

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 12, 2023



*Keep watch,
because
you do
not know the day or the hour.*

Matthew 25:13

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	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30AM – 12:00PM	Alternative Christmas Market – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
10:30 – 11:30AM	Church Family Handbells – <i>Sanctuary</i>
10:45 – 11:45AM	Parents’ Book Discussion – <i>HS Room</i>
1:30 – 3:00PM	Search Committee – <i>Common Grounds</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, Commons Grounds</i>
7:00 – 8:00PM	Al-Anon – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</i>

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, or Narthex. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

Baptisms are held on the third Sunday of each month. To schedule a baptism, contact the church office six weeks before your desired baptism date.

Childcare is available for ALL infants and toddlers. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

Communion: The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Communion elements are gluten free. All are welcome to join us!

Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton: We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates, checks can be mailed to the church, you can visit our webpage and click “Give,” or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. *Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

Flowers: The flower arrangement in the Sanctuary this morning is in memory and honor of Cathy Paynter’s mom and dad. 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@firstcongoappleton.org or calling the office.

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

Sunday School: Our PreK - 5th graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 12, 2023 9:30 AM

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Stewardship Sunday ~

Joyful Noise Offering ~ Veterans Day Observed

PRELUDE

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (Rustington)

Tune by C. Hubert H. Parry
Setting by Carol Wahl

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT

Jubilate Deo

M. Praetorius (1571-1621)

Rejoice in God. Praise the Lord!

My God Is So Great!

Traditional Children's Song

Children's Choir

**Please Rise in Body Or Spirit*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: God has given us so much, and we are thankful.

People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

Leader: God has given us life and breath, food and health.

People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

Leader: God has granted us a place to live and a place to work.

People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

Leader: God has provided a way for us to gather today and a way to get home this afternoon.

People: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it!

Leader: God has given us so much.

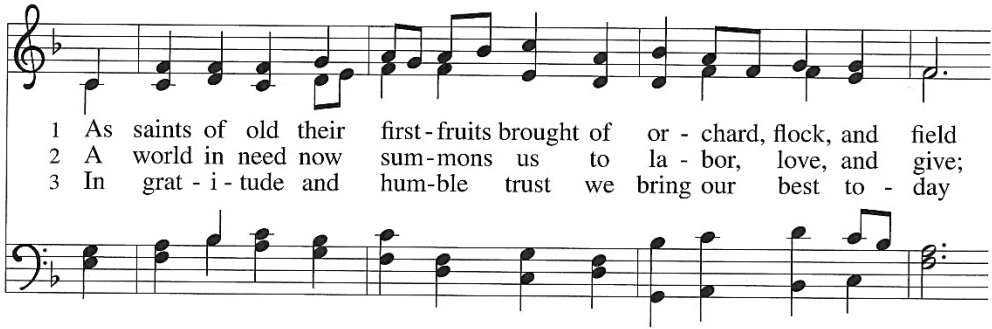
People: All that we have belongs to God. May we faithfully return to God what belongs to God, sharing out of the bounty entrusted to us as we come to worship the Lord.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 3)

