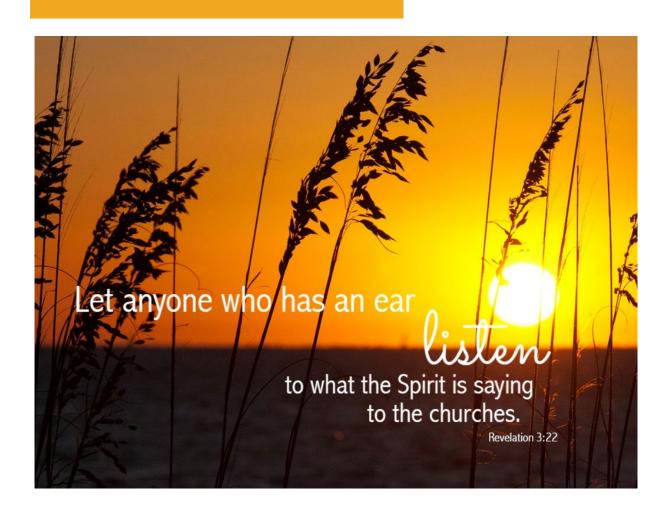
# First Congregational United Church of Christ

June 9, 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 - Childcare Room

9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship with the Fox Valley Flute Choir - Sanctuary, Chapel,

Upper Lounge

6:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds

7:00-8:00PM AL ANON - Chapel / Alateen - Upper Lounge

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 every Sunday. Kindergarten and first graders may go to childcare the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room. Kindergarten - fifth graders may enjoy a communion minilesson on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of June, July, August and September. Children begin in worship, leave with the director, and return to partake in Communion with their families.

**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!

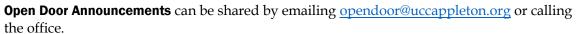
**Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton:** We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates, checks can be mailed to the church, you can visit our webpage and click "Give," or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. \*Messages and data 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.

The flowers are in celebration of Tim and Sheryl De Hart's 50th Wedding Anniversary.

**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 <u>Facebook: FCUCCAppleton</u> or <u>Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton.</u>



**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

June 9, 2024 9:30AM Lay Led Worship ~ Fox Valley Flute Choir

#### **PRELUDE**

Sonata for Three Flutes

Johann Joachim Quantz (1697-1773)

Movements I and II: Vivace & Largo

Fox Valley Flute Choir

WELCOME Andy Schmidt

\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emma Slowinski

Leader: For the joy of human company, shared stories, friendly laughter and

conversations that change us, **People: thanks be to God!** 

Leader: For a place that spans the ages and is home to all who gather,

People: thanks be to God!

Leader: For the wonder of life, and the decision of God to come among us,

People: thanks be to God!

Leader: How can we keep from singing?

People: Nothing can keep us from singing. Let us worship God!

\*OPENING HYMN #477

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Shari Mitchell

(During the children's sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will return to be with their families or enjoy the Prayground.)

#### SCRIPTURE READING Revelation 3:20-22

Mike Slowinski

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me. To the one who conquers I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

**SERMON** "Listening to the Still Speaking God"

Written by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Dean of Eden Theological Seminary Read by Andy Schmidt

# \*HYMN (see bulletin pages 5 & 6)

Somebody's Knocking at Your Door

SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN'

#### **OFFERING**

## CALL TO THE OFFERING

Emma Slowinski

(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

On a Hymnsong of Philip Bliss (It Is Well with My Soul)

David R. Holsinger (b. 1945)

Fox Valley Flute Choir

#### \*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**

Emma Slowinski

(You are welcome to submit your prayer requests throughout the week to the church office, or email to a pastor for confidentiality.)

One: The Lord be with you. All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

# \*CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

 $AR\,HYD\,Y\,Nos$ 

# \*BENEDICTION Andy Schmidt

Leader: Is God good? **People: God is good.** 

Leader: Is life worth living? **People: Life is worth living.**Leader: Is the best yet to come?

People: Always, the best is yet to come.

Leader: Then go forth as friends of Jesus and enjoy him forever. Amen.

Friedrich Kuhlau (1786-1832)

Grand Quartet in E Minor, op.103
Movement IV: Rondo

Fox Valley Flute Choir

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

Shari Mitchell Andy Schmidt Emma Slowinski Mike Slowinski

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ

Fox Valley Flute Choir Members\*: Barb Armstrong, Jane Bent, Tiffany Biedermann, Amy Jo Christianson, Carlarae Day, Laura Inda, Jann Kostecke, Catherine Neiswender, Madelyn Niessner, Shannon Rahm, Ras Rozite, Cathy Scott, Dr. Marc Sackman, conductor John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

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

\*The Fox Valley Flute Choir rehearses on Monday nights in the church sanctuary. The ensemble was formed in 2010 under the direction of Patricia George, and the 15-member group is now under the direction of Dr. Marc Sackman. The group performs approximately 4 concerts per year in many local venues. They have performed the National Anthem at the Timber Rattler stadium, as well as concerts in various area churches and libraries. In addition to the traditional C Flute, the group performs pieces that use Piccolo, Alto and Bass Flutes. Interested parties wishing to participate can contact Marc Sackman at: msfoxband@gmail.com

**WORSHIP NOTES** (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

# Somebody's Knocking at Your Door



Somebody's Knocking at Your Door continued on page 6...



