



May the light from this candle
proclaim that God's peace is coming

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 8, 2024 9:30AM
Second Sunday of Advent ~ Major Work Sunday

PRELUDE

As Dark Awaits the Dawn

Tune by Carl F. Schalk
Setting by David Lasky

All Earth Is Hopeful

Tune by Alberto Taulé
Setting by David M. Cherwien

Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *organ*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please Rise in Body or Spirit*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE: PEACE

("Adapted from a liturgy by The Salt Project")

Brad & Lynne Henning

One: Because of war, because of violence in our world,
because there is still so much unrest in our hearts, we light a candle of peace.
Because so many swords have not yet been remade into plowshares,
we light a candle of peace.

All: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

**May the light from this candle proclaim that God's peace is coming,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

One: Friends, be not afraid, God's peace is at hand!

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 6)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI EMMANUEL
arr. Marty Robinson

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the sermon, the prayer request cards will be collected. After the Children's Sermon, the children can stay in worship with their families or go to CYF.)

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #151

O Little Town of Bethlehem
St. 1, 2 & 4

ST. LOUIS
arr. James Biery

SCRIPTURE READING

Baruch 5:1-9

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting, for God will

show your splendor everywhere under heaven, for God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

BRIEF MEDITATION *"Wearing the Peace of Advent"*

Pastor Nick Hatch

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL #149

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
St. 1, 2 & 5

CAROL
arr. Charles E. Peery

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

Es is ein Ros' entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming) setting, J. Brahms
Transcribed for Brass Quintet by L. Niven

*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.**

CHORAL WORK

Gloria

Michael John Trotta (b. 1978)

(See bulletin page 3 for *Gloria* text and translation and page 7 for Composer's Program Notes)

Sanctuary Choir with Brass Quintet, Organ, and Percussion

Isabella Cerdan, *LU Music Scholar soprano*

Gloria in excelsis

<i>Glória in excélsis Deo</i> <i>et in terra pax homínibus bonæ voluntátis.</i> <i>Laudámus te,</i> <i>benedícimus te,</i> <i>adorámus te,</i> <i>glorificámus te,</i> <i>grátias ágimus tibi propter magnam glóriam tuam.</i>	Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.
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Domine Deus

Isabella Cerdan, LU Music Scholar soprano

<i>Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,</i> <i>Deus Pater omnípotens.</i> <i>Dómine Fili Unigénite, Iesu Christe,</i> <i>Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei, Fílius Patris,</i> <i>qui tollis peccáta mundi,</i> <i>miserére nobis;</i> <i>qui tollis peccáta mundi,</i> <i>súscipe deprecatiónem nostram.</i> <i>Qui sedes ad déxteram Patris,</i> <i>miserére nobis.</i>	Lord God, heavenly King, O God almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of The Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father have mercy on us.
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Quoniam tu solus Sanctus

<i>Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,</i> <i>tu solus Dóminus,</i> <i>tu solus Altíssimus,</i> <i>Iesu Christe,</i> <i>cum Sancto Spírítu:</i> <i>in glória Dei Patris.</i> <i>Amen.</i>	For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
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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 CAROL #135

Angels We Have Heard on High
St. 1 & 3

GLORIA
arr. Charles E. Peery

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Puer Nobis (On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry)

Tune from Piae Cantiones, 16th cent.
Setting by David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*
Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Organist*
Sanctuary Choir with Brass Quintet, Organ, and Percussion
John M. Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

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Stop by the Chapel during Advent or on Christmas Eve to view the beautiful nativity set donated to First Congregational. The classic scene, arranged on the Communion table, reminds us of Christ's humble birth in a manger. We've placed a Bible beside the nativity and encourage you to read Luke 2:1-20 as you contemplate the miracle of the Incarnation.

