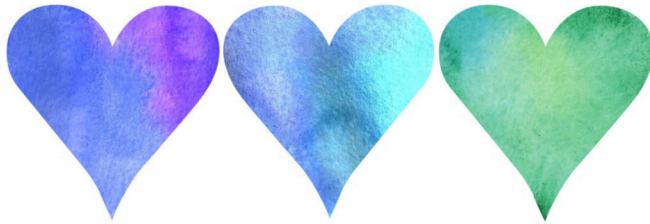


First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 5, 2024



*This is my commandment,
that you love one another
as I have loved you ~John 15:12*



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, Chapel</i>
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising – <i>Narthex</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>MS Youth Room</i>
11:00AM-12:00PM	New Member Exploration Gathering – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
11:00AM-12:00PM	Mandatory Pre-Youth Trip Meeting – <i>HS Youth Room & Zoom</i>
4:30-5:30PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
7:00-8:00PM	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 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

May 5, 2024 9:30AM

Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ Communion Sunday ~ Mental Health Sunday

PRELUDE

Dove of Peace (I Come with Joy)

Tune from *The Southern Harmony*, 1835
Setting by David M. Cherwien (b. 1957)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We gather in the presence of the One who abandons no one.

All: Come Holy Spirit, our advocate and comforter.

One: All are welcome in this sacred place, made holy through your presence with us.

All: Open our hearts and minds this day, guide us into a loving relationship with all your children.

One: We gather as God's beloved people, leaving no one outside.

All: Spark us with a word of life and radical belonging - a message that we share with others as we seek to live out Christ's love.

One: We call on the name of God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us.

All: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #313

I Come with Joy

DOVE OF PEACE

1: Men and low voices

2: Women and high voices

3-5: All

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 15:9-17

Emily Tseffos

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I

command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

SERMON *“Abiding in Christ”*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN #458

Lord, Make Us Servants of Your Peace

ROCHESTER

1: Choir

2-5: All

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Mary Sullivan

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

If Ye Love Me

Philip Wilby (b. 1949)

Sanctuary Choir

If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, That He may abide with you forever; E’en the Spirit of Truth. And ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

John 14: 15-18

*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 is gluten free.

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

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

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

We give thanks, O God, because in your own free gift of love you have reached out to us. You have refreshed us at your table, touched our deepest needs, and called us to a life shared in memory and hope. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #368

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

DENNIS

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

A Universal Blessing

Alice Parker (1925-2023)

Sanctuary Choir

May love so dwell in our hearts, may compassion so flow from our hands, may peace so encompass our lives that justice and mercy abound in this world. Sing love, sing compassion, sing peace.

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for a Resurrection Day

Steven Scott

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

Pastor Dianne Droster

Emily Tseffos, *lay reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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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
David Andrus & Family	Kathy Lannoye
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Nancy Kandler
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Don Brittnacher	JoAnn Ott
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Gretchen Revie
Rev. Ralph Di Biasio-Snyder	Larry Schiedermayer
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Frank and Pat Severin
David Galow	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Ken Geiger	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
Margaret Hankwitz	Kinsley Tarr
Judy Hanson	Gloria Tate
JoAnn Helms	Jack Thiel
Shirley Hoft	Peter Thiel
Sandi Hurm	James Totzke
Joan Jensen and her family as they grieve the passing of her son, John	Those living with mental unwellness.
	Wilma Wydeven

Please call or email the church office if someone's name should be removed from the list.

Thank you!

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
K-5th Graders - Chapel (returning for communion)		

USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO

MAY USHERS: **TEAM 3:** Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Kevin Coenen, Tonya Dederling, Cathy Paynter, Ryan St. Clair, Bruce Valk, Anne Sheridan and **TEAM 6:** Jeff Schang, Annette Boller, Mike Spurlock, John Schultz, Kris Henke, Liz Dettwiler, Leigh Grube, Karen Gosse

JUNE USHERS: TEAM 1 & 5

AUDIO & VIDEO: Dave Frederick, John Aaholm, Matt Feuerhelm



Help us become a more welcoming Christian community by serving as a Sunday morning usher! Ushers are key participants in our worship services. They offer greetings to all who enter the Sanctuary, hand out bulletins, gather prayer cards, collect the offering, and foster a safe environment. Won't you consider participating in this vital ministry? Interested volunteers will join an existing Usher Team and help as you are able. Currently a single Usher Team serves for one or two months during the spring, fall and/or winter. Special worship Sundays such as Easter and Christmas and summer Sundays are typically covered by two Usher Teams. If you wish to participate or have questions you are encouraged to call the church office at 920-733-7393 or send an email to info@uccappleton.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey
Major Work with Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
John 17:6-19
Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR

Monday, May 6	7:15-8:15PM	Meet the Pastors: Faith & Fellowship with Pastor Katherine (sign up required)
Thursday, May 16	9:00-10:00AM	
Monday, July 8 -Friday, July 12	9:00-11:00AM	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 16 -Saturday, July 20		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock Island, IL

The Open Door Announcements

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

Church Library: Each month in 2024 the library will focus on a theme and display books related to the theme. In May our theme will be Mental Health Awareness Month. Please check the display – you may find something worth reading.

EJWG & ESTHER Save the Date!! The Economic Justice Work Group & ESTHER are cosponsoring a showing of “The Invisible Class” on Tuesday, **May 7** at 6:00PM in our sanctuary. This documentary on homelessness in America records a 24-hour period in cities all over the US to give a balanced portrait of the social reality. The film also points to the local, state, and federal policies that have increased homelessness exponentially in the last five decades. The filmmakers suggest that targeting the systemic causes of homelessness with humane, supportive, and less costly alternatives could get us back to safe, affordable housing for virtually all. Following the film showing, a panel of local experts will discuss the experience of the unsheltered in the Fox Cities. Film contains strong language; not recommended for young viewers. Free admission. Doors open at 5:30PM. Please use west doors closest to Lawe St. (east doors will be locked.)

The Fox Valley Flute Choir will present a spring concert on Saturday, **May 11** at 4:00PM in the church sanctuary. The Flute Choir will perform a wide variety of music ranging from traditional composers like Quantz, Kuhlau and Debussy (Clair de Lune) to more contemporary music. Grammy Award winner Peter Schickele’s composition “Monochrome I” features 3 piccolos and 8 flute parts. Composer Kelly Via (1954-) is represented with: “Meditation on ‘Abide with Me.” The concert will conclude with a Johann Strauss polka. The Fox Valley Flute Choir rehearses on Monday nights in the church sanctuary. They have been playing together for over 10 years and are under the direction of Marc Sackman. 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

Faith & Fellowship with Pastor Katherine: Come join us for a time of fellowship with Pastor Katherine and fellow members and friends of our congregation in the Upper Lounge! These fellowship events will occur on Monday, **May 6** and Thursday, **May 16**,



with a maximum of 12 participants. We will schedule more opportunities to gather soon. You can sign up by clicking [here](#) or scanning the QR code. We hope to see you there! Pastor Katherine's email is kwpershey@uccappleton.org. If you are unable to attend one of the fellowship events scheduled so far, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Katherine to introduce yourself!

Quarterly Congregational Meetings: As a Congregational Church we need regular, set meetings that allow for input and to keep important decision making in the hands of the membership of First Congregational. To help with this, church leaders have adopted a quarterly meeting schedule, so we all know when our meetings are and what important content is in them. Remember, Congregational meeting agendas are created by the Church Moderator in collaboration with staff and council. We hope you can be in attendance to participate in the important mission, vision, and financial tasks that give direction and life to our church community!

