

First Congregational United Church of Christ

February 4, 2024

And he went throughout Galilee,
*proclaiming
the message.*

MARK 1:39, NRSV



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 with Youth Handbells – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30-11:45AM	Musical Rehearsal/Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
10:45-11:45AM	CYF Committee Meeting – <i>MS Youth Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Book Study, “Falling Upward” – <i>Upper Lounge and by Zoom</i>
4:15-5:15 PM	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: 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

February 4, 2024 9:30 AM
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

Nettleton (Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness)

Tune anonymous

Setting by Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ

WELCOME

INTROIT

A Joyous Song

Carol A. Scheel

Youth Handbells

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (in unison)

Leader: Come and partake of the feast of God.

People: We are hungry and in need of food.

Leader: God comes to satisfy our deepest needs.

People: It is only God who can fill our hearts.

Leader: God comes to us humbly in simple gifts.

People: With humility we open our hearts to God.

***OPENING HYMN** (see bulletin page 7)

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

NETTLETON

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.)

ANTHEM

Worship and Praise Our Lord and King!

Michael Helman

Based on the hymn tunes LYONS and LOBE DEN HERREN

Youth Handbells

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 1:29-39

Eileen Hoft-March

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

SERMON *"Everyone Is Looking for You!"*

Rev. Kerri Parker

*HYMN (see bulletin page 8)

Cast Out, O Christ

CONSOLATION

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Stewardship Campaign Update

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

(During the musical reflection the children will return from the CYF building to sit with their families to receive communion.)

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Robert Lowry

Arr. Matthew Culloton (b. 1976)

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 is gluten free.*

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

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

Love Bade Me Welcome from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Poem by George Herbert (1593-1633)

Daniel Boyd, *baritone*

Love bade me welcome; yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-eyed Love, observing me grow slack
From my first entrance in,
Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning
If I lack'd anything.

'A guest,' I answer'd, 'worthy to be here:'
Love said, 'You shall be he.'
'I, the unkind, ungrateful? Ah, my dear,
I cannot look on Thee.'

Love took my hand and smiling did reply,
'Who made the eyes but I?'

'Truth, Lord; but I have marr'd them: let my shame
Go where it doth deserve.'
'And know you not,' says Love, 'Who bore the blame?'
'My dear, then I will serve.'
'You must sit down,' says Love, 'and taste my meat.'
So I did sit and eat.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

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 #167

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegretto from *Sonata in C Major, K. 330*

W. A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Kerri Parker, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Youth Handbells: Will Clothier, Elena Eubank, Avery Gentile,

Celia Gentile, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton Piepenburg,

Eva Schmidt, Chase Wahl; John Albrecht, *director*

Sanctuary Choir

Daniel Boyd, *baritone*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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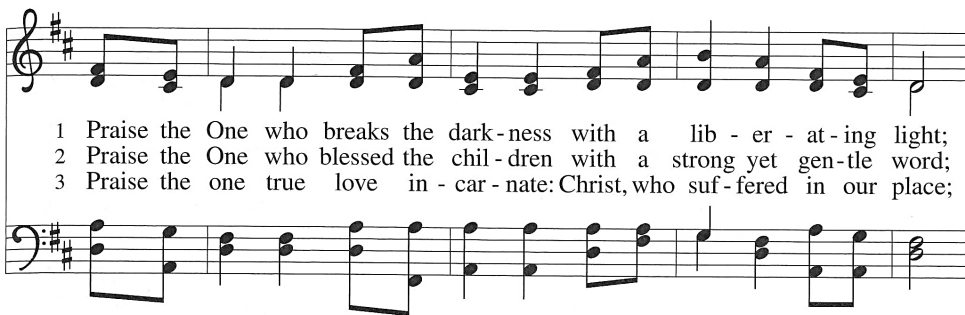
Children's Ministry Locations for Today		
Upstairs, to the Left	Upstairs, to the Right	Downstairs
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery	Little Angel's Room Preschoolers
Theater 4 th /5 th Graders	Art Kitchen	Science Room K/1 st Graders
Scripture Tent 2 nd /3 rd Graders		Middle School Room