Sanctuary Choir 2024-2025

Soprano

Kristy Albrecht
Isabella Cerdan*
Barb Christie
Joni Conrad
Emma Eggen
Kelly Gingerich
Kris Glenn
Heather Hallett
Elizabeth Keggi
Gale Korth
Jennifer Kosloski
Elaine Lewellyn
Tanvi Thatai*
Greta Wright*

Alto

Marilyn Askari
Marlessa Benson
Ellen Darcourt
Sam Dill*
Cheryl Foster
Pat Hansen
Tami Johnson
Karen Leigh-Post
Elizabeth Melchert
Shelley Nulton
Nancy Stanelle
Ann Stein
Ave Van Til*
Beth Vercooteren
Phyllis Zeiss

Tenor

Jesse Baumgart
Evan Carlson*
David Cook
Paul Eggen
Ben Keating*
Preston Parker*
Adam Piepenburg
Bernie Wydeven

Bass

Curtis Anderson*
Daryl Brown
Phil Gabrielson
Kellan Glenn*
Terry Gottfried
Steve Hirby
Joel Jicha
Bill Lenz
Joel Schlabach
Skip Wilson

*LU Music Scholars

Brass Quintet and Percussion

Trumpets: John Daniel and Jessica Jensen

Horn: Michelle Dewhirst

Trombone: Dave Sawall

Tuba: Devin Otto

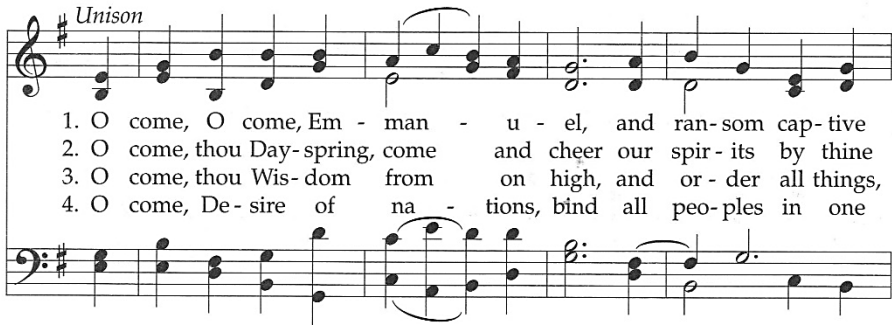
Percussion (timpani, glockenspiel, snare drum, suspended cymbal, crash cymbal):
John Aaholm, Victoria Daniel, and Jackson Prestley

Organist: Dr. Nathan Birkholz

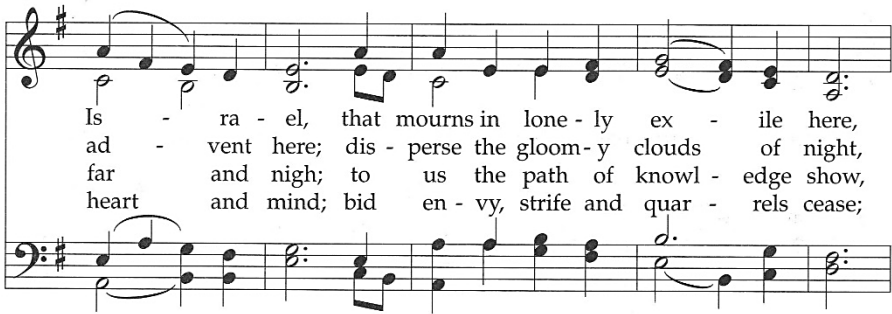
Director for Music Ministries: John M. Albrecht

