondrous love is this, O my soul! O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this! That caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!**

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.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN (sung by all)

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

**Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13:1-9

Sue Wisneski

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them – do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.'"

SERMON *"He Is the Gardener"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

***PSALTER HYMN (see bulletin page 7)**

Oh God, You Are My God Alone (based on Psalm 63:1-8)

GRATUS

MOMENT FOR MISSION: RE-MEMBER

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

If You but Trust in God to Guide You

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT
Setting, David Cherwien

Sanctuary Choir

*... sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving; offer your service faithfully.
And trust God's word, though underserving, there find the truth to set you free.
God will not fail to guide and bless those who embrace God's faithfulness.*

*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)

Come to Tend God's Garden

KING'S WESTON

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (in unison)

**We believe that the God of the cosmos is at work here.
We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.
We believe that God is planting roots.
We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.**

But until that promised day when the fig tree stands tall and swords
are beaten into plowshares, we believe:

When our work does not bear fruit, God still loves us.

When our soil grows dry and cracked, God still longs for us.

When all seems hopeless here on earth, God holds hope for us.

The God of the cosmos is at work here. We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*UNISON BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata and Ricercare in G

Bernardo Pasquini (1637-1710)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Sarah Wilterdink, *Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries*

Sue Wisneski, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

All or Leader

1 Come, ye sin - ners, poor and need - y, weak and wound-ed,
2 Come, ye thirst-y, come, and wel - come; God's free boun - ty
3 Come, ye wea - ry, heav - y lad - en, lost and ru - ined
4 Let not con - science make you lin - ger, nor of fit - ness

The differing voices of this text indicate that its parts were not created together. The stanzas are cast in the voice of a preacher or exhorter, but the refrain (added later) takes the voice of a penitent heeding that call in language like that of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:18).

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy continued on page 6...

sick and sore; Je - sus read - y stands to save you,
 glo - ri - fy, true be - lief and true re - pen - tance,
 by the fall; if you tar - ry till you're bet - ter,
 fond - ly dream; all the fit - ness he re - quir - eth

Refrain
All

full of pit - y, love, and power.
 ev - ery grace that brings you nigh. I will a - rise and
 you will nev - er come at all.
 is to feel your need of him.

go to Je - sus; he will em - brace me in his arms. In the

arms of my dear Sav - ior, O there are ten thou - sand charms.

O God, You Are My God Alone

Unison E^b A^b E^b A^b B^b E^b

1 O God, you are my God a-lone, whom ea-ger-ly I seek,
 2 Your faith-ful love sur-pass-es life, e-vok-ing all my praise.
 3 Through-out the night I lie in bed and call you, Lord, to mind;

Gm A^b B^b Fm B^b E^b

though long-ing fills my soul with thirst and leaves my bod-y weak.
 Through ev-ery day, to bless your name, my hands in joy I'll raise.
 in dark-est hours I med-i-tate how God, my strength, is kind.

A^b E^b Fm B^b

Just like a dry and bar-ren land a-waits a fresh-ening shower,
 My deep-est needs you sat-is-ify as with a sump-tuous feast.
 Be-neath the shad-ow of your wing, I live and feel se-cure;

E^b Fm E^b A^b B^b E^b

I long with-in your house to see your glo-ry and your power.
 So, on my lips and in my heart, your praise has nev-er ceased.
 and dai-ly as I fol-low close, your right hand keeps me sure.

Alternate tune: RESIGNATION, p. 130.

Words: The Iona Community © 1993 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Scotland, GIA Publications, Inc., exclusive North American agent
 Music (GRATUS 8.6.8.6 D): Mary Kay Beall © 1991 Hope Publishing Company

Come to Tend God's Garden

John A. Dalles, 1992

Luke 13:6-9; Gal. 5:22-26

1 Come to tend God's gar - den, seeds of hope to sow, plant-ing fields of
2 As we tend God's gar - den, from its fur-rows rise stems of fresh be -
3 May God's gar - den flour - ish, may our toil suc - ceed, may God bless our

*Whenever this repeated figure appears in the bass,
the organist should tie the eighth notes in the bass part.

jus - tice, watch-ing mer - cy grow! In an ar - id waste - land,
gin - nings, stretch-ing toward the skies! Gra-cious-ness, our mead - ow,
ac - tions, ev - ery word and deed! Serv-ing Christ each sea - son,

spread a ver-dant heath! In a land of tu-mult, cul - ti - vate God's peace!
joy - ful-ness, our root, u - ni-ty, our fo-li-age, righ-teous-ness, our fruit!
with God's di - a - gram, chart-ed by the Spir-it, for the task at hand!

John Dalles is the author of more than 200 hymn texts. This one was written for the 275th anniversary of the Synod of the Trinity (Pennsylvania), where Dalles has served as a pastor at Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh.