Sunday, February 11, 2024 Worship Service
"Coming off the Mountain" Pastor Nick Hatch
 Mark 9:2-9

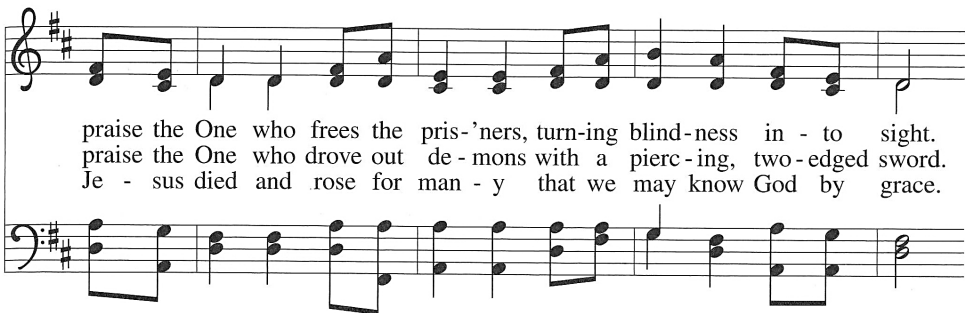
Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; Children's Choir

Worship Notes (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

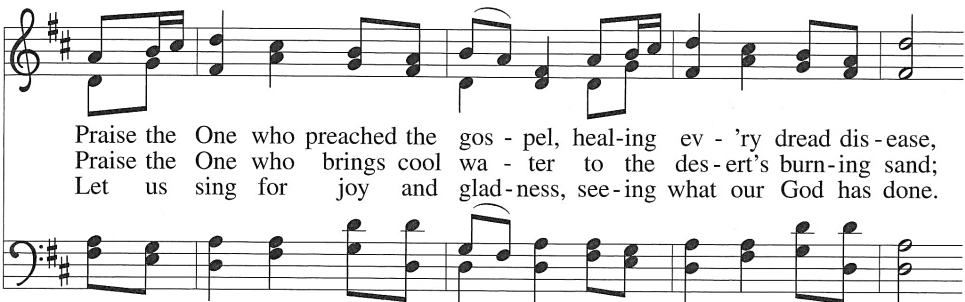
Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



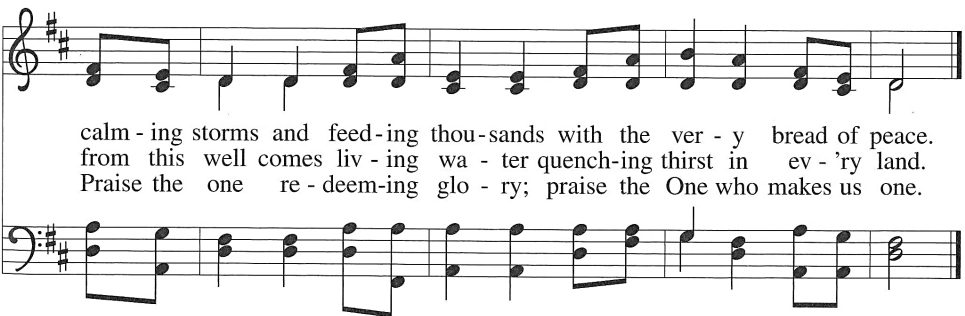
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Cast Out, O Christ

