

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

February 23, 2025



(Cover photos courtesy of United Church Camps, Inc.)

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 23, 2025 9:30AM

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany ~ Creation & Camp Sunday

*Wear your favorite flannel!*

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## PRELUDE

*Land of Rest & Prospect*

North American Tunes

Settings by Nancy M. Raabe (b. 1954)

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *piano*

## CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

## WELCOME

*\*Please rise in body or spirit*

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We walk in wonder beneath the sun and stars.

**All: Creation is God's masterpiece, and we are blessed to share it.**

One: We give thanks for the air, the land, and the water.

**All: And for all the creatures joined together in the web of life.**

One: Beauty is before us, around us, over us and beneath us.

**All: We join our hearts, minds, and spirits as one in thanks and awe.**

### \*OPENING HYMN #54

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

## 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 SONG #257 (Sung by all as the children exit.)

*This Is the Day*

THIS IS THE DAY

***This is the day (this is the day) that our God has made (that our God has made.)***

***We will rejoice (we will rejoice) and be glad in it (and be glad in it.)***

***This is the day that our God has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

***This is the day (this is the day) that our God has made!***

## SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 6:27-38

Abby Schmidt

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes

you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you expect to receive payment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. Instead, love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, for he himself is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

SERMON *"Hey Wait a Minute. What About Them?"*

Rev. Jim Schleif

\*HYMN #96

*Creating God, Your Fingers Trace*

CORNISH CAROL

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

*Our Love Can Mend a Broken World*

Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

Text by William Penn (1644-1718) and Tom Trenney

Sanctuary Choir conducted by Ben Keating, *Lawrence University Music Scholar*

*The world seems so eager to threaten, but love remains patient and kind.*

*The world strives for wealth, might, and power, but love longs for soul, heart, and mind.*

*The world plays a loud, clanging cymbal, but love sings its still, small voice.*

*The world delights in bearing false witness, but love, in the truth, will rejoice!*

Refrain: *Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.*

*Let's see what love can do to mend a broken world.*

*The world makes our genders unequal, but love treasures every design.*

*The world lets our colors divide us, but love makes the rainbow its sign.*

*The world harms with guns and with weapons, but love gives the captive release.*

*The world often hungers for violence but love always thirsts for our peace.*

*Refrain*

*The world shuns the immigrant's hunger, but love feeds the poor refugee.  
The world argues, "They're not my children;" but love says, "My child, come to me:"*

*Refrain*

*Our love can mend the world.*

**\*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 (see bulletin pages 5 & 6)**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

**\*CLOSING LITANY FOR CREATION God's Profligate Generosity Psalm 148**

One: Jubilation, exaltation, celebration, one and all!

**All: Within the womb of the heavens, the Earth leaps to praise its Creator.**

One: As the pearl necklace of planets swing around the sun, as the shining oceans embrace the continents, so do all living things praise the Giver of Life.

**All: For God expressed a thought, and the thought took life.**

One: God wanted to speak, and the Word became flesh and lived among us.

**All: In that Word was holiness, the spirit that makes every life more than the sum of its chemicals.**

One: From the tiniest plankton in the sea to the great whales, from the ants that burrow in the dust to the eagle that soars in the heavens – all owe their existence to God.

**All: Fire and hail, snow and frost, sun and drought, wind and rain – in God, all things work together for good.**

One: Mighty mountains compost into rich soil;

**All: Fruit trees and maples aerate the atmosphere.**

One: The dung beetle depends on the waste of cattle;

**All: Birds and wind currents carry seeds to new orchards.**

One: Not one part is cut off from God's energy;

**All: Everything has been equally created to live interdependently.**

One: God scatters new life even among weeds and thistles;

**All: And all Creation responds with rejoicing.**

From Everyday Psalms by James Taylor Copyright © 2005, Wood Lake Books

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Toccata in D*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Jim Schlieff, *UCCI Executive Director*

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*

Abby Schmidt, *Lay Reader*

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*

Sanctuary Choir conducted by Ben Keating, *Lawrence University Music Scholar*

John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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# Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

## Prayer of St. Francis

Musical staff with chords: D, Bm, A7, D, Em, A7. The staff shows a melody in G major, 2/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where  
4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It

Musical staff with chords: D, Bm, G, Em, A7. The staff continues the melody from the previous staff.

there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where  
there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where  
is in par-don-ning that we are par-doned, in

Musical staff with chords: Em, A7, Em7, A7. The staff continues the melody.

there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and  
there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and  
giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in

Musical staff with chords: Em, A7, D, 1, 2, 4 (Fine). The staff concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

where there's doubt, true faith in you.  
where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.  
dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

Musical staff with chords: G, Em, D, Bm. The staff continues the melody.

