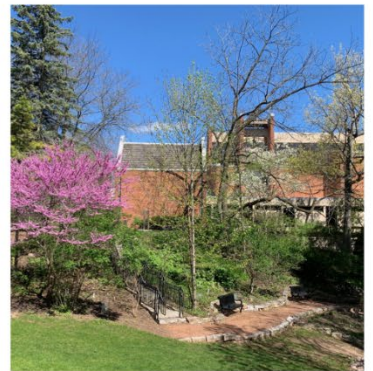




# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**August 10, 2025**



We are the Church of the Open Door.  
No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.

## *Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.*

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

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**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 infants through 1<sup>st</sup> graders, members and guests alike, in the summer. 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](mailto:opendoor@uccappleton.org) or calling the office.

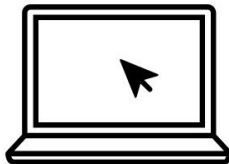
**References to God** in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

**Sunday School** will resume in September. Let an usher know if you would like to receive further information.

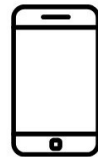
**Ways to Donate to First Congregational UCC, Appleton ~ Thank you for your support.**



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



Visit our website at [uccappleton.org](http://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.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 10, 2025

9:30AM

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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## PRELUDE

*Intermezzo in A Major, Op. 118 No. 2*

Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

**All: We bring our full selves to God - our strengths and our weaknesses.**

One: God calls you here today.

**All: We offer all we are to God - our talents and our inadequacies.**

One: God calls every part of us to bring divine love and light into the world.

**All: We respond to God's call, trusting that God is at work within us.**

One: God calls us to be ready for the return of His Son.

**All: We strive to be ready in thoughts, words, and deeds. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #87

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ST. COLUMBA

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the Children's Message, the Prayer Request and Connection Cards will be collected.

After the Children's Message, the children may return to be with their families.)

## ANTHEM

*What Faith Is*

Hillary Reynolds

Hillary Reynolds, *vocal soloist and piano*

Benjamin Kopf, *guitar*

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 12:32-40

Debbie Wagner

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. "Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed are those slaves whom the master

finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. "But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect."

SERMON *"Preparing for the Party"*

Sarah Wilterdink

\*HYMN #445

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

(To give online please visit our website at [uccappleton.org](http://uccappleton.org) and click "Give Now" for a one time gift or to sign up for automatic giving, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

*Breathe*

Michael W. Smith

\*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 pages 5 & 6)

*Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

St. 1-3, Soloist

Refrains & St. 4, **All**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Gigue in E Minor*

Jean-Baptiste Jully (1633-1687)

**THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

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

Debbie Wagner, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Hillary Reynolds, *vocal soloist & piano*

Benjamin Kopf, *guitar*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

**Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, #A-714899. All rights reserved.**

**Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI, #20670260. All rights reserved.**

<b>USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO</b>
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**AUGUST USHERS:** **Team 4:** Rick Detienne, Sue Detienne, Tim DeHart, Sheryl DeHart, Mary Gay Hornseth, Phil Hornseth, Sandi Hurm, Ron Hurm, Gene Spindler, Cheryl Spindler, Bill Ritcey; **Team 1:** Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Steve Hermesen, Tom Tatlock, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette

**AUDIO & VIDEO:** Tim Hanna, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

<b>WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY</b>
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Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Luke 12:49-56

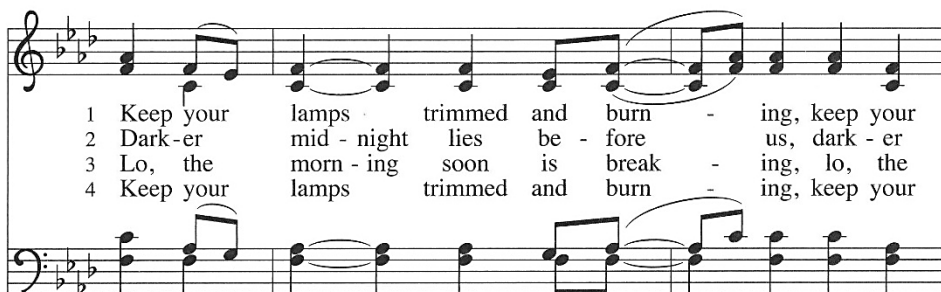
Pastor Nick Hatch

Music: Murphy Family Musicians

<b>ON THE CALENDAR</b>		
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August 17	9:30AM	Children's Ministry during the service; BYO Picnic on CYF grounds after the worship, dessert provided!
August 24	10:45-11:45AM	New Member Exploration Class
August 25-28	5:30-7:30PM	Vacation Bible School
September 14	Rally Sunday with Blessing of the Backpacks and Potluck	
September 26-28	Women's Retreat @ Moon Beach	

