

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 10, 2024



Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

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

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship with Joyful Noise Collection – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30AM-12:30PM	Children's Mini-Musical Dress Rehearsal– <i>Sanctuary and Choir Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Kenya Reception for Sponsors and All – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Lenten Study: Chapter 4 – <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@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. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 10, 2024 9:30AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent ~ Baptism Sunday ~ Joyful Noise Offering

PRELUDE

Have mercy on me, O God (Psalm 51) Setting by Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Create in Me, O God

Johannes Brahms (1833-97)

Create in me, O God, a pure heart, and grant a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51:10

Sanctuary Choir

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lent is a season of reckoning, a season of examining ourselves and the world around us.

All: We look into the mirror and ask that The Spirit reveal who we are and the truths of the earth we call home.

One: Lent calls us to repent and believe in the gospel.

All: The gift of Good News draws us forward toward the cross and its unending grace and forgiveness.

One: Lent is a season of reflection on the journey.

All: We give thanks for this season of reckoning, the truth it holds, and the Gospel which lights our way.

*OPENING HYMN #401

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to the CYF building.)

A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

(This month's A Joyful Noise Offering will be used for supplies for the middle schoolers to take with them to senior living facilities.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

The Baptism of Hudson Todd Aman
Parents: Nicholas and Nicole Aman
Sponsors: Katie Wilson and Ryan Aman

The Baptism of Iris Marie Morrell
Parents: Erin Hasenfang and Jeffrey Morrell
Sponsors: Brian Fickau and Jessica Stamer

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (when prompted):

All: We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER OF BLESSING

All: We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for your children and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to nurture them in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. Give these children strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, freedom of love and hope in new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Stanzas 1 & 2, only

STUTTGART

SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 3:14-21

Karen Gosse

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because

they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

SERMON *"The Courage to Love the Light"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN #183

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

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

Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended

HERZLIEBSTER JESU
arr. John Behnke

Youth Handbells

*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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Hear My Prayer

Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

Sanctuary Choir Daniel Boyd, *LU student conductor*

*CLOSING HYMN

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

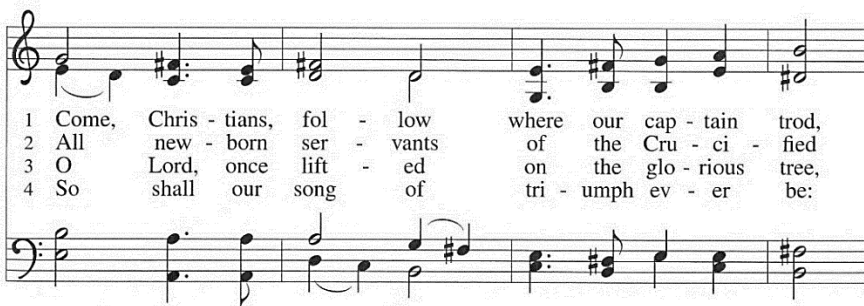
Refrain



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till



all the world adore his sacred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

*BENEDICTION

One: We are accustomed to the tradition of giving things up for Lent,
All: things we probably should have given up at New Year's or years ago when we became more serious about our Christian journey.

One: But sometimes this giving up becomes a focus on us,
All: poor us, noble us, giving up a bad habit.

One: Instead, the first disciples took on something — being a disciple,
All: following Jesus more closely, traveling to Jerusalem, paying attention to Jesus' teaching and healing, puzzling about feeding his followers, answering the authorities, living deeper and more broadly into a Christ-like life.

One: Ah, the focus is on Jesus, that is what Lent is about.
All: Jesus Christ, you are the focus, you are the Lord.

POSTLUDE

Schafe können sicher weiden (Sheep May Safely Graze) BWV 208 J.S. Bach (arr. Petri)
Benjamin Keating, *LU student pianist*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Pastor Dianne Droster

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Boyd, *LU student conductor*; Benjamin Keating, *LU student pianist*

Youth Handbells: Will Clothier, Elena Eubank, Avery Gentile,

Celia Gentile, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton Piepenburg,

Eva Schmidt, Chase Wahl; John Albrecht, *director*

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
<p align="center">ALL kindergarten - 5th graders will be in THE CHAPEL today. Parents can pick them up right outside the Sanctuary.</p>		

USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO

MARCH USHERS: TEAM 5 Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Tim Bauer, Peter Carman, Lauren Aaholm, Christine Williams, Todd Williams, John Hanson
 APRIL USHERS: TEAM 4
 AUDIO & VIDEO: Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Children's Mini-Musical during Worship Pastor Mary Jo Laabs Genesis 1-2:4
 Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 17	9:30AM	Children's Mini-Musical during Worship
	Sunday, March 24	9:30AM
		10:30AM
	<p align="center">Easter Flower Delivery to Church Members on your way home - Please let us know in the church office if you would like to be a deliverer!</p>	
Thursday, March 28	7:00PM	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion
Friday, March 29	12:00PM	Good Friday Ecumenical Service held at Zion Lutheran Church, 912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton
Sunday, March 31	8:45AM & 10:30AM	Easter Sunday Worship - No Children's Ministry on Easter - Easter Egg Hunt between services (bring a basket to take your goodies home in!)

WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

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	Kathy Lannoye
Bruce Anderson	Nancy Kandler
David Andrus & Family	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Don Brittnacher	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Gretchen Revie
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Larry Schiedermayer
Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder	Frank and Pat Severin
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
David Galow	Kinsley Tarr
Art Gandler	Gloria Tate
Ken Geiger	Jack Thiel
Margaret Hankwitz	Peter Thiel
Judy Hanson	James Totzke
JoAnn Helms	Jean Van Wagenin
Shirley Hoft	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Joan Jensen's son, John	Diane White
Jean Jepson	Those living with mental unwellness.

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

Thank you!

The Open Door Announcements

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

You Are Invited Today! All Kenya Sponsors, as well as anyone interested in the Kenya Partnership Program, are encouraged to come to the Fellowship Hall immediately after Worship today for the Kenya Reception. You can expect to hear stories from the recent trip while enjoying your chai, coffee, and treats. There will be a brief PowerPoint and the opportunity to ask questions. For those out of town or not available today, the program will be recorded with an opportunity to watch it later. Watch for the link to be available in the next few days.



Mental Health Task Force: Our next meeting will be Monday, **March 11** 6:00–7:30PM in the Upper Lounge. All are welcome to join us. For more info, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

Help Us Fill the Box in the Narthex! Collecting **March 10 - March 24** for Back Bay Mission. Volunteers from First Congregational will soon be going 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 new bulletin board display, too!



- Hot sauce (we are the only group that brings this!!)
- Packets of tuna or soup mix
- Small packets of Slim Jims or similar meat snacks
- Soft protein bars (e.g. Think bars, Complete cookies)
- New or gently used golf/baseball hats
- Travel-size bug spray and sunscreen

Project Isaiah Additional Discussions: Last October, a team from the Church Council completed a summary report of the Vandersall Collective's 2020-2022 engagement with First Congregational, plus a bit of history on how we arrived at this point and what's next. Discussion groups ("poster sessions") were held for those interested in hearing more about the wrap-up report, current status and how we're moving into the implementation phase, called Project Isaiah.

We're holding additional wrap-up discussion sessions on Wednesday, **March 13**, 5:00-6:00PM and Friday, **March 15**, 12:00-1:00PM. These will be in the Project Isaiah Room, lower level, across from Fellowship Hall.

Open to all, however, anyone joining a Project Isaiah Task Force is especially encouraged to attend. Please read the Vandersall wrap-up report before the discussion session. Copies are available in the narthex and on the website via this link <https://www.firstcongoappleton.org/project-isaiah>

Project Isaiah Sponsored Event - Making Our Way in the Wilderness: *I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19.* How will our buildings and campus serve our mission and purpose going forward? How do we live more fully as the Church of the Open Door? How are we part of the neighborhood and how are we making a difference in the community?

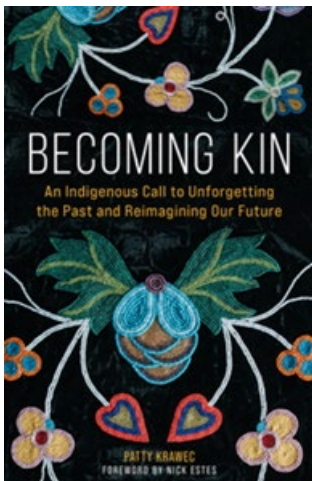
We are deep into the wilderness of understanding these challenging questions through Project Isaiah. With the guidance of the Spirit, we will make a way in the wilderness.

Next Sunday, March 17, from 12:00-1:00PM, we will welcome one of our guides along the way, Rev. Jane Anderson, Associate Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. She will be sharing trends and happenings at state and national levels and responding to questions about the future of Protestant congregations like ours. This information is important grounding as we move ahead on the transformation of our church. The meeting is open to everyone. If unable to attend in person, it will be Zoomed. Light refreshments will be served.

EJWG presentation on housing insecurity: On Monday, **March 18**, 7:00-8:30PM, the Economic Justice Work Group is hosting a Zoom presentation featuring speaker Bill Van Lopik, Community Organizer at ESTHER-Fox Valley. The topic is "Listening for a Change: Voices of the Housing Insecure," with a panel of advocates with personal stories and ideas about addressing the housing crisis. All are welcome to join us! Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87356078477?pwd=S0RtVFNPOG5oRnVvSEVnUWQyVGV0dz09>; Meeting ID: 873 5607 8477; Passcode: 107144

Book Discussion: *Becoming Kin*, by Patty Krawec. 2022. 240 pp.: On March 21, 2024, First Congregational UCC's Theology Discussion Group will begin discussing its next book, *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Forgetting the Past and Reimagining the Future*. In this book, Anishinaabe and Christian writer Patty Krawec weaves her own story with the story of her ancestors and with the broader themes of creation, replacement, and disappearance. Braiding together historical, scientific, and cultural analysis, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the vivid threads of communal memory, Krawec crafts a stunning, forceful call to "unforget" our history and imagine how the old ways of kinship can help us create a better future.