1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the

de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to

choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

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

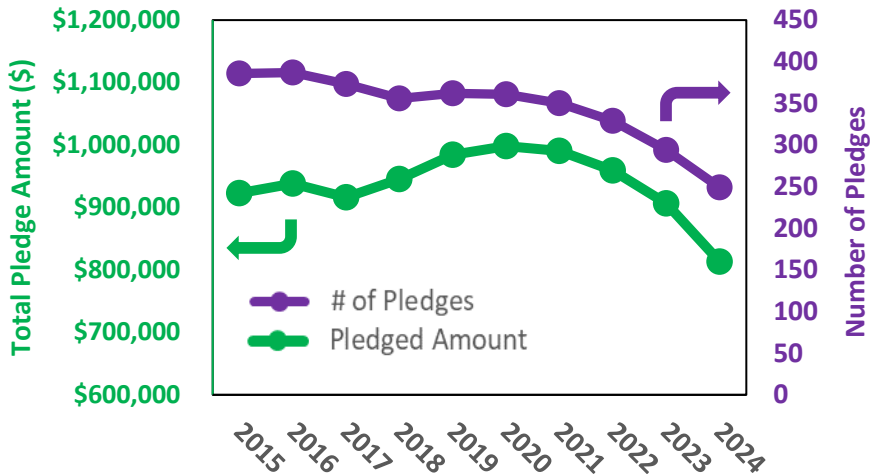
In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.

Sue Ahrens	Misty Hofman
Bruce Anderson	Joan Jenson's son, John
David Andrus & Family	Jean Jepson
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Kathy Lannoye
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Nancy Kandler
Linda Breitzman on the death of her sister, JoAnn Reischel and her mother, Clara Baumann	Bill Lenz's cousin, David Andrus, who is living with end-stage brain cancer
Don Brittnacher	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya and our FCUCC Kenya travelers.
Beth Detienne's mother	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Gretchen Revie
The families of Kandy Kueler, Jim Edwards, Heidi Mendonca Erstad, Esther Gehrt, Cheryl Benzschawel, Lynn Meyer, Paul Siket and Roger Spindler, as they grieve their passing into eternal life.	Larry Schiedermayer
David Galow	Frank and Pat Severin
Art Gandler	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
Ken Geiger	Kinsley Tarr
Margaret Hankwitz	Gloria Tate
Judy Hanson	Jack Thiel
JoAnn Helms	Peter Thiel
Shirley Hoft	James Totzke
	Jean Van Wagenin
	Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter, Mya
	Diane White
	Those living with mental illnesses.

Update from the Stewardship Committee

The 2024 Stewardship Campaign kicked off three months ago in November, and it's time for us to share its progress with you. As of January 27, the current pledge total for 2024 is \$815,831 against a goal of \$1,050,000. This was an ambitious goal that was set, so it's not overly surprising that it hasn't been met. It is concerning, however, that we're currently about \$90,000 behind last year.

We pulled together the total pledged amount and the number of pledges for each of the last ten years. This has revealed that our peak in pledged amount was in 2020 (pledge drive in November of 2019). The pandemic certainly made an impact, which would be reflected in pledge years 2021 to now. Additionally, the number of pledges coming in each year has been in decline over the last ten years. Below, you'll find the data for the last ten years of giving.



The ask from the Stewardship Committee to the congregation, then, is this:

1. If you have not yet pledged, please consider partnering with FCUCC.
2. If you have already pledged, please consider increasing the amount of your gift as you are able.
3. Finally, if you love FCUCC and call it your church home, then please tell us and the people in your life what it is that you love about it.

This is an exciting time at First Congregational with Pastor Katherine joining us in April, the rollout of the new Co-Pastor model, and the creation of Business Administrator role. We would love to move into this time knowing that we have the funds to continue to love and serve the people of the Fox Valley and beyond.

Joyfully,

Andy Burton, Co-councilor of the Stewardship Committee

There are MANY ways to give...

The ministries of First Congregational grow and thrive through the generosity of our members and friends. Every contribution to our ministries makes a difference in the life of the church, the community, and the world. We invite you to explore our website to learn the many ways that our congregation puts our faith into action. To find out more about donating to our church click "More" then "Donate."