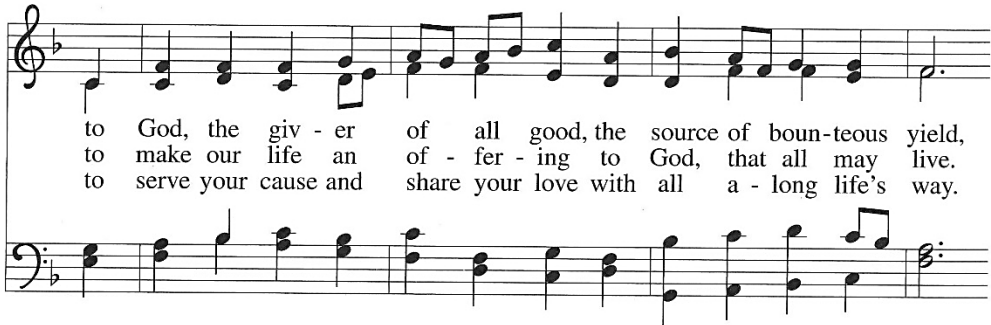
As Saints of Old

FOREST GREEN

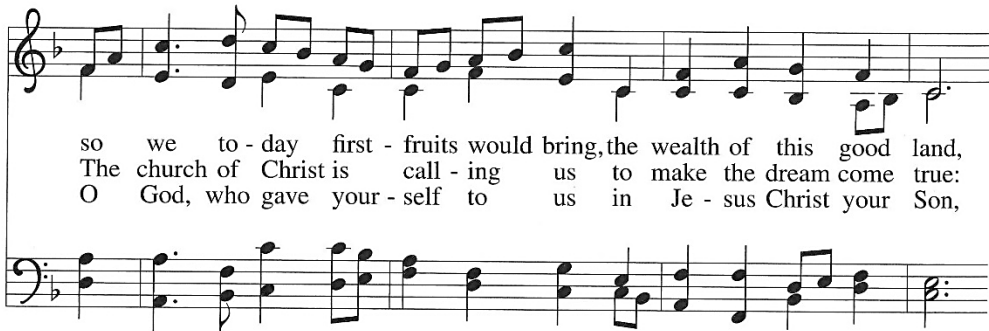
As Saints of Old



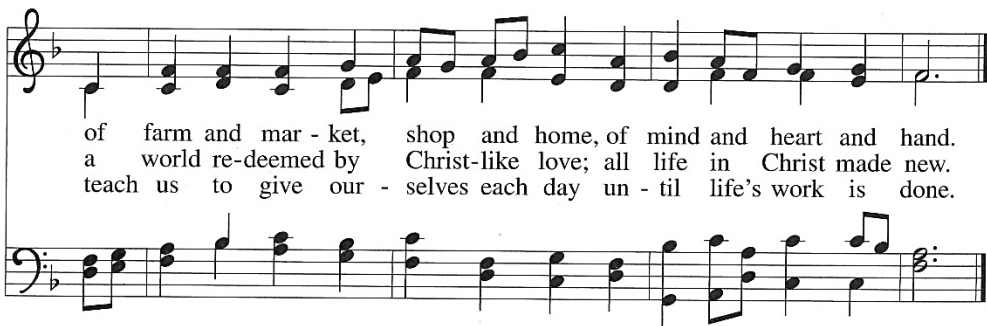
1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

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 Church School.)

ANTHEM

Borning Cry

John Ylvisaker (1937-2017)

arr. D. Kallman

Sanctuary Choir and Children's Choir

Jann Kostecke, *flute*

A JOYFUL NOISE OFFERING

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 25:1-13

Heidi Erstad

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out,' but the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON

"The Wise and the Foolish"

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

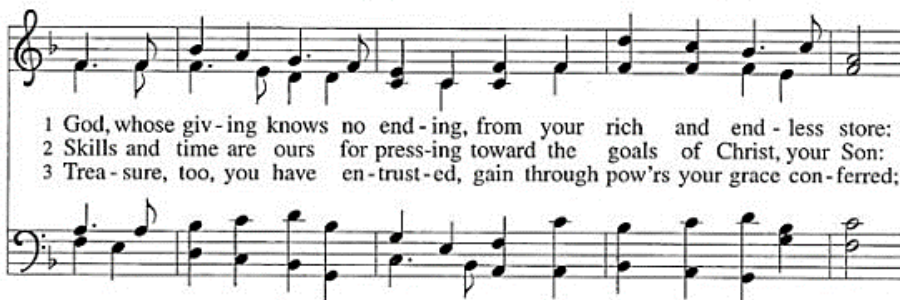
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

RUSTINGTON

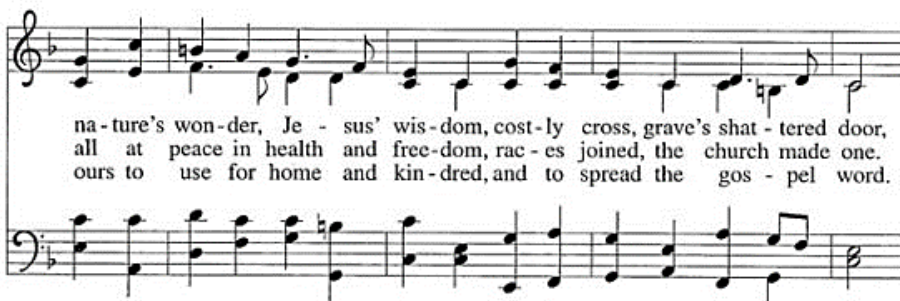
St. 1 - Soloist

St. 2 & 3 - ALL

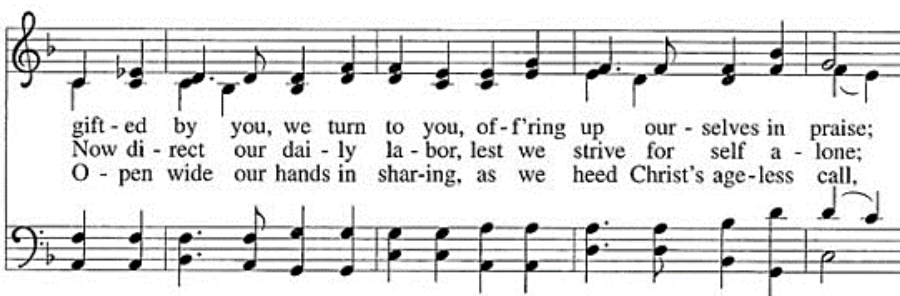
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



