

First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 19, 2024

*When the day of
Pentecost had come,
they were all together
in one place.*

Acts 2:1

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	Churchwide Pentecost Picnic – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
10:30AM-12:00PM	Isaiah Project Meeting – <i>Isaiah Project Room</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Private Event – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
4:30-5:30PM	LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>
6:00-7:00PM	Music for Food Concert – <i>Sanctuary</i>
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds</i>
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</i>

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the Sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the Chapel, Upper Lounge, or Narthex. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

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

Childcare is available for ALL infants and toddlers. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

Communion: The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. Communion elements are gluten free. All are welcome to join us!

Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton: We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates, checks can be mailed to the church, you can visit our webpage and click “Give,” or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.

**Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.*

Flowers: Today’s flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

Hearing Loop: Need help hearing our service? Ask an usher. They can help get you in the loop!

Online Streaming and Podcasting are available on Facebook: FCUCCAppleton or Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton.



Open Door Announcements can be shared by emailing opendoor@uccappleton.org or calling the office.

References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

Sunday School: Our PreK - 5th graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

May 19, 2024 9:30AM

Pentecost ~ New Member Sunday ~ Baptism Sunday ~ Picnic Sunday

PRELUDE

O Living Breath of God (Varvindar friska)

Swedish Folk Tune

Setting by Benjamin Culli (b. 1975)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

PROCESSIONAL FOR YOUTH HANDBELLS

John Albrecht

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

INTROIT

Hail Thee, Festival Day!

SALVE FESTA DIES

arr. John Behnke

Youth Handbells

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin pages 9 & 10)

Hail Thee, Festival Day!

SALVE FESTA DIES

Refrain: All

1 & 2: Choir

3 - 6: All

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

Today we welcome Patti Zachow, Alyson Newhouse, Rhonda Riedl,
Lexie Smith, Katherine Willis Pershey, Ben Pershey,
Rich Petrasko, Cheri Petrasko, Nick Eisenschink, and Emily Eisenschink.

*UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH (in unison)

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

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.)

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

**The Baptism of Sullivan Dragon Verhagen
Parents: Brandon Verhagen and Jenna Herman-Verhagen
Godparents: Kelly Herman, Jason Verhagen**

**The Baptism of Cooper James Herbst
Parents: Ethan and Tess Herbst
Godparents: Shannon Herbst, Mark Verhyen**

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND SPONSORS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (when prompted):

All: We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING

We give you thanks, O Holy One, mother and father of all the faithful, for your children and for the grace acknowledged here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to nurture them in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. Give these children strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, freedom of love and hope in new life, through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

Stanzas 1 & 2, only

ANTHEM

Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated

VIENNA

arr. S. Tucker

Youth Handbells

SCRIPTURE READING Acts 2:1-4

Jan Williamsen

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

SERMON *"Pure Pentecost"*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Nick Hatch

(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

Jubilate Deo (Psalm 100: 1, 2, 5)

Peter Angela (b. 1988)

Sanctuary Choir

*Jubilate Deo, omis terra; servite Domino in laetitia,
Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

*Introite in conspectu ejus in exultatione.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

*Quoniam suavis est Dominus: in aeternum misericordia ejus,
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting;
et usque in generationem et generationem veritas ejus.
and his truth endureth to all generations.*

*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.**

RECOGNIZING & UNISON BLESSING OUR GRADUATES

**May you have wisdom in heart and mind;
faithfulness to seek God's intentions for your life;
and courage to face challenges with grace.
May you trust that wherever you go, whatever you do,
God's love will always see you through.**

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 11)

Come Down, O Love Divine

DOWN AMPNEY

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Come Holy Ghost, Lord God

Setting by Andreas Nicolaus Vetter (1666-1734)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nick Hatch

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

Pastor Dianne Droster

Jan Williamsen, *lay reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

Sanctuary Choir

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

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

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

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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All of the wonderful offerings
First Congregational UCC has are
only possible thanks to our volunteers!
WE ALL THANK YOU!

**Join us today after worship in Fellowship Hall for our
End of Year Celebration/Pentecost Picnic and Graduation Cake!**

- * Picnic lunch (includes vegetarian and gluten-free options), including brats and dogs lovingly prepared by Ron and Cheryl Reissmann
- * Free-will donations appreciated
- * Music by "Karma's Mailbox Unplugged"



WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

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

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

JUNE USHERS: **TEAM 1 & 5**

AUDIO & VIDEO: JD Jicha, Rod Reynolds, Matt Feuerhelm

Ushers Needed: 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. 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. If you wish to participate or have questions you are encouraged to call the church office at 920-733-7393 or send an email to info@uccappleton.org.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Nick Hatch John 3:1-17

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

ON THE CALENDAR		
Sunday, June 2	10:30-11:30AM	Service Sunday after worship
Sunday, June 30	10:30-11:30AM	Approve 6-month Budget
Monday, July 8 -Friday, July 12	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School (times approx.)
Tuesday, July 16 -Saturday, July 20		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock Island, IL

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.

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

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

Thank you!

Hail Thee, Festival Day!

Refrain



Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;



day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.



<i>Easter</i>	1	All	the	fair	beau - ty	of	earth	from the
<i>Ascension</i>	1	He	who	was	nailed	to	cross	is . .
<i>Pentecost</i>	1	Bright	and	in	like - ness	of	fire,	on . .
	3	God	the	Al -	might - y,	the	Lord,	the . .
	5	Spir -	it	of	life	and	of pow'r,	now . .



death	of	the	win -	ter	a - ris -	ing!	Ev -	'ry	good
rul -	er	and	Lord	of	all	peo -	ple.	All	things
those	who	a -	wait	his	ap -	pear -	ing,	he	whom
rul -	er	of	earth	and	the	heav -	ens,	guard	us
flow	in	us,	fount	of	our	be -	ing,	light	that
									en -

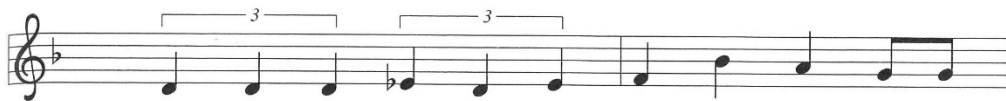


gift	of	the	year	now	with	its	mas -	ter	re -	turns:
at -	ed	on	earth	sing	to	the	glo -	ry	of	God:
Lord	had	fore -	told	sud -	den -	ly,	swift -	ly	de -	scends:
harm	with	-	out;	cleanse	us	from	e -	vil	with -	in:
light -	ens	us	all,	life	that	in	all	may	a -	bide:

Refrain

Hail Thee, Festival Day! continued on page 10...

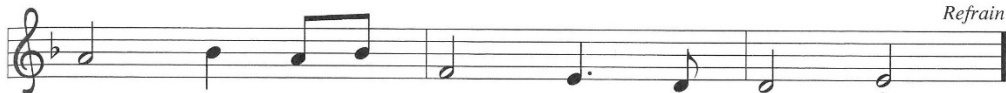
...Hail Thee, Festival Day! continued from page 9



Easter 2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of
Ascension 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
Pentecost 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
 4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our
 6 Praise to the giv - er of good! O Lov - er and



life and cre - a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of
 glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -
 glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -
 minds, great re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -
 Au - thor of con - cord, pour out your balm on our



death, new life you give to us all:
 bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:
 bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:
 preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God:
 days; or - der our ways in your peace:

Text: Venantius Honorius Fortunatus, 530–609; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

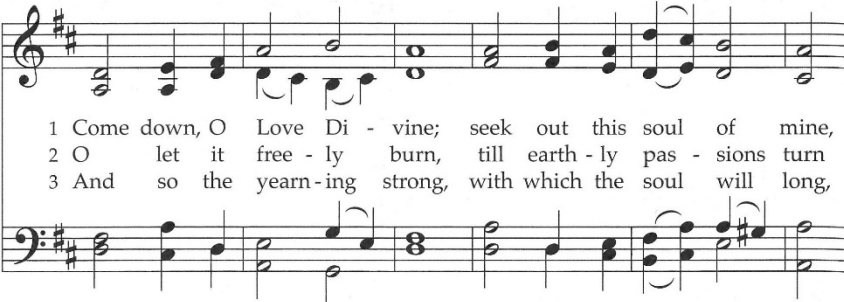
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Music © Oxford University Press

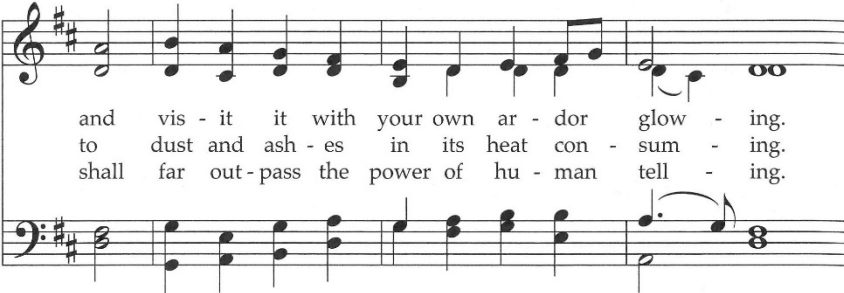
SALVE FESTA DIES

Irregular


Come Down, O Love Divine



1 Come down, O Love Di - vine; seek out this soul of mine,
 2 O let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions turn
 3 And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will long,



and vis - it it with your own ar - dor glow - ing.
 to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing.
 shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing.



