

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 30, 2025



***Inexplicable Joy* by Hannah Garrity
Inspired by Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; Paper lace**

Full to the brim with joy. An existential crisis, like the last two years of the COVID pandemic, helps us all to appreciate the joy with which the father of the prodigal son celebrates. This image depicts the joyful motion of a party, the lights in particular. The lines in this stained glass window design are inspired by photographs of light glowing and moving, dancing in the night. In the center circle, the shadow of a dancing silhouette repeats, echoing the way that we see figures move in two dimensions in the light of the night. In the corners of the window frame, architectural motifs that historically represent the Holy Trinity reflect the light as though shining themselves. Thinking about an expansive Lent as I worked on this paper lace, this image became all about joy.

Joy that is misunderstood. Joy as an act of resistance. Inexplicable joy. In an expansive understanding, the joy that the father is experiencing makes sense. He shows an uncharacteristic willingness to celebrate inexplicably with joy. How can we notice and give grace to those who are experiencing inexplicable joy—particularly when it is an act of resistance? Where can we enter into their joy? Where in our own lives can we celebrate despite the incongruence of joy and pain, joy and discord, joy and anger?



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 30, 2025 9:30AM
Fourth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

Improvisation

Noah Harmon, *piano*

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*OPENING HYMN #407

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

It sounds like ours.

And we know his story.

It sounds like ours.

Who among us hasn't burned a bridge?

Who among us has not harmed a loved one?

Who among us has not ached for home?

The prodigal son isn't given a name, but we know his name.

Forgive us God. We want to come home.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Family of faith, the word 'prodigal' can be defined as wasteful. However, 'prodigal' can also be described as extravagant and excessive. Friends, we worship a prodigal God – a God who is extravagant in mercy and excessive in grace. For no matter how many times we run, no matter how far we go or how lost we get, God is standing at the end of the driveway waiting for us.

All: The doors are open. The feast is for us.

This grace is amazing. Thanks be 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.**

ANTHEM

Take Up Your Cross, The Savior Said

BOURBON

arr. Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*“ . . . Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish heart be still;
the Lord for you accepted death upon a cross, on Calvary's hill. . . ”*

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jerry Dees

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’” So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this

son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

SERMON *“A Broken and Contrite Heart”*

Vince Salvia, Lay Preacher

*HYMN #401

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound

NEW BRITAIN

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

Piano Improvisation

*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.**

BACK BAY MISSION COMMISSIONING

**All: We offer our prayers of support and encouragement for your service in
Christ's name. May God's grace guide you and be your source of hope,
strength and joy. May the presence of the Holy Spirit fill you with courage to
be a gift of God to the world each day. Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN #303

Softly and Tenderly

THOMPSON

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Piano Improvisation

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Vince Salvia, *Director of Operational Ministries*

Pastor Nick Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Jerry Dees, *Lay Reader*

Noah Harmon, *piano*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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We welcome **Noah Harmon** as guest pianist this morning. Noah has been involved with music his entire life. His musical endeavors began at age four and have continued ever since. He received a bachelor's degree in music from Lawrence University where he studied classical piano performance with renowned Canadian pianist Dr. Michael Kim. While his studies focused on classical music, Noah also became interested in jazz piano as well as composition. In a classical medium he has performed with larger ensembles such as the Water City Chamber Orchestra, the Oshkosh Symphony, the Big Band Reunion, and the Chaminade Women's Choir. Smaller ensembles he has performed with include the Electric Company - (psychedelic rock), Bloodhawk - (metal), the Jazz Orgy - (jazz), just to name a few. As a soloist his endeavors fall into an antique genre of classical improvisation where his spontaneous counterpoint is best highlighted.

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, Rod Reynolds, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fifth Sunday in Lent Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey
Music: Sanctuary Choir, Children's Choir John 12:1-8

ON THE CALENDAR

April 2	6:00-7:30PM	6:00PM Hot Dogs with Salad Dinner & 6:30PM Intergenerational Game Night
April 17	7:00PM	Maundy Thursday Worship
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)

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	Mary Jo Laabs
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Kathy Lannoye
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Don Brittnacher	Elizabeth McNally
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with
Karen Craddock	Cancer
Liz Dettwiler	Dean Ostrander
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Tom Ott
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
David Galow	Anika Quillman
The family of Paul Gohdes	Frank and Pat Severin
Georgie Harris and family	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
Kate	Larry Vaubel
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Lynn Weyenberg Hooyman
Jim Kriner	Dave White

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.

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



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

EASTER EGG FILLERS



Our FCUCC Children
Thank You for Your Generosity,

1st Wednesday Dinner: Join us Wednesday, **April 2**, for hot dogs and salad in Fellowship Hall. Open link here: [Sign Up Here for Dinner](#)

Pillars Meal Sign-up: Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **April 3**. Check out the link to sign up! [Pillars Sign Up](#) 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.

