

First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 11, 2024



2024 Youth Trip



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



2024 FCUC
WONDER
WORSHIP
WORK
YOUTH TRIP

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>Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge</i>
6:00-8:00PM	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 - 1st 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 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

August 11, 2024

9:30AM

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ~ "Youth Testimonies" ~ "All-Call" Summer Choir

PRELUDE

Rhythm Song

Paul Smadbeck

John Aaholm, *marimba*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Awake! We are called forth to be people of God!

All: We come together to follow our call!

One: Listen! We come to follow the path to Jerusalem!

All: We are ready for our journey!

One: See! The shadow of the cross beckons.

All: We sacrifice our lives for love's sake.

*OPENING HYMN #250

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

GATHER US IN

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

Prayer for Guidance

Allen Pote (b. 1945)

"All-Call" Summer Choir

Teach me your ways, make them known to me.

Teach me to live according to your truth.

Because you are my Savior, all day long I will trust in you.

O remember your kindness and constant love which you have shown from long ago.

Forgive the sins and errors of my youth. Remember me, Lord.

All day long I trust in you. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

- Based on Psalm 25:4-7

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Karen Gosse

So then, putting away falsehood, let each of you speak the truth with your neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Those who steal must give up stealing; rather, let them labor, doing good work with their own

hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths but only what is good for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

SERMON *“Youth Testimonies”*

Henry Thiel, Cameron Gabbey, Henry Clothier, & Lauren Aaholm

SPECIAL MUSIC

Love > Fear

Youth Trip Participants

When I can't take the first step; When all I'm holding is my breath.

I pray that you are there.

When I can't seem to forget; When I can't see the morning light yet.

I pray that you are there. I pray that love is greater than fear.

Chorus:

Love is greater than, greater than, greater than fear.

Love is greater than, greater than, greater than fear.

Love is greater than, greater than, greater than fear.

When I can't find another way; When I don't have the words to say.

I pray that you are there. I pray that love is greater than fear.

Chorus

Repeat Chorus

Recorded by The Many, Music by Hannah Rand, Lyrics by Lenora Rand, ©2019 Plural Guild Music

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

Czardas

V. Monti

Trans. A Pirnat

Marimba 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 #345**

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

GOD BE WITH YOU

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Njoo kwetu, roho mwema (Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading)

TANZANIAN TUNE

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Youth Trip Participants

Karen Gosse, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

John Aaholm, *Percussion*

"All-Call" Summer Choir

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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USHER TEAMS

AUGUST USHERS: **TEAM 3:** Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Kevin Coenen, Tonya Dederling, Cathy Paynter, Ryan St. Clair, Bruce Valk, Anne Sheridan
TEAM 4: Rick Detienne, Sue Detienne, Tim DeHart, Sheryl DeHart, Mary Gay Hornseth, Phil Hornseth, Sandra Hurm, Ron Hurm, Bill Ritcey, Gene Spindler, Cheryl Spindler
 SEPTEMBER USHERS: TEAM 5 & 6
 AUDIO & VIDEO: Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey Ephesians 5:15-20

Musicians: Shelley Nulton, guest organist; Lori Murphy, violin; Jack Murphy, tenor

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 8		Rally Sunday
Friday, September 27- Sunday, September 29		Women’s Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp
October 19	8:00AM-4:30PM	“We Are Still Here” Indigenous Celebration
October 20	11:30AM-1:00PM	Trunk or Treat in CYF parking lot
Sunday, November 3	10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member 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: 920-733-7393

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

<p>Lyndee Aleman Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Don Brittnacher Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober Jim Brygger Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family David Galow Ken Geiger Charlotte Hage Margaret Hankwitz Judy Hanson JoAnn Helms Shirley Hoft Sandi Hurm Jean Jepson Kathy Lannoye</p>	<p>Nancy Kandler Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya 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 Karen Waters 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.

Athletic Shoe Drive: Check your/your kids' closets! Menominee Tribal Youth Services is seeking gently used boys' and girls' athletic shoes for youth of all ages. MTYS helps K-12 youth pursue their passion for sports. Sports include football, cross country, volleyball, basketball and wrestling. Let's put our best foot forward by dropping off shoes in good condition in the box in the narthex on Sundays, August 11 and 18.



College of Menominee Nation: Via a signed agreement with College of Menominee



Nation in Keshena, Wisconsin, our church has pledged to support CMN students with scholarship funds given for each of the two school semesters to students selected by the CMN Advancement Committee. The generosity of our congregation has made it possible to exceed our pledge of \$500 per semester! What a phenomenal response to help dreams and aspirations of students at CMN be realized. These students come from an array of Native American tribes and nations and include people of all cultures and races. CMN welcomes enrollment beyond their reservation borders! Please consider strengthening our UCC Scholarship outreach to CMN by donating via check (noting CMN Scholarship in the memo line) or via REALM...online.

