

First Congregational United Church of Christ

September 8, 2024

starting
a new
church
year

SUNDAY
Rally



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 8, 2024 9:30AM
Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Rally Sunday

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

African American Spiritual
Setting by Robert. J. Powell (b. 1932)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Trust in the Lord,

All: who made heaven and earth;

One: trust in the Lord,

All: who loves every part of it.

One: Trust in the Lord,

All: who cares for those in need;

One: trust in the Lord,

All: who leads us to do the same.

One: Let us worship God,

All: who shows us the way.

*OPENING HYMN #14

Earth and All Stars

EARTH AND ALL STARS

COMMISSIONING OF CONFIRMANDS

ALL: We celebrate the commitment you are making today.

We trust that the Holy Spirit will meet you on this journey.

We pray that you will find joy in the way of Jesus.

We encourage you to be open to hearing the stories of our faith.

We welcome your questions and honor your struggles.

May God bless us all on the sacred journey of life!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE, BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

(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.*

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 7:24-37

Debbie Wagner

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone. Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

SERMON "Be Open"

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

*HYMN #395

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

PASSION CHORALE

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

Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome and Come Build a Church)

Haugen & Medema, arr. Larson

Sanctuary Choir with Jane Bent and Barbara Armstrong, flutes

***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.**

MOMENT FOR MISSION: ACCESSIBILITY

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 (see bulletin page 5)**

Live into Hope

TRURO

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Truro (Live into Hope)

Tune from Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*
Setting by Seth Bingham (1882-1972)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Sarah Wilterdink, *Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries*

Debbie Wagner, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Jane Bent and Barbara Armstrong, *flutes*

John Aaholm, *percussion*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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THE NEXT QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, **SEPTEMBER 15**, 10:30AM, WITH A PROJECT ISAIAH UPDATE.

Guidelines for Worship Service Announcements

- Requests for announcements must come to both pastors a week in advance (not the week or day of the service). These must be submitted in writing and less than 100 words; these are brief announcements!
- We have a maximum of three announcements per week, first-come, first-served at the discretion of the pastors. Multi week announcements are discouraged.
- Generally, the pastor leading the worship service that week makes the announcement themselves. Exceptions are made.
- If the pastor cannot fit this request into worship, it will go into the bulletin, and the one making the request notified as time allows.
- Mission Moments are also available on a limited basis. These are longer and highlight critical needs or commitments for our faith community.

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.

Live into Hope

1 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed, of sight re -
2 Live in - to hope! The blind shall see with in - sight
3 Live in - to hope of lib - er - ty, the right to
4 Live in - to hope of cap - tives freed from chains of

gained, the end of greed. The op-pressed shall be the
and with clar - i - ty, re - mov - ing shades of
speak, the right to be, the right to have one's
fear or want or greed. God now pro - claims our

first to see the year of God's own ju - bi - lee!
pride and fear, a vi - sion of our God brought near.
dai - ly bread, to hear God's word and thus be fed.
full re - lease to faith and hope and joy and peace.

TEXT: Jane Parker Huber, 1976
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
Text © 1980 Jane Parker Huber (admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

TRURO
LM

USHER TEAMS

SEPTEMBER USHERS: **Team 5:** Rick Behm, Tim Bauer, Peter Carman, Abby Schmidt
Andy Schmidt, Karen Crawford; **Team 6:** Jeff Schang

OCTOBER USHERS: Team 3

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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Pastor Nick Hatch

Mark 8:27-38

Musicians: Dr. Nathan Birkholz; The Sanctuary Choir

ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, September 15	10:30-11:30AM	Quarterly Congregational Meeting - Project Isaiah Update
Friday, September 27- Sunday, September 29		Women's Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp
Saturday, October 19	8:00AM-4:30PM	"We Are Still Here" Indigenous Celebration
Sunday, 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.