O Com - fort - er, draw near; with - in my heart ap - pear,
 And let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 For none can guess God's grace, till Love cre - ates a place



and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.

This *lauda spirituale*, a kind of vernacular Italian sacred song from the late Middle Ages and Renaissance, was translated into English in the 19th century but received little notice until this tune (named for the composer's birthplace) was created for *The English Hymnal*.

TEXT: Bianco da Siena, c. 1367; trans. Richard Frederick Littledale, 1867, alt.
 MUSIC: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

DOWN AMPNEY
 6.6.11.D

The Open Door Announcements

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

CYF News:

Today: Pentecost discussion during our "last official day" of CM for this program year!

- Take home a Summer Sendoff Bag that includes activities to encourage family interactions with Jesus, both in church and out.
- Come to the Pentecost Picnic after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

May 26: Video & Popcorn in the Theater

June 2 and Beyond: Infants through kindergartners are welcome to go to the childcare room during the summer months! 1st graders and older may bring their Summer Sendoff Bags to work on in church, grab a pew bag to bring by their parents, or enjoy the service from the PrayGround. Stay tuned for a few special days of CM on Sundays this summer!

July 8-12: Join Us at Vacation Bible School (VBS) - Community Love...racial justice,



friendships, food justice, creation care, bible stories, service projects, crafts, music, outdoor adventures...

Each day will start at 9:00AM. We'll be done at 11:30AM or 12:00PM

Please let us know if you can be a teacher's helper,

FOR EVEN JUST ONE MORNING, of VBS.

To register scan the QR Code or sign up on Realm.

NOAHH Requests:

- A man just released from prison needs a bike that will withstand 400 pounds, a spring jacket size 5XT, and a monthly bus pass.
- A man on a fixed income needs a pair of athletic shoes size 11. These can be new or gently used.
- A family residing in a motel needs toys for toddlers ages one and two. There is also a 7-month-old who would benefit from toys/teethers.
- A Native American boy living in foster care would like to connect to his culture by receiving a handheld drum.

NOAHH would like to thank us for our donations. I'm told we are the best of donors. Thank you, Sue Ahrens

Please get in touch with Barb Mincheff 920-832-5515 for pickup and delivery.

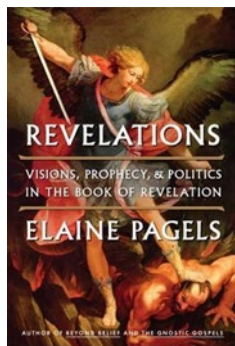
The Economic Justice Work Group will be hosting guest presenters from the Fox Cities Housing Coalition's (FCHC) Affordable Housing Committee to address the question of "Why Should We Care About Affordable Housing?" They will review FCHC history and its role in tackling housing insecurity in our community. Please join us for this presentation on Monday, **May 20, 2024, 7:00PM** via Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88083619591?pwd=UINOMDBKUnV5NG1FM EQ5LOdqU0dqZz09> Meeting ID: 880 8361 9591 Passcode: 569538

Service Sunday is Around the Corner! This all-church, end-of-program year event is an opportunity to participate in activities that express our care for our church and for our community. After the **June 2** worship service, there will be four or five activities to choose from, suitable for all ages, some outdoors and some indoors, for example, working at Plant-A-Row or weeding on our grounds, tying fleece blankets, or pew polishing. Activities will be followed by a light lunch/sack lunches in the Fellowship Hall. Come to Service Sunday dressed for the occasion in comfortable, washable clothes.



Book Discussion: *Revelations*, by Elaine Pagels. 2012. 246 pp. On Thursday, **June 6, 2024**, First Congregational's Theology Discussion Group will begin discussing its next book, *Revelations: Visions, Prophecy, and Politics in the Book of Revelation*. In this startling and timely book, Pagels returns The Book of Revelation to its historical origin, written as its author John of Patmos took aim at the Roman Empire after what is now known as "the Jewish War," in 66 CE. Militant Jews in Jerusalem waged an all-out war against Rome's occupation of Judea, and their defeat resulted in the desecration of Jerusalem and its Great Temple. Pagels interprets Revelation as a scathing attack on the decadence of Rome. Soon after, however, a new sect known as "Christians" seized on John's text as a weapon against heresy and infidels of all kinds – including those Christians who dissented from the young faith's increasingly rigid doctrines and hierarchies.



