

First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 17, 2024



Brink Davis

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 17, 2024 9:30AM
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Improvisation

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

INTROIT

Prelude from Suite for Handbells

Michael Helman (b. 1956)

Youth Handbells

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come! Rejoice! For we are in the presence of the Holy One.

All: We turn our eyes and hearts toward the light of love.

One: Be glad and rest secure in the Eternal One.

All: We delight in gathering as the family of faith.

One: Arise to worship God with gladness.

All: Together we will sing our praises!

*OPENING HYMN #517

O God of Every Nation

LLANGLOFFAN

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 #109 (Sung by all as the children depart.)

Fairest Lord Jesus

St. 1

**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.**

ANTHEM

March from Suite for Handbells

Michael Helman

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13:1-8

Susan Forsythe

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" Then Jesus asked him, "Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down." When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?" Then Jesus began to say to them, "Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

SERMON "Well, That's Alarming"

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

My Lord, What a Morning

BURLEIGH

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

My Heart Shall Sing

R. Cooney
arr. K. Marroli

Sanctuary Choir Ellie Lutterman, *violin* John Aaholm, *drum*

Congregation to join in singing Refrain below, on cue.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

from "Canticle of Turning." Text by Rory Cooney. Tune: *STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN*, Irish melody, *adapt.* Rory Cooney.
Copyright © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
Used in *My Heart Shall Sing* by Karen Marroli, published by MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

***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 #80**

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

ST. ANNE

***BENEDICTION**

CHORAL RESPONSE

If Ye Love Me (John 14:15-17)

Ryan Tibbetts (b. 1982)

LU Music Scholars

POSTLUDE

Llanllofan (O God of Every Nation)

WELSH TUNE

Setting by Aaron David Miller

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Susan Forsythe, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Sanctuary Choir

LU Music Scholars

Youth Handbells: Henry Clothier, Will Clothier, Elena Eubank, Avery Gentile,
Celia Gentile, Mark Hallett, Ruth Hallett, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette, Easton

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

Ellie Lutterman, *violin*

John Aaholm, *drum*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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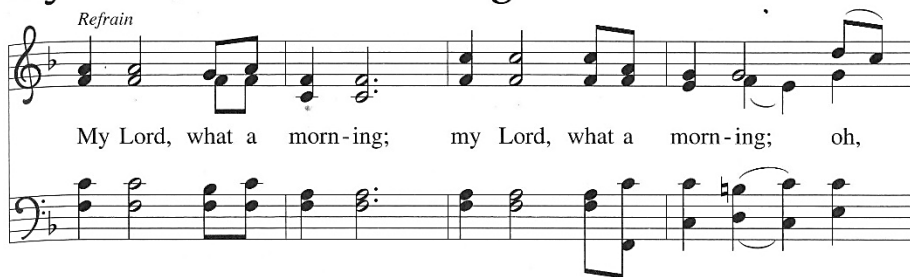
Join us at the Alternative Christmas Market ~ TODAY, 10:30AM-12:00PM



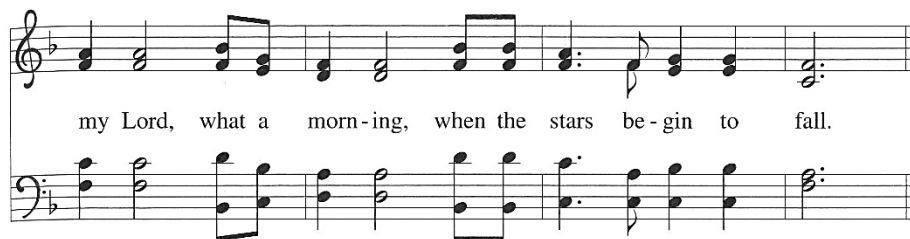
Stroll on into the Fellowship Hall after worship today to pick up a catalog, meet and greet our Mission Partners with UCC reps, and pick up gift bags. Each Mission Partner has their own dedicated bags. The gift bags are complete with instructions, pre-addressed envelopes to mail in your donation, and a Christmas card to give to your recipient with the Mission Partner information. There will be breakfast, coffee, bake sale, live music, and a kid's craft table during our joyful gathering.