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 Willis Pershey will lead the retreat. She welcomes all new and returning women to spend a wonderful weekend. Register on Realm, with this link [2024 Women's Retreat](#), or in the church office. The cost is \$180. Scholarship funds are available-contact Pastor Katherine. Please sign up soon to help us better plan the retreat. Registration closes Monday, September 9. 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.

NOAHH Requests: A filing cabinet, a bike for a 400-pound man, washer/dryer for one moving into an apartment from supportive living, a great grandson needs a nightstand, a mom working on reunification needs board games, cards, arts and crafts, a couple who has taken in the younger brother needs a coffee table and a stand for a 75-inch TV. A mother of five is looking for a table and chairs as well as a vacuum, and a grandmother is requesting a highchair and a potty chair for a 1½ year old grandson who is living with her. For pickups call Barb at Human Services: 920-832-5515.

Fox Cities Habitat Faith Build: First Congregational is participating in the Fox Cities Habitat Faith Build. Our workday is Tuesday, **September 24**. We are scheduled to put up wall rock. Six construction volunteers and one site host are needed for our workday. Our volunteer group is also providing the main meal. We need donors for the meal! The site location is at 1067 Tayco Road in Menasha, WI. Installing wall rock is a fun and easy project. It can be done by women or men with little experience as we have onsite training. If you would like more information regarding this year's Habitat Faith Build or want to sign up to help build or provide food, please contact Tim De Hart at tdehart@new.rr.com or 920-731-2620. Let's put "God's Love into Action to Build Homes and Hope."

Calling Confirmands and Mentors! Every September we offer a mentor-based Confirmation gathering for incoming high school freshman. This year we will include both incoming 9th and 10th grade students, but all high school students are welcome to participate. This program is mentor based: this means we need one adult who feels called to serve as a mentor for every youth in the program. These volunteers receive training, constant updates, and a wealth of materials. Registration packets have been mailed out. If you are interested in being a mentor, or joining our confirmation group as a participant, please contact Pastor Nick.



Confirmation Coordinator Needed! Over the years one of the most wonderful volunteer roles we developed is that of the Confirmation Coordinator. This person attends all confirmation gatherings, helps with "hospitality" for each Sunday gathering (paid for out of our budget), creates the rotating groups, and on occasion leads a gathering if I am out of town. The exact duties are shaped by the gifts of the person the Holy Spirit calls into the position. If you love people of all ages, enjoy participating in faith formation, and want to be more deeply involved here at FCUCC - reach out to Pastor Nick for more information!

2024 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series Upcoming Dates:

August 14, Dr. Erich Knapp, First English Lutheran, 326 E. North St, Appleton
August 21, Vashni Seitzer, CAGO, Faith Lutheran, 601 E. Glendale Ave., Appleton
August 28, Dr. Naomi Rowley, Memorial Presbyterian, 803 E. College Ave, Appleton
Wednesdays at 12:15PM - visit www.newago.org for more information.

Membership Exploration Gathering on the Calendar: 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 us after worship Sunday, **November 3**, 10:45AM-12:00PM in the Upper Lounge/Chapel. Watch future announcements for more details. New members will be introduced in worship on Sunday, November 17.



Childcare Worker Needed: Our childcare workers are going back to school soon. Ms. Steph works in the AASD and Ms. Hannah is going off to college. They are very sweet and love working with our children. We are grateful they spent the summer with us and will miss them. Lucky for us – Ms. Danielle will return from summer break as she continues at Lawrence University! We will need one more childcare worker for the program year. Contact swilterdink@uccappleton.org if you're interested.

Sundays 9:00AM-12:00PM and Wednesdays 6:00-8:00PM
5 Hours Each Week, \$20 Per Hour

(Please apply if you are only interested in one day per week as well.)

Vacation Bible School: With about twenty-five kindergarten – 6th grade children, Vacation Bible School was a success thanks to the PHENOMENAL volunteers. I was humbled by the number of congregants who volunteered and the amount of time they gave. The activities, the justice lessons and presentations, the laughing kids and the new adult relationships that formed gave me goosebumps many times throughout the week. God's work and love were spread far and wide.

We would like to offer VBS two times next summer. The lessons would be the same each time, but families could choose between the morning or evening session, allowing more children to participate. Just know, we'll need double the volunteers as well. 😊 The dates will be shared by the end of this month.

Youth Trip: Twenty youth, two young adult mentors and three adults from FCUCC went on our 2024 Youth Trip. We were happy to have one youth and one adult from Oshkosh's UCC join us as well! This trip was different because we attended the UCC Regional Youth Event and went exploring in both Chicago and the Grant River. Four youth will tell you a little about their experience today in worship. (See photos in this bulletin on the front cover and page 1 and on the CYF Facebook page.) We bonded and grew in our understanding of the God, the UCC and each other.