3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so

Musical staff with chords: Em, A7, D, A7, D, D7. The staff continues the melody.

much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace continued on page 6...*

un - der - stood as to un - der - stand, to be  
loved as to love with all my soul.

to Stanza 4

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

TEXT: Anon., c. 1912; adapt. Sebastian Temple, 1967  
MUSIC: Sebastian Temple, 1963; arr. Alfred V. Fedak, 2011  
Text and Music © 1967 OCP

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS  
Irregular

### USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

FEBRUARY USHERS: Rick Behm, Tim Bauer, Peter Carman, Karen Crawford, Abby Schmidt, Andy Schmidt

AUDIO & VIDEO: Rick Behm, Seb Pershey, Rod Reynolds, Matt Feuerhelm

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Transfiguration Sunday Luke 9:28-43a Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey  
Music: Sanctuary Choir; soprano soloist; flute; LU faculty violin & piano preview

### ON THE CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 5	6:00-7:45PM	Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service
July 7-10	9AM-12PM	Vacation Bible School
August 25-28	5:30-7:30PM	Vacation Bible School

**WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)**

## Meet Rev. James Schleif, Executive Director of UCCI



Jim's journey with UCCI began in early 2020 as the facilities lead at Cedar Valley, UCCI's site in West Bend, WI. His passion for outdoor ministry and demonstrated servant leadership moved him into the role of director of ministry and site operations in November of 2021.

Jim's broad vocational expertise makes it likely that guests will find him leading vespers, helping in the kitchen, winterizing a waterfront, as well as providing organizational management, strategic planning, development guidance, and spiritual grounding.

Before joining UCCI, Schleif served as the settled Pastor and Teacher at both St. John's UCC in Slinger and Hartford, WI. Before acknowledging a calling to ministry late in vocational life, Schleif served for eight years in the US Navy Nuclear Power Program (submarines) and 28 years in commercial nuclear power generation and emergency management. The combination of engineering and technical skills, plant operations, and supervisory and organizational leadership roles have all helped prepare him to step into this role. Jim facilitated the collaborative group that renamed and rededicated Daycholah Center in October 2021. This work effectively intersected the interests of UCCI, the Ho-Chunk UCC Church in Black River Falls, WI, the Alliance for Justice, and the Creation Care Team of the Wisconsin Conference UCC.

"The UCCI journey has been a true challenge over the last few years. Much has changed both internally and externally, but what remains constant is the transformational capacity of outdoor ministry. I look forward to future growth and a sustainable business practice that holds true to our core ministry. I ask for your continued prayers and invite you individually and collectively to consider how you might "Return to Sacred Ground."

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### **2025 UCCI Camps, Events, and Registration!**

Here are the links to the website to browse the list of events for [Cedar Valley](#), [Moon Beach](#), [Camp AweSum](#), and [Daycholah Center](#).

### 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.**

Amanda, who has terminal cancer	Kathy Lannoye
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Elizabeth McNally
Don Brittnacher	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with cancer
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	Anika Quillman
Erstad's family friend, Silas, and his family	Frank and Pat Severin
David Galow	Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie
The family of Paul Gohdes	Stacey, friend of Kathy and Dick DeVries
Friends and family of Helen, as she recovers from a fall	Kinsley Tarr
Colton Heimlich	Gloria Tate
JoAnn Helms	Jack Thiel
Shirley Hoft	Peter Thiel
Sandi Hurm	James Totzke
Jenny, who has been diagnosed with cancer	Those living with mental unwellness
Jean Jepson	Larry Vaubel
Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube	Karen Waters

Please call or email the church office if someone's name should be removed from the list.  
 Thank you!

## The Open Door Announcements

For more information on these announcements and other events, please visit our website, weekly e-newsletters, and social media.

**Coffee Ministry Is Easier Than Ever!** The 2025 sign-up sheets are waiting for YOU to serve coffee after service on Sundays! Do you have a group/cause dear to our church that would like to promote themselves on any given Sunday? Family members? The possibilities are endless. Please consider helping us now and throughout the year (a few spring dates and beyond are still available!) And, thanks to our personal super-hero Vince Salvia -- **making the coffee is all taken care of.** You just need to show up (9:15ish), do on a little well-timed 'get ready/get set' toward the end of the service, and

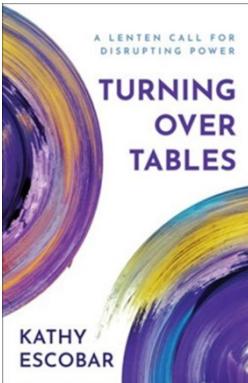


take down (usually around 11:00AM.) The sign-up sheets are in the narthex by the library window. Check your calendars, grab a friend/group and sign up TODAY!

**Coffee Hour -- What's with The Treats (Or No Treats)???** The Fellowship Team wants to fill you in on a little something. We didn't want people to feel obligated to bring treats if they were

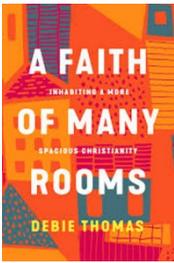
hosting coffee hour, so that's why some Sundays you won't see treats offered. We only ask the host on Communion Sunday to provide some nosh-ables. It certainly is 'sweet' if someone provides them on a non-Communion Sunday, but never an expectation. Thanks for your understanding.

**Join Pastor Nick for a Lenten Devotion:** Would you like to participate in a Lenten devotion with fellow church members? Do you want to deepen your scriptural understanding of Jesus' call to disrupt power? If so, join us for *A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power: Turning Over Tables* by Kathy Escobar in the Upper Lounge. Together,



we will explore Jesus' call to be forces for healing and hope in a fractured world. We will reflect on the structures of power around us and examine how we participate in or resist them. Our study will focus on biblical texts that are subversive, countercultural, and counterintuitive. Each week, participants will have a daily devotion to complete at home. Then, on Wednesdays, we will come together to engage with the devotion of the day and pray as a group. The study meets from **March 12 to April 9**, from 6:30-7:30PM, both in person and on Zoom. You are welcome to attend once or every week. Books should be available in the main office for \$13.00 by March 3. Please register via [Realm here.](#)

**Lenten Yoga Class:** Join Pastor Katherine for a 6-week gentle slow flow yoga session during Lent in the River Room; **March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6**, from 4:15-5:15PM. Bring a yoga mat and a block if you have one.



**(Mostly) Parents Book Study:** Join us Sunday mornings for a small group book discussion covering *A Faith of Many Rooms* by Debie Thomas. Starting **February 23**, we will read a chapter each week and then meet for a discussion. The group meets during Children's Choir rehearsals, with additional childcare available for non-choir children. We meet in the Common Grounds room after worship service. Again, **CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE!** Contact [betsyschlabach@gmail.com](mailto:betsyschlabach@gmail.com) with any questions.

**Benefit Recital:** Join us for a violin & piano recital to benefit LEAVEN, Sunday, **March 2** at 3:00PM in the sanctuary. Come enjoy exceptional artistry of Lawrence University music professors Anthony Padilla, piano, and Wen-Lei Gu, violin. The musicians are sharing their gifts to benefit the work of LEAVEN. A free-will offering will be received. They will be performing a program of Violin/Piano Sonatas by Beethoven, Ravel and Respighi. *Bring a friend, support an important cause. . . all are welcome!*

**Please Join Us!** You are invited to join in a discussion regarding the Just Peace in Palestine and Israel Resolution put forth by the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ Board of Directors. This resolution was submitted by the Palestine Justice Working Group of the Wisconsin Conference and will be voted on at this year's WI Conference Annual Meeting. The process for adopting a resolution of witness requires a vote of the of the Annual Meeting when first introduced, followed by one year of study and engagement by local congregations. If 30% of UCC churches do some study of the Resolution, a confirming vote will be taken at the 2025 Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting. Our church has chosen to be a part of the resolution. The discussion dates are **March 9 and 23** at 11:00AM in the chapel. For the contents of the resolution and additional resources visit The Wisconsin Conference, Palestine Justice Working Group. If you have questions, please contact Mary Dees at 920-915-0177.