Tune: KING'S WESTON 6.5.6.5.D.
Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1925
For another setting see 255

USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

MARCH USHERS: Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Ryan St. Clair, Susan Houston, Ryan Smith, Chris Calhoun, Bruce Valk
AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Sue Forsythe, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fourth Sunday in Lent Vince Salvia, Lay Preacher
Music: Sanctuary Choir Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

ON THE CALENDAR

July 7-10	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School
August 25-28	5:30-7:30PM	Vacation Bible School

WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)



**Ordination of Derek Elkins
March 30 at 2:00PM**

We are thrilled to host the Ordination of Derek Elkins on March 30 at 2:00PM. Derek is one of our Members in Discernment and served as a ministry intern during the summer of 2023. Derek is currently serving as the Pastor of First UCC in Green Bay. The ordination service will feature special guests from the Wisconsin Conference and our ecumenical partners, music from Karma's Mailbox, and an offering to benefit the Members in Discernment Scholarship Fund. It will be livestreamed.

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 or to request a pastoral visit: 920-733-7393
In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

Amanda, who has terminal cancer	Kathy Lannoye
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Elizabeth McNally
Don Brittnacher	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Cancer
Karen Craddock	Dean Ostrander
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Anika Quillman
David Galow	Frank and Pat Severin
The family of Paul Gohdes	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Colton Heimlich	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
JoAnn Helms	Kinsley Tarr
Shirley Hoft	Gloria Tate
Misty Hofman	Jack Thiel
Sandi Hurm	Peter Thiel
Jenny, who has been diagnosed with cancer	James Totzke
Jean Jepson	Those living with mental unwellness
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Larry Vaubel
Jim Kriner	Lynn Weyenberg Hooyman
Mary Jo Laabs	Dave White

Please call or email the church office if someone's name should be removed from the list.
Thank you!



If you would like to send a card to Pastor Mary Jo Laabs as she recovers, please mail it to us or drop it off in the church office.

We will deliver them all to her with our get well wishes!

The Open Door Announcements

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

Please Join Us Today! You are invited to join in a discussion regarding the Just Peace in Palestine and Israel Resolution put forth by the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Board of Directors. This resolution was submitted by the Palestine Justice Working Group of the Wisconsin Conference. This Resolution will be voted on at this year's WI Conference Annual Meeting. The process for adopting a resolution of witness requires a vote of the of the Annual Meeting when first introduced, followed by one year of study and engagement by local congregations. If 30% of UCC churches do some study of the Resolution, a confirming vote will be taken at the Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting. 2025. The last discussion is today, **March 23 at 11:00AM**. For the contents of the resolution and additional resources visit: The Wisconsin Conference, Palestine Justice Working Group website. It will also be on the table outside of the library. If you cannot attend but would like to provide feedback regarding the Resolution or have questions, please contact Mary Dees at (920) 915-0177.

FREE Mental Health First Aid Training: Learn how to support an adult facing a mental health challenge or crisis. NAMI Oshkosh is sponsoring Mental Health First Aid training on **April 5, 9:00AM-5:00PM** at NAMI Oshkosh, 525 N. Main Street, Oshkosh. The skills-based course gives people the tools to identify, understand and respond to someone who might be struggling with a mental health or substance use challenge and connect them with the appropriate support and resources when necessary. The training will be taught by Anita Kinsley, a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor. Anita has spent 44 years working in behavioral health, both in service as well as university-based education. While Anita loves providing service and administering programs, her passion is teaching and behavioral health advocacy. She recently moved to Oshkosh from Pennsylvania. Training materials, lunch, snacks and beverages are provided by NAMI Oshkosh. Register by email at info@namioshosh.org or call 920-651-1148.

Kenya Sponsor Reception: Save Sunday, **May 4**, after service for the Kenya Sponsor Reception. Sponsors and all interested persons are invited to meet Mildred Chepkonga, our special guest from Kenya. Please greet her in church on April 27 and May 4.

Library News: The theme for March is Women's History. Come learn about women who did great things. Here are a couple titles to consider. *"Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa"* by Jeanette Winter and *"Unbowed: A Memoir"* by Wangari Maathai.



Please donate Egg Fillers by Sunday, March 30! Thanks!

Collecting through March 30 for Back Bay Mission: Look for the blue cart in the narthex! Volunteers from First Congregational will soon be driving to Back Bay Mission, the UCC's Community Ministry in Biloxi, MS. We will be working in the day shelter, the food pantry and rehabbing homes. While there we like to stock the shelves at the food pantry and bring items in short supply at the day shelter. Our transportation space is limited so we are suggesting the following small, easily packable items or Walmart gift cards or checks. (Envelopes for gift cards or checks are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Check out the bulletin board display, too!)

