First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 20, 2024





THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

October 20, 2024 9:30AM Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Improvisation on Maryton (O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee) Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

*Please Rise in Body or Spirit

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's goodness is beyond our understanding, yet we proclaim:

All: Bless the Lord, O my soul!

One: God stretched the heavens across the sky;

All: let us marvel at the stars that fill it.

One: God raised hills and traced valleys;

All: let us gather in wonder before our Creator.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 4)

You Servants of God

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.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN #103 (Sung by ALL as the children exit)

Jesus Loves Me

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

ANTHEM

I Waited for the Lord (from Hymn of Praise) Tanvi Thatai, soprano Dr. Karen Leigh Post, mezzo-soprano Sanctuary Choir I waited for the Lord, he inclined unto me. He heard my complaint. O blessed are they that hope and trust in the Lord. Psalm 40: 1 and 4a

LYONS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

All: O Lord, you have taught us that whoever wishes to become great must be a servant, and whoever seeks to be first must be last and servant of all. Still, O Lord, we are like James and John, seeking seats of glory. We organize our lives around ladders to climb, not realizing that we are stepping on people whom you love. Forgive us, O Christ, and teach us to follow in your way, for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

One: Now stand firm in your faith, covered by the saving grace of God and ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*GLORIA PATRI #36

Glory Be to the Father

All: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many."

SERMON *"To Serve and To Give"*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

*HYMN #465

O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

MARYTON

GREATOREX

Karen Gosse

OFFERING

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Vince Salvia

(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

Come to Us, Creative Spirit

Text by David Mowbray Tune by Richard Proulx Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

This stewardship hymn entreats the Holy Spirit to "arouse our hidden skills" and asks us to bring our best to our worship and our living:

"Poet, painter, music-maker, all your treasures bring; craftsman, actor, graceful dancer, make your offering; join your hands in celebration: let creation shout and sing!"

*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 #374

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D Minor, BWV 565

J.S. Bach

SERVANT SONG

You Servants of God



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806 LYONS 10 10 11 11 THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, Co-Pastor Pastor Nick Hatch, Co-Pastor Karen Gosse, Lay Reader Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist Sanctuary Choir Dr. Karen Leigh Post, mezzo soprano Tanvi Thatai, LU Music Scholar soprano John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

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A vital part of our church's ministry is knowing our current membership. So, for stewardship season we ask that everyone, each week, individually sign their name and pass the blue friendship pads, so we know everyone who is involved with Sunday worship. If you are worshipping online, we ask that you check in on Facebook and let us know you are attending.





USHER TEAMS

OCTOBER USHERS: **Team 3:** Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Cathy Paynter, Ryan St. Clair, Ryan Smith, Chris Calhoun NOVEMBER USHERS: **Team 2** AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor John McFadden Jeremiah 31:7-9 Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*; Sanctuary Choir; LU Scholars; John Daniel, *trumpet*; John Aaholm, *percussion*

ON THE CALENDAR				
Sunday, October 20	11:30AM-1:00PM	Trunk or Treat in the CYF parking lot		
Sunday, November 3	10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Exploration Gathering		

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	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart			
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Elizabeth McNally			
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Scott Mertens, brother of Shari Robinson			
Don Brittnacher	Holly Mueller			
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya			
Family and friends of Jim Brygger	Larry Schiedermayer			
Cheryl Currier	Frank and Pat Severin			
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie			
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries			
David Galow	Kinsley Tarr			
Ken Geiger	Gloria Tate			
The family of Paul Gohdes	Jack Thiel			
Margaret Hankwitz	Peter Thiel			
JoAnn Helms	James Totzke			
Shirley Hoft	Those living with mental unwellness			
Sandi Hurm	Larry Vaubel			
Jean Jepson	Karen Waters			
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	The family of Debbi Weiland, as they grieve			
Kathy Lannoye	her passing			
	Wilma Ŵydeven			
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.