June 23, 2024: Approve 6-month budget

September 15, 2024: Project Isaiah update

December 8, 2024: Elect new council members & present budget for approval/
Project Isaiah update (after worship)

March 2, 2025: Present Annual Report/Project Isaiah update

June 8, 2025: Project Isaiah update

Grounds Care Volunteers Needed: Interested in gardening and plant care or helping to maintain the church grounds? First Congregational is blessed with a wonderful property. It includes 3 gardens: the Labyrinth Garden, the Memorial Garden, and the Hillside Garden. In addition, we have the ravine area which also has the potential to be a very beautiful space. We are seeking volunteers who might be interested in forming a garden club to help with maintenance tasks associated with the upkeep and improvement of these spaces. Some of the activities might include: a short meeting (with a beverage and snack) with a discussion of garden topics, or out on the grounds activities including: weeding, addition of new plantings, watering, mulching, applying deer and rabbit repellent, etc. Anticipate meeting at least twice a month during the summer months. Time of meetings would be based on volunteer availability. Interested? Contact Wayne Lannoye via Realm email or in person.



-Come play games with our youth,
your family, your friends, or new friends!
-We'll have lots of "classic" board games and
card games available to choose from.
-You're welcome to bring your own game that is
well-known or easy to learn!

Intergenerational Game Night

at FCUCC

6:00-7:30PM

Wednesday, May 15

Hot Dog Dinner, Board Games & Cards

RSVP by 8AM on Wednesday, May 15
by emailing swilterdink@appletonucc.org or

Mastersworks in Worship

Handel's MESSIAH

SELECTIONS FROM PART II & III

Sunday
May 12, 2024
9:30AM Worship

FEATURING
Sanctuary Choir
LU Music Scholar Soloists
Chamber Orchestra

Emily Dupere
CONCERTMASTER

A free-will offering will be received to support the ministries of the church

Fundraising
CARD PROGRAM

Order Form

Member Name				Phone #				Email			
Special notes								Date turned in			

QTY	Car Wash (5ct)	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)	QTY	Fuel Only	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)	Total
	\$36.00				\$20.00			_____
					\$50.00			Payment Type
QTY	Grocery Only	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)		\$100.00			___ Cash
	\$5.00				\$200.00			___ Check
	\$10.00				\$500.00			___ Online
	\$20.00							

How Much Comes Back to Our Church Youth?
 Car Wash Cards – 44%!
 Grocery Cards – 20%
 Gas Gift Cards – 10%

Stock Sales and Kwik Trip Cards are available today in the narthex!

The Church of the Open Door
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915
 Office: 920.733.7393
 Monday - Friday 9AM - 3PM

This Week's Schedule

Monday, May 6

3:30-5:00PM IPAC Meeting - *Upper Lounge & Zoom*
5:30-7:00PM Facilities Ministry Area - *Upper Lounge*
6:00-7:00PM Mental Health Task Force - *HS Youth Room*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*
7:15-8:15PM Meet the Pastors (sign up required) - *Upper Lounge*

Tuesday, May 7

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
11:00AM-12:00PM Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
1:00-2:30PM Chrysalis - *Upper Lounge*
5:30-9:00PM Economic Justice Work Group w/ESTHER showing of "The Invisible Class" -
Sanctuary
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA - *Common Grounds*
7:00-9:00PM Worship & Music Ministry Team - *Upper Lounge*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, May 8

10:00-11:45AM Project Isaiah Meeting - *Project Isaiah Room*
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*
6:30-7:30PM MS Youth Group - *MS Youth Room*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, May 9

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*
6:30-7:30PM Congregational Life Committee - *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, May 10

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

Saturday, May 11

9:00AM-12:00PM Major Work Dress Rehearsal - *Sanctuary, Choir Room*
4:00-5:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir Spring Concert - *Sanctuary*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, May 12 - Happy Mother's Day

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare - *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship w/Joyful Noise Collection - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry - *CYF Wing*
10:45-11:45AM Small Group for Parents - *HS Youth Room*
4:30-5:30 PM LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*
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