My Lord, What a Morning

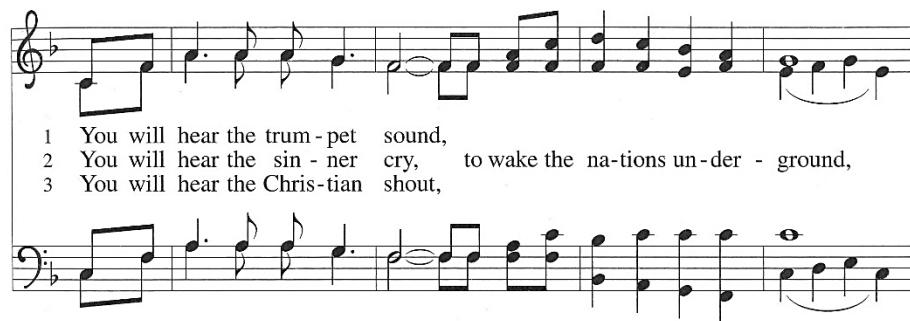
Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

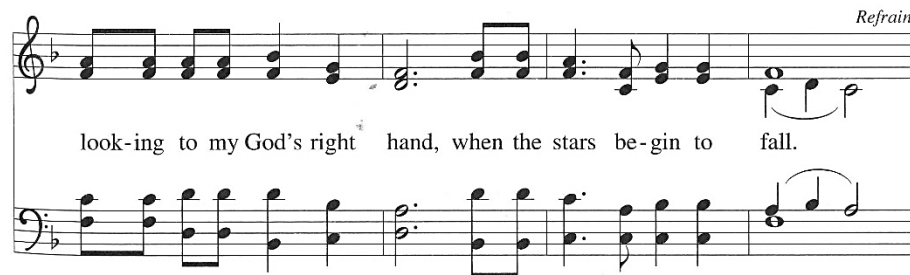


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

Refrain



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: African American spiritual

BURLEIGH
68 77 and refrain

USHER TEAMS

NOVEMBER USHERS: **Team 2:** Mike Weaver, Liz Dettwiler, Doug Gilbert, Becky Gilbert, Wayne Lannoye, Susan Forsythe

DECEMBER USHERS: **Team 1**

AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Nick Hatch Revelation 1:4b-8

Reign of Christ ~ Thanksgiving Observed ~ New Member Sunday

Musicians: Sanctuary Choir; Church Family Handbells

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 Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara Don Brittnacher Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober Family and friends of Jim Brygger Cheryl Currier Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family David Galow Ken Geiger The family of Paul Gohdes Margaret Hankwitz JoAnn Helms Shirley Hoft Sandi Hurm Jean Jepson Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube Kathy Lannoye Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart	Elizabeth McNally Scott Mertens, brother of Shari Robinson Holly Mueller Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with cancer Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya Anika Quillman 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
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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.



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!

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 bforseth@uccappleton.org or 920-858-7636 for more information.

Help our Neighbors Shelter from the Cold: There are 135 Pillars emergency shelter beds in the Fox Cities, and they are always full. In October, clients who got into shelters waited 1-55 days from the time they were added to the Pillars waitlist. The number of people experiencing homelessness in our community is on the rise - a record high of 148 people were unsheltered during the night in the July Point-In-Time count. And federal COVID funding has ended for Pillars Winter Shelter Overflow Program (WSOP) whose goal is to keep more people safe from the elements during the most brutal season to be outdoors. In the winter of 2023/2024, the WSOP hotel model served 158 individuals with 2,438 bed nights. This crisis presents our church with an opportunity to love our neighbors who can't find a safe overnight shelter when the weather turns cold. While the focus of the Economic Justice Work Group is systemic change, a plan was devised to raise \$20,000 to support Pillars WSOP to meet this immediate need. In addition to your prayers, please consider donating towards this goal. You can do so by writing a check to the church (noting "Pillars WSOP" in the memo) , clicking the "Give Now" tab on our website (uccappleton.org) and selecting the "Pillars WSOP" fund, and/or choosing "Pillars, Fox Cities" on the Alternative Christmas Gift Market options.