<u>The Stewardship Team is grateful to everyone who has submitted a pledge so far</u> - but we are still awaiting pledges from almost 75% of the households in our congregation! Pledges can be submitted online via Realm or by using the paper form; if you need help



navigating these options, please contact the church office. Remember that pledges are just that - an indication of how you intend to support the church next year - they do not need to be fulfilled immediately. Pledges are invaluable to the church leadership in establishing our 2025 budget. We will bless our pledges during worship on Heritage Sunday, October 27, trusting that will strengthen us in our intentions to grow, serve, and share.

Link to our Stewardship page: Stewardship 2025

<u>Church Family Handbell Workshops – Come Ring!</u> Church Family Handbell Workshops begin on **Sunday, October 27** in the Amistad Room at 10:30AM (right after

worship.) Come experience ringing our Whitechapel Handbells and have fun learning a variety of techniques under the leadership of Beth Vercouteren! Open to elementary age through adults; *families are encouraged to come ring together*! Workshop rehearsals continue each Sunday morning at 10:30AM (you do not need to attend every week) with <u>a dress</u> <u>rehearsal on Saturday, November 23</u> (time tba, based on schedule of the participants.) We will <u>perform in 9:30AM</u> worship on Sunday, November 24, with



special music that celebrates Thanksgiving. To register, please contact Beth Vercouteren at (920) 740-3571, or speak with our music staff, John and Nathan. Thank you!

<u>Women's Fellowship Group</u>: Wild Women of First Congregational UCC is a group that brings women of the church together for fun and fellowship. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00PM for dinner at Stone Arch Brewpub in Appleton. You can order dinner, a beverage or just come and join the conversation. To get more information or to RSVP please contact Sue O'Neill (920- 858-9923) or <u>abelwoman10@yahoo.com</u>.

<u>Membership Exploration Gathering</u>: Are you new to First Congregational and want to learn more about our faith community? Would you like to find a place to ask your questions of faith and call your faith home? Then join Pastor Katherine and Pastor Nick



after worship Sunday, **November 3**, 10:45AM-12:00PM in the Upper Lounge. We'll be talking about our journeys of faith. We will share about this church, our theology, and get to know one another. We hope to listen to the story of your spiritual journey and the questions that have guided you to seek a new community. Please RSVP for the new Membership Exploration Gathering by signing up on the

sheet in the narthex or by contacting the front office at <u>info@uccappleton.org</u>.New members will join in worship on Sunday, November 17.

<u>"Continuing the Circle" Baby Baskets</u>: Did you notice the traveling playpen in the narthex or the library? Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee (IPAC) is supporting a baby supply drive for First Nations Outreach, Inc. Please consider donation items or money to help our indigenous neighbors with newborns. Wish list: Huggies Little Snugglers (size newborn), Huggies fragrance free wipes, Johnson's baby lotion and baby wash, baby bath towels and wash cloths, newborn onesies, sleepers (size 0-3 months), baby blankets (small), baby moccasin kits at craft stores, dream catcher supplies. For more details, see the complete list attached to the baby playpen. To give a monetary donation contact Barb Wisneski at <u>bwisneski11@gmail.com</u>. Indigenous Peoples' Day is October 14. Items will be collected through the month of October.

<u>Resources for the Election Season</u>: As Christians, our faith shapes every aspect of our lives - including our political convictions. Though we often come to different conclusions - we are what some observers have called a "purple" church - it is encouraging to know that we share a common commitment to the way of Jesus. Many members and friends of our church have found the guidance provided by Wisconsin Council of Churches useful. To access the policy statements provided by this ecumenical organization, please visit <u>https://www.wichurches.org</u>. The United Church of Christ has also gathered resources, including advocacy materials, at