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Unison

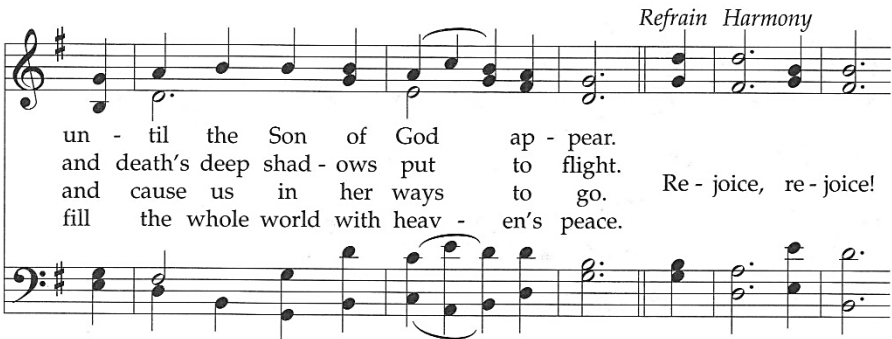


1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

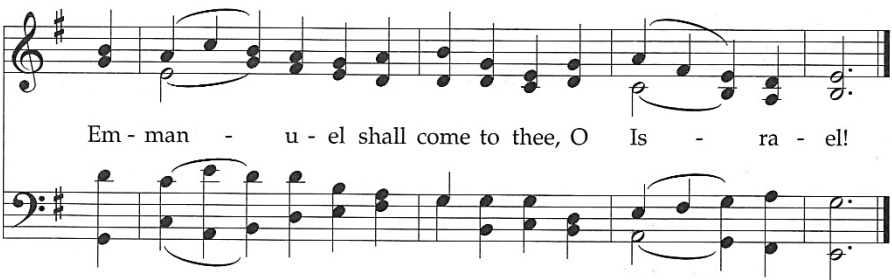


Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show,
heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease;

Refrain Harmony



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
and death's deep shad - ows put to flight.
and cause us in her ways to go. Re - joice, re - joice!
fill the whole world with heav - en's peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin hymn (12th century); st. 1-2 tr. John Mason Neale, 1851;
st. 3-4 tr. Henry Sloane Coffin, 1916
MUSIC: French melody (15th century); arr. and harm. Thomas Helmore, 1854

VENI EMMANUEL
LM

USHER TEAMS

DECEMBER USHERS: **Team 1:** Dennis Korth, Gale Korth, Kim Hanson, Dale Hanson, Tom Tatlock, Jim Thaldorf, Carol Valeri, Sue Wisneski, Logan LaViolette, Luke LaViolette
AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Third Sunday of Advent: Love Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey Luke 3:7-18
Musicians: Children's Choir & Youth Handbells

ON THE CALENDAR

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	Elizabeth McNally
Jill Anthony, her sister & her nephew	Holly Mueller
Katie Behl and her sister, Barbara	Olivia, who has been re-diagnosed with cancer
Don Brittnacher	Our friends in Kerio Valley, Kenya
Chris Brittnacher's brother, Steve Reinkober	Anika Quillman
Cheryl Currier	Larry Schiedermayer
Donna, who is in recovery from West Nile	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
The family of Paul Gohdes	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
Helen McKean's daughter, Larri Jacquart	

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.



The poster features a dark red background with a white snow-covered ground at the bottom. In the center, four diverse children wearing winter hats and coats are singing from green songbooks. To their right is a decorated Christmas tree with a yellow star on top and several wrapped gifts at its base. Musical notes are scattered around the children. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'The Church of the Open Door' and 'FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'.

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 8**

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



Pastor Katherine & Karma's Mailbox invite you to our **Christmas Songs & Stories!**

The band has prepared a setlist of favorite Christmas carols. Nick Hatch, Mary Mares, Kellan Glenn, and Steve Hirby will tell Christmas stories.

We will gather in the Sanctuary at 6:00PM, and all are welcome to stay for a homemade hot chocolate reception following the event.

Let's make this a merry and magnificent new Christmas tradition!

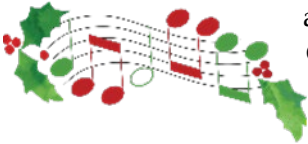
Back Bay Mission Shrimp Sale: Sundays: **December 8, 15 and 22.** Pick up a package (or two!) of individually flash-frozen-right-on-the-boat gulf shrimp. Available in our



narthex in 11lb packages, your purchase supports Back Bay Mission. Our price of \$15 per package allows you to enjoy delicious gulf shrimp and helps the only UCC ministry on the Gulf Coast. We are grateful to Jacobs Meat Market in Appleton for supplying shrimp for the sale again this year.

