# First Congregational United Church of Christ

# April 27, 2025





# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 27, 2025 9:30AM

Second Sunday of Easter

#### PRELUDE

Dunlap's Creek (We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight) Tune by Samuel McFarland Settings by Wendy Lynn Stevens & Marianne Kim Dr. Nathan Birkholz, piano

#### CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

#### WELCOME

\*Please rise in body or spirit \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

#### All: Praise God in God's sanctuary!

One: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

#### All: Praise God for God's mighty deeds! Praise God according to God's surpassing greatness!

One: Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

#### All: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

One: Let us worship God!

#### \*OPENING HYMN #215

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the sermon, the Prayer Request and Connection Cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children will follow their teachers to the CYF building.)

#### CHILDREN'S HYMN

Jesus Loves Me St. 1, sung by All JESUS LOVES ME

# Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Refrain introduced by Choir, repeated by All Verses read in one voice (plain text, from the choir) alternating with All voices (bold text)* 

#### Psalm 118:14-24 A Paraphrase for Easter Refrain Еþ is shall rise: Ie - sus ris en and we а 2: 0 0 P P Ab/C E۶ A۶ Fm ia! give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu

Refrain

GOD's my strength, he's also my song, and now he's my salvation. Hear the shouts, hear the triumph songs in the camp of the saved?

#### "The hand of GOD has turned the tide! The hand of GOD is raised in victory! The hand of GOD has turned the tide!" Refrain

I didn't die. I lived! And now I'm telling the world what GOD did. GOD tested me, he pushed me hard, but didn't hand me over to Death.

#### Swing wide the city gates—the righteous gates!

#### I'll walk right through and thank God!

This Temple Gate belongs to GOD,

so the victors can enter and praise. Refrain

Thank you for responding to me; you've truly become my salvation! The stone the masons discarded as flawed is now the capstone!

#### This is God's work.

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We rub our eyes—we can hardly believe it!
This is the very day GoD acted—
let's celebrate and be festive! Refrain
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Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Words: Herbert F. Brokering (1926-2009) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Music (EARTH AND ALL STARS fragment): David N. Johnson (1922-1987) © 1968 Augsburg Fortress Publishers Text: Psalm 118, The Message © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

### SCRIPTURE READING John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**SERMON** *"We Have Work to Do"* 

### \*HYMN #424

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

#### MOMENT FOR MISSION: SAMARITAN

#### 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

O Sons and Daughters

O FILII ET FILIAE arr. Parker/Shaw

### Sanctuary Choir

3

Dr. Shola Adegbite

DUNLAP'S CREEK

Susan Forsythe

### \*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 #214 Thine Is the Glory

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### POSTLUDE

Allegro from Toccata No. 6 in G

## THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. Shola Adegbite, Assistant Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life, Lawrence University Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, Co-Pastor Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, Co-Pastor Susan Forsythe, Lay Reader Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist Sanctuary Choir Adam Piepenburg, Joel Jicha and Jennifer Kosloski, Psalm readers John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

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JUDAS MACCABEUS

J.S. Bach

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Shola Adegbite as guest preacher today. Shola is



the Assistant Dean of Spiritual and Religious Life at Lawrence University. She is passionate about helping people live wholesome lives by encouraging them to see the sacredness in their rest. She loves movement as a practice in liberation. She has a bachelor's degree in microbiology and several degrees in theology she has earned across three continents. She has a PhD in Bible from Union

Theological Seminary NYC. Outside of work, Shola loves to spend time with her family. She loves cooking and every so often will try her hand at baking, cooking food of diverse ethnicities, or growing something in her small hydroponic garden.

## USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

APRIL USHERS: Mike Weaver, Liz Dettwiler, Doug Gilbert, Becky Gilbert, Wayne Lannoye, Susan Forsythe AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Easter	Pastor Nick Hatch	
Music: Sanctuary Choir with cantors; Jo	hn Aaholm, percussion	Luke 24:1-12

ON THE CALENDAR		
July 7-10	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School
August 25-28	5:30-7:30PM	Vacation Bible School

## 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 or to request a pastoral visit: 920-733-7393		
In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.			
Amanda, who has terminal cancer	Helen McKean and family of the death of		
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	her daughter		
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Elizabeth McNally		
Don Brittnacher	The family and friends of Pat Nelson as they		
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	grieve her passing		
Karen Craddock	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with		
Debra, upon the death of her son Joshua	cancer		
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Dean Ostrander		
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya		
David Galow	Anika Quillman		
The family of Paul Gohdes	Frank and Pat Severin		
The family and friends of Georgie Harris as	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie		
they grieve her passing	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries		
Colton Heimlich	Kinsley Tarr		
JoAnn Helms	Gloria Tate		
Shirley Hoft	Jack Thiel		
Misty Hofman	Peter Thiel		
andi Hurm James Totzke			
Jenny, who has been diagnosed with cancer	Those living with mental unwellness		
Jean Jepson	The family of Alice Van De Hey, mother of		
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Lyle Van De Hey and Janice Schmitz,		
Jim Kriner	and the grandmother of Megan Albrecht		
Mary Jo Laabs	Dave White		
Kathy Lannoye			
Please call or email the church office if someone's name should be removed from the list.			
Thank you!			

# The Open Door Announcements

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

<u>**Pillars Meal Sign-up</u>**: Time to create a nourishing meal for Pillars, Thursday, **May 1**. Check out the link to sign up! <u>**Pillars Sign Up**</u> 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.</u>

<u>Music for Food Benefit Concert of Piano Music</u>: Today, Sunday, April 27 at 3:00PM, at First Congregational UCC, students from the studio of Catherine Kautsky will offer a program of piano music by Debussy, Liszt, Ginastera, Haydn, Ravel, and others. Admission is free but there will be an opportunity to make free will donations that will go directly to the Oneida Food Pantry.

**Coffee Hour Sign-Ups Ready and Waiting**: WOW! We're happy to see that we have hosts signed up to serve coffee through the month of June -- with some other dates committed to for the rest of 2025 -- but there's still room for you to make sure that something's always 'brewing' on Sundays! Please check your summer schedule -- and beyond! Do you have a group/cause dear to our church that would like to promote themselves on any given Sunday through the coffee ministry? Family group? The possibilities are endless. We want to 'espresso' our thanks to those who have helped in the past to make this important part of our church life possible.....our cup runneth over! (Note: Most Sundays the coffee is made by staff - so that's a 'perk'!) The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex by the library window. Check your calendars, grab a friend/group and sign up TODAY!

**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. Some of the grounds activities include: weeding, addition of new plantings, watering, mulching, applying deer and rabbit repellant, etc. Interested? Contact Wayne Lannoye via Realm email or in person.

**Grief Support Group**: In his book on grief, Francis Weller writes that grief is "an act of protest that declares our refusal to live numb and small." Pastor Katherine will be gathering a group to support one another in this holy act of protest. The group is open to anyone who is grieving the death of a loved one, though it will be limited to no more than eight participants. It will be held on Thursdays, **May 15, 22, and 29**, 7:00–8:00PM in the chapel. Participants are strongly encouraged to attend all three sessions. Register on Realm or by calling the church office. Please contact Pastor Katherine with any questions.

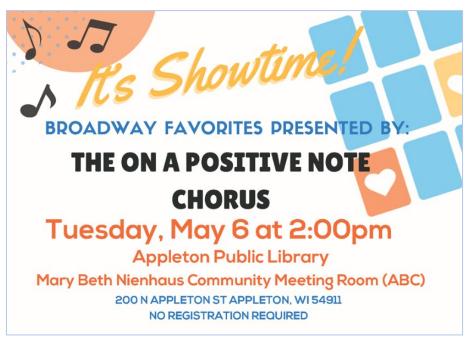


<u>Call to Action to Address Housing Insecurity in Our Community</u>: The Economic Justice Work Group of FCUCC has joined with about 30 other local faith communities to plan actions that get at the root of increasingly unaffordable housing and homelessness in the Fox Cities. You are invited to learn about work in any of these five areas that could be real game changers for our community:

- 1. Affordable Housing
- 2. Legislation and Regulation
- 3. Generative Local Community
- 4. Neighborhood Development
- 5. Emergency Shelter

Open the link here to find out more about the post-summit approach and possible actions for our congregation: <u>Lever Leader Info</u> Watch for more information about plans with our lever leaders in the near future. We can work together to effect better solutions for our neighbors!