<u>https://www.ucc.org/our-faith-our-vote/</u>. Additionally, consider praying this prayer crafted by the Rev. Kimberly Deckel: Almighty God, prepare our hearts and minds as we head toward voting. We express gratitude for the right to vote, and we lament the brokenness of our democracy and voting system – a system that continues to suffer from inequity. Empower us, O Lord, to make decisions rooted in the ways of Jesus rather than the ways of the world. Give us wisdom and discernment as we cast our votes with a humble spirit, and let our voting be an act of prayer. May we be reminded that the candidates we vote for are not our savior, but you are the bringer of the heavenly kingdom, and our ultimate hope rests in you. We commend this nation to your care, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Looking for Pillars Kitchen Leader: First Congregational UCC has been preparing and serving dinner at the Pillars Adult and Family Center the first Sunday of every month for over 30 years. We have always had a very energetic and giving team of volunteers that prepare and serve dinner and interact with the residents. We are looking for an energetic leader for our team that will organize a schedule of volunteers to provide, prepare and serve food to 40-55 residents. If you may be willing to consider this very worthy mission and service opportunity, please contact Dave Gamm at <u>davgamm@aol.com</u> or call at (920)428-7423.

<u>Henderson Settlement Report - Creating Opportunities for Better Lives Through</u> <u>Christ-Centered Service</u>: Our mighty group of 12 completed the four jobs that we had signed on to do:

*Install five windows. This was for a family we had worked with last year where we installed four windows. Four people worked there.

*Remove old flooring; install new luxury vinyl plank flooring in kitchen, living room, hallway. In the same house, ceilings were painted in two bedrooms, kitchen, living room and hallway. Two groups with two people on the flooring, two on painting detail.

*Another group of four people built an 8 ft. X 12 ft. porch with a metal roof.

Four groups in four days – all jobs completed! Five of us decided we could handle one more job – pretty straightforward. Remove old flooring and install luxury vinyl plank in the living room. We had the baseboards, old flooring and felt paper all removed in record time. Then...expect the unexpected, be flexible, stay calm, seek a solution...for **termites!** We did what we could for the termite damage by reinforcing floor joists, spraying for the termites, laying new subflooring and new sheets of plywood. We accomplished the much-needed repair; however, the new flooring was not installed. We hope that job will be completed soon by another volunteer group. It was a great week of work, strengthening connections with others in our group, with our families, with other work camp volunteers and with our God. If interested in seeing our work week, go to Facebook: **St. James Connection – Henderson Settlement 2024.** The dates for next year's trip are set for October 12–18, 2025. If interested contact LouAnn Graf.



ESTHER's 20th Anniversary Banquet: Help ESTHER celebrate 20 years of Justice, Hope and Action in the Fox Valley Region on Saturday, **November 16**, 2024, at Waverly Beach. Doors open at 4:30PM with dinner at 6:00PM. The keynote speaker is Keith Findley, professor emeritus, UW Law School, and Cofounder, The Innocence Project. Early bird individual tickets are available until November 1. Purchase <u>tickets</u> here. Tables for eight guests are available as well. Please consider celebrating with us!

<u>Library Picks for October</u>: With Indigenous Peoples' Day in October, we are featuring 4 books (one each week during the month) that you might want to check out. Our own



IPAC (Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee) recommends: *God is Red: A Native View of Religion* by Vine Deloria was first published in 1972 and is still in publication. This book remains the flagship work on Native American religious views and spirituality.

This classic reminds us that we are part of nature with

responsibilities to the natural world. Deloria writes about the spiritual interconnectedness of all living beings. Some chapters in the book are The Religious Challenge, The Problem of Creation, The Origin of Religion, Death and Religion, Sacred Places and Moral Responsibility to name a few. Deloria was named by Time magazine as one of the greatest religious thinkers of the 20th century. And if you have never heard of him before, you will never forget his work after reading his words.

Reminder from the Mental Health Task Force: During the month of October, we are asking church members to complete the Congregational Mental Health Survey. The survey is available by QR code in the Open Door or on posters in the narthex or on social media postings. The task force wants to hear from the congregation about the mental health issues that concern people, what they'd like more information about or where they need support. Please take several minutes to read the <u>Mental Health Survey</u> Letter and complete the survey. There are also paper copies available of the letter and survey in the narthex. Thanks!!