Lyndee Aleman	Nancy Kandler
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Elizabeth McNally
Don Brittnacher	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Larry Schiedermayer
Jim Brygger	Frank and Pat Severin
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
David Galow	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
Ken Geiger	Kinsley Tarr
Margaret Hankwitz	Gloria Tate
JoAnn Helms	Jack Thiel
Shirley Hoft	Peter Thiel
Sandi Hurm	James Totzke
Jean Jepson	Those living with mental unwellness
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Larry Vaubel
Kathy Lannoye	Karen Waters
	Wilma Wydeven

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.

Installation Sunday: On Sunday, **September 22**, during the 9:30AM worship service, we will be celebrating the formation installation of our Co-Pastors. Following the service all are welcome to stay for a catered lunch. Gluten and dairy-free options will be available. There is no cost to attend, but RSVPs are required for planning purposes. The deadline to RSVP is September 15. Use the QR code for registration, or the link for registration: <https://onrealm.org/uccappleton/PublicRegistrations/Event?linkString=OWjiYmVkNGUtZjNiYy00N2RhLWJiNWQtYjFjZDAxNDA3NTA0>



Start Dates for the Fall Music Season:

Sanctuary Choir (adults, college, youth): Started Wednesday, September 4, 7:00PM

LU Music Scholars: Sunday, September 15, 5:00PM - evening rehearsals

Youth Handbells (grades 7-12): Wednesday, September 18, 5:45PM

Children's Choir (grades 2-6): Sunday, September 29, 10:30AM (right after worship)

Church Family Handbells Workshop (children through adults): Sunday, October 27, 10:30AM, rehearsing each Sunday, ringing in worship on Sunday, November 24.

Thank you, Summer Musicians! We enjoyed a wide variety of music from the ensembles and soloists in our summer worship. Serving in music ministry have been: Fox Valley Flutes, directed by Marc Sackman; Cassie Glaeser, soprano; John Toussaint, Noah Harmon, Zach Harmon, and Fred Vepel – jazz quartet; John Albrecht, cantor; Joel Jicha, bass; Chris & Bruce Danz, piano and clarinet; Jann Kostecke, flute; Jesse Baumgart, tenor, Heather Hallett, soprano; Karen Leigh-Post and Ashleigh Kreider, vocal duets, with Noah Harmon, piano; Hillary Reynolds, contemporary vocals and piano; John Aaholm, percussion; “All-Call” Summer Choir, directed by John Albrecht; Youth Trip Singers, accompanied by John Aaholm and Nathan Birkholz; Lori Murphy, violin, and Jack Murphy, piano and tenor; Shelley Nulton, organ; Karma's Mailbox Band, coordinated by Phil Gabrielson; Anthony Padilla and Nathan Birkholz, piano solos and duets.



Thank you, all, for sharing your musical gifts!

Library News: The September book theme is something completely new. Since we will be celebrating the installation of our Co-Pastors in September, they volunteered to share their Pastors' Picks. They both chose books currently in our library that they especially enjoy and wrote short blurbs explaining what they liked. These books will be on display (when they're not checked out) each Sunday during the month of September. You can check them out first come-first serve during the month. They can only be checked out for 2 weeks and we'll have a waiting list.



Here are the Pastors' Picks from Pastor Nick and Pastor Katherine for September 8. Come take a look.

The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down by Anne Fadiman

I read this book shortly after I began tracking - and rating - books on GoodReads. I gave it five stars and four words: "sobering, engrossing, memorable, and moving." Few nonfiction books that aren't explicitly about theology or the life of faith have had such a profound effect on my spirit. Given the large Hmong population in Appleton, I intend to reread this account of a Hmong family's navigation of the American healthcare system as their young daughter suffers from seizures.

A Prayer for the Earth: The Story of Naamah

This is a wonderfully imaginative telling of the flood story through the eyes and actions of Noah's wife - Naamah. While not directly derived from scripture, the description of Naamah as a woman who gathers and tends and helps to re-establish God's creation post-flood fits with her name which means "she does what is pleasing in the sight of the Lord."