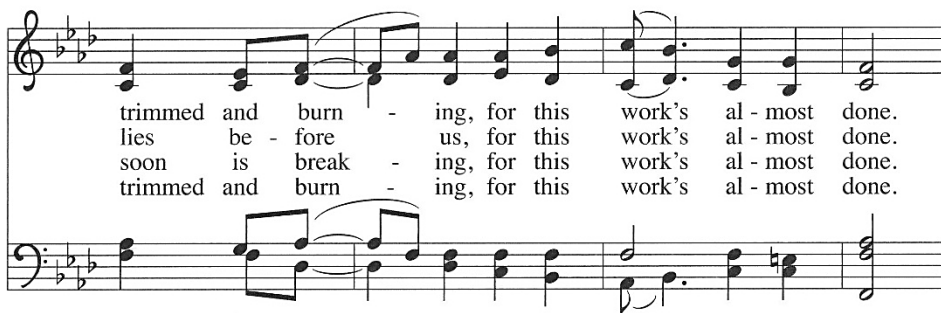
# Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

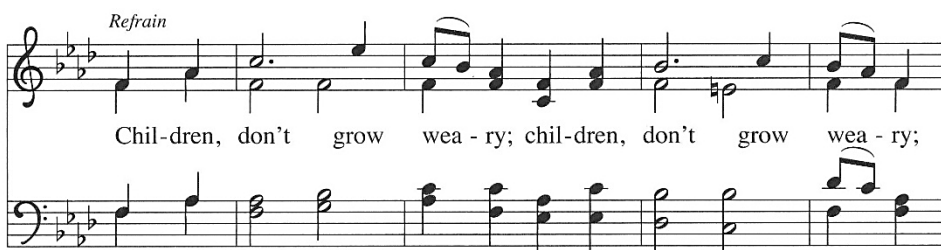


lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



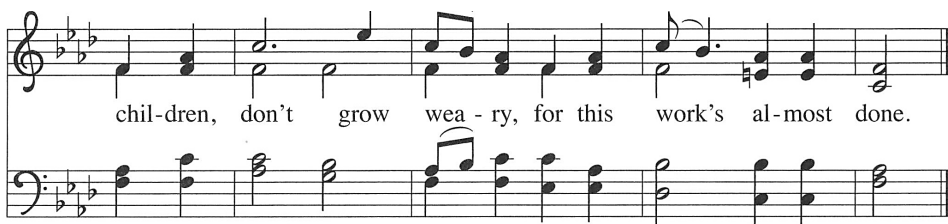
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

*Refrain*



Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning continued on page 6...



Text: African American spiritual  
Music: African American spiritual

KEEP YOUR LAMPS  
Irregular

### 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	Jim Kriner
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Kathy Lannoye
Valerie Bales	Elizabeth McNally
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with cancer
Trish Brehm	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Brittany, diagnosed with a brain tumor	Anika Quillman
Don Brittnacher	The family and friends of Sharrie Robinson as they grieve her passing
Karen Craddock	Gwenn Salonen
Marlys Colin	Frank and Pat Severin
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
David Galow	Gloria Tate
The family of Paul Gohdes	Peter Thiel
Colton Heimlich	James Totzke
JoAnn Helms	Those living with mental unwellness
Shirley Hoft	Dave White
Misty Hofman	Sarah Williamsen
Sandi Hurm	
Jenny, who has been diagnosed with cancer	
Jean Jepson	

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.

**Library News:** The library theme for August is Poverty and Homelessness. To learn more, take a look at the books at the table outside the library on Sundays. Here are a couple: *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond and *Same Kind of Different as Me* by Ron Hall.

**7th Annual Wisconsin Lights of Hope**, a recovery celebration and memorial walk will be held on Sunday, **September 7**, 3:30–6:30PM at Pierce Park, Appleton. For more info, <https://www.meganelleyfoundation.org/wisconsinlightsofhope>.

