

First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 17, 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.

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**TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON**

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship with Children’s Mini-Musical – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Lenten Study: Chapter 5 – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
12:00-2:00PM	Project Isaiah – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
4:15-5:15PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
7:00-8:00PM	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](mailto: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 - 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. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 17, 2024 9:30 AM

Fifth Sunday in Lent ~ Children's Mini-Musical, "Creation Celebration!"

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## PRELUDE

*Thy Holy Wings*

Swedish Folk Tune  
Setting by Mark Sedio

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## WELCOME

*\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the beginning God created.

**All: And it was good.**

One: In the present God creates.

**All: And it is good.**

One: In the future God will continue creating.

**All: And it will be good.**

One: Let us gather to worship our God.

**All: Who creates goodness in, through and all around us. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #258

*Morning Has Broken*

BUNESSAN

MISSION MOMENT Commissioning of Back Bay Service Trip

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Genesis 1:1-2:4 Spark Story Bible

CHILDREN'S MINI-MUSICAL *Creation Celebration!*

J. Martin and B. Nix, rev. J. Albrecht; narration, rev. N. Hatch and J. Albrecht

First Congregational Children's Choir, joined by some members of Church School!

1. *A Joyful Song of Praise!* (based on Psalm 150:6)

Narrators: Winry Brahe and Elise Burton

2. *What a Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful World!*

(Quoting stanzas from the hymn *All Things Bright and Beautiful*)

Soloists: Abe Slowinski, Ara Gingerich and Anders Schlabach

Narrator: Ingrid Schlabach

3. *Thank You, Lord!*

Soloists: Winry Brahe and Ingrid Schlabach;  
Abe Slowinski and Anders Schlabach

Narrators: Malin Cartier and Winry Brahe

4. *We Can See the Goodness of the Lord!*

Joined by members of Karma's Mailbox Folk Band

Narrators: Harlow Cartier, Addie Gingerich, and Lou Van Thull;  
Anders Schlabach, Abe Slowinski, and Ara Gingerich

5. *The Garden of the Lord*

\*HYMN #54

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

1 & Refrain: Children, only

2-5 & Refrains: All (*Children joining in on the refrains.*)

*(Children will return to their parents & guardians after the hymn.)*

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

From *Violin Sonata, BWV 1003*

J. S. Bach

*Aria - Andante, Molto espressivo e cantabile*

Transcription by Leopold Godowsky (1870-1938)

\*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 #60

*This Is My Father's World*

TERRA BEATA

## \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Reprise of *We Can See the Goodness of the Lord!*  
Karma's Mailbox

Martin & Nix, rev. Albrecht

## THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Children's Choir:** Winry Brahe, Elise Burton, Harlow Cartier, Malin Cartier,  
Addie Gingerich, Ara Gingerich, McKenna Jahnke, Anders Schlabach,  
Ingrid Schlabach, Abe Slowinski, Evy Van Thull, Lou Van Thull,  
joined by some members of **Church School** on song refrains.

**Director & choral movement:** John Albrecht

**Collaborative pianist:** Dr. Nathan Birkholz

**Percussion:** John Aaholm

**Choreography for "We Can See the Goodness":** Carrie Meier and John Albrecht

**Set design and preparation:** Greg Brahe, John Albrecht, and the Burton, Schlabach,  
Slowinski, and Gingerich families.

**T-shirts:** Sarah Wilterdink, John Albrecht, church office staff

**Church School Communications:** Sarah Wilterdink

**Members of Karma's Mailbox Folk Band:** Tami Johnson, alto & 12 string guitar; Paul  
Nulton, tenor and 6 string guitar; Steve Hirby, baritone and banjo; John Aaholm,  
percussion; Phil Gabrielson, baritone and harmonica.

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Pastor Dianne Droster

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

*Special thanks to our parents & guardians for supporting their children in  
the extra time and effort to prepare for today's **Creation Celebration!***

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, # A-714899. All rights reserved.

**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	Nancy Kandler
Bruce Anderson	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
David Andrus & Family	Richard Miller's son-in law, Rick Kramer
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Stephen Otto's brother, Gerald
Don Brittnacher	Gretchen Revie
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Larry Schiedermayer
Karen Crawford's niece, Lori	Frank and Pat Severin
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	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
Joan Jensen's son, John	Diane White
Jean Jepson	Those living with mental unwellness.
Kathy Lannoye	

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
<b>Childcare Room</b> Infants & Toddlers	<b>Nursery</b>	<b>Little Angel's Room</b> Preschoolers
<b>Sanctuary - Children's Mini-Musical</b> K/1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> /3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Graders		

**USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO**

MARCH USHERS: TEAM 5 Rick Behm, Tim Bauer, Peter Carman  
 EASTER USHERS: 8:45AM-TEAMS 5 & 2, 10:30AM-TEAMS 3 & 4; APRIL USHERS: TEAM 4  
 AUDIO & VIDEO: Shannon Glenn, Rod Reynolds, 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](mailto:info@uccappleton.org).

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Palm Sunday  
*"Something to Celebrate...and it's More Than Palms!"* Pastor Mary Jo Laabs Mark 11:1-11  
 Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; Tanvi Thatai, *soprano*; bell processional

**ON THE CALENDAR**

	Sunday, March 24	9:30AM	Palm Sunday Worship & Children's Ministry
		10:30AM	Annual Youth-Led Pancake Brunch
	<b>Easter Lily Delivery to Church Members on your way home -                  Please let us know in the church office if you would like to be a deliverer!</b>		
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	



## Patience in Transition

Beloved church, we have been in transition a long time. Yet later this month we will finally welcome our second, permanent pastor and begin living into our new co-pastor model. In this new model we are also in the process of hiring a business administrator. We hope to accomplish this soon, but we have no hire date set. Only until we have all three roles filled will we finally be fully staffed. And then it's going to take some time for us all to live into this new model together, for key staff not even here yet to bond and offer their faithful leadership, for you as a church to make adjustments and learn how collaboration works.

My executive coach is the CEO of the Samaritan Counseling Foundation. We have met monthly for over twelve years! He is a guiding light of wisdom and institutional expertise. As he has walked with me through this series of transitions, his sage advice has served me well, and I believe will serve you well. Given the amount of time we have invested, the sacrifices we have made, and the commitment we all share in regarding this new leadership model, we need to take it slow. His advice is to take the rest of the calendar year as a period of careful discernment and slowly enact any permanent changes. Otherwise, we risk not being open to new ways of being church and new creative ideas brought forth in the new leadership structure. The Holy Spirit needs room to speak its whimsical mysteries and offer new possibilities. The coming months will be critical to not overload or force the final delegations to take place quickly.

Part of this process will be the intimate involvement of the Council Advisory Team (CAT) meeting with the new 3-part leadership trio. Their role is to oversee, help make decisions, help delegate, and act as general supervision on behalf of the council. Thus, the final portfolios of the committees, projects, teams, ministries, and work of the co-pastors and business administrator will all be vetted through that team. These three roles heavily influence the life of the entire church. Especially in the beginning, as we see the incredible potential of the Isaiah Project taking off and seek to honor the work of our gifted lay-leadership, CAT will be heavily involved.

In the meantime, I have been serving as the Temporary Head of Staff, a role set in motion by the Church Council last summer whose priorities are threefold: worship, staff development, council support & encouragement. I will be honest and say this has been a real challenge. The headspace that is required to oversee the creation and maintenance of our staff resources and work with the council in setting agendas while re-organizing worship and preaching is significant and fatiguing. But I have been doing this work on



and off, for years. My fifteen years of pastoral experience and additional leadership and HR training has been essential because without that, I would not have been qualified to lead us during this time. Thus, I am so grateful for another strong step to a more sustainable and I believe healthy model.

In his letter to the Colossians, the Apostle Paul writes:

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to **endure everything with patience**, while joyfully giving thanks to the father who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.

I pray that you can endure these coming months with me, with patience. I pray everyone can trust and have patience in this process. We have so much potential and ability to say “yes” to doing so many things. Yet it will take time to pick our “yes’s” which is really a project of the church as a whole with Council and the CAT acting on your behalf. I joyfully give thanks for this long, careful, discernment process that will re-build the church into an even healthier, more vital, and more effective ministry to be a progressive light in the Fox Valley.

Thank God for you, patient Saints!

Pastor Nick

**Project Isaiah Sponsored Event Today:** *I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19.* How will our buildings and campus serve our mission and purpose going forward? How do we live more fully as the Church of the Open Door? How are we part of the neighborhood and how are we making a difference in the community?

**Today, Sunday, March 17, from 12:00-1:00PM**, in the Fellowship Hall, we will welcome one of our guides along the way, Rev. Jane Anderson, Associate Conference Minister of the Wisconsin Conference UCC. She will be sharing trends and happenings at state and national levels and responding to questions about the future of Protestant congregations like ours. This information is important grounding as we move ahead with the transformation of our church. Open to all, however, anyone joining a Project Isaiah Task Force is especially encouraged to attend. Light lunch will be served. If unable to attend in person, here is a Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82779383371?pwd=bTJhT3g2cnZOUFE1bmdvYmp5dXBFdz09> Meeting ID: 827 7938 3371 Passcode: 936048

## The Open Door Announcements

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

**Help Us Fill the Box in the Narthex!** Collecting through **March 24** for Back Bay Mission. 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**, 7:00-8:30PM, 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=S0RtVFNFPOG5oRnVvSEVnUWQyVGV0dz09>; Meeting ID: 873 5607 8477; Passcode: 107144

**Coffee Hosts:** To those who have expressed interest in hosting coffee, thanks for the great response over the past two months. Now is the time to check your calendars and sign up again. We need Sunday coffee hour help starting mid-April. Please sign up on the Coffee Hour sheets on the table near the church library window. Contact Mary Sullivan with questions – [msullivan623@yahoo.com](mailto:msullivan623@yahoo.com) or 920-740-9452.

**Book Discussion: *Becoming Kin*, by Patty Krawec. 2022. 240 pp.:** On **March 21**, 2024, First Congregational UCC’s Theology Discussion Group will begin discussing its next book, *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Forgetting the Past and Reimagining the 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.

**These are the most recent requests from NOAHH:** Please contact Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 for pickup/delivery.

- A visa gift card for a 14-year-old who is in shelter care waiting to transition to foster care and has never been to the mall.
- A client needs a bed (no particular size) because he has been forced to move 3 times at no fault of his own. He's in a subsidized apartment with no furniture and very little money.
- 2 queen size bed frames and mattresses are needed for a household of numerous families living together.
- A mom who is working on reunification with her children needs a baby stroller, a baby carrier, and baby blankets.

**A Note from the Mental Health Task Force:** Neurodiversity Celebration Week takes place from Monday, March 18 to Sunday, March 24. **What is neurodiversity?** Depending on how our brains are wired, people think, move, process information, and communicate differently. Neurodiversity is a term to include alternative thinking styles such as ADHD, Autism, dyslexia, DCD (dyspraxia), and dyscalculia. Neurodiversity is about recognizing those who think differently no matter what the label might be. Did you know that 15-20% of the population has a neurological difference? Instead of labeling people as having deficits or disorders, using the word it takes a balanced look at a person's strengths and challenges. **Want to learn more.** Take time this week to celebrate this week by learning more about neurodiversity! Neurodiversity Celebration Week in partnership with EXXIC Empowering Diversity is hosting 24 different online sessions to learn more about this topic. The sessions cover things such as Introduction to Neurodiversity, Language and Communication, LGBTQIA+ the 'Double Rainbow' Intersection, and Neurodiversity for Parents and Caregivers, to name a few. You can access these sessions by going to: <https://www.neurodiversityweek.com> The sessions are scheduled at GMT (Greenwich Mean Time) so all the sessions will be recorded for later access if you register. All sessions are free. In addition, the website has a wealth of articles and resources. It is a great opportunity to learn more! Share with your family and friends.