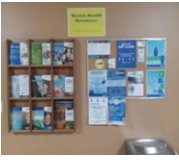
Let your life Speak by Parker Palmer

A small, easy read, Parker Palmer invites us into deep contemplation over the divine purposes of the human life. He encourages us to listen to the voice from within, the voice of the Spirit, an inbuilt gift within all human souls, which invites us to lives of faithful commitment and the development of a vocation that is pleasing to God.

Final Gifts by Maggie Callahan and Patricia Kelly

I read this book in seminary, for one of my pastoral care courses, and I consider it one of the most formative books I read in that season. Written by two hospice nurses, Final Gifts recounts many strange and wondrous experiences they witnessed firsthand as people prepared to pass from this life. This book not only made me a more empathetic person, it also disrupted my fears of death and dying.

Mental Health Task Force Update: We hope you have noticed the brochure rack and bulletin board with mental health resources in the hallway near the bathrooms. Thanks to Pam Reynolds and Jackie Peters for collecting and displaying the materials. Look for new information – we will keep adding to the display. Please check it out! On Sunday, September 15, National Alliance on Mental Illness Fox Valley (NAMI-FV) will again be in the narthex after church selling “Be Kind” t-shirts. Make sure you get one before the NAMI Walk on October 5 at the Fox Cities Stadium. Thanks for coming, NAMI!



What is a Habitat Site Host? We need a volunteer to be “site host” at our Habitat Faith Build workday. What does that include? The site host welcomes the workers that morning and checks their name off while providing a name tag. The host makes the morning coffee and sets out the snack. They provide a bag of ice and gallon of water for coffee and hydration. After lunch, the site host is free to leave or stay to help with construction. Are you available to be “site host”? We need a volunteer by Tuesday, **September 10** to represent our church in this position for the morning of the Faith Build, Tuesday, **September 24**. Let Tim De Hart know you are willing to serve as site host volunteer: tdehart@new.rr.com The construction workers and food provider slots have been generously filled for this year’s Habitat Faith Build. We thank those church members and friends.

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? Starting Wednesday, **September 11** 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.

Praise and Clays! Come join Pastor Nick and other members of the church for a fun morning of sporting clays at J&H Game Farm in Shiocton on Thursday, **September 12** at 10:00AM. We will meet for a round of sporting clays then have lunch and a short devotional in the lodge together. Need a ride? New to the sport? Don't know anyone going? No problem! All ages are welcome. Clays cost approximately \$37 per person, plus shells (you should bring your own) plus your cost for lunch. Please let us know you will be there! Reach out to Mark Dougherty at Doughertymark59@gmail.com with any questions or to RSVP.

NOAHH Requests: A person moving into a house needs household items, a home with 10 children and 4 adults needs dressers and a crib, Human Services continues to need money for a client’s driver’s education class, a 75” TV stand, table and chairs, a vacuum and a potty chair. Call Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 for pick up.

Turtle Trek Fund-Raiser: September 8-November 17, 2024. First Congregational UCC is sponsoring its fourth Turtle Trek Challenge, a fund-raiser to help support Oglala Lakota families on the Pine Ridge reservation through our mission partner, Re-Member.

Through its work, Re-Member builds beds and outhouses for those living on Pine Ridge. It provides firewood in winter. It supports self-sufficiency through community gardens. It builds support for native-owned businesses. Find out more at: <https://www.re-member.org>. The Turtle Trek Challenge is not a race; there's no registration fee; and you don't necessarily have to train to pull it off. If you take up the challenge, you commit to covering 100 miles over a 10-week period (September 8-November 17). Trekkers can walk, jog, saunter, rollerblade, push a stroller or a wheelbarrow as long as they keep to their pledge to move overland a total of 100 miles by ten weeks' end. Trekkers will need to find at least 2 or 4 sponsors willing to pay a per mile pledge (e.g., 10 cents/mile, 25 cents/mile, etc.). Trekkers can keep track of their pledges on the tally sheet available here: [Turtle Trek Sponsor Sheet](#)

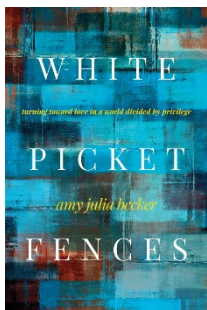


Pledge monies can be sent one of two ways:

- Send checks made out to "FCUCC Appleton" with a note in the check's memo line: "Turtle Trek Challenge."
- Donate directly through the Re-Member Website (<https://www.re-member.org/give-online>). Please note in the "Additional gift information & comments" the following "I am/we are supporting the Turtle Trek Challenge, FCUCC Appleton." This helps us know how successful our efforts are.