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. Childcare workers are also needed for Christmas Eve at the 9:30AM, earn \$30 per session (background check required.) Contact Sarah at swilterdink@uccappleton.org if interested.

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!

The 2025 Point in Time (PIT) Count in Appleton, Wisconsin will take place on **January 30, 2025**, with results available in the spring. The PIT Count is a one-night census of people experiencing homelessness in a given area. The count is conducted by volunteers, social service providers, and outreach staff. The PIT Count is conducted twice a year in the Fox Cities, in January and July. The count includes people experiencing homelessness in the following settings: emergency shelters, transitional housing, safe havens for the homeless, domestic violence shelters, and unsheltered living on the streets. The PIT Count is used to create a snapshot of homelessness in a given area and to provide data to the US Congress, the US Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), and the Balance of State Continuum of Care (WIBOSCO). The data collected from the PIT Count is used to help secure government funding to address homelessness.

World Relief Volunteers Urgently Needed! World Relief is anticipating a high volume of newcomer arrivals in the next 2 months, 200-250 individuals in Appleton/Oshkosh. The Appleton office has opportunities to volunteer in a variety of ways for both individuals and teams. A few opportunities are outlined below:

- Transport Support. Increased support needed with providing safe and reliable transportation for our new neighbors to important appointments, from medical visits to their first days at new jobs.
- Move-in Support. Support with setting up permanent housing for refugee families, which would include help with unpacking boxes, organizing belongings, arranging furniture, gathering material needs, and doing some light cleaning to ensure that living spaces are comfortable and inviting.
- Administrative/Office Support. Support with organization and administrative tasks at the Appleton office to help the staff prepare for a high volume of newcomer arrivals.

If you are interested in learning more about the opportunities outlined above, or if you would like a full list of our volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Trinity at World Relief. tthao@wr.org.

Library News: The theme for the library this month is Advent and Christmas. We will have a display of books in the Narthex on Sunday after church, but since we have dozens of books on Advent and Christmas, many of them will be on display in the library. Please take time to come see them all. Here are two: 1. From Amazon - *"Simply Wait"* by Pamela Hawkins. Some Advent titles promise reflective simplicity but actually require a lot of time or reading; *Simply Wait* is the exception. The exercises are very doable and focus on anticipation, hope, patience, and obedience. Questions are provided to help you contemplate more fully. 2. From Amazon - *"'Twas the Season of Advent"* by Glenys Nellist. Celebrate the Advent season with this beautiful and heartwarming collection of devotions and stories. Told in the style of the classic *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* poem, make this read aloud your new holiday tradition.

WISE Certification: First Congregational UCC is on a journey to become informed advocates for mental health. In doing so, we will become part of a national effort by the United Church of Christ to become Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) around issues of mental health. The WISE certification process has been approved by our church council and is supported by our co-pastors. The WISE certification is similar to the process our church completed several years ago to become an Open and Affirming church.

Over the past two years, the Mental Health Task Force has been working to increase our awareness of mental health within our congregation and our community. We have provided educational offerings to church members, purchased books on mental health

in our library and participated in the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) walk. We surveyed the congregation to learn about your mental health needs and the support and education you wanted. We have shared the results of the survey.

We seek WISE certification because mental health is important to us, and we want to declare our desire to continue to offer support to our family, friends and neighbors who experience mental health conditions.

The next step in the certification process is to share our WISE covenant with the congregation, and after discussion, to hold a vote on the covenant at the congregational meeting on **January 12, 2025**.

When we are a WISE congregation, we will continue to offer education and support regarding mental health within our congregation. We look forward to working with you to learn how to care for each other and to sustain the mental health of our community.

If you'd like to discuss the covenant further or have questions, please join members of the Mental Health Task Force in the Upper Lounge from **10:45-11:30AM today, December 8**.

Here is our WISE Covenant:

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton, Wisconsin has embraced the 2015 UCC General Synod's call to become a Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged (WISE) congregation for mental health.