Mental Health Spotlight: Did you know that a valuable mental health resource regularly meets right here at First Congregational? Our mission partner, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Fox Valley's Faith Based Family Support Group gathers on the third Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:00PM. What a convenient way for all of us who support loved ones living with mental health challenges to learn and get much needed support! This free, peer-led gathering is not a therapy group; it's a safe, non-judgmental environment based on lived experiences. Those who attend receive respect, understanding and encouragement. The faith-based aspect is incorporated as group members share how their spirituality gives them strength to support their loved ones. Though not specifically Christian, all who attend believe in a higher power. Many of the participants (14 on average), individuals and couples, attend every month whether their loved one is in crisis or not, so they can offer hope and support to other attendees. If you'd like to get connected with this group, contact Vivian at 920-740-3499 or vivian@namifoxvalley.org. Please remember that you are not alone, and our church embraces inclusion and compassionate support for all who live with mental health challenges and to those who love and support them.

Advent Study: The Christmas Letters: You may or may not know the story of your birth. If you do, there is something special about hearing your origin story again and remembering how it all began for you. That's why we observe Advent: to celebrate how it all began for us. In *The Christmas Letters*, Magrey deVega invites you to hear about the miracle of Christ's birth from those who first told the story. The letters in the New Testament, known as the Epistles, contain the first attempts by the church to understand and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. They point us to the origins of what we believe about Jesus, fully human and fully divine. By spending time with these holy, ancient words this Advent, you'll come to know the meaning of Christ's coming like never before. Read the New Testament letters, Romans, 1 John, Philippians, and Colossians as your first Christmas letters of the season and find within them an invitation from God to deepen your understanding of the Incarnation and embrace a fuller commitment to Jesus Christ. The study will convene in the Upper Lounge following worship (10:45-11:45AM) throughout the Sundays of Advent (**December 1, 8, 15, and 22**). We will be placing a book order on November 14; if you wish to purchase a book through the church you must sign up by that date. Sign up on Realm or use the QR code. Contact Mary Dees or Pastor Katherine with any questions.



NOAHH Requests: Items requested are a queen-size mattress topper, size 3XL sweatpants with pockets, 5XL shirts and sweatshirts, boys 4T snow pants, size 6 boots and toys, books, etc. for a 3-year-old and the 6-year-old. Open requests can be found at www.hhsvolunteers.org. Call Barb Mincheff 920-832-5515 at Human Services for pick up.

Last Chance to Support Turtle Trekkers! Volunteers from FCUCC have pledged to walk 100 miles per person between September 1 and November 17 to raise funds for our mission partner, Re-Member. Donations to the Turtle Trek will support the purchase of winter fuel for the Oglala Lakota people on Pine Ridge reservation. If you wish to give to this fund-raiser, please make your checks out before November 30 to “FCUCC Appleton” with a note in the memo line indicating “Turtle Trek Challenge.” For questions, contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu.

QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Training: How can you help support someone who is experiencing mental health conditions? How do you show you care? How can you potentially save a life? On Tuesday, **November 19**, 11:00AM–12:30PM, FCUCC will be offering QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training to the congregation. The presentation will provide information about suicide risk factors and warning signs, how to have a difficult conversation about suicide, how to persuade the person to stay alive and how to refer the person to help. For more information, contact Mary Sullivan at msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452. Sign up in Realm or by calling the church office (920)-733-7393.

Fox Valley Flute Choir Fall Concert will perform a fall concert in the church sanctuary Saturday, **November 23** at 4:00PM. The event is free and open to the public. Enjoy classical works by Kuhlau, Mozart, Samuel Barber, de Boismortier. More contemporary pieces will be performed: a variation on a traditional folk tune by composer Kelly Via. An arrangement of an ethnic piece will also be on the program. Fox Valley Flute Choir is a group of 18 flutists who perform on piccolo, C flutes, alto, bass. The group rehearses in the church sanctuary. Usually, the group performs four concerts a year. They are under the direction of Dr. Marc Sackman.