For more information, please contact Eilene Hoft-March at Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu; 920-735-0166 or sign up as a trekker or a sponsor (or both!) at our sign-up table in early September.

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! Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey will lead the retreat. Register on Realm, with this link [2024 Women's Retreat](#), or in the church office. The cost is \$180. Registration closes Monday, **September 9.** If you have any questions, please contact Barb Uehling at buehling@gmail.com.



(Mostly) Parents Book Study: Join us Sunday mornings for a Small Group Book Discussion covering *White Picket Fences – Turning Toward Love in a World Divided by Privilege* by Amy Julia Becker. Starting **September 29**, we will read a chapter each week, and then meet for a discussion using the author's guide to lead us. The group meets during Children's Choir rehearsals, and additional childcare is available for the non-choir children. We meet in the Middle School Room after worship service. Again, **CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE!** Contact burton.andrewd@gmail.com with any questions.

Outreach Ministries Seek New Members: Our dedicated and fun group is primarily made up of people who are passionate about the work of the Mission or Community Partner they are representing. We would like to have a few "free agents" who would work on more "neighborly" things, such as helping with Trunk or Treat, hosting a Food Truck Rally for the neighborhood or...use your imagination...to help us live more fully as the *Church of the Open Door* in this neighborhood. Outreach Ministries meets on the fourth Tuesdays of the month, beginning in September. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller, 715-853-6625, nbkappleton@gmail.com or Eilene Hoft-March, 920 809-8194, eilene.hoft-march@lawrence.edu

No Prep Bible Study: Pastor Katherine will lead a Bible Study on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30PM in the Upper Lounge. There is no preparation required to participate! We will use brief videos from The Bible Project at the beginning of each gathering. Bring your Bible and an open mind. Fall dates include September 11, 18, 25; October 9, 16, 23; and November 6, 13, 20. Email kwpershey@uccappleton.org to sign up or request more information.

Henderson Settlement Our New Mission Partner: Today is Rally Sunday. Let me introduce you to our newest Mission partner. Henderson Settlement is in Frakes, KY - the poorest county in Kentucky. Volunteer work teams and individuals come together to repair the homes of the residents in this Kentucky/Tennessee area. Volunteers select the repair projects, raise the money, and complete the projects within their abilities. Home repairs can range from building a ramp, replacing windows, doors, and siding, installing new kitchen cabinets, or installing metal roofing. People who prefer to stay on campus find volunteer opportunities in the Thrift Store, helping with the Infant and Young Mother program, food pantry, and Senior program. Volunteers are vital to the ministry Henderson Settlement can provide to area residents. Flyers are available by the Outreach Missions bulletin board. Our ecumenical group will be at Henderson Settlement October 6-12, 2024. Contact LouAnn Graf for more information.

The 32nd annual Alternative Christmas Market is Sunday, **November 17**, from 10:30AM-12:00PM. The Market is an opportunity to support and offer donations to our 10 church mission partners. We will celebrate as a congregation in food, music and learn more about our mission partner's needs.

Sunday Coffee Hosts: Thanks for the great response over the summer. Now is the time to check your calendars and sign up again. We need Sunday coffee hour help starting at the end of September. Please sign up on the Coffee Hour sheets on the table near the church library window. For those interested in helping and who need training, contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.

ESTHER and the FCCUC are Celebrating a 20-year Partnership - 2004-2024

JOIN A TASK FORCE! ESTHER task forces are action groups that plan and implement activities and events to evoke positive change in our community. Issues we address arise from the voices of those in our community and are supported by our member congregations. <https://esther-foxvalley.org> For dates and locations of task force meetings, including unusual meeting times and locations, see our calendar.