**“Continuing the Circle” Baby Baskets:** Did you notice the traveling playpen in the narthex? Indigenous Peoples’ Allies Committee (IPAC) is supporting a baby supply drive for First Nations Outreach, Inc. Please consider donation items or money to help our indigenous neighbors with newborns. Wish list: Huggies Little Snugglers diapers (size newborn), Huggies 64 count fragrance free wipes, Johnson’s baby lotion and baby wash, baby bath towels and wash cloths, newborn onesies, sleepers (size 0-3 months), babies first book (example: *A Kiss Goodnight* by Claire Freeman). For more details, see the complete list attached to the baby playpen. To give a monetary donation contact Barb Wisneski at [bwisneski11@gmail.com](mailto:bwisneski11@gmail.com). Items will be collected through the month of August. Thank you for your generous gift of love to support our low-income newborn infants.

**2025 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series:** **August 13**, Dr. Erich Knapp, First English Lutheran Church, 326 E North St, Appleton and **August 20**, Devin Atteln, CAGO, St. Mary Catholic Church, 528 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Menasha - free organ concerts on Wednesdays at 12:15PM. For more information visit [www.newago.org](http://www.newago.org).

**NOAHH Requests:** A baby gate, twin bedding (sheets and comforter), pots and pans, hygiene supplies, twin XL mattress, full size mattress, a vacuum, laundry soap, and bicycles for two boys – 11 years and 7 years. Call Barb Mincheff, Outagamie County Health & Human Services Volunteer Services Coordinator at 920-832-5515 for pick-up or drop-off.

**This year’s Turtle Trek Challenge** will run Sunday, **August 24 through November 2**.



TTC is a fund-raiser for our mission partner, Re-Member, which serves the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge reservation. You can raise funds by trekking (walking, running, etc.) 100 miles in 10 weeks. Use the QR code or open the sponsor sheet here: [Turtle Trek Challenge sponsor sheet](#) or you can sponsor trekkers in any amount. There will be a sign-up table in the narthex on August 24 and September 7. For more information, contact [Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu](mailto:Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu)



## The Isaiah Corner



### THE ISAIAH PROJECT

*God, grant us creativity, curiosity, and courage as we worship,  
work and seek your presence. Empower us to follow Jesus into  
the world to love and serve our neighbors. Amen*

On Sunday, June 29, during the congregational meeting, a motion was put forth to: “Approve a Capital Campaign dedicated to the financing for the planning, construction, and implementation of the priorities determined by the Isaiah Project Team. The associated fundraising shall take place over a three-year period. The execution of these projects shall not exceed the amount raised.” This motion was unanimously approved by congregational vote.

After the meeting, our building and landscape architects presented the project plan. This plan, reflecting the priorities and goals of our vibrant life inside and outside the church walls, is scaffolded into four levels of funding with project priorities listed at each level of giving. The total amount of funds raised by our capital campaign will determine the number of priorities in the plan that are able to be accomplished. You can read/view the presentation at the ‘Presentation’ or the ‘Video Link’ links/QR codes below.

Questions or comments? Submit on-line using the ‘Isaiah Box’ link/QR code below, email Director of Operational Ministries Vince Salvia at [vsalvia@uccappleton.org](mailto:vsalvia@uccappleton.org), or speak with any Isaiah Project team member.

#### [Video Link](#)



#### [Presentation](#)



#### [Isaiah Box](#)



**Habitat Faith Build 2025:** The 2025 Faith Build season has begun and First Congregational Church will again be participating. We will be involved in the construction of the Faith Build house and provide the noon meal. Our workday is Tuesday, **September 23**. We are scheduled to air seal and insulate the interior of the house. Nine volunteers will be needed to complete the day’s work. The build site is located at 635 Neenah Heights, Neenah, WI. First Congregational will share in providing the noon meal with First United Methodist Church. For additional information, please contact Tim DeHart at 920-731-2620 or at [tdehart@new.rr.com](mailto:tdehart@new.rr.com).