**Annual Meeting Invitation:** You are cordially invited to attend the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, Saturday, **April 20, 2024, 9:00AM-2:00PM** at Daycholah Center, UCCI, W1010 Spring Grove Rd, Ripon, WI 54971. The Annual Meeting is the one time of year we gather as an association for fellowship, to conduct necessary business of the association (budget, elections and ratification of committee reports) and education. We encourage all Northeast Association churches to have representation at the meeting. Everyone who is eligible to vote must be registered for the meeting, including clergy and delegates, so be sure to register by April 4. [Register for the Northeast Association meeting here](#)

**Call-to-Connect Callers Needed:** Would you be willing to call 1 or 2 members once a month who are over 80? Check with Betty Masaros at 920-733-1665 ([tworaye@aol.com](mailto:tworaye@aol.com)) or Pastor Mary Jo at 920-851-9455 ([mlaabs@uccappleton.org](mailto:mlaabs@uccappleton.org)) for details.



### Register for the 2024 FCUCC Youth Trip

July 16 - 20, 2024

Registrations due by April 10



Information and Registration paperwork can be found on the church and youth group social media, our website, and hard copies in the office. Pick them up anytime. To help with the fundraising events, sign up online or open this link: [Sign up here.](#)

Trip fundraisers include:

**Kwik Trip Card Sales:** Cards can be purchased on the first Sundays after worship in the narthex, during the weekdays in the church office, or from our youth trip attendees.

**Palm Sunday Youth-Led Pancake Breakfast:** We need youth to be bakers, cleaners, sellers, and smilers! **Those not attending the trip are still very encouraged to come have fun cooking with us that morning as we serve as God's hands!!**



### 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."

**Voting Information** for the proposed constitutional changes in the upcoming April 2 ballot/constitutional amendments which are on the ballot. In-person absentee voting is from Tuesday, March 19 to Sunday, March 31, 2024.



**Wisconsin constitutional amendments are on the April ballot. These will be binding and added to our Constitution if passed. Often the writing of the amendments is ambiguous, making it hard to understand...however, when assessing the immediate impact they will have on how our elections are run, they are damaging to voter access and an additional constitutional amendment is not necessary. The Wisconsin Council of Churches and the nonpartisan LWV Wisconsin is urging voters to **Vote No**.**

The questions on voters' ballots:

**✗ Question 1:** *"Use of private funds in election administration.* Shall section 7 (1) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that private donations and grants may not be applied for, accepted, expended, or used in connection with the conduct of any primary, election, or referendum?"

**Question 1:** *"Use of private funds in election administration.*

Elections need to be fully funded. This amendment reduces the options for municipal governments looking for outside sources of funding for elections without providing alternative resources. This change will shift the burden even further onto taxpayers.

1. This change will have a negative impact on the voter experience and could lead to long lines and wait times at polling places, consolidated polling places, longer waits for election night results, and more due to lack of funding.
2. This change does not belong in our constitution. If the legislature wants to make this change, they should work with the governor to do so in a way that ensures our elections are fully funded.
3. Vote No on question 1 to ensure our clerks have the support and money they need to keep our elections running smoothly and securely.

**✗ Question 2:** *"Election officials.* Shall section 7 (2) of article III of the constitution be created to provide that only election officials designated by law may perform tasks in the conduct of primaries, elections, and referendums?"

**Question 2:** *"Election officials.*

Elections are a lot of work. Clerks rely on a whole host of outside experts, volunteers, and community members to make sure our elections are run smoothly and the results are accurate.

1. Voter education organizations, like LWV, play a critical role in informing the public about their right to vote. This proposed change to our constitution ties the hands of our election officials from getting the outside support they need for our elections to function.

2. This change does not belong in our constitution. If the legislature wants to make this change, they should work with the governor to do so in a way that ensures our clerks are able to get the support they need to run our elections.
3. Vote No to question 2 to ensure our clerks have the support they need to run our elections and voters have the support they need to make informed decisions for our state.

Click [HERE](#) for more information. Click [HERE](#) for a recording of a presentation discussing these proposed amendments.

Please help spread the word. Most voters are unaware of these proposed amendments.