- Transformational Justice Task Force
- Oshkosh ESTHER Task Force
- Immigration Task Force
- Transportation Task Force
- Environmental Justice Task Force
- Equity and Racial Justice Committee

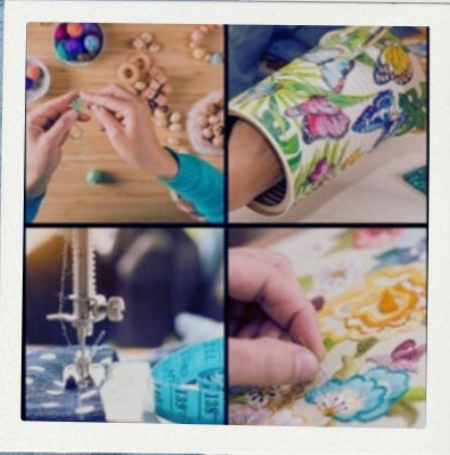
Esther has the following two events in October:

- **October 5** - NAMI Walks is a co-promotion with NAMI <https://esther-foxvalley.org/date/2024/10/05/nami-walks-fox-valley> (see article below)
- **October 8** - ESTHER Event: Justice in Crisis: Movie and Panel Discussion. Tuesday, October 8, 2024 - 6:00-8:00PM at Fox Valley Technical College. An event helping celebrate ESTHER's 20th anniversary. Film showing of Justice in Crisis: Mass Incarceration in America, with panel to follow. Sponsored by ESTHER's Transformational Justice Task Force

NAMI Walk on Saturday, October 5, 9:00-11:00AM at Fox Cities Stadium: The Mental Health Task Force is working on becoming a Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) community regarding mental health. We want to provide opportunities for congregation members to know and engage with other members, to support each other when there are struggles. We also want to support the wider community. One way to do both things is to walk as part of the ESTHER/FCUCC team for the NAMI Walk on October 5. We envision the Walk becoming an annual event for our church community to spend time together, getting to know each other. That is an important part of being a WISE church. Our team's name is Faith, Hope and Love. The 5K (3.1 miles) walk supports a great cause, raising money to support the wonderful programs offered by NAMI to help those who live with mental health conditions. If you can't walk with us, please consider a donation to help support the cause. Use this link to either donate or join us on the walk.



<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=1546> or use the QR code. Remember our team's name - Faith, Hope and Love. For questions or more information, please contact Mary Sullivan msullivan623@yahoo.com or 920-740-9452.



CABIN FEVER CRAFT CIRCLE

Ladies! Come craft with us!

Starting September 7th &
Every 1st Saturday of the Month

1:00 - 5:00PM

FCUCC Upper Lounge

- Bring whatever project you're working on!
- Feel free to bring a snack to share!
- Come join us for fellowship & fun!
- No need to register—Just come on out!
- Let's get CRAFTY!

For information, email Debra Morningstar at dawest@centurytel.net

FAITH COMMUNITIES HOUSING

Guest Speakers

Rev. Mark Elsdon - RootedGood (keynote)
Rep. Lee Snodgrass
Kara Homan - City of Appleton
Jason Schulist & Ted Toussaint - GLCI
Julie Filapek - NeighborWorks Green Bay
Lisa Strandberg - Pillars
Liz Croley - City of Appleton

Summit

Fox Cities faith communities
convening to address the
housing crisis



FCUCC, 724 East South River St, Appleton

SATURDAY | OCT 12 | 2024
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Early Bird Registration by Sept 2 is \$15
Click QR code to register





**Submitting items for Weekly Church E-Newsletters /Social Media/
Website Announcements /Sunday Bulletin Open Door Announcements**

1. The hub of communication will be our **website**.
2. **Weekly E-Newsletters** will be sent out mid-week and on Fridays.
 - a. The mid-week E-news will be sent out late in the day on Tuesdays to provide updates about Wednesday evening activities.
 - b. The Friday E-news 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 E-Newsletters /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 opendoor@uccappleton.org.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, September 9