**Reducing Sleep-Related Deaths: A Community Effort:** Did you know that between 2020 and 2023, there were 10 sleep-related deaths in the Tri-County area? The majority of these deaths were linked to unsafe sleep environments. Safe sleep practices are crucial for the well-being of infants, and the Fox Valley Safe Sleep Coalition is working hard to reduce these numbers by educating our community about the importance of a safe sleep environment. Our goal is to ensure that every family in our community has the knowledge and resources to create a safe sleep environment for their infants. To help raise awareness, we have created a Safe Sleep Environment Display that aims to educate the community on what a safe sleep environment should look like. Throughout the month of February, you will find a display in the narthex. Please stop by and click the QR code for more information! Please contact Amanda Hatch if you have any questions. [Amanda.Hatch@appletonwi.gov](mailto:Amanda.Hatch@appletonwi.gov)



**Library News:** If you haven't made it to the library table after church recently, you are probably wondering what the theme is for February. It's no surprise – it's Black History Month. There are lots of wonderful choices. Here are just a couple. *"The Color of Compromise: The Truth About the American Church's Complicity in Racism"* by Jemar Tisby and *"Shirley Chisholm: Champion of Black Feminist Power Politics"* by Anastasia Carol Curwood.

**NOAHH Requests:** A family with 6 children in the home is in need of a full-size bed frame and box spring – NOAHH has a mattress for the family. Currently two children are sharing a twin bed. Also, there is a request for assistance to help a father pay for purchasing a cap and gown for his son who will be graduating in May. Package A is \$140.95 for cap, gown, tassel, mascot tassel, strap key ring, senior sweatshirt and senior sweatpants, package B is \$105.96: cap/gown/tassel and mascot tassel, strap key ring and senior sweatshirt and package C is \$59.98: cap/gown/tassel and mascot tassel. Any of these would help. Contact Barb Mincheff at 920-832-5515 for pickup or drop-off.

**EJWG invites you to a Post-Summit Event:** Become an Effective Advocate for Affordable Housing. Join in-person and online training, Monday, **March 3**, 10:00-11:30AM, with faith community members who want to make a difference in affordable housing legislation and regulation. Explore the ways in which you can help our community work toward housing justice. In-person will be at First United Methodist Church Appleton, 325 East Franklin Street, Appleton, WI 54911. Registration will give you live-stream and recording access. Topics to be covered:

- Ways to Create Change
- Overview of Government
- How a Bill becomes a Law
- Housing Impact and Information
- Opportunities to Engage with Elected Officials
- Faith Community Perspective

More information and a poster for sharing, go to [this link](#)! If you would like to register, please [click here](#).

**Turtle Trek 2024 Final Figure:** Grateful thanks to those who either took up the challenge to trek 100 miles or to contribute to a Trekker this last fall. Through this effort, we collectively raised \$2,675.00 for Re-Member, our mission partner serving residents of the Pine Ridge reservation. These funds will help the Re-Member winter team deliver firewood and subsidize seasonal utility bills in this difficult winter season. Many thanks for your much-needed support!

**Summer 2025 Youth Volunteer Weekend:** Current middle and high schoolers, join us for a volunteer weekend, **Friday, June 20-Sunday, June 22**, getting to help clean up the UCC Camp, Daycholah Center, in Ripon, WI! Please email Renae with questions or to sign up. [rsalvia@uccappleton.org](mailto:rsalvia@uccappleton.org)

**Madison Action Day:** Ready to take action for social justice? Join us for Madison Action Day 2025 in Madison, WI on **April 10!** Engage with policymakers, connect with advocates, and make your voice heard. We are sharing our priorities for the State Biennium Budget. Together, we can create a more equitable future. Includes box lunch and Madison Action Day T-shirt. We are taking a coach bus with bathrooms. Sign up for the bus at the time of registration, additional \$10 per person towards bus costs. Arrive at Madison Masonic Center by 9:00AM. Finish meeting with legislators by 4:00PM for return to the Fox Cities. \$35 Early Bird/person. Register now: <https://bit.ly/madisonactionday2025>



**23 Hours a Day in Solitary Confinement:** On any given day in the U.S., an estimated 122,000 adults are held for 23 hours a day for months, years, even decades in solitary confinement in prisons and jails, with many more held in solitary in youth and immigrant detention centers. On the 23rd day of every month, faith communities across the country take a moment to remember the people being held in Solitary Confinement, a form of punishment that few countries use because it is considered a form of torture. We remember them on the 23rd because they are isolated, alone in a very small room for at least 23 hours every day. Today we lift up the more than 700 men and women being held today in Solitary Confinement in Wisconsin prisons. WISDOM/ESTHER are doing public actions (vigils) on the 23rd of each month at prisons in Green Bay, Milwaukee and Madison. Those will



continue as long as necessary to build awareness about the horror that is Solitary Confinement and to stand in solidarity with *The National Religious Campaign Against Torture's Together to End Solitary* that raises attention on the 23rd of each month and seeks to touch the hearts of those who can end this practice. Open this link for more information: [A mobile prison cell exposes solitary confinement conditions](#)



*When you hear "The Isaiah Project," think "infrastructure." The Steering Committee and four Task Forces are prayerfully engaged in research, community partnership development, and discernment to provide recommendations to Church Council about our buildings, grounds, and neighborhood presence. These recommendations will address our current and future needs and support our mission and priorities.*

### The Isaiah Corner:

#### **Steering Committee:** Invitation for Questions

If you have questions about what is going on with the Isaiah Project, we want to hear from you! There are multiple ways to pass your questions along. You can speak to one of the Isaiah representatives in the narthex after worship (look for the orange buttons!) You can submit a paper question or comment in the Isaiah Box on the welcome desk in the narthex. You can submit online at <https://www.uccappleton.org/the-isaiah-project> (click the button labeled, "Isaiah Box, Questions, Comments, and Ideas"). Or you can email Director of Operational Ministries Vince Salvia at [vsalvia@uccappleton.org](mailto:vsalvia@uccappleton.org). As a Congregational church, we want every voice to be heard! Questions and responses addressing matters of general interest may be published in The Isaiah Corner in future issues of the Open Door.

**Finance Task Force:** We will be hosting another Capital Campaign round table discussion at **10:45AM today** in the Upper Lounge. This is your opportunity for input to our upcoming capital campaign. Should you have any questions, concerns, or other thoughts, we'd appreciate hearing from you before we begin detailed planning. If you have any experience with capital campaigns, we definitely would like to hear from you!

**TNT CIRCLE:** Do you remember the TNT circle that met on Monday mornings in the 70s, 80s, and 90s? A group of us gathered for lunch recently to plan a TNT reunion on **June 2** at 9:30AM. We came up with a list of over 30 names, but we don't want to miss anyone! If you would like to join us, please contact Mary Gay Hornseth ([hornsethmg@gmail.com](mailto:hornsethmg@gmail.com)) or Susan McFadden ([susan.h.mcfadden@gmail.com](mailto:susan.h.mcfadden@gmail.com)). We'll be sending postcards later this spring with additional details. Help us spread the word!



**February Fundraising Thank You:** We are incredibly grateful for your support this month as we raised funds for our 2025 Youth Mission Trip! Your generosity – through financial gifts, prayers, and encouragement – has meant so much to our twenty-three youth and five adult leaders. While we’re still finalizing the total, your contributions this month have brought us at least \$2,000 closer to sharing God’s love in Asheville, NC, on behalf of our church. If you’d like to continue supporting the trip, Kwik Trip fuel cards, grocery cards, and stock shares remain available on the first Sunday of each month and daily in the church office. Thank you for being part of this journey!





## Order Form



Member Name \_\_\_\_\_

Special notes \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:**  
\_\_\_\_\_

QTY	Car Wash (5ct)	Total
	\$36.00	

QTY	Fuel Only	Total
	\$20.00	
	\$50.00	
	\$100.00	
	\$200.00	
	\$500.00	

**Office use Only**

Payment Type:

Cash     Credit Card

Check     Online

QTY	Grocery Only	Total
	\$5.00	
	\$10.00	
	\$20.00	

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration MM/YY \_\_\_\_\_

CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Initial here if you would like to pay the 2% processing fee

Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

I authorize First Congregational UCC, Appleton and their payment processor to charge the above card. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to adjust or terminate the authorization.

**How Much Comes Back to Our Church Youth?**

Car Wash Cards – 44%

Grocery Cards – 15%

Gas Gift Cards – 10%

**Kwik Trip Cards and Youth Stock Sales available today after worship in the narthex and always available in the church office Monday through Friday 9AM-3PM!**

14



**NEWS**  
*from the*  
**PEWS**

Thank you to everyone parking in the CYF lot! Your kindness makes a big difference in welcoming visitors and supporting those with mobility needs.

Now, we need your help inside the sanctuary. Our church continues to be bustling on Sundays – what a wonderful challenge to have!

To make our space more inviting for newcomers, we kindly ask you to sit closer to the front and move toward the center of the pews. This simple shift ensures that visitors don't have to navigate through a crowded sanctuary to find a seat, making it easier for them to feel at home.