Thank you! The Back Bay Mission Team

- Hot sauce (we are the only group that brings this!!)
- Packets of tuna or canned chicken
- Soup mix (family size)
- Small packets of Slim Jims or similar meat sticks
- Soft protein bars (e.g. Think bars, Complete cookies)
- Readers (\$5 at Aldi's)
- Small packs (16 count) Huggies baby wipes
- Travel-size bug spray and sunscreen
- New or gently used
 - Golf/baseball hats
 - Fanny packs
 - Reusable grocery bags



Bridging Past and Present: The Indian Story Stick Workshop with Debra Morningstar:

Debra Morningstar's workshop will be held at the Lakeshore Park 4 Seasons Building, 1875 Punhoqua Street, Oshkosh, Wednesday, **April 2**, from 1:00-4:00PM. With its roots in ancient tribal teachings, this adult-oriented workshop encourages participants to explore their past as they embark on this life-altering experience. Adorning their sticks with ribbons, shells, beads, sweet grass, and feathers, participants are guided on a journey of spiritual renewal and self-discovery. At the culmination of this activity, the people come together in the Sacred Circle to share their stories. All adults are invited to be part of this deeply moving experience as the Indian Storystick takes you on your Earth Walk of reflection, healing, and self-care. If you want to learn more about Debra Morningstar please visit her website - <https://www.debramorningstar.com/>. If you have questions about this workshop, please direct them to Anne Schaefer, City of Oshkosh, Marketing and Fund Development Coordinator, at 920.232.5306.





THE ISAIAH
PROJECT

When you hear "The Isaiah Project," think "infrastructure." The Steering Committee and four Task Forces are prayerfully engaged in research, community partnership development, and discernment to provide recommendations to Church Council about our buildings, grounds, and neighborhood presence. These recommendations will address our current and future needs and support our mission and priorities.

The Isaiah Corner: Isaiah Project Listening Sessions

Everyone is invited to attend one of the Listening Sessions scheduled for Sunday, **March 30** at 10:45AM or Monday, **March 31** at 4:00PM.

Representatives from The Isaiah Project will share the areas of concern and issues from the work and discoveries of the Task Forces (Buildings, Grounds, Community Partnership, Finance/Capital Campaign).

We would like to hear your perspectives and gather ideas to inform our further planning.

Listening Sessions will be in the chapel.

IPAC - News Flash: In 2021, our Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee signed an agreement with College of Menominee Nation in Keshena promising to provide a \$500 scholarship for each of its two annual college semesters. For the last several years, gracious gifts from this congregation have allowed us to increase the scholarship to \$1000 for each semester. Our CMN scholarship fund was robust enough this year to also gift a scholarship to a graduate of CMN, who completed her baccalaureate degree and sought support for continuing studies to become a certified Radiological Technician trained to operate portable X-ray and MRI systems. Her vision is to work with portable imaging teams that can move to any location to provide radiological diagnostics for Indigenous peoples. Please consider donating to our CMN Scholar Fund by check or cash. **Make checks payable to FCUCC with memo line: CMN Scholarship.** Thank you for making this possible!



NOAHH Requests: Most recent requests include: a family has a baby on the way and has a crib mattress but needs a crib frame, a mother of a 6-month-old is requesting a crib as the one she has just broke and is no longer safe, a parent has a small apartment and is looking for a small table and two chairs so there is a place to put a highchair when the child in out of home care comes for visits. Contact Barb Mincheff, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Outagamie County Health & Human Services, for pick up/drop off, 920-832-5515.

Now Filling!
EASTER EGGS

PENNIES, TRINKETS, STICKERS, CANDY...
What can fit in a plastic egg??

Please donate egg fillers
by Sunday, March 30
so volunteers have time to
fill the eggs here at church.

Thank You for
Your Generosity,
Your Excited
FCUCC Children

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Workshop

4 Part Free Workshop Series
6:30-8pm on Mondays: April 28th,
May 5th, May 12th, and May 19th

Location: *Upper Lounge*
At First Congregational UCC

Week 1 & 2 **Regulate: The Foundation for Change**

- How and why do we get dysregulated?
- Learn Skills for regulation

Week 3 **Relate: The Road to Healing**

- Understanding the connection between community and healing
- Communication skills & boundaries

Week 4 **Repair: Restoring the Story**

- Understanding the impact shame has on our daily lives
- Skills for forgiveness & practical steps towards healing

RSVP NOW

Scan me!