Pledge and Give Online:



1. Sign in to your Realm account and click "Giving"
2. To PLEDGE: At the top of the "Giving" screen click "+ Pledge"
3. To GIVE: At the top of the "Giving" screen click "+Giving"
 - Here you can set up Automatic Giving or a Single Contribution using your Bank Account or Credit Card

Text to Give:



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

Drop Off/Mail In:



Traditional pledge cards and contributions by check or cash can be dropped off or mailed in to:

First Congregational UCC, Appleton
724 E South River Street
Appleton, WI 54915

Questions? Contact the church office at 920-733-7393.

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**
Thanks for Giving!

The Open Door Announcements

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

LEAVEN Hygiene Drive: Today, February 4, is the final collection day. Needed items include:

- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- Shampoo & Conditioner (please, no jumbo-sized bottles)
- Disposable Razors (in small packages; please, no refillables)
- Shaving Cream
- Laundry Detergent (small bottles or packages)

Representatives from LEAVEN are on site at First Congregational today to collect items and answer any questions.

Coffee Hour Update: Thanks to all who came to the Coffee Talk to learn more about making church coffee and signed up to help. The coffee committee has made some changes to the coffee hour that will simplify the process and encourage people to sign up to help. We will be serving treats only on Communion Sunday (the first Sunday of the month). If a group signs up for a non-Communion Sunday and wants to bring treats, that's wonderful. And when we have celebrations on non-Communion Sunday, we will have treats. Please consider signing up to help during Coffee Hour. Any questions, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

Turtle Trek Fund-Raiser 2023: The results are finally in! Our Turtle Trekkers, who collectively walked, jogged, or roller-bladed more than 2,400 miles, raised a total of **\$3,408** for our mission partner, Re-Member. These funds will go directly to offset winter fuel costs of Oglala Lakota families on the Pine Ridge reservation. Thank you to all who supported our efforts!

Vacation Bible School Possibility: We would love to host a Vacation Bible School-Type Experience This Summer for incoming Kindergarteners - incoming 6th Graders (Your friends are invited, too!) We know summers are busy and transportation can be hard. In order to begin spending time planning, WE NEED TO KNOW that you want a VBS offering, and what will work for your family. Please email swilterdink@firstcongoappleton.org or call the church office to let us know if you're strongly interested in your child attending VBS in the morning or evenings for one week. ALL adults and youth are invited to help us run VBS. Let us know if you can help as well! More info to come!

FCUCC Job Posting: Childcare Worker (w/administrative assistant tasks) needed to work with one other person when supervising children (while their adults are in the building). During times when there are no children present who need care, you will complete administrative tasks as assigned by the CYF Director.

- 18 or older
- Background check required
- Non-relative references WILL be checked
- \$20 per hour, taxed
- 3 Hours on Sundays, 9:00AM-12:00PM (infants-toddler care during the service, school-aged childcare and/or administrative tasks after the service); includes at least one Easter Sunday service and one Christmas Eve service.
- 2 Hours on Wednesdays **during the program year only**, 6:30-8:30PM (infants-5th grade childcare and/or administrative tasks)

Virtual Town Hall: The League of Women Voters Appleton-Fox Cities is hosting a virtual Legislative Town Hall, 6:30-8:00PM on Monday, **February 5**. Questions from the public (including some from our own Economic Justice Work Group) will offer insight into the legislative priorities of our representatives in Madison. To receive a Zoom link, you must pre-register at:

https://lwvappletonfoxcities.org/content.aspx?page_id=4002&club_id=264322&item_id=2076286

ESTHER hosts a listening session: Your Community, Your Voice You are invited! Thursday, **February 8**, 2024, 4:30–6:00PM at First Congregational United Church of Christ, 724 E. South River Street, Appleton. ESTHER wants to hear about what matters to YOU in our community. We value your experience and your voice. There will be a group discussion and smaller conversations. We hope you can be there for most of the

meeting or just stop in. And come eat free pizza with us! Good news! We can provide free childcare if we find some of you would like to use it for your kids. The registration link will let us know you are coming, ask you to answer a few other questions including dietary restrictions, and if you plan to bring children with you, how many and what are their ages. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. This discussion will help ESTHER with decisions about OUR next steps and perhaps be helpful to other groups too!! [Register here.](#)