If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality, justice, and growth in faith, we invite you to join us as we begin reading this new book together. Theo

Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from noon to 1:30PM, with some participants gathering in person at Chefo's Pancake House in Kimberly and others taking part via Zoom.

For more information about Theo Group, visit <https://www.uccappleton.org/projects/theology-discussion-group> or contact Steve Hirby on Realm or through the church office.



Register for the 2024 FCUCC Youth Trip July 16 - 20, 2024



Early Bird Registrations receive \$20 OFF your total cost
Registrations due by April 10

Information and Registration paperwork can be found on the church and youth emails, social media, our website, and hard copies in the office. Pick them up anytime. To help with the fundraising events, sign up online or open this link: [Sign up here.](#)

Trip fundraisers include:

Kwik Trip Card Sales: Cards can be purchased on the first Sundays after worship in the narthex, during the weekdays in the church office, or from our youth trip attendees.

Palm Sunday Youth-Led Pancake Breakfast: We need youth to be bakers, cleaners, sellers, and smilers! **Those not attending the trip are still very encouraged to come have fun cooking with us that morning as we serve as God's hands!!**

Membership Exploration Gathering:



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 info@uccappleton.org. New members will be introduced in worship on Sunday, May 19.

The Black Experience: Saturday, **March 16, 2024, 12:00- 4:00PM**, 201 E Birch St Black Creek, WI 54106. Come experience a preview of our African Immersion, planned and led by ESTHER's new organizer, Miracle Wheeler. A fun-filled educational day with authentic African American Food, African Drumming lessons, African dance tutorials, crafts for the kids, face painting, a powerful movie clip on Black History, Q&A session, hair-braiding experience and much more. Free Admission. Donations Accepted. Proceeds fund ESTHER's African Immersion.



Easter Flowers Donation Form



Donations support this special season's display, and help fund the sanctuary flowers throughout the year.

Your Name _____

Amount _____ (\$25 suggested)

Please word the following as you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Drop this form in the offering plate or return it to the church office by Monday, March 18, 2024.

Make checks out to FCUCC and in the memo field write "Easter Flowers."



Wild Ones, ITSC, Indigenous Studies, and SIRT present:

DR. ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

Dr. Kimmerer is a Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology at the State University of New York, the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment, and author of the acclaimed book, "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants".

co-sponsored by University Speaker Series and Green Fund

Free tickets for UWO students, faculty and staff will be available very soon on a first come, first served basis - watch your email! Limited seating available. Virtual option also free to UWO students, faculty and staff.



WHEN:

Tuesday, March 19th
@5:00 PM CST

WHERE:

Remote or in-person at
UW Oshkosh Reeve Memorial
Union

Please note: All in-person tickets to the Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer Event have been sold out, however Zoom tickets are still available for \$18.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 11

1:00-2:30PM

6:00-7:30PM

6:30-8:30PM

6:30-8:30PM

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Mental Health Task Force – *Upper Lounge*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Tuesday, March 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

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Racial Equity – *Zoom only*

Library Committee – *Library*

Wild Women of First Congregational – *Stone Arch Brewpub*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Technology Committee – *Zoom only*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

This Week's Schedule continued on page 14...

Wednesday, March 13

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*
6:30-7:30PM MS Youth Group – *MS Youth Room*
6:30-7:30PM HS Youth Group Hang Out with a Purpose – *HS Youth Room*
6:30-7:30PM Bible Study of Romans – *Zoom only*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, March 14

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
4:30-6:00PM ESTHER – *River Room*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, March 15

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

Saturday, March 16

1:00-3:30PM Children's Mini-Musical Dress Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, March 17

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship with Children’s Mini-Musical – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*
9:30-11:30AM No Children’s Ministry ~ There IS childcare available for infants & toddlers in the Childcare Room – *CYF Wing*
10:45-11:45AM Small Group for Parents – *HS Youth Room*
10:45AM-12:00PM Lenten Study: Chapter 5 – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-2:00PM Project Isaiah – *Fellowship Hall*
4:15-5:15PM 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*

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY ~ March 24, 2024 ~ 9:30AM

This service will feature an opening processional beginning in the narthex with bells and palms, the Sanctuary Choir, and a Scholar soloist.

This service will also be livestreamed.

MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ March 28, 2024 ~ 7:00PM

This service will be a Tenebrae Service with Communion. Pastor Nick and Pastor Mary Jo will lead the service, and the Sanctuary Choir and a Scholar soloist will be featured.

This service will also be livestreamed.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE ~ March 29, 2024 ~ 12:00PM

This service will be held at **Zion Lutheran Church**, 912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton. It is held in partnership with six downtown churches and will feature a moving and creative worship experience. If you would like to join in singing with the Ecumenical Choir at this service, contact John Albrecht at jalbrecht@uccappleton.org.

EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31, 2024 ~ 8:45AM and 10:30AM

These services will feature the LU Faculty Brass Quintet & Timpani, Sanctuary Choir, LU Music Scholars, and a Scholar soloist.

Both Easter services will also be livestreamed.

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.