Our Worship & Music Ministry Team, along with our staff, continue to monitor attendance. While our current numbers don't yet call for a second service, the back of the sanctuary is consistently full. The last thing a visitor wants to do is walk past two hundred new people, a few minutes late. By filling in the front rows, we create a more welcoming, vibrant worship space for all.

Thank you for helping us extend hospitality in every way possible. Your presence and thoughtfulness make all the difference!

### **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, soils, 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.

## **This Week's Schedule**

### Monday, February 24

6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

### Tuesday, February 25

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

11:15AM-1:15PM Recital Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

4:00-5:30PM Outreach Ministries Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

6:00-7:30PM Council Meeting - *Upper Lounge*

6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA - *Common Grounds*

7:00-8:30PM Boy Scouts - *Fellowship Hall*

7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

### Wednesday, February 26

9:30AM-12:00PM Isaiah Project Meeting - *Isaiah Project Room*

12:00-1:00PM Prayer Chapel - *Chapel*

12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - *Upper Lounge*

4:40-5:30PM MS/HS Youth Volunteer @ Fox Valley Humane Association

5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells - *Amistad Room*

6:30-7:30PM HS Youth Group - *HS Room* /MS Youth Group - *MS Room*

6:30-7:30PM Bible Study - *Chapel*

7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

### Thursday, February 27

9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*

11:15AM-12:15PM Recital Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*

12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*

6:30-8:00PM TNT (SOAR Fox Cities) - *River Room*

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

### Friday, February 28

10:00-11:30AM Bulletin Folders - *Library*

7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*

7:00-8:30PM N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, March 1

1:00-5:00PM Women's Craft Circle - *Upper Lounge*  
2:30-4:30PM Recital Rehearsal - *Sanctuary*  
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Sunday, March 2

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare - *Childcare Room*  
9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship- *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*  
9:30-10:30AM Children's Ministry: Chat in the Chapel - *Chapel*  
10:30-11:00AM Kwik Trip Cards & Stock Sales - *Narthex*  
10:30-11:00AM Congregational Meeting - *Sanctuary*  
10:30-11:30AM Children's Choir - *Choir Room*  
10:45-11:45AM Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms - *Common Grounds*  
3:00-4:00PM Piano/Violin Recital - *Sanctuary*  
4:30-5:30PM LU Music Scholars' Rehearsal - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*  
6:00-8:00PM 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.

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**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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month and may go to childcare the 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. Please see an usher for directions to the Childcare Room.

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

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

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



**Online Streaming and Podcasting** are available on [Facebook: FCUCCAppleton](#) or [Youtube: First Congregational UCC Appleton](#).

**Open Door Announcements** can be shared by emailing [opendoor@uccappleton.org](mailto:opendoor@uccappleton.org) or calling the office.

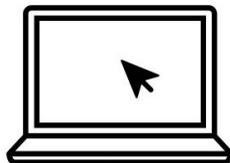
**References to God** in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

**Sunday School:** Our PreK - 5<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. Children begin in worship, leave with the director, and return to partake in communion with their families. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

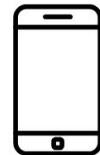
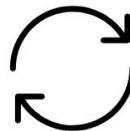
**Ways to Donate to First Congregational UCC, Appleton ~ Thank you for your support.**



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



Visit our website at [uccappleton.org](http://uccappleton.org) and click "Give Now" for a one time gift or to sign up for automatic giving



Text FCUCC GIVE to 73256

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

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

**TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON**

- 9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – *Childcare Room*
- 9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship/Camp & Flannel Sunday – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*
- 9:30-10:30AM Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*
- 10:30-11:00AM Kwik Trip Cards & Youth Stock Sales – *Narthex*
- 10:30-11:30AM Community Partnership – *Upper Lounge*
- 10:45-11:45AM Parents Book Study: A Faith of Many Rooms – *Common Grounds*
- 10:45-11:45AM Capital Campaign (Finance) Roundtable Discussion – *Upper Lounge*
- 10:45AM-12:00PM New Member Exploration Gathering – *Chapel*
- 2:45-4:30PM Recital Rehearsal – *Sanctuary*
- 4:30-5:30PM 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
<b>Childcare Room</b> Infants & Toddlers	<b>Nursery</b> K/1st Graders	<b>Little Angel’s Room</b> Preschoolers
<b>Theater</b>	<b>Art Kitchen</b> 4th/5th Graders	<b>Science Room</b>
<b>Scripture Tent</b> 2nd/3rd Graders		<b>Middle School Room</b>

**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.**



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 Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM  
 For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600