

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

June 30, 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 – <i>Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Congregational Meeting to approve 6-month budget – <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 in the summer for ALL infants - 1<sup>st</sup> graders. You do NOT have to be a member! See an usher for directions to the Childcare Room. There is a PRAYground in the back of the Sanctuary for children of any age to quietly work and worship in as well. Please sit near the PRAYground if your children are utilizing it. Of course, we welcome all children to stay in the pews with you during worship as well, as they are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

**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 and Youth Groups** will resume in September. Let an usher know if you would like to receive further information.

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

June 30, 2024 9:30AM

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Fourth of July Observance

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## PRELUDE

*America the Beautiful*

arr. Gary Linier

Bruce Danz, *clarinet* Chris Danz, *piano*

## WELCOME

*\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Adapted Psalm 130:5-6

One: I wait for the Lord,

**All: My soul waits, and in God's word I hope.**

One: My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning,

**All: More than those who watch for the morning.**

One: In faith, let us turn to our God, whose love is sure.

**\*OPENING HYMN #26**

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## SOLO

*Balm in Gilead*

African American Spiritual

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

Joel Jicha, *bass*

**SCRIPTURE READING** Mark 5:21-43

Debbie Hoogesteger

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him, and he was by the sea. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue, named Jairus, came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and pleaded with him repeatedly, "My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well and live." So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. Now there was a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had, and she was no better but rather grew worse. She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, "If I but touch his cloak, I will be made well." Immediately her flow of blood stopped, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, "Who touched my cloak?" And his

disciples said to him, "You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked all around to see who had done it. But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your disease."

While he was still speaking, some people came from the synagogue leader's house to say, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?" But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the synagogue leader, "Do not be afraid; only believe." He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the synagogue leader's house, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, "Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside and took the child's father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. Taking her by the hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And immediately the girl stood up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this and told them to give her something to eat.

SERMON *"A Markan Sandwich"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

\*HYMN #39

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

AZMON

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

*Shenandoah*

arr. Ron Harris

Clarinet and Piano

\*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 #531

*My Country 'Tis of Thee*

AMERICA

#### \*CLOSING INDEPENDANCE BENEDICTION

One: Today, we celebrate our freedom.

**All: The freedom of our nation,**

One: And the freedoms we enjoy

**All: As individual members of this great land.**

One: We also celebrate our freedom in Christ,

**All: As children of God**

One: And members of God's kingdom.

**All: No longer are we under the tyranny**

One: Of another nation;

**All: Nor under the tyranny of Satan.**

One: No longer are we slaves to sin;

**All: But we are a people freed**

One: By the grace of God.

**All: In his name we rejoice**

One: And give thanks,

**All: For the freedom to live abundantly.**

One: May we never take our freedom for granted,

**All: Nor be satisfied**

One: Until all peoples are free.

**All: God, our father and our mother, may your kingdom come**

One: And your will be done

**All: On earth as it is in heaven**

One: Bring freedom to every heart

**All: And to every heart.**

One: In Christ we pray,

**All: Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*God of Our Fathers*

arr. Gary Linier

Clarinet and Piano

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Dianne Droster, *Minister of Visitation and Youth Ministry*

Debbie Hoogesteger, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organist*

Bruce Danz, *clarinet*

Chris Danz, *piano*

Joel Jicha, *bass*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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**Join Us Today after Worship**

**10:30-11:30AM in the Sanctuary**

**Congregational Meeting: Approval of 6-Month Budget**



Register today for  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS)

**July 8-12, 9:00AM-12:00PM**

To register scan the QR Code  
or [sign up on Realm.](#)





A Faith Based Housing Summit & Invitation

Throughout scripture God clearly articulates a special emphasis and love for those who are in the deepest need of security, shelter, and love. In the book of Isaiah, in speaking about what God has chosen for God's beloved children, the prophet says this about being people of faith:

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them,  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

These are powerful and challenging words exhorting us to open our very homes to those who are homeless. Drawing on this Old Testament theology, Jesus encourages us to sell all that we possess and give to the needy (Matthew 19:21) and also reminds us that he himself was homeless, saying foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head (Luke 9:58).