## **This Week's Schedule**

### Monday, August 11

1:00-2:30PM Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*  
6:00-7:30PM Mental Health Task Force – *Upper Lounge*  
6:30-8:30PM Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

### Tuesday, August 12

1:30-3:00PM HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*  
1:30-3:00PM Racial Equity – *by Zoom*  
2:00-4:00PM Library Committee – *Church Library*  
6:00-8:00PM Wild Women of First Congregational @ *Stone Arch Brewpub, Appleton*  
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*  
7:00-8:00PM Technology Committee – *by Zoom*  
7:00-8:30PM Scout Troop 67 – *Fellowship Hall*  
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, August 13

9:30AM-12:00PM Isaiah Project Meeting – *Isaiah Project Room*  
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*  
1:00-2:30PM Building Task Force – *Isaiah Project Room*  
6:30-7:30PM MS & HS Youth Group Volunteering @ *Pillars*

### Thursday, August 14

12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*  
1:00-3:00PM Murphy Musicians Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*  
4:00-5:00PM Private Event – *Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall*  
6:30-7:30PM Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*  
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

### Friday, August 15

10:00-11:30AM Bulletin Folders – *Library*  
12:00-4:00PM Private Event – *Sanctuary, Common Grounds, Upper Lounge*  
7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*  
7:00-8:30PM N.A – *Common Grounds*

### Saturday, August 16

9:00AM-11:00AM Mabel Grummer Celebration of Life, Visitation 9:00AM until  
Celebration of Life at 10:00AM – *Sanctuary, Narthex, Fellowship Hall*  
1:00-2:00PM Georgie Harris Celebration of Life – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Narthex*  
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, August 17

9:25AM-12:00PM      Childcare – *Childcare Room*  
9:30-10:30AM        Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*  
7:00-8:00PM         First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*  
7:00-8:00PM         AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*



A poster for 'Galactic Blast VBS' (Vacation Bible School) set against a dark blue space background with stars. The title 'Galactic Blast' is in a large, white, serif font, with 'VBS' below it in a very large, white, serif font. Underneath 'VBS' is the text 'Vacation Bible School' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The dates 'August 25-28' and times '5:30 - 7:30PM' are prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif font. Two yellow circular callouts are on the left and right: the left one says 'FREE TO THE PUBLIC' and the right one says 'REGISTER BY AUGUST 18TH!'. A cartoon rocket ship is on the right. In the bottom left is the logo for 'First Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST' (a green cross in a circle). In the bottom right is the contact information: '920. 733. 7393', 'info@uccappleton.org', and 'REGISTER TODAY'.

**Galactic Blast**  
**VBS**  
Vacation Bible School  
**August 25-28**  
**5:30 - 7:30PM**

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

REGISTER BY AUGUST 18TH!

First Congregational  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

920. 733. 7393  
info@uccappleton.org  
REGISTER TODAY



A poster for 'An Evening of Folk Dance, Food & Justice' with a warm, orange-toned background featuring musical notes. The title is in a bold, black, serif font. Below it is the tagline 'Move Together, Rise Together' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A central photograph shows a group of people of various ages dancing in a room. Below the photo is a circular logo with a stylized 'X' and the word 'ESTHER'. The text 'Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship' and '2600 Philip Lane, Appleton' follows. The date is presented as 'AUGUST 18 MONDAY 2025' with '5PM - 7:30PM' to the right. A paragraph at the bottom describes the event as a joyful evening of folk dances and fellowship. A final line states 'A delicious spread of fresh sandwiches and sides will be served.'

**An Evening of Folk Dance,  
Food & Justice**  
*Move Together, Rise Together*

 ESTHER

**Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship**  
2600 Philip Lane, Appleton

**AUGUST**  
**MONDAY 18 2025** 5PM - 7:30PM

Come together for a joyful evening filled with connection, movement, and community spirit! Enjoy simple, lively folk dances from around the world—no experience needed. Come to dance or enjoy the family-friendly fellowship. All are welcome!

*A delicious spread of fresh sandwiches and sides will be served.*

*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 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel
10:30-11:15AM	Bring Your Own Picnic with ice cream provided – CYF side
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

**New Member Exploration Class:** Are you interested in learning more about First Congregational UCC and exploring what it means to become a member of our community of faith? We don't often offer summer classes, but since we've had many guests and visitors in recent months, we thought we'd give it a whirl! Join Pastor Nick and Pastor Katherine on **August 24** after worship (convening around 10:45-11:45AM) for a New Member Exploration Class. Remember that you do not need to commit to joining the congregation to come to class, but if you do decide to become a member, we'll welcome our new members during worship on September 7. Please RSVP for the New Membership Exploration Class by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or by contacting the front office at [info@uccappleton.org](mailto:info@uccappleton.org).



We are proud to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. This designation is given to congregations that have made a public covenant to welcome fully persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton, WI is a WISE congregation. This designation is given to congregations that have made a public covenant to welcome fully and promote inclusion and compassionate support for persons of all mental health experiences.