WINTER COATS

AND HATS | SCARVES | 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

Outreach Ministries on behalf of World Relief - Fox Valley



For More Information contact Ann Gain anngain@gmail.com

Christmas Caroling ADVENTURES FOR ALL

The Church of the Open Door
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



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



Scan me to sign up for Dec. 15th!

Confirmation & Youth Groups

Wednesday, December 11
06:00 - 08:30PM
Pizza Provided
Bring Your Own Drink



Scan me to sign up for Dec. 11th!

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

June 14 - 21

2025 YOUTH SERVICE LEARNING TRIP

Asheville, North Carolina

Spread God's love those living with poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity, in both urban and rural settings. Be the hands of God as we assist thousands in rebuilding after a hurricane. Learn immediate and tangible ways that we can bring our hands-on, justice-seeking, knowledge and skills back to the Fox Valley, in order to put them into practice in our own communities.

Limited Registrations

Incoming 9th - Outgoing 12th Graders

Church Members, Guests & Friends

Mentors & Adult Chaperones Needed

Register On Realm or Call Our Church Office



This Week's Schedule

Monday, November 18

- 5:30-7:00PM Grounds Committee Meeting - *Isaiah Project Room*
5:30-7:00PM Facilities Ministry Area - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, November 19

- 9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
1:00-2:30PM Chrysalis - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:00PM Safety Committee - *Upper Lounge*
7:00-7:30PM Fireside AA - *Chapel*
7:00-8:30PM Boy Scouts - *Fellowship Hall*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, November 20

- 12:00-1:00PM Prayer Chapel - *Chapel*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - *Upper Lounge*
2:00-3:00PM Peabody/Heritage Worship @ *the Peabody Chapel*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*
6:30-7:30PM MS Youth Group - *MS Youth Room*
6:30-7:30PM HS Youth Group & Confirmation Class @ *Pillars Family Shelter*
6:30-7:30PM No Prep Bible Study - *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

Thursday, November 21

- 9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
9:30-10:30AM Adult Education Meeting - *Chapel*
11:00AM-12:00PM Finance Committee Meeting - *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:30PM Theology Discussion Group @ *Chefo's Pancake House*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*
6:30-7:30PM Community Partnership - *Isaiah Project Room*
6:30-8:00PM Family/Friends NAMI Mental Illness Support Group - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:00PM TNT (SOAR Fox Cities) - *River Room*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, November 22

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

This Week's Schedule continued on page 13...

Saturday, November 23

11:00AM-12:00PM Church Family Handbells dress rehearsal – *Sanctuary*
3:00-6:00PM Fox Valley Flute Choir Concert – *Sanctuary*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, November 24

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship/New Member Sunday/Reign of Christ/
Thanksgiving Observed - *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 Community Partnership – *Upper Lounge*
10:45-11:45AM Adult Ed Series: Music & Spirituality – *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*



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 info@uccappleton.org by Monday, December 16, 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.

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 "Give," or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. **Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.*

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

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



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

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

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

Sunday School: Our PreK - 5th graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for our Children's Ministry Program. 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: Fall Crafts on the Bridge – Bridge*
- 10:30-11:30AM *Children’s Choir – Choir Room*
- 10:30-11:30AM *Church Family Handbells – Sanctuary*
- 10:30AM-12:30PM *Alternative Christmas Market – Fellowship Hall*
- 10:45-11:45AM *Confirmation Class – HS Youth Room*
- 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*

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY LOCATIONS FOR TODAY

Upstairs, to the left	Upstairs, to the right	Downstairs
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers	Nursery	Little Angel’s Room Preschoolers
Fall Crafts on the Bridge K-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 | info@uccappleton.org
 Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM
 For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600