Or call the
Church Office at
920.733.7393

For More Info Contact:
Grace Christensen
Gracefeyl@gmail.com

This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 24

- 1:30-4:00PM Isaiah Project Capital Campaign Committee – *Fellowship Hall*
5:30-7:00PM Grounds Meeting – *Isaiah Project Room*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, March 25

- 9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
2:00-4:00PM Library Committee – *Library*
4:00-5:30PM Outreach Ministries Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
6:00-7:30PM Council Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:30PM Boy Scouts – *Fellowship Hall*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, March 26

- 9:30AM-12:00PM Isaiah Project Meeting – *Isaiah Room*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*
6:30-7:30PM Lenten Devotional: Turning Over Tables – *Chapel & Zoom*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

Thursday, March 27

- 9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:00PM TNT (SOAR FOX Cities) – *River Room*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, March 28

- 10:00-11:30AM Bulletin Folders – *Library*
7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM N.A – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, March 29

- 7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*
This Week's Schedule continued on page 16...

Sunday, March 30

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/Fourth Sunday in Lent – <i>Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms – <i>Common Grounds</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Isaiah Project Listening Session – <i>Chapel</i>
2:00-3:00PM	Derek Elkins Ordination – <i>Sanctuary</i>
4:15-5:15PM	Lenten Yoga – <i>River Room</i>
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds</i>
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</i>

Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of First Congregational UCC - was the home, hunting, gathering, and farming land of the First Peoples of this territory: the Ho Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation. Other tribes were forcibly re-located to this region by the actions of colonialism. Despite centuries of reprehensible treatment, the peoples of these sovereign nations are robust and enduring among us.

We are truly saddened by the genocide of their ancestors, the seizure of their lands, and the repression of their cultures and languages. We acknowledge that we benefit from the economic and social legacy left by settler colonialism.

We are grateful that many members of these original Nations have honorably served and defended the United States. We strive to honor their cultures and their insightful stewardship of this land and all creatures on it, recognizing our common interest in protecting its air, water, soils, and web of life for all future generations.

We commit ourselves through study and immersion experiences to learn the history and cultures of these peoples and their traditional knowledge.

Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

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

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 every Sunday. Kindergarten and first graders may enjoy a communion mini-lesson on the 1st Sunday of the month and may go to childcare the 2nd-5th Sundays of each month. 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 and alcohol free. All are welcome to join us!

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!



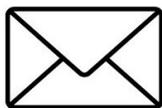
Online Streaming and Podcasting are available on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) or [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

Open Door Announcements can be shared by emailing opendoor@uccappleton.org or calling the office.

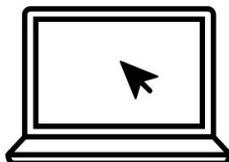
References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

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. Kindergarten - fifth graders may enjoy a communion mini-lesson on the 1st Sunday of the month. Children begin in worship, leave with the director, and return to partake in communion with their families. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

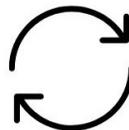
Ways to Donate to First Congregational UCC, Appleton ~ Thank you for your support.



Giving envelopes and checks can be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church



Visit our website at uccappleton.org and click "Give Now" for a one time gift or to sign up for automatic giving



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.



*Holy Week
Schedule*

PALM SUNDAY ~ April 13 at 9:30AM

This service will feature an opening processional beginning in the narthex with bells and palms, the Sanctuary Choir, and John Daniel, trumpet.

This service will also be livestreamed.

After worship join us for a youth-led pancake breakfast.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ April 17 at 7:00PM

This service will be a Tenebrae Service with Communion.

Pastor Nick and Pastor Katherine will lead the service, and the Sanctuary Choir, LU Music Scholars and Matt Michelic, viola, will be featured.

This service will also be livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE ~ April 18 at 12:00PM

This service will be held at Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Philip Ln, Appleton, WI 54915.

A combined Ecumenical Choir will be offered.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ April 20 at 8:45AM and 10:30AM

These services will feature the Sanctuary Choir, LU Music Scholars, LU Brass Quintet, organ and timpani, and a Scholar soloist.

Both Easter services will also be livestreamed.

Childcare will be available during the 8:45AM service.

Children should bring a basket or bag to take home goodies they'll collect during our Massive Egg Hunt between services, at 9:45AM.

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 upper lounge, narthex or chapel. The nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

- 9:25AM-12:00PM *Childcare – Childcare Room*
- 9:30-10:30AM *Sunday Worship/Third Sunday in Lent – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel (No Children’s Ministry or Children’s Choir)*
- 9:45-10:30AM *MS Bible Study – MS Youth Room*
- 10:30-11:30AM *Community Partnership – Upper Lounge*
- 10:45AM-11:45AM *Confirmation Class – HS Youth Room*
- 11:00AM-12:00PM *Adult Education – Chapel*
- 4:15-5:15PM *Lenten Yoga – River Room*
- 7:00-8:00PM *First Things First AA Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
- 7:00-8:00PM *AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*

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
No Children’s Ministry – spring break		

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.



—The Church of the Open Door—
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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 For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600