

First Congregational United Church of Christ

February 18, 2024



Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – <i>Chapel, Sanctuary, Upper Lounge</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30-11:30AM	3rd Sunday Family Day: Chat After Church – <i>Nursery, Art Kitchen</i>
10:30-11:45AM	Children’s Choir/Musical Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Small Group for Parents – <i>CYF HS Room</i>
10:45AM-12:00PM	Lenten Study: Six Weeks – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>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 Leigh Grube.

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 18, 2024 9:30 AM
First Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

Out of the Depths I Cry to You (Aus tiefer Not)

Tune by Martin Luther

Setting by Jean Langlais (1907-1991)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the place, and this is the time;

**All: Here and now, God wants to break into our experience:
to change our minds, to lift our hearts,
to rearrange our lives, to guide our ways,**

One: to make us see the world and all of life in a new light;

All: to fill us with hope, joy, and certainty for the future,

One: to help us to be worthy servants as our lives unfold in God's name.

All: This is the place, as are all places; this is the time, as are all times.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

Oh, Love, How Deep

DEO GRACIAS

St. 1 & 2: All

St. 3: Women and treble voices

St. 4: Organ, only

St. 5: All

St. 6: Men and low voices

St. 7: 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.)

SOLO

If With All Your Hearts from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-47)

Preston Parker, *tenor*

Jesus is baptized and tempted

About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness."

At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him.

Jesus' message

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

SERMON "Testing!"

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

*HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

When We Are Tested

SLANE

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

Agnus Dei

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Miserere nobis.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, Have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, Dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, Grant us peace.

LU Music Scholars with Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

*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 (see bulletin page 7)

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

ST. FLAVIAN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Deo Gracias (Oh, Love, How Deep)

15th c. English Tune

Setting by Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch

Pastor Mary Jo Laabs

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

LU Music Scholars

Preston Parker, *tenor*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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

Oh, Love, How Deep



1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high, be - yond all
2 God sent no an - gel to our race, of high - er
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore his ho - ly
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught; for us his



thought and fan - ta - sy, that God, the Son of
or of low - er place, but wore the robe of
fast and hun - gered sore; for us temp - ta - tion
dai - ly works he wrought, by words and signs and



God, should take our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
hu - man frame, in Christ our Lord to this world came.
sharp he knew; for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.
ac - tions thus still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad:
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

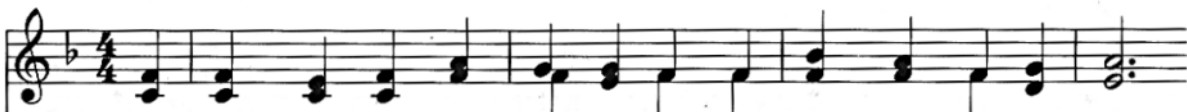


food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13



1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,



Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



Unflinching in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOCATIONS FOR TODAY

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

USHER TEAMS & AUDIO & VIDEO

FEBRUARY USHERS: TEAM 1 Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette
 MARCH USHERS: TEAM 5
 AUDIO & VIDEO: JD Jicha, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

"Gaining the World" Pastor Nick Hatch Mark 8:31-38
 Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR

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

WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community

Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

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

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

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

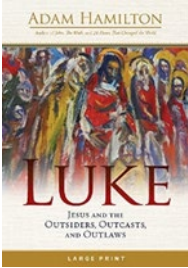
The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events,

please visit our website, weekly e-newsletters, and social media.

Church Library News: Each month in 2024 the library will focus on a theme and display books related to the theme. In February our theme is Black History Month. Please check the display - you may find something worth reading.

The Small Group for Parents is starting a new format in which we will be going through discussion questions related to the Scripture reading from service (no prep required!) beginning today, 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.



Lent Book Study: The Adult Education committee invites you to a book study: *“Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws,”* by Adam Hamilton. **Sundays during Lent from 10:45AM -12:00PM** beginning February 18 and running through 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.