Homelessness was an issue in Jesus' day and in our day as well. Right here in the Fox Valley we have an affordable housing crisis that has been highlighted in multiple recent news stories. Contrary to popular myth, many of the people experiencing homelessness are not low income. Our lack of affordable transitional housing in this time of economic change creates difficulties for our community business in hiring staff, causes students to perform poorly due to the stress of housing instability, contributes to increased poor health outcomes, and decreases equal access to education. Surely our God who wandered the desert is here among us, helping us to wonder "How can we make a home where no home exists?"

First Congregational supports many resource agencies that help combat the affordable housing epidemic. But one unique opportunity is coming our way. Our Economic Justice Working Group (EJWG) is putting together a faith-based housing summit right here at our church on October 12. This summit is an effort to implement local effective solutions and, for the purpose of finding those solutions, invites anyone who has been affected by homelessness to meet with a planning team leading up to this event to share their knowledge and insights. The planning team understands these are sensitive issues but wants their work to be guided by those most affected and to be informed by members of First Congregational.

Our God is one of limitless hope, unmatched commitment, and an ever-present Spirit of transformation. Even in the despair and confusion of being without shelter, Christ knows our sufferings and invites us into conversations to unfold a vision of justice and equity for all. If you would like to reach out to the planning team, please contact Eilene Hoft-March at [eilene.hoft-march@lawrence.edu](mailto:eilene.hoft-march@lawrence.edu).

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Nick & EJWG

**USHER TEAMS**

JUNE USHERS: **TEAM 1:** Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Tom Tatlock, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, and Luke LaViolette

**TEAM 5:** Rick Behm, Tim Bauer, and Peter Carman

JULY USHERS: **TEAM 2 & 6**

AUDIO & VIDEO: Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Matt Feuerhelm

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Rev. Dr. Katherine Willis Pershey      Mark 6:1-13

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ; Jann Kostecke, flute

**ON THE CALENDAR**

Monday, July 8 -Friday, July 12	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School
Tuesday, July 16 -Saturday, July 20		Youth Trip to Great Lakes Regional Youth Event, Rock Island, IL

**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.**

<p>Lyndee Aleman          Jill Anthony, her sister &amp; her nephew          Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara          Don Brittnacher          Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober          The family of Heidi Erstad as they celebrate her life          Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family          David Galow          Ken Geiger          Margaret Hankwitz          Judy Hanson          Steve and Joan Hawkins, in the passing of Steve's mother, Joan C. Hawkins          JoAnn Helms          Shirley Hoft          Sandi Hurm          Jean Jepson          Rick Johnson</p>	<p>Kathy Lannoye          Nancy Kandler          Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart          Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya          Cheryl Reissmann          Gretchen Revie          Larry Schiedermayer          Frank and Pat Severin          Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie          Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries          Kinsley Tarr          Gloria Tate          Jack Thiel          Peter Thiel          James Totzke          Those living with mental unwellness          Larry Vaubel          Wilma Wydeven</p>
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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.

### **ESTHER Event - Classical Guitar Concert featuring Ivan Resendiz:** Join us for this

special event in celebration of ESTHER's 20th anniversary!

Saturday, **July 27, 2024, 7:00-9:00PM** at Fox Valley UU Fellowship, 2600 E Philip Ln, Appleton. Originally from Mexico City, Ivan Resendiz began his study of classical guitar at age 16 at La Escuela Superior de Musica del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico with teacher Alejandro Mendez. Mr. Resendiz has participated in numerous national and International guitar competitions alike, receiving top prizes in more than 13 competitions including South Carolina Guitar Competition and Boston Guitar Fest, to name a few.