The On a Positive Note Chorus: Have you visited the new Appleton Public Library yet? If not, or even if you have, there's a terrific free performance coming there on Tuesday, **May 6** at 2:00PM. The On a Positive Note Chorus, which is sponsored by Fox Valley Memory Project, will be presenting a program of favorite Broadway showtunes. Join us in the Mary Beth Nienhaus Community room for a fun time that will have you tapping your toes and maybe even singing along. Questions? Contact Susan McFadden (susan.h.mcfadden@gmail.com).



**E2F (Empty to Full) Pans:** Today, Sunday, **April 27**, First UCC will participate in a project to allow members to prepare pans of food, in their own home, primarily to serve Pillars, with a smaller number going to COTS & Apricity. All are serving homeless people. Willing participants can pick up an empty pan that contains the recipe & shopping list to prepare & fill the pan with an easy recipe. (Cost is approx. \$ 16.00) The recipes are so simple...no cooking or basic cooking required. This is a great activity for all ages and skills. (The pans are not baked; the shelter will do this.) The prepared pan is returned on Sunday, May 4, before the church service. If you're unable to bring the pan back on May 4, it can be placed in the church kitchen freezer the week before. Call the office to make sure the kitchen is open. If this doesn't work, please call Cindi MacSwain 920-606-6699.

<u>Kenya Sponsor Reception</u>: Save Sunday, **May 4**, after service for the Kenya Sponsor Reception. Sponsors and all interested persons are invited to meet Mildred Chepkonga, our special guest from Kenya. Please greet her in church on April 27 and May 4.

*Jazz Missa Brevis* in worship on Mother's Day, May 11! Come hear our Sanctuary Choir and a jazz ensemble present Will Todd's *Jazz Missa Brevis* in worship on Sunday, May 11. Bring mom, bring a friend...all are welcome to worship through this exciting new music!

<u>Library News</u>: The theme for April is Lent and Easter. If you want to spend time reflecting or to learn more as a family about honoring Lent and Easter, come check out our books. Here are a couple: "*Prayers for Lent, Easter and Pentecost*" by Donna Schaper and "*The Legend of the Easter Egg*" by Lori Walburg.

# 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.

# The Isaiah Corner



When you hear "The Isaiah Project," think "infrastructure." The Steering Committee and four Task Forces are prayerfully engaged in research, community partnership development, and discernment to provide recommendations to Church Council about our buildings, grounds, and neighborhood presence. These recommendations will address our current and future needs and support our mission and priorities.

**Welcoming Catalyst Construction**: The Building Task Force identified early on the importance of getting a construction partner on board during the conceptual phase of the process in order to provide cost estimating and feedback on the design.

In March and early April, the selection team interviewed and reviewed proposals for construction management services. The team voted unanimously to recommend Catalyst Construction as our construction partner. This recommendation was presented to Church Council, which voted to approve it.

Catalyst is Wisconsin-based, with offices in Milwaukee and Neenah. They perform more church work than any other construction firm in the state, and they were building architect TKWA's preferred construction partner.

In reviewing fee proposals, Catalyst was the most economical option. Beyond simply cost, though, they add additional value in the pre-construction phase with their ability to provide no-cost consulting support to capital campaigns. We are excited to welcome Catalyst to our team and look forward to their contribution to our project's success!

Nursing and Nurturing Room: The Isaiah Project would like to thank participants of the



ChildCare focus group for sharing their thoughts and ideas and Sarah Wilterdink, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries for leading the discussion. One outcome of the meeting will be a dedicated Nursing and Nurturing Room, a space where moms can find quiet and privacy if they would like. Common Grounds will be reserved Sundays from 9:30-10:30AM for this purpose. A changing pad will also be provided.

Reminder date: "Repair Fair" during Service Sunday, June 1, 10:15AM – 12:00PM.

**Any Isaiah Project questions or comments** can be directed to any Isaiah Project member, Director of Operational Ministries, <u>vsalvia@uccappleton.org</u> or by using <u>the electronic Isaiah Box</u>. There are also comment cards located on the Welcome Desk in the narthex - just look for the Isaiah Box.

# This Week's Schedule

<u>Monday, April 28</u> 6:30-7:30PM 6:30-8:30PM	Understanding Your Mental Health - <i>Upper Lounge</i> Fox Valley Flute Choir - <i>Sanctuary</i>
<u>Tuesday, April 29</u> 9:00-10:00AM 6:30-7:30PM 7:00-9:00PM 7:45-8:45PM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall Living Sober AA Group – Common Grounds Scout Troop 67 – Sanctuary Fireside AA – Common Grounds
Wednesday, April 30 12:00-1:00PM 12:15-1:00PM 5:45-6:25PM 6:30-7:30PM 6:30-7:30PM 7:00-8:30PM	Prayer Chapel – <i>Chapel</i> Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – <i>Upper Lounge</i> Youth Handbells – <i>Amistad Room</i> MS Youth Group – <i>MS Room</i> /HS Youth Group Party – <i>HS Room</i> New Member Exploration Class – <i>Chapel</i> Sanctuary Choir – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
<u>Thursday, May 1</u> 9:00-10:00AM 12:00-1:00PM 12:00-1:30PM 5:00-7:30PM 6:30-7:30PM 7:00-8:00PM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall AA Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds Theology Discussion Group @ Holidays Pub & Grill, Appleton Pillars Dinner (Outreach) @ Pillars Adult Shelter Community Partnership – Project Isaiah Room Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
<u>Friday, May 2</u> 10:00-11:30AM 7:00-8:00PM 7:00-8:30PM	Bulletin Folders – <i>Library</i> Al-Anon – <i>Upper Lounge</i> N.A – <i>Common Grounds</i>
<u>Saturday, May 3</u> 9:00AM-12:00PM 7:00-8:00PM	Confirmation Class appointments with pastors Fox Valley 94 AA <i>– Common Grounds</i> This Week's Schedule continued on page 13

<u>Sunday, May 4</u>	
9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel
9:30-10:30AM	Children's Ministry: Chat in Chapel – Chapel
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising - Narthex
10:30AM-12:00PM	Kenya Sponsor Reception – Fellowship Hall
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms - Common Grounds
1:00-4:00PM	Confirmation Class appointments with pastor
5:00-6:00PM	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



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

**Childcare** is available for ALL infants and toddlers every Sunday. 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 and alcohol free. All are welcome to join us!

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

**Open Door Announcements** can be shared by emailing <u>opendoor@uccappleton.org</u> 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.

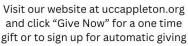
**Sunday School:** Our PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. Kindergarten - fifth graders may enjoy a communion mini-lesson on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Children begin in worship, leave with the director, and return to partake in communion with their families. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

# Ways to Donate to First Congregational UCC, Appleton ~ Thank you for your support.



Giving envelopes and checks can be dropped in the offering plate or mailed to the church







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. 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 upper lounge, narthex or chapel. The nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

#### TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel
9:30-10:30AM	Children's Ministry – CYF Wing
9:45-10:30AM	MS Bible Study - MS Youth Room
10:45-11:45AM	Confirmation Class – HS Youth Room
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms - Common Grounds
10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Gathering Class – Chapel
3:00-4:00PM	Music for Food Concert - Sanctuary
5:00-6:00PM	LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - Choir Room, Sanctuary
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

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

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 | <u>info@uccappleton.org</u> Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600