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





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:

TODAY: Isaiah Project Listening Sessions

Everyone is invited to attend one of the Listening Sessions scheduled for today, [Sunday, March 30](#) at 10:45AM or [Monday, March 31](#) at 4:00PM in person or by Zoom. Open the Zoom links on each of the dates listed here. 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.

New Event Coming to Service Sunday

The Isaiah Project Community Partnerships Team is planning a "Repair Fair" as part of Service Sunday on June 1 this year. Our "Repair Fair" is patterned after the international movement called "Repair Café." Repair Café is part of a grassroots movement that aims to reduce waste, overconsumption, and planned obsolescence. It can ignite the do-it-together and do-it-yourself spirit!

The plan is to have volunteers on site from our church community who have talents in things like small appliance, lamp, bike, jewelry, and furniture repair; sewing and mending; basic phone/computer tech support; and knife/tool sharpening. Our church community will be able to bring items in for repair on that day. Our hope is to expand this project to include our neighborhood in the future.

This project has the potential to promote waste reduction and encourage a culture of repair. Volunteers (or Fix-It Friends) often share their knowledge with participants, which can help develop their own repair skills. This builds community around a shared goal of reducing waste, promoting sustainability, and neighbors helping neighbors.

Save the date if you can be a volunteer Fix-It Friend. And if you have a stash of things such as shirts that need a button, a chair that needs glueing, a smart phone question, etc., find them and save them for the Repair Fair, June 1. More information coming soon.

LEAVEN Benefit Recital raises \$1,391! Our warm thanks to artists Anthony Padilla, piano, and Wen-Lei Gu, violin, for their incredible music-making on Sunday, March 2 – both in morning worship and for the afternoon benefit concert. My additional thanks to Pat Hirby & friends in the Outreach Ministry (reception), Rick & Chris Behm and Matt Feuerhelm (sound/A-V streaming), Pastor Katherine (welcome/introduction) and Nathan Birkholz (hospitality). John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

We received the following note from **Kiara West**, Community Engagement Director for Leaven: *Thank you so much for the work you put into the recital on Sunday at First Congregational Church. It was an honor to share LEAVEN with all those present and to be the beneficiary of the collection taken that afternoon. Thank you for sharing the treasure of your talent in such a beautiful concert. Those in attendance blessed LEAVEN with gifts totaling \$1,391! Many who were in attendance have reached out to me to express how much they enjoyed the concert. Thank you for inviting LEAVEN to be part of such a wonderful event. We value your partnership and willingness to serve our community through your music.*

Can't Get to Church? Still Want to Be Connected? Our Call-to-Connect Ministry Team continues to keep 43 members connected by phone. Originally, we focused on seniors over 80. Because our Calling Team has expanded, we can now include anyone who would like to receive occasional calls. Would you like to be called? Do you know someone who would appreciate being included? Contact Betty Masaros at tworaye@aol.com or 920-733-1665 or Pastor Katherine at kwpershey@uccappleton.org at 920-851-9156.

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: *"Mother Roots: The Female Ancestors of Jesus,"* by Helen Bruch Pearson and *"I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban,"* by Malala Yousafzai.

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. 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.

NOAHH Requests: A queen-sized box spring and two twin mattresses, a donor to pay \$200 for half of a Driver's Education course, and two bassinets. Contact Barb Mincheff, Volunteer Services Coordinator, Outagamie County Health & Human Services, for pick up/drop off, 920-832-5515.

Looking for a way to help? We have a wonderful member in the Lakeshore neighborhood of Menasha who would love a ride to church on Sunday mornings now and then. If you live nearby and can lend a hand, please contact the office – we’d love to connect you!

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.

People’s Library: The church library is creating a new section to include books that have been **written by members of the congregation**. We are looking for a wide range of books, including family memoirs that have been printed at Kinko’s and titles that cover the author’s passion and/or expertise and everything in between. These books will be (at least initially) for internal circulation and won’t leave the library. If you have something to add to the collection, please place it in the church library in the box labeled “People’s Library.”

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 Saturday, **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.

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!



Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast

April 13, 10:30 - 11:30AM

Pancakes, Berries, Sausages & More
gluten-free & dairy free pancakes available

\$10 Suggested Donation

All Amounts Appreciated, Never Required
Kids <5 Eat Free

This breakfast is hosted by our youth as a heartfelt thank you for your support. It is not a fundraiser, as all proceeds help cover the cost of ingredients.



Easter Flower Sunday!

After Service Easter Sunday, April 20

Help Spread the Easter Joy -
We need your help to deliver them!

Here's how it works:

- **Sign up** for delivery by scanning the QR Code/Contacting the front office!