We can't thank you enough for the support you've shown in your prayers, buying of Kwik Trip cards and purchasing of Stock! Thanks to SO MANY OF YOU, and to the incredible gifts of Claire Gehin that continue to support youth all these years later, we were able to explore Chicago together as well as attend the youth event at a truly reasonable price. Kwik Trip Sales will continue the first of each month indefinitely. It is an easy fundraiser that earns money for our youth trips while church members don't spend any extra money. Pretty slick. Next summer, our plan is to go on a service-learning trip in June. A youth leadership team has been formed and will be meeting within the next two weeks to confirm the location we'll travel to and the dates. The location and dates will be shared by the end of this month.

May God continue to bless our work together.

With Gratitude, *Sarah Wilterdink*

YOUNG ADULT MEETUP

Join us Tuesday, August 13 @ 7:00PM
in the High School Youth Room

How can we better serve the life and spiritual needs of young people, and foster belonging and authentic community? We want to listen and to learn from you.

Oh, and there may be snacks and a little bible study too. This event is open to the wider community, so bring a friend or share the info with the young adults in your life!

Andrew Root & Blair D. Bertrand

A Primer for
Your Congregation
Beyond More
Money, Programs,
and Innovation

When
Church
Stops
Working



—The Church of the Open Door—

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Book Study: *When Church Stops Working*

Andrew Root & Blair D. Bertrand

Choose one session from the following dates:

Sunday, August 18th, 10:45am
Upper Lounge

Wednesday, August 21st, 11:30am
Common Grounds

Monday, September 9th, 7pm
Chapel

Sign up here!



Note: Individual copies will not be supplied, you will need to provide your own copy for this book.

Parking Lot Project Update

At the congregational meeting on June 30th, our contractor presented a very attractive bid for the completion of concrete repaving of the remaining 2/3rds of the west parking lot.

The quote came in significantly lower than expected. Finance has allocated \$50,000 from the congregation's net assets to put toward the project. Since then, we have received pledges and contributions from members totaling another \$51,000, so we are currently at 67% of our goal!

We will give periodic updates on our progress. A huge thank you to all those who are helping to bring this project closer to the finish line!

Goal
\$150,930



67% of our goal
has been reached!

\$51,000
Pledged to date
from members

\$50,000
Allocated by
congregation
from net assets

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**CELEBRATING
ESTHER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE
FAMILY-FRIENDLY SUMMER COOKOUT**

RAIN OR SHINE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 @ 4:30

TELULAH PARK PAVILION

1300 E. NEWBERRY, APPLETON

SPEAKER

SHARON COOK

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR FOR
FOX-WOLF WATERSHED ALLIANCE

MUSIC BY

KARMA'S MAILBOX BAND

Register at esther-foxvalley.org

\$15.00/ KIDS UNDER 12 FREE



This Week's Schedule

Monday, August 12

12:00-2:00PM EJWG Housing Summit Communications Committee – *Upper Lounge*
1:00-2:30PM Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*
6:00-7:30PM Mental Health Task Force – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM Prayer Shawl – *Common Grounds*

Tuesday, August 13

7:00AM-8:00PM Partisan Primary Election - *Narthex*
1:00-2:30PM HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
1:30-3:00PM Racial Equity – *by Zoom*
2:00-4:00PM Library Committee – *Church Library*
6:00-8:00PM Wild Women of First Congregational – *Stone Arch Brewpub*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:00-9:00PM Young Adult Meetup – *HS Youth Room*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 14

10:00-11:45AM Isaiah Project Meeting – *Project Isaiah Room*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM EJWG Summit Planning Committee - *Upper Lounge*

Thursday, August 15

9:30-10:30AM Adult Education Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
11:00AM-12:00PM Finance Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-1:00PM CAT/CMT Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:30PM Theology Discussion Group – *Chefo's Pancake House*
6:30-7:30PM Community Partnership – *Project Isaiah Room*
6:30-8:00PM Family/Friends NAMI Mental Illness Support Group – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 16

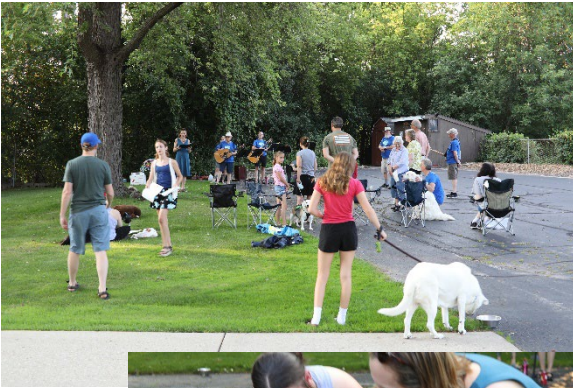
7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM N.A – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, August 17

7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, August 18

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge*
10:45-11:45AM When Church Stops Working – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*



Blessing of the Animals



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

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