Or use this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKHdxRJmcXaK1EFNjADQwc2B75G6xDtzoQvhZklzszKdEZ9w/viewform>

FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNERS - Mark Your Calendars! Join us on Wednesday, **February 14** (that's Ash Wednesday -- we're making an exception on the 'first' part for the month of February!) for our 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:



- * February 14 (**SECOND WEDNESDAY** - just for February!) - Pizza
- * March 6 - Lentil soup and bread
- * April 3 - The return of "Hot Dogs on the Run"
- * May 1 - Salad Extravaganza

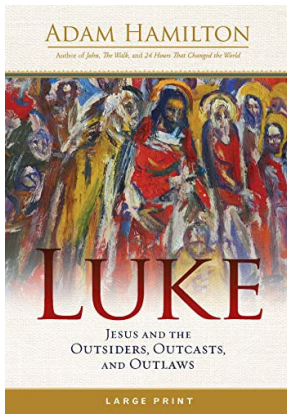
Mark your calendars! See you there!

The Small Group for Parents will be starting a new format in which we will be going through discussion questions related to the Scripture reading from service (no prep required!) beginning on Sunday, **February 18**, so it is a great time to join! The group meets in the High School Room every Sunday from 10:45-11:30AM. Feel free to join at any point - we'd love to have you! Come as you are able and get to know other parents in the church. For parents with kids participating in the Children's Musical/Children's choir, we meet during rehearsals. For all other kids, **CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE** in the childcare room. Any questions, contact Jackie Burton at burton.jackiem@gmail.com.

UCCI Rep Needed! United Church Camps is our partner camp system here in Wisconsin. With three amazing locations and thousands of camper days spent every year, it's an example of faith in action taking place in the richness of creation. UCCI is a non profit with a Board of Directors and currently has an opening for one person to be part of their governing structure. If you have a passion for camping or love of one of the UCCI sights, and think you might have the interests and skills for a once a month board position, please reach out to Pastor Nick.

The Church Library Committee has recently reorganized the library collection and purchased dozens of books relevant to current issues. The library will be open for those wishing to check out books on Sunday mornings. If you're interested in helping on Sunday mornings or would like more info, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

Cabin Fever Craft Circle ~ Ladies! Come Craft with Us! Saturday, **March 2**, 1:00-5:00PM in the FCUCC Upper Lounge. Bring whatever project you're working on! Feel free to bring a snack to share! Come join us for fellowship & fun! No need to register -- Just come on out! Let's get CRAFTY! Questions? Email Debra at dawest@centurytel.net



The Adult Education committee invites you to: A Book Study:
"Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws"
by Adam Hamilton

Sundays during Lent at 10:45AM -12:00PM
beginning February 18-March 24
in the FCUCC Upper Lounge and Zoom
(One chapter per meeting.)

Mary Jo Dees and Pastor Mary Jo will lead the discussion.
"Used" Books are \$8.50. Sign up in the church office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Ash Wednesday Dinner & Worship
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

First Second Wednesday Dinner Night at 6:00PM
Worship, led by the Youth and the Sanctuary Choir, following dinner at 6:30PM

Palm Sunday Celebrations
Sunday, March 24, 2024

Worship Service & Children's Ministry 9:30AM
Annual Youth-Led Pancake Brunch 10:30AM
Easter Lily Delivery to Church Members on your way home

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
Thursday, March 28, 2024

Worship with Communion 7:00PM

Easter Sunday Worship
Sunday, March 31, 2024

Worship 8:45AM & 10:30AM~ Pastor Katherine's first official day with us!
Easter Egg Hunt following Worship (No Children's Ministry on Easter)

Communications at First Congregational UCC

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**.

Submit your articles/items to be included in the **Weekly Church E-Newsletters /Social Media/Website Announcements**. These articles, 150 words or less, can also include pictures and clipart and links for people to "learn more."