No Prep Bible Study: Pastor Katherine is leading a Bible Study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30PM in the Upper Lounge. There is no preparation required to participate! We use brief videos from The Bible Project at the beginning of each gathering. Bring your Bible and an open mind. Dates include **October 23; and November 6, 13, 20**. Email kwpershey@uccappleton.org to sign up or request more information.

Join Wednesday Prayer Chapel! Need a mid-week faith boost? Want to connect with other church members and see different locations of our church's property? Wednesdays at noon, join Pastor Nick on Facebook Live for Prayer Chapel. This will be held weekly and be live streamed from the church for around 20 minutes. Gather to enjoy spoken prayer, devotions, music, and an opportunity to share your prayer concerns with our online community. We look forward to seeing you for this personal mid-week touchpoint.

<u>Items needed</u>: We are in need of a working microwave for the kitchen in Fellowship Hall and a dishwasher for the CYF Art Kitchen. If you have either you would like to donate, please email or call the church office.



Submitting items for Weekly Church Emails /Social Media/Website Announcements / Sunday Bulletin Open Door Announcements

- 1. The hub of communication will be our **website**.
- 2. Weekly Emails will be sent out Tuesdays and on Fridays.
 - a. Mid-week Emails will be sent out late in the day on Tuesdays to provide updates about activities occurring in the church for the remainder of the week.
 - b. Friday Emails will provide the virtual version of the coming Sunday's "Open Door," which includes the **weekly bulletin** along with its attached announcements.
- 3. Look for us on **social media**.

Articles/items submitted for **Weekly Church Emails /Social Media/Website Announcements** should be 100 words or less and can also include pictures and clipart and links for people to "learn more."

Articles submitted for the **Sunday Bulletin's The Open Door Announcements** are limited to **2 Sundays per month** and are subject to editing for clarity and/or space available.

Deadline for submitting articles for any announcement is 4:00PM on Tuesday.

Submit articles, questions, or ideas to <u>opendoor@uccappleton.org</u>.

This Week's Schedule

<u>Monday, October 21</u>	
5:30-7:00PM	Facilities Ministry Area – <i>Library</i>
6:30-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir - Sanctuary
Tuesday, October 22	
9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
4:00-5:30PM	Outreach Ministries Meeting - Upper Lounge
6:00-7:30PM	Council Meeting - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA Group - Common Grounds
7:45-8:45PM	Fireside AA – Common Grounds
Wednesday, October 2	<u>23</u>
9:45AM-12:00PM	Isaiah Project Meeting – Isaiah Project Room
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
6:30-7:30PM	No Prep Bible Study - <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-7:30PM	MS Youth Group - MS Youth Room/HS Youth Group - HS Youth Room
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir – Choir Room, Sanctuary
Thursday, October 24	
9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – Fellowship Hall
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – Common Grounds
6:30-8:00PM	TNT (SOAR Fox Cities) – <i>River Room</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
Friday, October 25	
7:00-8:00PM	Al–Anon – Upper Lounge
7:00-8:30PM	N.A – Common Grounds
Saturday, October 26	
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – Common Grounds
Sunday, October 27	
9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – Childcare Room
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/Reformation & Heritage Sunday/Blessing of the
	Pledges – 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	Church Family Handbells – Amistad Room
10:45-11:45AM	Adult Ed. Series: Music & Justice - Chapel
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences - MS Youth Room
5:00-6:00PM	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

Welcome to The Church of the Open Door. Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

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 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 "<u>Give</u>," 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 <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.

~Today's bulletin cover photo courtesy of Bruce Danz~

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 – Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel
9:30-10:30AM	Children's Ministry – CYF Wing
10:30-11:30AM	Children's Choir - Choir Room
10:45-11:45AM	Confirmation Class – HS Youth Room
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences - MS Youth Room
11:30AM-1:00PM	Family Day: Trunk or Treat - CYF Parking Lot
5:00-6:00PM	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

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		
Theater	Art Kitchen	Science Room		
	2nd/3rd Graders	K/1st Graders		
Scripture Tent		Middle School Room		
4th/5th Graders				

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