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### This Week's Schedule

#### Monday, March 18

4:00-6:00PM	Outreach Ministry - <i>Upper Lounge, Zoom</i>
6:30-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir - <i>Sanctuary</i>
7:00-8:30PM	Economic Justice Work Group Meeting - <i>Zoom</i>

#### Tuesday, March 19

9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
1:00-2:30PM	Chrysalis - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
4:00-5:00PM	Memorial Garden - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-8:00PM	Safety Committee - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA - <i>Common Grounds</i>
7:45-8:45PM	Fireside AA - <i>Common Grounds</i>

#### Wednesday, March 20

10:00-11:00AM	Adult Ed - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
12:15-1:00PM	Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
2:00-3:00PM	Peabody/Heritage Worship - <i>Peabody Manor</i>
5:30-8:30PM	Childcare - <i>Childcare Room</i>
5:45-6:25PM	Youth Handbells - <i>Amistad Room</i>
6:30-7:30PM	MS Youth Group Hide Eggs for Easter - <i>MS Youth Room</i>
6:30-7:30PM	HS Youth Group @ <i>Pillars</i>
6:30-7:30PM	Bible Study of Romans - <i>Zoom only</i>
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir - <i>Sanctuary, Choir Room</i>

#### Thursday, March 21

9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
11:00AM-12:30PM	Finance Committee Meeting - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
12:00-1:00PM	AA - Search for Serenity Group - <i>Common Grounds</i>
12:00-1:30PM	Theology Discussion Group - <i>Chefo's Pancake House</i>
6:00-8:00PM	SOAR Fox Cities - <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
6:30-8:00PM	Family/Friends NAMI Mental Illness Support Group - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA - <i>Common Grounds</i>

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

Friday, March 22

8:30AM-12:00PM

7:00-8:00PM

7:00-8:30PM

Organ tuning - *Sanctuary*

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, March 23

7:00-8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, March 24 ~ Palm Sunday

9:25AM-12:00PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

9:30-10:30AM

Sunday Worship - *Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge*

9:30-10:30AM

Children's Ministry - *CYF Wing*

10:30-11:30AM

Children's Choir - *Choir Room*

10:30AM-2:30PM

Youth-Led Pancake Breakfast - *Fellowship Hall, River Room, Kitchen*

10:45-11:45AM

Small Group for Parents - *HS Youth Room*

10:45AM-12:00PM

Lenten Study: Chapter 6 - *Upper Lounge*

4:15-5:15PM

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*

Youth-Led Palm Sunday  
**Pancake Breakfast**

March 24  
10:30 - 11:30AM  
Fellowship Hall

**Pancakes, Berries, Sausages & More**  
gluten-free & dairy free pancakes available

\$5.00 each/\$15.00 per family\*  
\*Suggested Donation

Proceeds support the  
Youth Mission Trip

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

### **PALM SUNDAY ~ March 24, 2024 ~ 9:30AM**

This service will feature an opening processional beginning in the narthex with bells and palms, the Sanctuary Choir, and a Scholar soloist.

This service will also be livestreamed.

Youth-led pancake breakfast, Kwik Trip fundraiser, and stock sales 10:30-11:30AM.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY ~ March 28, 2024 ~ 7:00PM**

This service will be a Tenebrae Service with Communion. Pastor Nick and Pastor Mary Jo will lead the service, and the Sanctuary Choir and a Scholar soloist will be featured.

This service will also be livestreamed.

### **GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL SERVICE ~ March 29, 2024 ~ 12:00PM**

This service will be held **at Zion Lutheran Church**, 912 N. Oneida Street, Appleton.

It is held in partnership with six downtown churches and will feature a moving and creative worship experience. The Affordable Housing Project will be the recipient of this service's offering. If you would like to join in singing with the Ecumenical Choir at this service, contact John Albrecht at [jalbrecht@uccappleton.org](mailto:jalbrecht@uccappleton.org).

### **EASTER SUNDAY ~ March 31, 2024 ~ 8:45AM and 10:30AM**

These services will feature the LU Faculty Brass Quintet & Timpani, Sanctuary Choir, LU Music Scholars, and a Scholar soloist.

Both Easter services will also be livestreamed.

Childcare will be available during the 8:45AM service.

Children should bring a basket or bag to take home goodies they'll collect during our Massive Egg Hunt between services, at 9:45AM.

**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.**



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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