May the light from this candle proclaim that God's hope is coming

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 1, 2024 9:30AM First Sunday of Advent ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying (Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme) BWV 645

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Vince Salvia

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, organ

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: HOPE

One: When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight. I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer - and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight. In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope.

All: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world. May the light from this candle proclaim that God's hope is coming, on earth as it is in heaven.

One: Friends, be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

*Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 5) Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the Children's Message, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Message, the children leave with the director and return to partake in communion with their families.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN #109 (Sung by all as the children exit)

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down. Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 21:25-36

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a

Hyfrydol Sarah Wilderdink

Debbie Wagner

parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man."

SERMON *"Waiting in Hope"*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

*HYMN (see bulletin page 6) Emmanuel, Emmanuel

McGee

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.)

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.

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 (see bulletin page 7)

Jesus, Hope of the World

Refrain is introduced by the cantor, then repeated by all. Congregation sings additional material as printed.

Sanctuary Choir, Cantors, Congregation

*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. D. Light and P. Tate

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to eat the bread when you receive your communion elements. Please wait to drink the cup until instructed. Communion is gluten free and alcohol free.

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you. All: And may you see the God of hope with you. One: Open wide our anxious hearts! All: We open them to God's peace. One: Let us give thanks and share our joy. All: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS



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88

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, For hope that we begin to see, And for comfort from the Prince of Peace. We share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days. Through the long nights of this season, May your hope carry us until dawn arrives again.

*CLOSING HYMN #128

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers & Come Now, O Prince of Peace Swedish folk tune and Ososo by Geonyong Lee Setting by Nancy M. Raabe

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, Co-Pastor Sarah Wilterdink, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist Sanctuary Choir Jennifer Kosloski, Terry Gottfried, Kris Glenn, and Joel Jicha, cantors John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

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Poinsettia Sunday

December 1, 2024 - In the Narthex after Service

Help Spread the Christmas Spirit -We need your help to deliver them!

Here's how it works:

- After worship, choose a recipient (or two!) from the list on the table
- Names, addresses, and phone numbers will be provided.
- Pick someone you know or someone nearby!

Thank you for keeping this Christmas tradition alive!



TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744 MUSIC: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1830; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D (alternate tune: STUTTGART, 83)

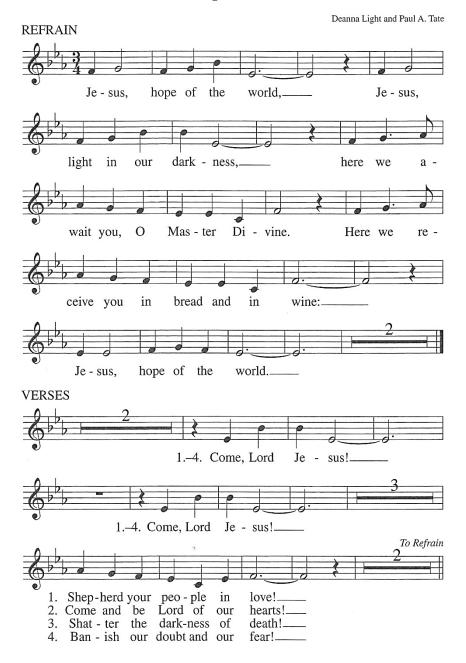






Irr.

Jesus, Hope of the World



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USHER TEAMS

DECEMBER USHERS: **Team 1:** Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Tom Tatlock, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette AUDIO & VIDEO: Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace Pastor Nick Hatch Baruch 5:1-9 Musicians: Sanctuary Choir & Brass "Gloria" by Trotta

ON THE CALENDAR				
Wednesday, December 4	6:00-7:30PM	Hanging of the Greens Dinner & Worship		
Wednesday, December 11	6:00-8:30PM	Christmas Caroling: Confirmation and Youth Groups		
Sunday, December 15	10:45AM-2:00PM	Christmas Caroling: Multi-generational		

WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

Joys and Concerns of Our Faith Community				
Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.				
Please call the church office if you have a prayer request or to request a pastoral visit: 920-733-7393				
In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call 920-810-2600.				
Lyndee Aleman	Elizabeth McNally			
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Scott Mertens, brother of Shari Robinson			
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Holly Mueller			
Don Brittnacher	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with			
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	cancer			
Family and friends of Jim Brygger	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya			
Cheryl Currier	Anika Quillman			
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Larry Schiedermayer			
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Frank and Pat Severin			
David Galow	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie			
The family of Paul Gohdes	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries			
Margaret Hankwitz	Kinsley Tarr			
JoAnn Helms	Gloria Tate			
Shirley Hoft	Jack Thiel			
Sandi Hurm	Peter Thiel			
Jean Jepson	James Totzke			
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Those living with mental unwellness			
Kathy Lannoye	Larry Vaubel			
Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart	Karen Waters			
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.