NOAAH's Needs:

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

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

WISDOM and Partners Host End the Lockdowns Community Forum in Green Bay: on Thursday, **March 7, 2024**, from 6:00-8:00PM at St. Norbert College (Mulva Library) 400

3rd Street, De Pere, WI 54115. Join us to meet Green Bay elected officials, learn about WISDOM's End the Lockdowns Campaign and provide input on transformational justice priorities in Wisconsin. This event follows successful events in Milwaukee and Madison with elected officials.



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

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

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

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

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

Family Lenten Gift Bags: Thanks to your generous Joyful Noise donations, a huge sale on the newly released "Twas the Season of Lent" book, a team effort of our staff, and our overall desire to share the wonder of Jesus' resurrection with our families... we are able to provide meaningful Family Lenten Gift Bags.

Each young family will receive one copy of the book. Each individual child and youth will receive the components needed to create an amazing Resurrection Garden as well as an age-appropriate Lenten Countdown to Easter with devotions.

Follow us on Facebook to see the photos families post of their growing gardens throughout Lent!





Great Lakes Regional UCC Youth Event
 at Augustana College in IL, July 16-20,
 with a bonding adventure the day
 before and after with just FCUCC youth.

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

Chaperones needed!

Voluntary Parent Q&A Session: Sunday, February 25
 in-person in the CYF Theater, or via Zoom.
 Email Sarah questions any other time, too!

Grades Incoming 9th - Outgoing 12th
 7 & 8th Grade IF there's enough interest to bring a
 middle school group.

Bring friends from outside our church!

Max cost of \$350 per youth.

Initial Commitment Form will be available shortly
 and is due by April 1.



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."

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 2024 Back Bay Mission trip is scheduled for **April 7-13**. Volunteers will work with the housing rehabilitation ministry. There are also opportunities to work at the Micah Day Center and the food pantry. Join us at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi for some fun and fellowship. I need to know by March 1 if you are interested in joining us. Please contact Ken Jahnke at kjahnke@new.rr.com or call 920-427-5996 with your questions.



Check out the Kwik Trip Fundraising Insert in the bulletin today!

Support our youth fundraiser (for their Youth Mission Trip in July) by purchasing Kwik Trip cards for car washes, groceries, and gas!
Every card purchase helps!

This Week's Schedule

Monday, February 19

10:45-11:45AM

3:30-5:30PM

5:00-7:00PM

6:30-8:30PM

7:00-8:30PM

Tuesday, February 20

9:00-10:00AM

11:00AM-12:00PM

1:00-2:30PM

4:00-6:00PM

6:30-8:00PM

6:30-7:30PM

7:45-8:45PM

Economic Justice Work Group – *Upper Lounge & Zoom*

Outreach Ministry – *Upper Lounge & Zoom*

Kenya Partnership Meeting – *Common Grounds*

Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Economic Justice Work Group – *Upper Lounge & Zoom*

Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*

HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Safety Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

Living Sober AA Group – *Common Grounds*

Fireside AA Group – *Common Grounds*

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

Wednesday, February 21

10:00-11:00AM

Adult Ed - *Upper Lounge*

12:15-1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation - *Upper Lounge*

2:00-3:00PM

Peabody/Heritage Worship - *Peabody Chapel*

5:30-7:30PM

Childcare - *Childcare Room*

5:45-6:25PM

Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*

6:30-7:30PM

MS Youth Community Collaborations - *@ Eagle Point*

6:30-7:30PM

HS Youth - *@ Pillars Adult & Family Shelter*

6:30-7:30PM

Bible Study of Romans - *Zoom only*

7:00-8:30PM

Sanctuary Choir - *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, February 22

9:00-10:00AM

Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

12:00-1:00PM

AA - Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

1:00-6:00PM

HR Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

6:30-8:00PM

SOAR Fox Cities - *Fellowship Hall*

7:00-8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, February 23

7:00-8:00PM

Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

7:00-8:30PM

N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, February 24

7:00-8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, February 25

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*

10:30-11:45AM

Children's Choir/Musical Rehearsal - *Choir Room*

10:30-11:30AM

Youth Trip Q&A Session - *MS Youth Room*

10:45-11:45AM

Small Group for Parents - *CYF High School Room*

10:45AM-12:00PM

Lenten Study - *Upper Lounge*

4:15-5:15 PM

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*

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 | firstcongoappleton.org
Office hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00AM – 3:00PM