

First Congregational United Church of Christ

July 14, 2024

A plan for the fullness of time
- Ephesians 1:10



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 – <i>Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge</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>

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 in the summer for ALL infants - 1st graders. You do NOT have to be a member! See an usher for directions to the Childcare Room. There is a PRAYground in the back of the Sanctuary for children of any age to quietly work and worship in as well. Please sit near the PRAYground if your children are utilizing it. Of course, we welcome all children to stay in the pews with you during worship as well, as they are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

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 and Youth Groups will resume in September. Let an usher know if you would like to receive further information.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

July 14, 2024 9:30AM
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Variations on "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

Tune by Henry Purcell
Setting by David N. Johnson

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted Psalm 85:8-13)

One: Let us hear what our still speaking God longs to share today,

All: For God speaks peace to us, to us his faithful people, and to those who turn to God in their hearts.

One: Surely God's salvation is at hand and God's glory will dwell in our land.

All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

One: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

All: The LORD will give what is good, and our hearts and lives will yield its increase.

One: Righteousness will go before us, and God make a path for our footsteps.

All: So it is with gratitude and trust we gather to worship and we listen to God's word on this beautiful morning!

***OPENING HYMN #31**

O Sing to the Lord

CANTAD AL SENOR

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 1:3-14

Sue Wisneski

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished

on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

SERMON *"A Blessing, a Choice and an Inheritance"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

UNISON SHAKERTOWN PLEDGE

Recognizing that Earth and the fullness thereof is a gift from our gracious God, and that we are called to cherish, nurture, and provide loving stewardship for Earth's resources, and recognizing that life itself is a gift, and a call to responsibility, joy, and celebration:

We declare ourselves to be world citizens.

We commit ourselves to lead ecologically sound lives.

We commit ourselves to lead lives of creative simplicity and to share our personal wealth with the world's poor.

We commit ourselves to join with others in the reshaping of institutions so as to bring about a more just global society.

We will seek to avoid the creation of products which cause harm to others.

We affirm the gift of our body and commit ourselves to its proper nourishment and physical wellbeing.

We commit ourselves to continually examine our relations with others and to attempt to relate honestly, morally, and lovingly to those around us.

We commit ourselves to personal renewal through prayer, meditation, and study.

We promise responsible participation in a community of faith.

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

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

Peace in Christ

Words and music by Nik Day

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

***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 #505**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

ST THOMAS

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Oh, Sing to the Lord

BRAZILIAN FOLK TUNE

Setting by Sherri Hansen

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Dianne Droster, *Minister of Visitation and Youth Ministry*

Sue Wisneski, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Jesse Baumgart, *Tenor*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ the head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Laud and hon - or to the Fa - ther, laud and hon - or



cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come, with all your lov - ing - kind - ness;
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, laud and hon - or to the Spir - it,



bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as we pray, and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and



help for - ev - er, and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Although this ancient text has often been used at church dedications, the first stanza clearly refers to the people of God and the second to the place where they meet. The stately and soaring tune is aptly named for the edifice where the composer served as organist and is buried.

TEXT: Latin, 7th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1851, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry Purcell, c. 1680; adapt. Ernest Hawkins, 1843

WESTMINSTER ABBEY
 8.7.8.7.8.7
 (alternate tune: REGENT SQUARE)

USHER TEAMS

JULY USHERS: **TEAM 2:** Mike Weaver, Liz Dettwiler, Doug Gilbert, Becky Gilbert, Wayne Lannoye, Susan Forsythe

TEAM 6: Jeff Schang

AUGUST USHERS: **TEAM 3 & 4**

AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, John Aaholm, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Rev. Dr. Katherine Willis Pershey

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ; Heather Hallett, soprano

ON THE CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 16 -Saturday, July 20		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock Island, IL
Wednesday, July 31	6:30PM	Blessings of the Animals Celebration
Sunday, September 8		Rally Sunday
Friday, September 27- Sunday, September 29		Women's Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp

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.

<p>Lyndee Aleman Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Don Brittnacher Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober Jim Brygger Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family David Galow Ken Geiger Margaret Hankwitz Judy Hanson JoAnn Helms Shirley Hoft Sandi Hurm Jean Jepson Kathy Lannoye</p>	<p>Nancy Kandler Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya Larry Schiedermayer Frank and Pat Severin Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries Kinsley Tarr Gloria Tate Jack Thiel Peter Thiel James Totzke Those living with mental unwellness Larry Vaubel Karen Waters Wilma Wydeven</p>
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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.



Calling Confirmands and Mentors! Every September we offer a mentor-based Confirmation gathering for incoming high school freshman. This year we will include both incoming 9th and 10th grade students, but all high school students are welcome to participate. This program is mentor based: this means we need one adult who feels called to serve as a mentor for every youth in the program. These volunteers receive training, constant updates, and a wealth of materials. If you are interested in being a mentor, or joining our confirmation group as a participant, please contact Pastor Nick.

Women's Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp! Friday, **September 27** – Sunday, **September 29**, 2024. We are fortunate to have this year's women's retreat at the end of September at Moon Beach! There should not be any snow, and we should be able to use the canoes and kayaks! Pastor Katherine will lead the retreat. She welcomes all new and returning women to spend a wonderful weekend. Register on Realm, with this link [2024 Women's Retreat](#), or in the church office. The cost is \$180. Scholarship funds are available-contact Pastor Katherine. Please sign up soon to help us better plan the retreat. Registration closes Monday, September 9. If you find you need to cancel later, refunds will be given when requested early. Barb will handle those requests. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling at buehling@gmail.com.

FCUCC Job Posting: We are looking to immediately hire an Assistant Director for Children, Youth and Family (CYF) Ministries in a part-time position of 20-30 hours per week. The Assistant Director for CYF Ministries develops and implements ministry programming and events in collaboration with, and under the supervision of, the Director for CYF Ministries. Please visit our website at uccappleton.org for a complete job description. To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and professional references to vsalvia@uccappleton.org.

Join in Serving Communion: Sign Up for the First Sunday of the Month! Dear First Congregational Family, we are blessed to gather together in worship and community each Sunday. The sacred tradition of sharing Communion allows us to come together in remembrance and celebration of Christ's love. As we strengthen our community, you are invited to participate by serving Communion on the first Sunday of each month. We will especially need more preparers come fall. If you are new to serving Communion, we will provide training and support to ensure you feel comfortable. Visit the sign-up sheet in front of the library, choose the months that work best for you, fill in your name and contact information. Contact the church office or contact Sara Companik, scompanik@yahoo.com.

Lawnmowers Needed: World Relief has the need for lawnmowers and gas cans to give to newly arrived families. If you know someone who would like to donate, please direct them to contact Nellie at NBrahe@wr.org

Congregational Leaders! The Membership Committee is in the process of establishing a set of criteria to define what it means to be an “active member.” This set of criteria will be coming to council this fall. In the meantime, the committee is trying to collect records of participation or “attendance” at church sponsored events to piece together an accurate total active membership number. **By the end of July please send a list of name or attendance records for your areas of ministry, committees or volunteering records** to Cheryl Reissmann.

Blessing of the Animals: Do you have a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig? God has blessed us



with so many beloved creatures! On July 31 at 6:30PM we will gather in the CYF parking lot for a Blessing of the Animals Celebration. Children may also bring their favorite stuffed animal. If the event might be stressful for your feathered or furry one, feel free to bring a photo instead. All animals must be on leashes or in crates. Invite your friends and neighbors - the more the merrier at the First Congregational UCC Menagerie! In case of rain, the service will be cancelled, so please pray for good weather.

Join ESTHER for the First Event in Celebration of Our 20th Anniversary! Classical Guitar Concert featuring Ivan Resendiz: Classical guitarist, Ivan Resendiz, will perform at the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, on **July 27** at 7:00PM with *dessert reception following*. Ivan (ESTHER member Connie Raether’s son-in-law), originally from Mexico City and now living in Chicago, began his study of classical guitar at age 16 and has participated in numerous national and international guitar competitions. He founded the first Latin American Guitar Festival in Chicago with a goal of bringing classical music to the immigrant community. He now performs, teaches and is completing a master’s degree in guitar performance. Dessert reception to follow. Suggested donation \$10 with proceeds going to ESTHER and a portion to purchase bus tickets. More info, registration, and a link to Ivan’s YouTube channel at esther-foxvalley.org/20years

2024 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday, **July 17**, Colin Welford, First Presbyterian, 200 S. Church St, Neenah

Wednesday, **July 24**, Dr. Derek Nickels, Trinity Lutheran, 804 Grignon St, Kaukauna

Wednesday, **July 31**, Ethan Mellema, St. Paul Lutheran, 912 N. Oneida St, Appleton

Wednesdays at 12:15PM - visit www.newago.org for more information.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, July 15

5:00-7:00PM IPAC Meeting Social – *Common Grounds, Fellowship Hall*
5:30-7:00PM Facilities Ministry Area - *Library*

Tuesday, July 16

Floor Refinishing - *Lower hallway by Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, stairway, Common Grounds*

11:00AM-12:00PM Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:00PM Isaiah Grounds Committee Meeting – *Church Library*
6:30-8:00PM Safety Committee – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM EJWG: Housing Summit Meeting – *Fellowship Hall*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, July 17

Floor Refinishing - *Lower hallway by Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, stairway, Common Grounds*

10:00-11:00AM Adult Ed – *Upper Lounge*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge (By Conference Call)*
2:00-3:00PM Peabody/Heritage Worship – *Chapel at Peabody*

Thursday, July 18

Floor Refinishing - *Lower hallway by Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, stairway, Common Grounds*

10:00-11:00AM Isaiah Community Partnerships Task Force – *Upper Lounge*
11:00AM-12:00PM Finance Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:00PM CAT/CMT Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Chapel*
12:00-1:30PM Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House*
6:30-8:00PM Family/Friends NAMI Mental Illness Support Group – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, July 19

Floor Refinishing - *Lower hallway by Choir Room, Fellowship Hall, River Room, stairway, Common Grounds*

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

Saturday, July 20

7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, July 21

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

Land Covenant

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

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

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

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



We are “The Church of the Open Door,” a welcoming and inclusive Christian community.

No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.



—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