If you enjoy reading and discussing good books on themes of religion, spirituality, justice, and growth in faith, we invite you to join us on June 6 as Theo Group begins reading this new book together. We meet 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.

Craft Circle Update: The Saturday morning Craft Circle is on hiatus until the fall. Join us again Saturday, **September 7**.

Save the Date: Women's Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp! Friday, **September 27** – Sunday, **September 29**, 2024. We are fortunate to have this year's women's retreat at the end of September at Moon Beach! There should not be any snow, and we should be able to use the canoes and kayaks! Pastor Katherine will lead the retreat. She welcomes all new and returning women to spend a wonderful weekend. Registration and payment details will be announced soon. Please sign up soon to help us better plan the retreat. (If you find you need to cancel later, refunds will be given when requested early. Barb will handle those requests.) If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling at buehling@gmail.com or 920-475-2212.



Reminder: Kwik Trip cards (to support the 2024 Youth Trip) are available for purchase on the first Sunday of the month (next date June 2) after worship in the narthex, and ALWAYS available for purchase in the church office during office hours.

**THE KAUTSKY STUDIO
PERFORMS MUSIC FOR FOOD**

*FREE ADMISSION WITH SUGGESTED DONATION. ALL
PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO A FOOD PANTRY.*



**MAY 19TH
6:00 PM**

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

724 E. SOUTH RIVER ST
APPLETON, WI

PIANO STUDENTS OF
CATHERINE KAUTSKY
PRESENT A PROGRAM OF
MOZART, DEBUSSY,
CHOPIN, SCRIBIN, AND
MORE TO HELP COMBAT
FOOD INSECURITY IN
THEIR COMMUNITY.

MORE INFO AT
MUSICFORFOOD.NET/APPLETON/KAUTSKYSTUDIO24

Our LU Music Scholars Share Summer Plans and Their Thanks!

Dana Abbo*/Soprano/Graduating/San Francisco, CA

Plans for the summer: Production stage managing for a chamber music festival.

Thank you, First Congregational, for being an incredibly supportive musical community over the last three years! I will miss you all greatly.

Curtis Anderson/Bass-Baritone/Senior/Minot, ND

Plans for the summer: Gardening, practicing, cooking, and playing with my newborn nephew.

Thank you, First Congregational, for the wonderful music and powerful community.

Daniel Boyd*/Bass-Baritone/Graduating/Houston, TX

Plans for the summer: Seagle Festival, return to Houston, Texas

Thank you, First Congregational, for inviting me to the table to join worship and fellowship for all these years.

Evan Carlson/Tenor/Sophomore/Oak Brook, IL

Plans for the summer: Getting a summer job and relaxing as much as possible.

Thank you, First Congregational, for being such a warm and welcoming community for me to share my voice in, and for making me feel like I'm at Lawrence for a reason.

Isabella Cerdan/Soprano 2/Junior/Appleton, WI

Plans for the summer: Being a server at Waverly Beach and hopefully performing a few times during the summer (plan still in the works!)

Thank you, First Congregational, for being so welcoming to me during my first year here! It's been a fun year, and I'm looking forward to what's in store for next year!

Sam Dill/Alto/Senior (4/4 years)/Houston, TX

Plans for the summer: Going to Schenectady, NY to play recorder at Amherst Early Music Festival!

Thank you, First Congregational, for providing a place for community and musical growth with kind and caring individuals.

Ben Keating/Tenor/Senior/Champaign-Urbana, IL

Plans for the summer: I will be at various music festivals and competitions this summer and, in between, replenishing after a busy academic year.

Thank you, First Congregational, for being a kind and supportive community!

Casey Joan Kollman (CJ)* / A Soprano who sings Alto/Graduating/Muskego, WI
Plans for the summer: A work-study with a dance company in Milwaukee, voice and acting lessons, potential grad-school audition prep and singing with the MSO choir!
Thank you, First Congregational, for providing me with a spiritual home away from home, allowing me to be myself for the almost 4 years I've sung with and for you, and giving me the best alto section ever. ❤️

Preston Parker / Tenor / Super Senior / Houston, TX
Plans for the summer: Help out my grandmothers around the house, the yard, and however else I can. And create music.
Thank you, First Congregational, for the oceans of love and support. I'm not sure where I'd be now without it.