Helper(s) Wanted: We are looking for a helper(s) for our Christmas Eve services, this person would be paid to be on hand to do snow removal, help pastors with set-ups, and minor custodial clean up. Contact Bart at <u>bforseth@uccappleton.org</u> or 920-858-7636 for more information. Childcare workers are also needed for Christmas Eve at the 9:30AM and the 4:00PM Worship Services, earn \$30 per session (background check required.) Contact Sarah at <u>swilterdink@uccappleton.org</u> if interested.

Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale: Sundays: **December 8, 15 and 22**. Pick up a package (or two!) of individually flash-frozen-right-on-the-boat gulf shrimp. Available in our narthex in 1lb packages, your purchase supports Back Bay Mission. Our price of \$15 per package allows you to enjoy delicious gulf shrimp and helps the only UCC ministry on the Gulf Coast. We are grateful to Jacobs Meat Market in Appleton for supplying shrimp for the sale again this year.

Come Sing in the 8:00PM Christmas Eve Choir! Our Sanctuary Choir welcomes



additional high school age through adult singers for our 8:00PM Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols! (NOTE: This is our single evening service at **8:00PM on Tuesday, December 24.**) Each year we include familiar carol arrangements, in addition to new

music. Returning college students, young adults, choir family members, spouses and partners of choir members, members and friends who love singing, etc...all are welcome! We ask that you join us for 7:00–8:30PM rehearsals on **Wednesday, December 11 and Wednesday, December 18** to rehearse the music. Please RSVP to John for these dates. Your **attendance at BOTH rehearsals is preferred**, of course, but let me know if only one of the dates is possible for you. String and wind instrumentalists will make music with us, also! Interested? Questions? **RSVP via e-mail to John Albrecht, Music Director, at** jalbrecht@uccappleton.org, or call John at the church, 920-851-8097 (direct line), or speak with John or Nathan, organist, **so that our choir librarians can prepare a choir folder for you**. Thank you!

NOAHH Requested Items: For 2 disabled adults: 2 recliners, a love seat, 2 bedside tables, 2 dressers, queen bed frame, TV stand, 2 lamps, and a set of silverware and knives. For a formerly homeless family: cleaning supplies, sheets and comforter for a twin and a queen size bed, kitchen table and chairs, toddler bed frame, kitchen pots and pans and silverware. For a mother with 4 children who left her abusive husband and is now living with her great grandmother: a microwave and dishes. Call Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515.



Must pre-register here by December 1, if eating at Hanging of the Greens



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS DONATION

Your Name_____

Donation Amount_____



Make check payable to 'FCUCC' with memo 'Holiday Decorations Donation.'

Please word the following as you would like it to appear in the Christmas bulletin:

In honor of_____

In memory of_____

In celebration of ______

Drop this form off in the offering plate or return it to the church office or email your information to <u>info@uccappleton.org</u> by Monday, December 16, 2024.

<u>Coffee Hour Coordinator Needed</u>: We wish to first raise our coffee mugs to Mary Sullivan, who swooped in to coordinate the now-very-popular coffee hour after service each Sunday. It's a booming ministry -- and so great to hear all the chatter after church! -- you might say it's even "perky"!! Mary's moving on to some other volunteer obligations and needs to step back and let someone else take the lead. She has laid the groundwork to make it easy for someone to step in. Duties include overseeing the signup sheet and making sure all Sundays are full (with an occasional arm twist or asking help from a group). You would also have full support and deep gratitude (someone to



lean on) of the Fellowship Team. Interested? Contact Mary Willems (Congregational Life/Fellowship) at <u>willems4@twc.com</u>

2025 Coffee Hour Sign Ups Ready and Waiting: The 2025 (at least the first quarter!) signup sheets are waiting for YOU to serve coffee after service on Sundays! We want to 'espresso' our thanks to those who have helped in the past to make this important part of our

church life possible.....our cup runneth over. Do you have a group/cause dear to our church that would like to promote on any given Sunday? Family group? The possibilities are endless. Please consider helping us in the new year -- it's pretty easy (and the Fellowship Team is looking for ways to make it even easier....stay tuned!). The sign-up sheets are located in the narthex by the library window. Check your calendars, grab a friend/group and sign up TODAY!