On the day of....

- Choose a recipient (or two!) from the list in the **Library**.
- If you are picking up your own flower, don't forget the card with your name on it!
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers will be provided.
- Deliver to someone you know or someone nearby!

Don't forget to grab these 2 things:

- 1 card
- 1 flower from the pulpit

Thank you for keeping this Easter tradition alive!



Sign up here!

Meet & Greet

SUNDAY,
APRIL 6
5:15PM

CHILDCARE FOCUS GROUP & PIZZA PARTY



Adults/families with children ages 0-5 and those considering starting a family: We want to hear from you!

What do you love about our childcare and what would you like to see changed?
Where should the childcare room be located?
What would make Sunday mornings at FCUCC ideal for your family?

GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER AND HAVE YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!
PIZZA & CHILDCARE FOR ALL AGES WITH REGISTRATION BY NOON ON APRIL 6
Email swilterdink@uccappleton.org, call, or text 920-540-2576

A PROJECT OF FCUCC IPAC

TREE SALE – SUPPORT OUR ENVIRONMENT!



Target Date: April 27 or May 4
(depending on harvest readiness – updates will be provided a week ahead)



Preorder Now to Guarantee Availability!

\$10 EACH: 4 VARIETIES

(Live, just-harvested, 2.5-3.0 foot bare-root trees)

13 of Each Available:

- Burr Oak
- Northern Red Oak
- Red Maple
- Sugar Maple

WHY BUY?

- To help offset the loss of ash trees in our area
- Full purchase amount goes toward additional plants and flowers for VBS children to plant on church grounds
- Typically cost \$10 - \$20 in stores.

Email info@uccappleton.org or call 920.733.7393 OPT 2

For best results, plant as soon as possible. Using deer tubes or wire enclosures will help ensure tree survival.

WOMEN'S CRAFT CIRCLE UPDATE

Bring a dish to share and whatever project you're working on!



Saturday, April 05
1:00 - 5:00PM
Upper Lounge



We've decided that Saturday, April 5th will be our **last** gathering until September 6th as we take a four-month summer hiatus. With all the business that summer brings, we'll pause and start up again on Saturday, September 6th— same time, same place!

But before we take a break, let's celebrate with a **Spring Potluck!** Join us for our final Circle gathering for one last crafty get-together before summer.

As a reminder: This is a CHILD FREE event!

For information, email Debra Morningstar at mnstarcreates@gmail.com

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 Here!



Or call the
Church Office at
920.733.7393

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

This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 31

4:00-5:15PM Isaiah Project Listening Session – *Chapel*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, April 1

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
1:00-2:30PM Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:30PM Boy Scouts – *Fellowship Hall*
7:00-9:00PM Worship & Music Ministry – *Common Grounds*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, April 2

12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*
6:00-7:30PM 1st Wednesday Dinner & Intergenerational Game Night –
Fellowship Hall
6:30-7:30PM Lenten Devotional: Turning Over Tables – *Chapel & Zoom*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

Thursday, April 3

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-1:30PM Theology Discussion Group @ *Holidays Pub & Grill*
5:00-7:30PM Pillars Dinner @ *Pillars Adult Shelter*
6:30-7:30PM Community Partnership – *Isaiah Project Room*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, April 4

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

Saturday, April 5

1:00-5:00PM Women's Craft Circle – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*
This Week's Schedule continued on page 16...

Sunday, April 6

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/Fifth Sunday in Lent – <i>Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry: Chat in Chapel – <i>Chapel</i>
9:45-10:30AM	MS Bible Study – <i>MS Youth Room</i>
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising – <i>Narthex</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>
10:45-11:45AM	Confirmation Class – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
4:15-5:15PM	Lenten Yoga – <i>River Room</i>
5:15-6:30PM	Young Family Listening Session – <i>Upper Lounge, Chapel, Library</i>
5:00-6:00PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00-8:00PM	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.



*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.

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.

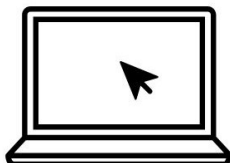
References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

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.

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/Fourth Sunday in Lent – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*
- 9:30-10:30AM Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*
- 10:30-11:30AM Children’s Choir – *Choir Room*
- 10:45-11:45AM Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms – *Common Grounds*
- 10:45AM-12:00PM Isaiah Project Listening Session – *Chapel*
- 2:00-3:00PM Derek Elkins Ordination – *Sanctuary*
- 4:15-5:00PM 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, to the left
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery 2nd & 3rd Graders	Little Angel’s Room Preschoolers
Theater	Art Kitchen K & 1st Graders	Science Room
Scripture Tent 4th & 5th Graders		

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

724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
 920.733.7393 | uccappleton.org | info@uccappleton.org
 Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM
 For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600