1:00-2:30PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry – <i>Common Grounds</i>
3:30-5:00PM	IPAC Meeting – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:00-7:30PM	Mental Health Task Force – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-8:30PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry – <i>Common Grounds</i>
6:30-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir – <i>Sanctuary</i>
7:00-8:00PM	When Church Stops Working – <i>Chapel</i>

Tuesday, September 10

9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
11:00AM-12:00PM	Staff Meeting – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
1:30-3:00PM	Racial Equity – <i>by Zoom</i>
2:00-4:00PM	Library Committee – <i>Library</i>
5:00-7:00PM	Kenya Partnership – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:00-8:00PM	Wild Women of First Congregational – <i>Stone Arch Brewpub</i>
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA Group – <i>Common Grounds</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Technology Committee – <i>by Zoom</i>
7:45-8:45PM	Fireside AA – <i>Common Grounds</i>

Wednesday, September 11

10:00-11:45AM	Isaiah Project Meeting – <i>Isaiah Project Room</i>
12:00-1:00PM	Prayer Chapel – <i>Chapel</i>
12:15-1:00PM	Loving Acceptance Meditation Group – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
1:00-2:00PM	Membership Committee – <i>Library</i>
6:30-7:30PM	No Prep Bible Study – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
6:30-7:30PM	MS & HS Youth Group Kickoff! – <i>MS & HS Youth Rooms</i>
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir – <i>Choir Room, Sanctuary</i>

Thursday, September 12

9:00-10:00AM	Strong Bodies – <i>Fellowship Hall</i>
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – <i>Common Grounds</i>
6:30-8:30PM	EJWG Housing Summit Planning Committee – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – <i>Common Grounds</i>

Friday, September 13

7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – <i>Upper Lounge</i>
7:00-8:30PM	N.A – <i>Common Grounds</i>

Saturday, September 14


4:00-11:00PM	Event Parking for Pop! 2024 Fundraiser at Lawrence University – <i>West and East Church Parking Lots</i>
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – <i>Common Grounds</i>

This week's schedule continued on page 17...

Sunday, September 15



9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
 9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge*
 9:30-10:30AM Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*
 10:30-11:30AM CYF Committee Meeting – *HS Youth Room*
 10:30-11:30AM Quarterly Congregational Meeting: Project Isaiah Update - *Sanctuary*
 5:00-6:00PM LU Music Scholars’ Rehearsal – *Choir Room, Sanctuary*
 6:00-7:00PM Songs & Stories: Karma’s Mailbox Event – *Sanctuary*
 7:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
 7:00-8:00PM AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*

Reminder: Kwik Trip cards (to support the 2025 Youth Trip) are available for purchase today after worship in the narthex, and ALWAYS available for purchase in the church office during office hours.



**Fundraising
CARD PROGRAM**


Order Form

Member Name		Phone #		Email	
Special notes				Date turned in	

QTY	Car Wash (5ct)	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)	QTY	Fuel Only	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)	Total:
	\$36.00				\$20.00			_____
					\$50.00			Office use Only
QTY	Grocery Only	Paid ✓	Received (Initial)		\$100.00			Payment Type:
	\$5.00				\$200.00			___ Cash
	\$10.00				\$500.00			___ Check
	\$20.00							___ Online

How Much Comes Back to Our Church Youth?
 Car Wash Cards – 44%!
 Grocery Cards – 20%
 Gas Gift Cards – 10%



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 AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON

- 9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
- 9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship/Rally Sunday/Blessings of the Backpacks –
Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge
- 9:30-10:30AM Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*
- 10:30-11:00AM Kwik Trip Fundraising – *Narthex*
- 10:30-11:30AM Rally Sunday Brunch – *Fellowship Hall*
- 6:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
- 7:00-8:00PM AL ANON – *Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge*

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.

We are “The Church of the Open Door,” a welcoming and inclusive Christian community. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.



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

724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
920.733.7393 | uccappleton.org | info@uccappleton.org
Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM