# First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 25, 2024





### Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

Our door is open to you at whatever point you are in your journey of faith.

### **TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, APPLETON**

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare - Childcare Room

9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship – Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge

7:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds

7:00-8:00PM AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

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, and Chapel. The Nursery also has livestreaming, on the other end of the building.

**Baptisms** are held on the third Sunday of each month. To schedule a baptism, contact the church office six weeks before your desired baptism date.

**Childcare** is available in the summer for ALL infants - 1<sup>st</sup> graders. You do NOT have to be a member! See an usher for directions to the Childcare Room. There is a PRAYground in the back of the Sanctuary for children of any age to quietly work and worship in as well. Please sit near the PRAYground if your children are utilizing it. Of course, we welcome all children to stay in the pews with you during worship as well, as they are a gift from the Lord (Psalm 127:3).

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

**Donating to First Congregational UCC, Appleton:** We have many convenient ways to donate. Giving envelopes are in the pews and may be put in the offering plates, checks can be mailed to the church, you can visit our webpage and click "Give," or you can text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. \*Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel.

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

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

**Online Streaming and Podcasting** are available on <u>Facebook: FCUCCAppleton</u> or <u>Youtube:</u> <u>First Congregational UCC Appleton</u>.

**Open Door Announcements** can be shared by emailing <u>opendoor@uccappleton.org</u> or calling the office.

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

**Sunday School and Youth Groups** will resume in September. Let an usher know if you would like to receive further information.

### THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 25, 2024 9:30AM Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

#### **PRELUDE**

Hard Times Come Again No More

Stephen Foster (1826-64)

Karma's Mailbox Band

#### CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

#### **WELCOME**

\*Please Rise in Body or Spirit

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us worship the One who calls us.

All: Here we are,
ready or not,
called by the One
who lived and died
and rose to live again among us.

One: Here we are,
ready or not,
bringing our everyday selves
to praise and to pray,
to know the Holy One
in the midst of our lives.

All: Let us worship the One who calls us.

### \*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

Brethren, We Have Met to Worship

HOLY MANNA

#### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 6:10-20

Sue Detienne

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in

preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

**SERMON** "Fighting Words"

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

\*HYMN #500

O for a World Azmon

#### **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

Your Labor Is Not in Vain

Kimbrough, Wardell, Zach, & Keyes

Karma's Mailbox Band

#### \*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 page 6)

Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)

I'LL FLY AWAY

#### \*BENEDICTION

#### **POSTLUDE**

Turn! Turn! (To Everything There Is a Season)

Karma's Mailbox Band

P. Seeger

#### THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor* Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor* Sue Detienne, *Lay Reader* 

Karma's Mailbox Band:
Kristine Glenn, Soprano
Tami Johnson, 12 string guitar, Alto
Debbie Wagner, Mandolin, Guitar, Alto
Steve Hirby, Banjo, Baritone
Shannon Glenn, Guitar, Bass Guitar, Baritone
John Aaholm, Percussionist
Phil Gabrielson, Harmonica, Baritone
Paul Nulton, Guitarist, Tenor (not able to be with us this morning.)

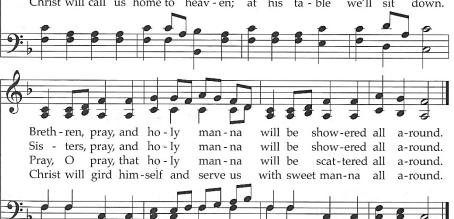
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries

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One comes down. Breth-ren, join your cries to help them; sis-ters, let your prayers a - bound! Christ will call us home to heav - en; at his ta - ble we'll sit down.



This hymn comes out of the early 19th-century southern camp meeting experience, where believers were invited to pray for new converts, often likened to biblical characters such as Paul's jailer (Philippians 1:12-13). As its name shows, the five-note tune was created for this text.

## Some Glad Morning

(I'll Fly Away)



This is a favorite song of the golden age of gospel music, in which heaven is vividly described and highly desired. Albert E. Brumley's musical style grew out of his Ozark mountain roots. He wrote this song while working in a cotton field.

Tune: I'LL FLY AWAY 9.4.9.4. with refrain Albert E. Brumley, 1932

### FCUCC Fall Info...Rally Sunday, CYF & Music Ministries, Confirmation and more!

Rally Sunday: Join us in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, September 8, as we gather for our Rally Sunday Brunch and festivities, celebrating the beginning of our new church year.

- \*Blessing of the Backpacks during worship
- \*CYF Ministry begins see important CYF information below
- \*Browse the "Great Wall of Programming" which will inform you on activities and events that you can dive into this year
- \*And, as always, the Fellowship Team is offering a delicious and nutritious brunch
  - ~ Free-will offering appreciated (but not required)



Come and join us -- let's hit the ground running in 2024-25!

2024-25 CYF and Music Registration Available Online: All children and youth who will be participating in any of our ministries need completed registration. If you're able to, please register using REALM. If you have more than one child and want to complete paperwork instead of registering on REALM, you can put everyone's info on the same sheet, print more copies from our website, or ask the office staff to send you more forms.



All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend our CYF RALLY SUNDAY! Orientation on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30PM! Meet Ms. Renae (see page 8), our new Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, learn about some curriculum enhancements, hear our youth trip plans, enjoy a light snack and have a chance to WIN ONE OF OUR DOOR PRIZES!!

There are SO MANY ways to be updated about CYF and Music happenings. Our monthly CYF e-newsletters provide overviews and information. Joining our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as taking two minutes to sign up for our "classes" in the Remind app are all ways you can hear what is coming and see what we've been up to!

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

Please help us welcome Ms. Renae, Associate Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries! This week, Renae Salvia began her parttime role in CYF – leading one of our Wednesday evening Youth Groups, collaborating with Sarah on the planning and teaching of Children's Ministry and supporting family activities. Renae comes to us with a love of growing in her own spirituality as well as sharing God's love with children and youth in a variety of capacities. Her bachelor's degree in elementary education, and minor in music, will make her a great addition to our staff, as will her previous experiences of studying and student teaching abroad.



"I am so excited to start working with the CYF ministry at FCUCC and with all of you! I just moved to the area with my

husband after we got married in June. We went on an Alaskan cruise for our honeymoon, and it was breathtaking! When I'm not working you can find me reading at home with my two cats, playing my piano, on the tennis courts, or traveling around the world." Renae

<u>Childcare Worker Needed</u>: Our awesome summer childcare providers are off to their school year responsibilities, Danielle is coming back in September to resume her Lawrence schooling and doing our childcare, and we need another fabulous person to work with her! Contact swilterdink@uccappleton.org if you're interested.

Sundays 9:00AM-12:00PM and Wednesdays 6:30-8:30PM 5 Hours Each Week, \$20 Per Hour (Please apply if you are only interested in one day per week as well.)

### **Start Dates for the Fall Music Season:**

Sanctuary Choir (adults, college, youth): 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.



#### **USHER TEAMS**

AUGUST USHERS: **TEAM 3**: Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Cathy Paynter, Ryan St. Clair, Ryan Smith, Chris Calhoun

**TEAM 4**: Rick Detienne, Sue Detienne, Tim DeHart, Sheryl DeHart, Mary Gay Hornseth, Phil Hornseth, Sandra Hurm, Ron Hurm, Gene Spindler, Cheryl Spindler

SEPTEMBER USHERS: TEAM 5 & 6

AUDIO & VIDEO: Dave Frederick, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

### **WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY**

Pastor Nick Hatch Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 Musicians: Dr. Anthony Padilla, piano

| ON THE CALENDAR       |                 |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--|
| Sunday, September 8   |                 | Rally Sunday                               |
| Friday, September 27- |                 | Women's Fall Retreat at Moon Beach Camp    |
| Sunday, September 29  |                 |  |
| 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 Frank and Pat Severin Jim Brygger

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 Charlotte Hage Gloria Tate Margaret Hankwitz Tack Thiel Judy Hanson Peter Thiel JoAnn Helms Iames Totzke

Shirley Hoft Those living with mental unwellness

Sandi Hurm Larry Vaubel Jean Jepson Karen Waters Larry Konz, father of Leigh Grube Wilma Wydeven

Kathv Lannove

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.

<u>Parking Lot Construction Part 2 – Through Friday, August 30</u>: During construction please park your vehicle at the main area parking lot closest to the main church doors or in the CYF parking lot. The CYF door will remain open during this time.

<u>Sunday Coffee Hosts</u>: 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.

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

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.

<u>Call-to-Connect Callers Needed</u>: Would you be willing to call 1 or 2 senior members once a month to keep them connected to our church? Contact Betty Masaros at tworaye@aol.com or 920-733-1665 or Pastor Kathrine at kwpershey@uccappleton.org. or 920-851-9156.

### 2024 Lunchtime Organ Recital Series Last Date:

**August 28**, Dr. Naomi Rowley, Memorial Presbyterian, 803 E. College Ave, Appleton Wednesdays at 12:15PM - visit www.newago.org for more information.

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.

Community Living Room: The FCUCC Mental Health Task Force with ESTHER is hosting a Community Living Room Conversation on Wednesday, September 4, 5:00 – 8:00PM at Mountains of Hope, 118 E. Wisconsin, Appleton. Join us to engage in connection. We recognize that isolation leads to and/or increases mental health issues. Ebb and Flow Connections Cooperative has created a space to counteract isolation. Community Living Rooms are spaces where we can connect one with one another in the moment in a truly human way. People are welcome to just come and listen or to share about themselves as much as they are comfortable. This is a space and time where we can recognize that we are not alone; we are all connected and valued in this community living room.

https://esther-foxvalley.org/date/2024/09/04/community-living-room-mental-health-support Try something new. Step out of your comfort zone. Meet new people.

<u>Church Women United Event</u>: Emmanuel UMC, 740 E. College Ave, Appleton, will host the Church Women United Human Rights Day on September 6. Registration is at 9:00AM and the meeting will begin at 9:30AM. This event is open to everyone. They will be taking donations with suggested items including donations to LEAVEN, personal hygiene products, laundry detergent, gift cards for gas, groceries, or bus passes.

<u>College of Menominee Nation</u>: Via a signed agreement with College of Menominee Nation in Keshena, Wisconsin, our church has pledged to support CMN students with



scholarship funds given for each of the two school semesters to students selected by the CMN Advancement Committee. These students come from an array of Native American tribes and nations and include people of all cultures and races. CMN welcomes enrollment beyond their reservation boarders! Please consider strengthening our UCC Scholarship outreach to CMN by donating via check (noting CMN Scholarship in the memo line) or via REALM...online.

Faith & Democracy Confronting White Christian Nationalism: Thursday, September 19. 6:00-8:30PM. What does a Christianity look like that is not deeply tied to racial injustice and White Christian nationalism, forces captured in the images of the January 6, 2021, insurrection? With a national election just around the corner, how might Christians live into a richer narrative that underscores the nonviolent legacy of Jesus? The Adult Education Committee of First Congregational Church encourages members and friends to join an intimate, online conversation with three renowned thought leaders on the current state of Christianity in the US. Sponsored by the *Christian Century* and the D.L. Dykes, Jr. Foundation, this conversation will explore the challenges that the growing presence of White Christian nationalism poses to congregations and people of faith and conscience. Registration required. For more information or to register, visit https://tinyurl.com/3ypnnx3p



### This Week's Schedule

Through August 30

**Parking Lot Construction Part 2** - During construction please park your vehicle at the main area parking lot closest to the main church doors or in the CYF parking lot to avoid potential car damage and to allow the construction workers to navigate their equipment safely as they work. The CYF door will remain open during this time.

Monday, August 26

No events scheduled today

Tuesday, August 27

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

6:30-7:30PM Living Sober AA Group – Common Grounds

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

Wednesday, August 28

9:45AM-12:00PM Project Isaiah Meeting – Project Isaiah Room

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

Thursday, August 29

9:00-10:00AM Kenya Letter Stuffing – *Library* 

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

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

Friday, August 30

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

Saturday, August 31

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

Sunday, September 1

9:25AM-12:00PM Childcare – Childcare Room

9:30-10:30AM Sunday Worship – Sanctuary, Chapel, Upper Lounge

6:00-8:00PM First Things First AA Meeting – Fellowship Hall, Common

Grounds

7:00-8:00PM AL ANON – Chapel / Alateen – Upper Lounge

#### Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of First Congregational UCC - was the home, hunting, gathering, and farming land of the First Peoples of this territory: the Ho Chunk Nation and the Menominee Nation.

Other tribes were forcibly re-located to this region by the actions of colonialism. Despite centuries of reprehensible treatment, the peoples of these sovereign nations are robust and enduring among us.

We are truly saddened by the genocide of their ancestors, the seizure of their lands, and the repression of their cultures and languages. We acknowledge that we benefit from the economic and social legacy left by settler colonialism.



We are grateful that many members of these original Nations have honorably served and defended the United States. We strive to honor their cultures and their insightful stewardship of this land and all creatures on it, recognizing our common interest in protecting its air, water, soil, and web of life for all future generations.

We commit ourselves through study and immersion experiences to learn the history and cultures of these peoples and their traditional knowledge.

We are "The Church of the Open Door," a welcoming and inclusive Christian community.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