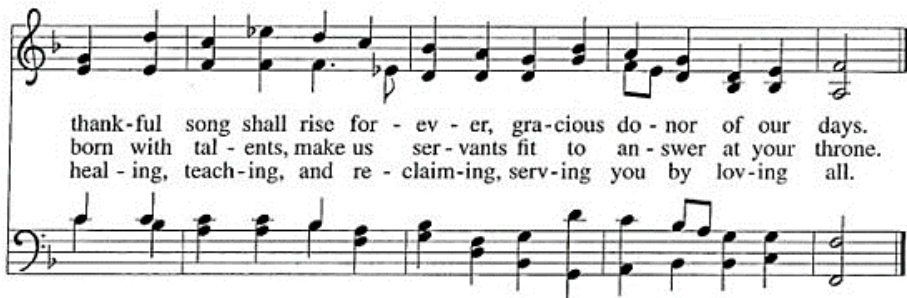
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store;
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915-2006
Music: C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848-1918
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company

RUSTINGTON
8787D

Alternate tune: HYMN TO JOY

MOMENT FOR STEWARDSHIP

Chip Gabbey, Vice Moderator

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

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN
setting, Hugo Distler (1908-42)

LU Music Scholars

*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 page 7)

O God beyond All Praising

THAXTED

O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Vivace from Sonata in F

Georg Philipp Telemann (1681-1767)

Jann Kostecke, *flute*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Jann Kostecke, *flute*

Sanctuary Choir

Children's Choir: Elise Burton, Harlow Cartier, Malin Cartier, Addie Gingerich, Aralise Gingerich, McKenna Jahnke, Hazel Meier, Stella Meier, Anders Schlabach, Ingrid Schlabach, Abe Slowinski, River Thibodeau, Evy Van Thull, Lou Van Thull

LU Music Scholars: Dana Abbo, Curtis Anderson, Daniel Boyd, Evan Carlson, Isabella Cerdan, Ben Keating (*semester abroad*), Casey Kollman, Preston Parker, Tanvi Thatai

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Children's Ministry Locations for Today		
<i>Upstairs, to the Left</i>	<i>Upstairs, to the Right</i>	<i>Downstairs</i>
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery K & 1 st Grade	Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
Theater	Art Kitchen 4 th & 5 th Grade	Science Room 2 nd & 3 rd Grade
Scripture Tent		Middle School Room

Sunday, November 19, 2023 Worship Service

Guest Preacher: Rev. Franz Rigert, WI Conference UCC Minister

Matthew 25:14-30

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*;

Church Family Handbells, *directed by Beth Vercouteren*; Sanctuary Choir



Pastor for Visitation and Youth Ministry
Welcome Pastor Dianne Droster!

We have some exciting news both for our church as a whole and "over the bridge" on the Children, Youth and Families (CYF) side. Dianne Droster has rejoined our staff in a part-time position with a one-year, renewable, contract as our Pastor for Visitation and Youth Ministry!

Many of you know Dianne. She is a longtime FCUCC member and has countless hours of volunteering in our church, in addition to being a guest preacher and temporarily helping with pastoral needs as they arose throughout the years. Most recently, Dianne was the Director of Children's and Middle School Ministry during the 21/22 program year, before becoming Interim Pastor at Peace UCC in Brillion.

In the 'Pastor of Visitation' portion of her role, Dianne will work closely with Pastors Mary Jo and Nick to learn our greatest visitation needs. She has already begun visiting members in hospitals and their homes. She will also engage with and encourage FCUCC committees that focus on visiting our members who cannot make it to church or who desire home visits for various reasons. We are blessed to have an additional staff member to help fill this very important ministry.

In CYF, we are grateful to have Dianne's knowledge and enthusiasm back as 'Pastor of Youth Ministries'. She will assist with the Children's Ministry, coordinate some special events and help us connect even more with our families. One of the most exciting parts about her joining us is that we can officially hold both Middle School and High School Youth Groups weekly for the rest of the year! She will work with our dedicated volunteers and me to continue providing God-filled and soul-filling Youth Group experiences.

As our church continues its path of collaboration and exciting growth, Dianne's part-time position is a blessing for both our members and our staff. Her presence fills two great needs – supporting some of our youngest and some of our oldest members. This yearly, renewable position gives us the stability and flexibility we need to be able to fulfil and re-evaluate our church's needs and staffing each program year.

Please help us welcome Pastor Dianne to FCUCC (again)!

Blessings on our continued collective journey. ~Sarah Wilterdink, Director of CYF

Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives.

Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

Please call Pastor Mary Jo at 715-351-0450 or [email her](#) if you have a new joy or concern you would like us to pray for, as well as any questions and other assistance needed.

In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Kathy Lannoye
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Nancy Kandler
John Breitzman	Kandy Kueler
Don Brittnacher	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Brian Chirchir Kiptoo, Kenya student who is living with cancer	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Beth Detienne's mother	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Jim Edwards	Gretchen Revie
Heidi Mendonca Erstad	Larry Schiedermayer
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Judy Schneider
Phil Gabrielson	Frank and Pat Severin
David Galow	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Art Gandler	Paul Siket
Esther Gehrt's sons, Steve and Ken	Mark Spindler
Ken Geiger	Kinsley Tarr
Margaret Hankwitz	Gloria Tate
Judy Hanson	Jack Thiel
JoAnn Helms	Peter Thiel
Shirley Hoft	James Totzke
Misty Hofman	Jean Van Wagenin
Phil & Mary Hornseth's nephew,	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Eric Montross	Joe Wells
Joan Jenson's son, John	Jake Whisler and his family
Jean Jepson	Diane White

The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events,
please visit our website.

HoHoHo Let's GoGoGoto the Annual Alternative Christmas Market!

Stroll on into the Fellowship Hall after worship today, Sunday, **November 12**
to support our mission partners and our bakery sale.

An “alternative gift” is a monetary donation you make to a Mission Partner as an
alternative to buying a traditional material item. These Alternative gifts emphasize
the love, peace, and grace that are at the center of the Christmas message.

Join us for live music, coffee, and a breakfast snack during our joyful gathering.

Thank you for over 30 years of generous donations and gifts of hope!



Mental Health Task Force: The next meeting of the Mental Health Task Force will be
Monday, **November 13** from 6:00–7:30PM in-person only in the Upper Lounge. Our
guest presenter will be Beth Clay from the NEW Mental Health Connection. All are
welcome. Please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452 with
questions.

An Advent Book Study led by Pastor Mary Jo and Mary Dees will be held on Sundays
from **November 26 through December 17** from 10:45AM-12:00PM in the Upper Lounge
and on Zoom. The book *Prepare the Way for the Lord, and the Message of John the Baptist*,
(author Adam Hamilton) is available in the church office for \$8.

About the book: Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the
Baptist and best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton in *Prepare the Way for the Lord*.
For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the
weeks leading up to Christmas. In *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of
John the Baptist*, best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton explores the Advent
themes of John’s life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare
our hearts for his coming. In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with
that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to “prepare the
way of the Lord.” When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our
world ready to receive Christ. Chapter topics include: 1. A People Prepared for the Lord
2. God Is Gracious 3. The Fruit of Repentance 4. Witnesses Testifying to the Light

Helper(s) Wanted: We are looking for a helper(s) for the Christmas Eve services, this
person would be paid to be on hand to do snow removal, help pastors with set-ups, and
minor custodial clean up. They can contact Bart at bforseth@firstcongoappleton.org or
920-851-9907 for more information.

Membership Exploration Gathering: Are you new to First Congregational and want to learn more about our faith community? Would you like to find a place to ask your questions of faith and call your faith home? Then join Pastors Mary Jo and Nick after worship Sunday, **December 3, 2023** (10:45AM – 12:00PM) in the Upper Lounge.

We'll be talking about our journeys of faith. We will share about this church, our theology, and get to know one another. We hope to listen to your spiritual journey and the questions that have guided you to seek new answers.

Please RSVP for the new Membership Exploration Gathering by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or by contacting the front office at info@firstcongoappleton.org.

If you have completed one of the former classes and are ready to join the church, we will be introducing all our new members to the congregation during worship on Sunday, **December 17**.

World Relief is Collecting Winter Coats: World Relief needs winter coats, hats and gloves of all sizes for new refugees who are arriving without warm outerwear. If you are able to help, please bring new or clean-used items to the World Relief table at the Alternative Christmas Market on November 12. If you are not able to donate that day, collections will be received in the narthex through November 26.

NOAAH Requests: Needs: winter jacket size 5xl which may need to be ordered on-line; Mother needs: a bed for a 2-year-old who has been sleeping on the couch, she also needs silverware, cups, bowls, plates, and kitchen chairs. Please call Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 to arrange for pickup. Thank you, Sue Ahrens

Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Worship Services

Wednesday, November 29

Hanging of the Greens, 6:00PM Dinner (pizza), 7:00PM Worship

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent, 9:30AM Worship & Communion

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent, 9:30AM Worship

Wednesday, December 13

Taizé Service of Healing & Hope, 6:30 - 7:00PM

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent, 9:30AM Worship

Sunday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve, 9:30AM Worship

Family Do-It-Yourself Nativity, 4:00PM Worship

A Service of Lessons and Carols, Candlelight & Communion, 8:00PM Worship

This Week's Schedule

Monday, November 13

8:15 - 10:15AM Kenya Trip Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
9:00 - 11:30AM Search Committee - *Common Grounds*
1:00 - 3:00PM Meeting (NBK) - *Upper Lounge*
4:00 - 8:00PM Prayer Shawl - *Common Grounds*
5:00 - 6:00PM Search Committee - *Chapel*
6:00 - 8:00PM Mental Health Task Force - *Zoom*
6:30 - 8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, November 14

9:00 - 10:00AM Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*
11:00AM - 12:00PM Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
1:00 - 2:30PM HR Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
1:30 - 3:00PM Racial Equity Meeting - *Zoom*
2:00 - 4:00PM Library Committee - *Church Library*
6:00 - 8:30PM True Green Annual Condo Meeting - *Chapel*
6:00 - 8:00PM Wild Women of First Congo - *Stone Arch Brew Pub*
6:30 - 7:30PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00 - 8:00PM Technology Committee Meeting - *Zoom*
7:45 - 8:45PM Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, November 15

10:00 - 11:00AM Adult Ed - *Zoom*
12:15 - 1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*
2:00 - 3:00PM Peabody/Heritage Worship - *Peabody Chapel*
5:00 - 8:00PM ESTHER - Community Living Room - *Common Grounds*
5:30 - 7:30PM Childcare - *Childcare Room*
5:45 - 6:25PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*
6:30 - 7:30PM MS Group Community Collaborations @ *Eagle Point on E John St*
6:30 - 7:30PM HS Group @ *Pillars Adult & Family Shelter*
7:00 - 8:30PM Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary & Choir Room*

Thursday, November 16

9:00 - 10:00AM Strong Bodies - *S. Fellowship*
11:00 - 12:30PM Finance Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
12:00 - 1:00PM AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*
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, November 17

4:30 – 6:30PM

Search Committee – *Common Grounds*

5:00 – 6:00PM

Wedding Rehearsal (tentative) - *Sanctuary*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*

7:00 – 8:30PM

N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, November 18

9:00 – 10:00AM

Search Committee – *HS Room*

9:00AM – 3:00PM

Wedding – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Common Grounds*

3:30 – 5:00PM

Handbells Dress Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, November 19

9:25AM – 12:00PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*

9:30 – 10:30AM

Sunday Worship & Family Handbells Sunday - *Sanctuary*

10:30 – 11:30AM

3rd Sunday Family Day: Chat After Church – *Nursery, Art Kitchen*

10:30 – 11:30AM

Children’s Choir – *Choir Room*

10:30AM – 12:00PM

Council Stewardship Coffee Hour – *Narthex*

10:45 – 11:45AM

Parents’ Book Discussion – *HS Room*

5:00 – 6:00PM

LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

7:00 – 8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Commons Grounds*

7:00 – 8:00PM

Al-Anon – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*

What! No Newsletter?! What’s Happening Now...

After a lengthy period of change, the FCUCC Staff, under the guidance of the Church Council and with pastoral input, has collaborated to re-assemble and implement communication procedures for First Congregational UCC. This is the evolving plan:

1. The hub of communication will be our website.
2. Weekly E-Newsletters will be sent out Mid-Week and on Fridays.
 - a. The Mid-Week e-news will be sent out late in the day on Tuesdays to provide updates about Wednesday evening activities.
 - b. The Friday e-news will provide the virtual version of the coming Sunday’s “Open Door,” which includes the weekly bulletin along with its attached announcements.
3. Look for us on social media.

Because of the information distribution process above, the monthly *physical* newsletter has been discontinued as of December 2023.

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.



Welcome to our Home of Homes.

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

We're committed to tolerance, justice, and exploration – not dogma and rules.

So, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.