Library News: The theme for the library this month is Advent and Christmas. We will have a display of books in the narthex on Sunday after church, but since we have dozens of books on Advent and Christmas, many of them will be on display in the library. Please take time to come see them all. Here are two: 1. From Amazon - *"The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate"* by Janice Cohn. This beloved children's book recounts the true story of how an American town took a stand against hate and antisemitism during the holiday season of 1993. At a time of division and incivility in our country, with the alarming rise of antisemitism and other forms of bigotry, true stories like The Christmas Menorahs are needed more than ever to show children and adults alike what our "better angels" can achieve. 2. From Amazon - *"Startling Joy"* by James Schaap. A gift. The baby. The pageant. The parties. The worship. The afterglow. The story. These are the elements of almost every Christmas. In this book the author takes a look at each of these elements through seven stories that show how imperfect people can find joy and grace in an imperfect world.

<u>**Pillars Meal Sign-up**</u>: Time to Create a Nourishing Meal for Pillars Thursday, **December 5**, 2024. Check out the link to sign up! <u>Pillars Sign Up</u> We will be making soup and grilled cheese sandwiches. It's a great way to meet new people and enjoy fellowship. For questions contact Shelley Nulton, snulton@att.net or 920-202-4419. <u>Congregational Mental Health Survey Results</u>: Thanks to all who completed the congregational mental health survey in October. The results are helpful as the Mental Health Task Force determines our next steps. The number of responses was quite small at 33. (If you still would like to complete the survey, there will be paper copies available on the table near the library windows in the narthex until December 31.)



The great majority of those surveyed choose healthy coping methods. People reported a variety of mental health and emotional challenges. The most common is anxiety, reported

by 61% of respondents. The next six in order of frequency are depression, stress, sadness, feeling overwhelmed, grief and loneliness.

The most common response about wanting community support is a request for grief support. The next most common response is a wish for a sense of community, requesting help with anxiety, a women's group, connection to ease sadness, depression and loneliness, a community support group and fun activities.

The resources and programs the respondents want are again support groups, activities in nature, a meditation program, social opportunities, education and referral information. Some of these are offered already; we will work to make them more robust.

The topics most concerning to the people are big issue anxiety (climate change, the political climate), spirituality and mental health, women's support, issues of aging, managing grief and loss and relationships.

Looking at the surrounding community, the respondents are interested in working with others in the community to recruit and retain mental health professionals. Also, they want to make sure that other groups can continue to use our space. They would like to strengthen connections with other faith communities and to learn what other faith communities are doing regarding mental health.

Those answering the survey are willing to share their time, helping to organize events, share their own mental health story and lead support groups or book studies. (If you don't see your answers here, don't worry. All the information has been captured.)

If you'd like to discuss these results further or have questions, please join members of the Mental Health Task Force in the Upper Lounge at <u>10:45–11:30AM today, December 1</u>.

KWIK TRIP CARD SALES TODAY AFTER WORSHIP IN THE NARTHEX!

BLACK FRIDAY SALE!!! 5-ULTIMATE CAR WASHES FOR ONLY \$33!

\$12 Per card goes directly to our June 2025 youth trip (Helping with Hurricane Relief in Asheville, North Carolina)

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10205 01 12							FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
Special	notes				Date		
QTY	Car Wash (5ct)	Total	QTY	Fuel Only	Total]	Total:
	\$36.00			\$20.00			
				\$50.00			Office use Only
QTY	Grocery Only	Total		\$100.00			Payment Type:
	\$5.00	8		\$200.00			Credit
	\$10.00			\$500.00			CashCard
	\$20.00						Check Online
	Member	Number Signature		// Expiration MI		cvv	Initial here if you would like to pay the 2% processing fee
I autho							e card. I understand that this e the authorization.
How Much Comes Back to Our Church Youth? Car Wash Cards – 44%! Grocery Cards – 15% Gas Gift Cards – 10%							