Tanvi Thatai / Soprano / 5th year / Sterling, VA
Plans for the summer: Traveling to Italy for a summer opera program where I will be performing Flora in La Traviata by Giuseppe Verdi.
Thank you, First Congregational for your unconditional support and creating an environment so wonderful to sing in!

*Graduates



Our LU Music Scholars Invite You to Their Spring Recitals!

Casey Kollman, soprano, gives her final senior performance at Lawrence on **Sunday, May 19, 1:00PM in Harper Hall**. This performance is serving as her senior project for both my Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and my Bachelor of Arts in Theatre Arts. It will be livestreamed via the LU livestream:

<https://livestream.com/lawrenceuniversity>

Daniel Boyd, bass- baritone and graduating senior, and **Organist Dr. Daniel Schwandt** present *Morning Prayer: An hour of sacred music centered around prayers for all needs*. This recital features works spanning many musical periods from Bach to Mendelssohn to Malotte. Take time to listen and reflect on the power of prayer."
Saturday, May 25, 11:00AM in our Sanctuary at First Congregational.

Ben Keating, piano (Scholar tenor), and **Sam Dill, alto**, share their Junior Recital.
Monday, May 27, 5:00PM in Harper Hall.

Our organist, **Dr. Nathan Birkholz**, will be collaborating on a senior voice recital on **Saturday, May 18, 8:00PM in Harper Hall** with baritone Henry Roach. They will be performing works by Handel, Schumann, Roussel, Poulenc, Stravinsky, and Vaughan Williams.



Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. Revelation 3:22

Dear friends in Christ:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, it is my privilege to invite you to attend the 2024 Annual Meeting, to be held June 7-9 at the Green Lake Conference Center in Green Lake. [Register now](#).

The Annual Meeting theme – “Where God Is Still Speaking: Listening in New Ways” – recalls the “God Is Still Speaking” marketing campaign launched by the UCC two decades ago, inspired by a quote attributed to comedian Gracie Allen: “Never place a period where God has placed a comma.”

As the church navigates a changing religious landscape, prayerful listening to God and one another will be essential as collectively we imagine and live out new ways of being church. So, too, we must listen to the “spiritual but not so religious” in our midst, as we strive to bridge the gulf between church-as-rigid-institution and church-as-fluid-vessel-of-God’s love.

Annual Meeting will begin with an opening litany at 1 p.m. Friday, June 7, to be followed by a business meeting and an address by Conference Minister Franz Rigert. After opening worship on Saturday morning, UCC Acting Associate General Minister Shari Prestemon will grapple with the question of how to listen to God in a world full of conflict in her keynote address, “Tuning In and Staying Present.”

Breakout sessions and a business meeting will follow. Preacher at Saturday afternoon’s closing worship will be the Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, professor of worship and preaching and dean of the chapel at Eden Theological Seminary.

Sunday morning will offer optional wellness and spirituality breakouts at Daycholah Center, the United Church Camps, Inc. site a few minutes’ drive from the conference center.

I encourage everyone to consider attending a pre-meeting workshop, Engaging Worship Planning: Revelation, Response, Resources, scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, June 6. The session will be led by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay, the UCC’s minister for worship and theology. Separate registration is required.

Of course, Annual Meeting is about more than the business of our Conference. It’s also a family gathering, with ample opportunities to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. [Learn more about Annual Meeting 2024](#).

I look forward to seeing you in June.

In faith,

Jim Schowalter, Moderator

wisconsinconferenceucc@wcucc.org

This Week's Schedule

Monday, May 20

4:00-6:00PM Outreach Ministry – *Upper Lounge & Zoom*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, May 21

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
11:00AM-12:00PM Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
1:00-2:30PM Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*
2:30-4:30PM Library Committee – *Church Library*
6:30-8:00PM Safety Committee – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:00-7:30PM Fireside AA Pre-Meeting – *Chapel*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, May 22

10:00-11:45AM Project Isaiah Meeting – *Project Isaiah Room*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
1:00-2:30PM Gifts, Memorial and Grants Meeting – *Church Library*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, May 23

9:00-10:00PM Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
2:00-3:00PM EJWG Subteam Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, May 24

9:00-10:30AM Isaiah's Building Committee Meeting – *Isaiah Project Room*
7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM N.A – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, May 25

11:00AM-12:00PM Daniel Boyd Vocal Recital – *Sanctuary*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, May 26

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship ~ Trinity Sunday – *Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge*
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry Movie & Popcorn during Worship – *CYF Wing*
4:30-5:30PM 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.



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