With God's help and guidance, we are working to help our church to become a WISE congregation for mental health.

We recognize that many among us and those we encounter in our lives are living with mental health conditions, brain disorders and substance use challenges every day. We also recognize that stressors, loss and life events can challenge any of us at any point.

With creativity, curiosity and courage as we follow Jesus Christ, we strive to provide a warm welcome, promote inclusion, and offer compassionate support for all who live with mental health challenges and to those who love and support them.

Our objectives are to promote understanding and compassion, to confront fears of mental illness through education, and to support connections with local community agencies that advocate for those living with these challenges.

We hope our congregation's atmosphere of openness and acceptance of people with mental health concerns will make members, friends and visitors more likely to feel safe and free from judgment. This acceptance and sense of safety can create a space of belonging for all people no matter where they are on life's journey.

“Gloria” Program Notes from the Composer:

Commissioned by a consortium of 10 choirs for simultaneous nationwide premieres during the 2018-2019 season, Michael John Trotta's Gloria is a 14-minute work for choir, brass, organ, and percussion. This three-movement setting uses a tapestry of sonorous harmonies that are triumphant, reflective and energetic to encompass both the history and the relevance of one of the oldest texts in the Christian tradition.

The text dates back to the fourth century with notable settings by Vivaldi, Bach, Poulenc, Walton, Rutter, and others. The text is sung daily in Christian Liturgies around the world.

Gloria in excelsis opens with a brief brass fanfare that sets the stage for the triumphant theme. The contrasting middle section on the text "et in terra pax" (and on earth peace) foreshadows the sweetness of the second movement before returning to the original theme, with rhythmically intensified brass and percussion underscoring.

Domine Deus provides repose and refreshment from the intensity of the outer movements. A legato contrapuntal theme is introduced, recalling of the "et in terra pax" theme from the first movement. The second theme is delivered by a graceful soloist on the text "qui tollis," (who takes away) to which the choir plaintively responds, "miserere mei" (have mercy on us). The final statement of the theme soars with a grace that sets the stage for the ending, which gently recedes as the listener is left with a sense of peace and well-being.

Quoniam Tu Solus is introduced with brass fanfare atop a virtuosic organ accompaniment, providing an energetic introduction for the choir who sings the brass motive on the text "quoniam tu solus sanctus" (For You alone are holy). Following this brief opening, a modal double fugue, based on the theme from the first movement, is introduced on the text, "cum sancto" (with the spirit). Each choral exposition builds in intensity and is briefly punctuated by developments in the brass. The work ends in a rhythmic and joyous declamation of the first theme, this time with choir, brass, organ, and percussion all culminating in a thrilling conclusion.

Advent and Christmas Worship Services

Sunday, December 15 ~ Third Sunday of Advent: LOVE

9:30AM Sunday Worship with the Youth Handbells and Children's Choir.

10:45AM-12:00PM, Intergenerational caroling and light lunch after worship

Sunday, December 22 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent: JOY

9:30AM Family Worship/"Bring Your Bell" Sunday with the Sanctuary Choir. A multi-generationally focused and interactive service with a message for all ages. NO Children's Ministry, but there will be childcare. *Special Note: Everyone is asked to bring a bell to worship!*

Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

9:30AM *Christmas Eve Service* with candlelight and soloists. Childcare provided as well as a whole-group activity for children PreK-8th grade.

4:00PM Our *Family Nativity Service* has a new twist, with many beloved traditions embedded in it. It will feature familiar carols with special musicians, the Children's Choir, a Christmas meditation from Pastor Nick, and "A Mary Carol," a "new to us" pageant written by Pastor Katherine. All children present will be invited to participate as a shepherd, angel, or wise person. The service will be approximately 45 minutes long - just right for our younger worshippers. No childcare provided.

8:00PM *Service of Lessons and Carols* with candlelight and communion, Sanctuary Choir, instrumentalists, and vocal soloists. No childcare provided.