WE WILL BE TAKING A BUS AND ALL CAROLING WILL BE INDOORS! REGISTER BY DECEMBER 1

Multi-Generational

Sunday, December 15 10:45AM - 02:00PM Light Lunch Provided Bring Your Own Drink





Confirmation & Youth Groups

Wednesday, December 11 06:00 - 08:30PM

> Pizza Provided Bring Your Own Drink



Contact the front office, scan the QR Codes, or go to Realm to sign up! Info@uccappleton.org / 920.733.7393

COATS AND HATS | SCARVES | GOATS GLOVES | BOOTS | SOCKS

Donate your gently used adult's and children's cold weather gear and help someone stay warm during the cold winter months.

collecting
through
November

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Outreach Ministries on behalf of World Relief - Fox Valley

> For More Information contact Ann Gain anngain@gmail.com

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 2

5:30-7:00PM	Isaiah Task Force Meeting – Isaiah Project Room
6:00-7:30PM	IPAC Meeting – Upper Lounge and Zoom
6:30-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir – Sanctuary
Tuesday, Decembe	er <u>3</u>
9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
1:00-2:30PM	Chrysalis – Upper Lounge
4:00-6:00PM	All Isaiah Meeting – <i>River Room</i>
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA Group - Common Grounds
7:00-8:30PM	Boy Scouts – HS Youth Room
7:00-9:00PM	Worship and Music Ministry Team – Upper Lounge
7:45-8:45PM	Fireside AA – Common Grounds
	This Week's Schedule continued on page 17

Wednesday, December 4

12:00-1:00PM	Prayer Chapel – <i>Chapel</i>
12:15-1:00PM	Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – Upper Lounge
5:45-6:25PM	Youth Handbells – Amistad Room
6:00-8:00PM	Hanging of the Greens: 6:00PM Dinner and 7:00PM Service -
	Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir – Choir Room, Sanctuary
Thursday, December	<u>5</u>
9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds
12:00-1:30PM	Theology Discussion Group @ Chefo's Pancake House
5:00-7:30PM	Pillars Dinner @ Pillars Adult Shelter
6:30-7:30PM	Community Partnership – Isaiah Project Room
6:30-8:00PM	TNT (SOAR Fox Cities) – River Room
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
Friday, December 6	
7:00-8:00PM	Al–Anon – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:30PM	N.A – Common Grounds
Saturday, December 7	7
9:00-11:45AM	Major Work Sunday Dress Rehearsal - Sanctuary
1:00-5:00PM	Women's Craft Circle – Upper Lounge
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
Sunday, December 8	
9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/Advent 2/Major Work Sunday - Sanctuary,
	Upper Lounge, Chapel
9:30-10:30AM	Children's Ministry - CYF Wing
10:30-11:30AM	Children's Choir - Choir Room
10:30-11:30AM	Back Bay Shrimp Sale - Narthex
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences - MS Youth Room
10:45-11:45AM	Confirmation Class (no mentors) – HS Youth Room
10:45-11:30AM	WISE Covenant – Upper Lounge
11:00AM-12:00PM	Advent Study: The Christmas Letters - Chapel
6:00-7:00PM	Songs and Stories Christmas Edition - Sanctuary
6:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

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

Childcare is available for ALL infants and toddlers every Sunday. Kindergarten and first graders may enjoy a communion mini-lesson on the 1st Sunday of the month and may go to childcare the 2nd-5th Sundays of each month. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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



Visit our website at uccappleton.org and click "Give Now" for a one time gift or to sign up for automatic giving



Text FCUCC GIVE to 73256

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

We are glad you are here today! You are welcome to worship in person with us in the sanctuary or watch it livestreamed in the upper lounge, narthex or chapel. The nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/Advent 1 - Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel
9:30-10:30AM	Children's Ministry: Chat in the Chapel – Chapel
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising - <i>Narthex</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Children's Choir - Choir Room
10:45-11:30AM	MH Survey Results Meeting – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences - MS Youth Room
11:00AM-12:00PM	Advent Study: The Christmas Letters - Chapel
6:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting - Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LOCATIONS FOR TODAY				
Upstairs, to the left Upstairs, to the right Downstairs				
Childcare Room	Nursery	Little Angel's Room		
Infants & Toddlers		Preschoolers		
K-5th Graders - Chapel (returning for communion)				

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

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



724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915 920.733.7393 | uccappleton.org | <u>info@uccappleton.org</u> Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600