The description of the Son of Man as standing at the door and knocking (Revelation 3:20) has given rise to many visual and verbal representations of that figure. This African American spiritual uses its repeated phrases to imitate knocking and to give immediacy to this encounter.

TEXT: African American spiritual MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Joy F. Patterson, 1989 Music Arr. © 1990 Joy F. Patterson SOMEBODY'S KNOCKIN' Irregular

# Go, My Children, with My Blessing



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958 Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House Arr. © Oxford University Press

AR HYD Y NOS 84848884 Pastor's Pen June 9, 2024

Dear friends,

I feel dread when I think about the upcoming election. I wish I felt a surge of awe and gratitude. It is a privilege to live in a democracy. Women have had suffrage for only a century, and in many places throughout the world people still don't have a say over their leaders and laws.

Yet politics has never felt quite so broken. It feels like a battle royale between worldviews that grow ever more divergent as political, cultural, and literal wars rage on.

I don't want to succumb to the dread. Nor do I wish to jump into the fray. I have my political convictions, to be sure, and I will not relinquish my voice or my vote. But I intend to navigate these next few months with equanimity, kindness, and hope.

As a reminder, here are some things that might help us survive elections:

- Be kind. Remember that the people who believe differently than you do are not merely one-dimensional caricatures defined by their party affiliation.
- You're probably not going to change anyone's mind by arguing. It's rarely wise to engage in political arguments on social media or around the dinner table. The temptation to dig in and fight back can be fierce, but do you really need to take on your college roommate's second cousin on that Facebook thread or your Aunt Muriel over rhubarb pie?
- You might find yourself on a mountain you're willing to die on. That's well and good; there are times when silence feels uncomfortably like complicity. But there's a difference between dying on that mountain and killing on that mountain. (See first bullet, above).
- Take regular sabbath from the news and social media. Just because those cable channels broadcast 24 hours a day doesn't mean you need to tune in. Don't hesitate to use the "unfollow" button.
- Give generously to organizations doing the kind of work that nudges the world toward how you think things should be.

• When you cannot bear to think about the candidates anymore, think about Americans like Dorothea Lange, Martin Luther King, Jr., Aretha Franklin, Maya Angelou, Johnny Cash, Simone Biles, Valarie Kaur, and Bryan Stevenson. Think about your third-grade teacher and the nurse who cared for you when you were sick. Think about the newly minted citizens with tears streaming down their cheeks as they take the Oath of Allegiance. Think about the men and women who serve our country.

Finally, friends: remember that this election is not all there is. Consider the lilies of the field. Consider art and poetry and marching bands and the glory of a midsummer thunderstorm. Remember the promise that God is at work in the world, that love wins, that in the fullness of time, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well. Remember that the sun will rise the day after the election, and the day after that.

In the words of a friend, "The world is still so far from God's dream. The church is still so far from Jesus' dream. But the Spirit is still making all things new."

In Christ, Pastor Katherine

#### **USHER TEAMS**

JUNE USHERS: **TEAM 1**: Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Tom Tatlock, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, and Luke LaViolette

**TEAM 5**: Rick Behm, Tim Bauer, and Peter Carman

JULY USHERS: TEAM 2 & 6

AUDIO & VIDEO: JD Jicha, John Aaholm, Matt Feuerhelm

## **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey Psalm 130 Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ* 

ON THE CALENDAR		
Sunday, June 30	10:30-11:30AM	Approve 6-month Budget
Monday, July 8 -Friday, July 12	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 16		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock
-Saturday, July 20		Island, IL

# 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.

Lyndee Aleman Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart

Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya

Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Cheryl Reissmann

Don Brittnacher Gretchen Revie

Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober Larry Schiedermayer

Rev. Ralph Di Biasio-Snyder Frank and Pat Severin

Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie

David Galow Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries

Ken Geiger Kinsley Tarr Margaret Hankwitz Gloria Tate Judy Hanson Jack Thiel

JoAnn Helms Peter Thiel
Shirley Hoft James Totzke

Sandi Hurm Those living with mental unwellness

Jean Jepson The Uehling family as they grieve the loss

Rick Johnson of Robert Rector, Ginger's brother

Kathy Lannoye Larry Vaubel
Nancy Kandler Wilma Wydeven

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.

# Congregational Meeting: Approval of 6-Month Budget June 30, 10:30-11:30AM in the Sanctuary

Download available spreadsheets below or pick copies up in the narthex or main office.

July - Dec 2024 Budget Table July - Dec 2024 Budget Pie Chart Projects, Upcoming, Pending

The Economic Justice Work Group invites you to a presentation by Julie Filapek on Monday, June 17 from 7:00-8:30PM, exploring neighborhood building. Julie, who grew up attending FCUCC Appleton, leads a neighborhood development initiative for NeighborWorks Green Bay (nwgreenbay.org), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that solves housing challenges and builds stronger communities. Julie launched the program, Neighborhood Partners, in Appleton's Historic Central neighborhood (where Zion Lutheran Church is located) and now supports urban neighborhoods and rural communities across northeastern Wisconsin that seek to strengthen their social fabric and build their capacity to work together for the common good. Previously, Julie was involved in managing a church/neighborhood relationship in Minneapolis surrounding two church-sponsored housing development projects. She will be sharing her experiences using the Asset-Based Community Development model and her perspectives on the possibilities and pitfalls of church efforts in engaging neighborhoods.

Please note: the presentation will be Zoom only, 7:00–8:30PM:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86565089803?pwd=bpRnMfXjoFOO7I8nyNMBxnAKaKcMm4.1 Meeting ID: 865 6508 9803 Passcode: 931092

<u>Lawnmowers Needed</u>: 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 <u>NBrahe@wr.org</u>

<u>Human Resources (HR) Volunteer</u>: The HR Committee is seeking to fill a vacancy. Previous human resources experience is helpful but not necessary. Meetings are held 4-6 times/year or as needed. Committee members must abide by strict confidentiality regarding HR-related matters. For more information, please contact Vince at vsalvia@uccappleton.org or (920) 851-9455.

Join Us at Vacation Bible School (VBS), July 8-12: Community Love...racial justice,

friendships, food justice, creation care, bible stories, service projects, crafts, music, outdoor adventures...

July 8-12 from 9:00AM-12:00PM

Please let us know if you can be a teacher's helper, **FOR EVEN JUST ONE MORNING**, of VBS.

**To register** scan the QR Code or sign up on Realm.





<u>VBS Grandparents Wanted</u>: We need you! If you're retired or have a few free mornings free, come join us!

VBS Grandparents don't need to have biological grandkids or any prior experience with little ones. If you find children's answers to questions adorably insightful and know how to hand out paint or open marker caps, YOU are the kind of VBS GRANDPARENT that we're looking for! Let Sarah know which morning(s) you would like to join us! (A background check will be done.)

<u>VBS Youth Leaders Wanted</u>: Are you babysitting a child who will be in K - 5th grade this summer? Do you need service hours for school or next year's Confirmation class? Do you have some mornings free? Come hang with our VBS kids and Youth Group friends. When VBS is done, stay for a picnic with fellow volunteer youth - you can even stay to play air hockey or darts, if you'd like! Volunteer, or ask questions at, <a href="mailto:swilterdink@uccappleton.org">swilterdink@uccappleton.org</a> or 920-540-2576.

NOAHH Requests: A man has moved out of a supportive apartment program and needs a couch, recliner, microwave, washer dryer, window air conditioner and area rugs. A person who is stabilized now after dealing with a mental health issue needs furniture and household items with stress on a queen bed frame and mattress. They also need dishes (set for 6) and cooking utensils. Other items still needed are: Native American hand drum, bike for a 400-pound man, bus pass, toddler toys, twin bed frame and mattress, and \$425 Drivers Education class. Please call Barb Minceff at 920-832-5515.

<u>The Lunchtime Organ Recital Series</u> returns to Fox Valley this summer for its 27<sup>th</sup> season. These recitals give people the opportunity to hear a wide array of pipe organs in the many beautiful houses of worship in Appleton, Kaukauna, Neenah, and Menasha. The concerts are free and open to the public. A free-will offering is taken to offset costs associated with the administration of the series, as well as to fund a scholarship program for new organists. For more information, see the flyer on page 13 or visit lunchtimeorganrecital.org and newago.org.





#### This Week's Schedule

Monday, June 10

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, June 11

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - Fellowship Hall 11:00AM-12:00PM Staff Meeting - Upper Lounge

1:00-2:30PM HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge* 

1:30-3:00PM Racial Equity - Zoom

2:00-4:00PM Library Committee – *Church Library* 

6:00-8:00PM Wild Women of First Congregational – Stone Arch Brewpub

6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA – Common Grounds 7:00-8:00PM Technology Committee – Zoom 7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – Common Grounds

Wednesday, June 12

10:00-11:45AM Isaiah Project Meeting – Isaiah Room

12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge* 

Thursday, June 13

9:00-10:00PM 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, June 14

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

Saturday, June 15

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

Sunday, June 16

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.