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.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, December 9

- 1:00-2:30PM Prayer Shawl - *Common Grounds*
6:00-7:30PM Mental Health Task Force - *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM EJWG Housing Summit Committee - *Chapel*
6:30-8:30PM Prayer Shawl - *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:30PM Fox Valley Flute Choir - *Sanctuary*

Tuesday, December 10

- 8:30-9:30AM Touchmark Pastoral Group @ *Touchmark*
9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
1:30-3:00PM Racial Equity - *by Zoom*
2:00-4:00PM Library Committee - *Library*
6:00-8:00PM Wild Women of First Congregational @ *Stone Arch Brewpub*
6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM Technology Committee Meeting - *by Zoom*
7:00-8:30PM Boy Scouts - *Fellowship Hall*
7:45-8:45PM Fireside AA - *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, December 11

- 10:00-11:45AM Isaiah Project Meeting - *Isaiah Room*
12:00-1:00PM Prayer Chapel - *Chapel*
12:15-1:00PM Loving Acceptance Meditation Group - *Upper Lounge*
3:00-4:00PM Isaiah Finance Task Force - *Isaiah Room*
5:45-6:25PM Youth Handbells - *Sanctuary*
6:00-8:30PM Youth Groups/Confirmation - *Caroling & Dinner*
7:00-8:30PM Sanctuary Choir - *Choir Room, Sanctuary*

Thursday, December 12

- 9:00-10:00AM Strong Bodies - *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM AA Search for Serenity Group - *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM Fox Valley 94 AA - *Common Grounds*

Friday, December 13

- 1:00-3:00PM Building Task Force Meeting - *Isaiah Room*
7:00-8:00PM Al-Anon - *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM N.A - *Common Grounds*

Saturday, December 14

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

This Week's Schedule continued on page 17...

Sunday, December 15

9:25AM-12:00PM	Childcare – <i>Childcare Room</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship/ Advent 3 – <i>Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel</i>
9:30-10:30AM	Children’s Ministry – <i>CYF Wing</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Children’s Choir – <i>Choir Room</i>
10:30-11:30AM	Back Bay Shrimp Sale – <i>Narthex</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences – <i>Common Grounds</i>
10:45-11:45AM	Confirmation Class (with mentors) – <i>HS Youth Room</i>
11:00AM-12:00PM	Advent Study: The Christmas Letters – <i>Chapel</i>
11:00AM-2:00PM	Family Day: Caroling on a bus with lunch
6:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – <i>Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds</i>
7:00-8:00PM	AL ANON – <i>Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge</i>

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.



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 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 or calling the office.

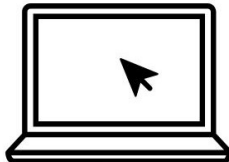
References to God in our worship may at times be gender specific. You are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the inclusiveness of God.

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.

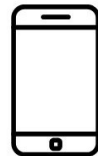
Ways to Donate to First Congregational UCC, Appleton ~ Thank you for your support.



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



Visit our website at uccappleton.org 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/ Advent 2/Major Work Sunday – *Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge*
- 9:30-10:30AM Children’s Ministry – *CYF Wing*
- 10:30-11:30AM Back Bay Shrimp Sale – *Narthex*
- 10:30-11:30AM Children’s Choir – *Choir Room*
- 10:45-11:30AM WISE Covenant – *Upper Lounge*
- 10:45-11:45AM Confirmation Class – *HS Youth Room*
- 10:45-11:45AM Parents Book Study: White Picket Fences – *Common Grounds*
- 11:00AM-12:00PM Advent Study: The Christmas Letters – *Chapel*
- 6:00-7:00PM Songs & Stories Christmas Edition – *Sanctuary*
- 6:00-8:00PM 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
Theater	Art Kitchen 4th/5th Graders	Science Room 2nd/3rd Graders
Scripture Tent K/1st 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.



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

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 920.733.7393 | uccappleton.org | info@uccappleton.org
 Office hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00AM–3:00PM
 For pastoral emergencies: 920.810.2600