Ivan has performed in Mexico, France, Spain, Europe and the U.S. in festivals including Musica en Compostela in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, and Festival del Museo Nacional del Virreinato in Mexico. In 2011, Resendiz founded the first Latin American Guitar Festival in Chicago. The festival offers concerts, workshops and conferences to the Latin American Community in Chicago and continues to achieve its goal of bringing classical music to the immigrant community of Chicago.

**NOAHH Requests:** Needed items include a crib for a 7 month old, a toddler bed and toddler toys, a double stroller, a bike for transportation to and from work, handheld weights (10 to 25 pounds), three sets of twin sheets, a couch, recliner, microwave, washer dryer, window air conditioner and area rugs, any furniture, and household items with stress on a queen bed frame and mattress, dishes (set for 6) and cooking utensils. Other items still needed are: Native American hand drum, bike for a 400-pound man, bus pass, toddler toys, twin bed frame and mattress, and \$425 Drivers Education class. Please call Barb Minceff at 920-832-5515.

**Lawnmowers Needed:** World Relief has the need for lawnmowers and gas cans to give to newly arrived families. If you know someone who would like to donate, please direct them to contact Nellie at [NBrahe@wr.org](mailto:NBrahe@wr.org)

**Pillars Meal Sign-up:** Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **July 4, 2024.** Check out the link to sign up! [PILLARS SIGN UP](#) We will be making brats and hot dogs. It's a great way to meet new people and enjoy fellowship. For questions contact Shelley Nulton, [snulton@att.net](mailto:snulton@att.net) or 920-202-4419.

## **2024 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series Upcoming Dates:**

Thursday, **July 4**, Drs. John & Dan Schwandt, Lawrence Memorial Chapel, 510 E. College Ave, Appleton

Wednesday, **July 10**, Dr. Benjamin Stone, St. Bernard Catholic, 1617 W. Pine St, Appleton

Wednesday, **July 17**, Colin Welford, First Presbyterian, 200 S. Church St, Neenah

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### **This Week's Schedule**

#### **Monday, July 1**

3:30-5:00PM

IPAC Meeting – *Upper Lounge and Zoom*

6:30-8:30PM

Economic Justice Work Group Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

#### **Tuesday, July 2**

11:00AM-12:00PM

Staff Meeting – *Upper Lounge*

6:30-7:30PM

Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*

7:00-9:00PM

Worship & Music Ministry Team – *Upper Lounge*

7:45-8:45PM

Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

#### **Wednesday, July 3**

12:15-1:00PM

Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*

#### **Thursday, July 4** ~ *Independence Day – Church office closed*

12:00-1:00PM

AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*

7:00-8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

#### **Friday, July 5** ~ *Church office closed*

7:00-8:00PM

AI–Anon – *Upper Lounge*

7:00-8:30PM

N.A – *Common Grounds*

#### **Saturday, July 6**

10:00AM-2:30PM

Ginger Uehling Memorial Service – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Narthex*

7:00-8:00PM

Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

#### **Sunday, July 7**

9:25AM-12:00PM

Childcare – *Childcare Room*

9:30-10:30AM

Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge*

10:30-11:00AM

Kwik Trip Fundraising – *Narthex*

6:00-8:00PM

First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*

7:00-8:00PM

AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*

### Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of First Congregational UCC - was the home, hunting, gathering, and farming land of the First Peoples of this territory: the Ho Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation. Other tribes were forcibly re-located to this region by the actions of colonialism. Despite centuries of reprehensible treatment, the peoples of these sovereign nations are robust and enduring among us.

We are truly saddened by the genocide of their ancestors, the seizure of their lands, and the repression of their cultures and languages. We acknowledge that we benefit from the economic and social legacy left by settler colonialism.

We are grateful that many members of these original Nations have honorably served and defended the United States. We strive to honor their cultures and their insightful stewardship of this land and all creatures on it, recognizing our common interest in protecting its air, water, soil, and web of life for all future generations.

We commit ourselves through study and immersion experiences to learn the history and cultures of these peoples and their traditional knowledge.



**We are “The Church of the Open Door,” a welcoming and inclusive Christian community.**

**No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.**



—The Church of the Open Door—

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915

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