Articles submitted for the **Sunday Bulletin's The Open Door Announcements** are limited to 2 Sundays per month (additional Sundays only if space is available) and are subject to editing for clarity and/or space available.

Deadline for submitting articles for any announcement is 4:00PM on Tuesday.

Submit articles, questions, or ideas to opendoor@firstcongoappleton.org.

Guidelines for Worship Service Announcements

- Requests for announcements must come to both pastors a week in advance (not the week or day of the service). These must be submitted in writing and less than 100 words; these are brief announcements!
- We have a maximum of three announcements per week, first-come, first-served at the discretion of the pastors. Multi week announcements are discouraged.
- Generally, the pastor leading the worship service that week makes the announcement themselves. Exceptions are made.
- If the pastor cannot fit this request into worship, it will go into the bulletin, and the one making the request notified as time allows.
- Mission Moments are also available on a limited basis. These are longer and highlight critical needs or commitments for our faith community.

WCC Strongly Encourages Masking – Again: First Congregational UCC has followed the advice of the Wisconsin Council of Churches since the beginning of the pandemic. WCC strongly encourages congregations to return to using masks in worship and other gatherings. The current wave of COVID and other respiratory virus infections calls for increased caution and the use of mitigation strategies.



WCC suggests two primary ways to get through the remainder of the respiratory virus season:

Mask up. As mentioned above, we strongly encourage congregations to go back to using masks in worship and other gatherings through the end of February. It's the easiest, most effective way to prevent us from making one another sick.

Get vaccinated. It's not too late to get a booster shot, and it's a powerful way to keep yourself and the people around you safe and healthy. COVID boosters also dramatically lower the chances of getting long COVID.

We at FCUCC strongly encourage everyone to be vigilant regarding seasonal illnesses. You can mask up, stay at home if you are feeling ill and get tested for COVID and also utilize our online worship experience. We recognize the difficulty of sticking with best practices in a world that's, by and large, decided that COVID is done. But it is exactly the business of the church to model persistence in the face of challenges, to show extra care when no one else will. We are grateful for all that you've done so far to keep others healthy and safe in our communities.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, February 5

3:30-5:00PM IPAC - *Upper Lounge*
5:30-7:00PM Facilities Ministry Area - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, February 6

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
11:00AM-12:00PM Staff Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
11:30AM-3:30PM Curious Co-op Kids - *Theater, Scripture Tent*
1:00-2:30PM Chrysalis - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00-9:00PM Worship & Music Ministry Team - *Upper Lounge*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA Group - *Common Grounds*

This week's schedule continued on page 18...

Wednesday, February 7

11:30-3:30AM Curious Co-op Kids – *Theater, Scripture Tent*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation – *Upper Lounge*
5:00-7:30PM Curious Co-op Kids – *Theater, Scripture Tent*
5:30-7:30PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*
6:00-7:30PM MS Youth Group – *MS Youth Room*
6:00-7:30PM HS Youth Group – *HS Youth Room*
6:30-7:30PM Bible Study: Romans Lesson 6 – *Zoom only*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, February 8

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA – Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-2:30PM Curious Co-op Kids – *Theater, Scripture Tent*
4:30-6:00PM ESTHER – *River Room*
5:00-7:30PM Curious Co-op Kids – *Theater, Scripture Tent*
6:00-8:00PM SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall*
6:30-7:30PM Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 9

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

Saturday, February 10

9:00AM-4:00PM Come Away-A Women's Day Retreat on Prayer – *Upper Lounge, Chapel, Fellowship Hall*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, February 11

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship with Joyful Noise Collection: Bring Your Coins – *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry-Valentines on the Bridge – *CYF Wing, Bridge*
10:30-11:45AM Children's Choir/Musical Rehearsal – *Choir Room*
10:45-11:45AM Small Group for Parents – *HS Youth Room*
10:45AM-12:00PM Book Study, "Falling Upward" – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*
4:15-5:15 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.



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Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM