

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 3, 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 – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraiser – <i>Narthex</i>
10:30-11:45AM	Musical Rehearsal/Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Lenten Study: Chapter 3 – <i>Upper Lounge</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: 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. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 3, 2024 9:30 AM
Third Sunday in Lent ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

Coe Fen (Christ is the Life)

Tune by Kenneth Naylor
Setting by Bob Moore

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Lent is a homecoming.

All: Home from weary years,

One: Home to calm our fears,

All: Home to dry our tears.

One: Lent is a homecoming,

All: Home to remember our name,

One: Home to a warm embrace,

All: Home to a hopeful place,

One: Home with Christ, who is one with our journeying.

All: Home, remembering the last days of the earthly ministry of Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN #185

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN

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.)

SCRIPTURE READING John 2:13-22

Susan McFadden

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money-changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables.

He told those who were selling the doves, 'Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a market-place!' His disciples remembered that it was written, 'Zeal for your house will consume me.'

The Jews then said to him, 'What sign can you show us for doing this?' Jesus answered them, 'Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews then said, 'This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the temple of his body.

After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

SERMON *"Whose House?"*

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

Christ Is the Life

COE FEN

1: Choir

2-4: All

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

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

Dale Wood (1934-2003)

7th century Latin hymn text, trans. J. M. Neale

Sanctuary 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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to eat the bread when you receive your communion elements.

Please wait to drink the cup until instructed. Communion elements are gluten free.

INVITATION

Pastor Mary Jo: We begin in the name of our One God, the holy one who created us, the Christ who calls us to follow him and the Spirit who makes all things new.

Pastor Dianne: Jesus was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, He was always the guest.

**All: At the meal tables of the wealthy where He pled the case of the poor,
He was always the guest.**

Pastor Mary Jo: Upsetting polite company, befriending isolated people,
welcoming the stranger, He was always the guest.

All: But here, at this table, He is the host.

Pastor Dianne: Those who wish to serve Him, must first be served by Him.
Those who want to follow Him, must first be fed by Him.

**All: This is the table where God intends us to be nourished;
this is the time when Christ makes us new.**

Pastor Mary Jo: So, come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith,
or a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables,
now invites us to be guests at His.

COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor Dianne Droster

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**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.**

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Pastor Mary Jo: On the night on which He was betrayed, and as they were sitting at
meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to His disciples saying:
“This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.”

Pastor Dianne: Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup of wine and said:
“This cup is the new relationship with God made possible
because of my death. Drink this all of you to remember me.”

**All: So now, we do as Jesus did. We take this bread and juice, the produce of the
earth and fruit of human labor. In these, Jesus has promised to be present.**

Pastor Mary Jo: Let us pray: Loving God, bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died. Amen.

Pastor Dianne: He whom the universe could not contain, meets us now in this bread and in this cup. All things are now ready.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Prelude in B Minor

J.S. Bach
Trans. Alexander Siloti (1863-1945)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: We thank you, loving God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #477

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Cwm Rhondda

Tune by John Hughes
Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Pastor Dianne Droster

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the



Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953

Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOCATIONS FOR TODAY

Upstairs, to the left	Upstairs, to the right	Downstairs
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery	Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
Theater K/1 st , 2 nd /3 rd , 4 th /5 th Graders	Art Kitchen	Science Room
Scripture Tent		Middle School Room

USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO

MARCH USHERS: TEAM 5 Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Tim Bauer, Peter Carman, Lauren Aaholm, Christine Williams, Todd Williams, John Hanson

APRIL USHERS: TEAM 4

AUDIO & VIDEO: John Aaholm, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

"The Courage to Love the Light" Pastor Nick Hatch John 3:14-21
Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, March 17	9:30AM	Children's Mini-Musical during Worship
Sunday, March 24	9:30AM	Palm Sunday Worship & Children's Ministry
	10:30AM	Annual Youth-Led Pancake Brunch
	Easter Lily Delivery to Church Members on your way home	
Thursday, March 28	7:00PM	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service with Communion
Sunday, March 31	8:45AM & 10:30AM	Easter Sunday Worship - No Children's Ministry on
		Easter - Easter Egg Hunt between services

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.

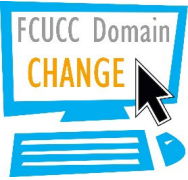
Please call the church office if you have a prayer request: 920-733-7393

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

Sue Ahrens	Jean Jepson
Bruce Anderson	Kathy Lannoye
David Andrus & Family	Nancy Kandler
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Don Brittnacher	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Gretchen Revie
Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder	Larry Schiedermayer
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Frank and Pat Severin
The family of Dottie Hawley as they grieve her passing into eternal life.	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
David Galow	Kinsley Tarr
Art Gandler	Gloria Tate
Ken Geiger	Jack Thiel
Margaret Hankwitz	Peter Thiel
Judy Hanson	James Totzke
JoAnn Helms	Jean Van Wagenin
Shirley Hoft	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
Misty Hofman	Diane White
Joan Jensen's son, John	Those living with mental illnesses.

The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events, please visit our website, weekly e-newsletters, and social media.



Domain Update: We have officially changed our domain name and website address from firstcongoappleton.org to **uccappleton.org** All church employee emails now end in @uccappleton.org (no longer end in @firstcongoappleton.org)

First Wednesday Dinners: Join us on Wednesday, **March 6** for our next monthly meal in the Fellowship Hall. Serving is from 6:00-6:30PM. EVERYONE is welcome for these meals. You don't have to be involved in Wednesday night activities. There is no advance registration. There is no cost -- though a free will offering is very much appreciated. The schedule and menu through spring is:

March 6 - Lentil soup and bread

April 3 - The return of "Hot Dogs on the Run"

May 1 - Salad Extravaganza

Mark your calendars! See you there!

WISDOM and Partners Host End the Lockdowns Community Forum in Green Bay: on Thursday, **March 7, 2024**, from 6:00-8:00PM at St. Norbert College (Mulva Library) 400 3rd Street, De Pere, WI 54115. Join us to meet Green Bay elected officials, learn about WISDOM's End the Lockdowns Campaign and provide input on transformational justice priorities in Wisconsin. This event follows successful events in Milwaukee and Madison with elected officials.

WISDOM's **End the Lockdowns Campaign** seeks to:

- Raise awareness on the detrimental effects of lockdowns to people who are incarcerated in Wisconsin's prisons and their loved ones.
- Build grassroots support urging Governor Tony Evers to use his authority to take action.

The campaign aims to close prisons, reduce the prison population, and reinvest spending into community resources that decrease crime and strengthen communities.

Register to attend the event in advance at: <https://bit.ly/greenbayendthelockdowns>. If you would like to participate in **car-pooling** from the Fox Cities to attend this event, please leave a message at <https://esther-foxvalley.org/tjtf>.

For inquiries about the event, you can email WISDOM Transformational Justice Campaign Coordinator Mark Rice at ricemark@gmail.com.

Pillars Meal Sign-up: Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **March 7, 2024**. 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.



Help Us Fill the Box in the Narthex! Collecting **March 10 - March 24** for Back Bay Mission. Volunteers from First Congregational will soon be going 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 new bulletin board display, too!



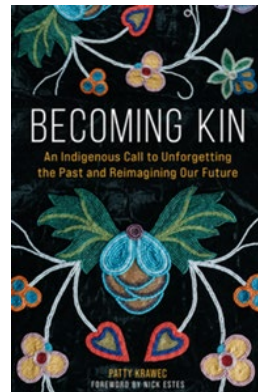
- Hot sauce (we are the only group that brings this!!)
- Packets of tuna or soup mix
- Small packets of Slim Jims or similar meat snacks
- Soft protein bars (e.g. Think bars, Complete cookies)
- New or gently used golf/baseball hats
- Travel-size bug spray and sunscreen

EJWG presentation on housing insecurity: On Monday, **March 18**, 7:00-8:00PM, the Economic Justice Work Group is hosting a Zoom presentation featuring speaker Bill Van Lopik, Community Organizer at ESTHER-Fox Valley. The topic is "Listening for a Change: Voices of the Housing Insecure," with a panel of advocates with personal stories and ideas about addressing the housing crisis. All are welcome to join us! Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87356078477?pwd=S0RtVFNPOG5oRnVvSEVnUWQyVGV0dz09>; Meeting ID: 873 5607 8477; Passcode: 107144

Church Library: Each month in 2024 the library will focus on a theme and display books related to the theme. In March our theme will be Women's History Month. Please check the display - you may find something worth reading.

Book Discussion: *Becoming Kin*, by Patty Krawec. 2022. 240 pp.: On March 21, 2024, First Congregational's Theology Discussion Group will begin discussing its next book, *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Forgetting the Past and Reimagining the Future*. In this book, Anishinaabe and Christian writer Patty Krawec weaves her own story with the story of her ancestors and with the broader themes of creation, replacement, and disappearance. Braiding together historical, scientific, and cultural analysis, Indigenous ways of knowing, and the vivid threads of communal memory, Krawec crafts a stunning, forceful call to "unforget" our history and imagine how the old ways of kinship can help us create a better future.



If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality, justice, and growth in faith, we invite you to join us as we begin reading this new book together. Theo Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from noon to 1:30PM, with some participants gathering in person at Chefo's Pancake House in Kimberly and others taking part via Zoom.

For more information about Theo Group, visit <https://www.uccappleton.org/projects/theology-discussion-group> or contact Steve Hirby on Realm or through the church office.

NOAAH's Needs:

1. A mother who has no job/housing needs clothing and diapers for her 3-month-old.
2. A developmentally disabled 14-year-old Native American child has been in care for 64 months and is currently placed out of state away from her parents. She is asking for a reborn/realistic baby doll but hasn't specified what she would like the baby to look like. You can find the doll on Amazon (Babeside).
3. Men's clothing is needed. Sizes: jacket/tops: 5-6XL; shoes: 15 wide; pants/sweatpants: 3XL. A gift card would be appropriate, so he can go out with his home consultant.
4. New couch, bed sheets for a queen-size bed, and a coffee table.
5. A family needs a dresser.
6. And still requesting \$350 for driving school.
7. There are numerous families living in one household. The family is low income and has had a lot of moving due to family loss. They are trying to get re-established and get their own place and are looking for two queen bedframes with mattresses.

Please contact Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 for pickup/delivery. Thank you, Sue Ahrens.

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 Pastor Katherine and Pastor Nick after worship Sunday, **May 5**, 11:00AM-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 the story of 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@uccappleton.org.

New members will be introduced in worship on Sunday, May 19.



Easter Flowers Donation Form



Donations support this special season's display, and help fund the sanctuary flowers throughout the year.

Your Name _____

Amount _____ (\$25 suggested)

Please word the following as you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin:

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

In celebration of _____

Drop this form in the offering plate or return it to the church office
by Monday, March 18, 2024.

Make checks out to FCUCC and in the memo field write "Easter Flowers."



Great Lakes & West Central Regional UCC Youth Event

Augustana College in IL, July 16-20, with bonding adventures the days before and after for just FCUCC youth.

Staying in dorm rooms, we'll worship, work (service projects on site), and wonder with youth from the neighboring states.

Chaperones needed!

Grades incoming 7th - outgoing 12th

Bring friends from outside our church!

Max cost of \$350 per youth.

Registration open on paper and Realm

Register by March 13 for \$20 off!

Registration due by April 10

Visit our Facebook page or open this link for the: [Youth Info Packet](#)



Register with the QR code or on Realm



<https://onrealm.org/uccappleton/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=Y2E4NDQyMGEtMzAxNi00MDJiLWExNDEtYjEyNDAxMmZhYjRk>

This Week's Schedule

Monday, March 4

3:30-5:00PM

5:30-7:00PM

6:30-8:30PM

Tuesday, March 5

9:00-10:00AM

11:00AM-12:00PM

1:00-2:30PM

6:00-8:30PM

6:30-7:30PM

7:00-9:00PM

7:45-8:45PM

IPAC - Upper Lounge

Facilities Ministry Area - Upper Lounge

Fox Valley Flute Choir - Sanctuary

Strong Bodies - Fellowship Hall

Staff Meeting - Upper Lounge

Chrysalis - Upper Lounge

AAUW - Fellowship Hall

Living Sober AA Group - Common Grounds

Worship and Music Ministry Team - Upper Lounge

Fireside AA Group - Common Grounds

This Week's Schedule continued on page 14...

Wednesday, March 6

12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
5:30-8:30PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*
6:00-6:30PM 1st Wednesday Dinner – *Fellowship Hall*
6:30-7:30PM MS Youth Group: 1st Wednesday Dinner, Clean Up & Hang Out
– *Fellowship Hall & Kitchen*
6:30-7:30PM HS Youth Group: 1st Wednesday Dinner & HS Group – *HS Youth Room*
6:30-7:30PM Bible Study of Romans – *Zoom only*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, March 7

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
10:00-11:00AM Membership Committee – *Pastor Mary Jo's office*
11:30AM-2:00PM Dorothy Hawley Funeral – *Sanctuary, Memorial Garden*
12:00-1:00PM AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-1:30PM Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House*
6:00-8:00PM SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, March 8

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

Saturday, March 9

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

Sunday, March 10

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship ~ Baptism Sunday ~ Joyful Noise Collection –
Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry – *CYF Wing*
10:30-12:30PM Children's Choir/Musical Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*
10:45-12:00PM Kenya Reception for Sponsors and All - *Fellowship Hall*
10:45-11:45AM Small Group for Parents – *CYF High School Room*
10:45AM-12:00PM Lenten Study: Chapter 4 – *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*

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.



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