First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 2, 2026

We are the Church of the Open Door.
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

Welcome to The Church of the Open Door.

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

New Here? Be sure to pick up a 'Welcome Bag' from the welcome desk near the front doors. It contains lot of information about our church community.

Contact Us: Scan this QR code to find our contact information, signup to receive our church and/or children's ministry e-newsletter, contact a pastor, or find out about becoming a member. Baptism Application and Room Rental forms are also available here.

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

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

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 infants through kindergarteners every Sunday in summer. Guests are invited to join us anytime! A nursing room is available downstairs. See an usher for directions to either room.

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

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!

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.

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

Flowers: If you would like to donate flowers for a special day or loved one, please email or sign up in the church office. Today's flowers were arranged by Cindi Ritcey Fox.

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.*

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

August 2, 2026 9:30AM
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE
Offertoire Théodore Salomé (1834-1896)

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*
*CALL TO WORSHIP Ruth Hallett

One: Come, people of God, let us bring our whole selves
our joy and questions, our hope and weariness.

All: We come seeking the presence of the One
who hears every voice and welcomes every heart.

One: God listens not only to our words, but to the truth that lives deep within us.

All: We trust in God's steadfast love, which never turns us away.

One: In a world that often leads us astray,
God calls us to walk the path of justice, mercy, and peace.

All: We long to follow Christ's way,
standing with our neighbors and caring for all creation.

One: God surrounds us with grace, shelters us in love,
and invites us to become reflections of that love in the world.

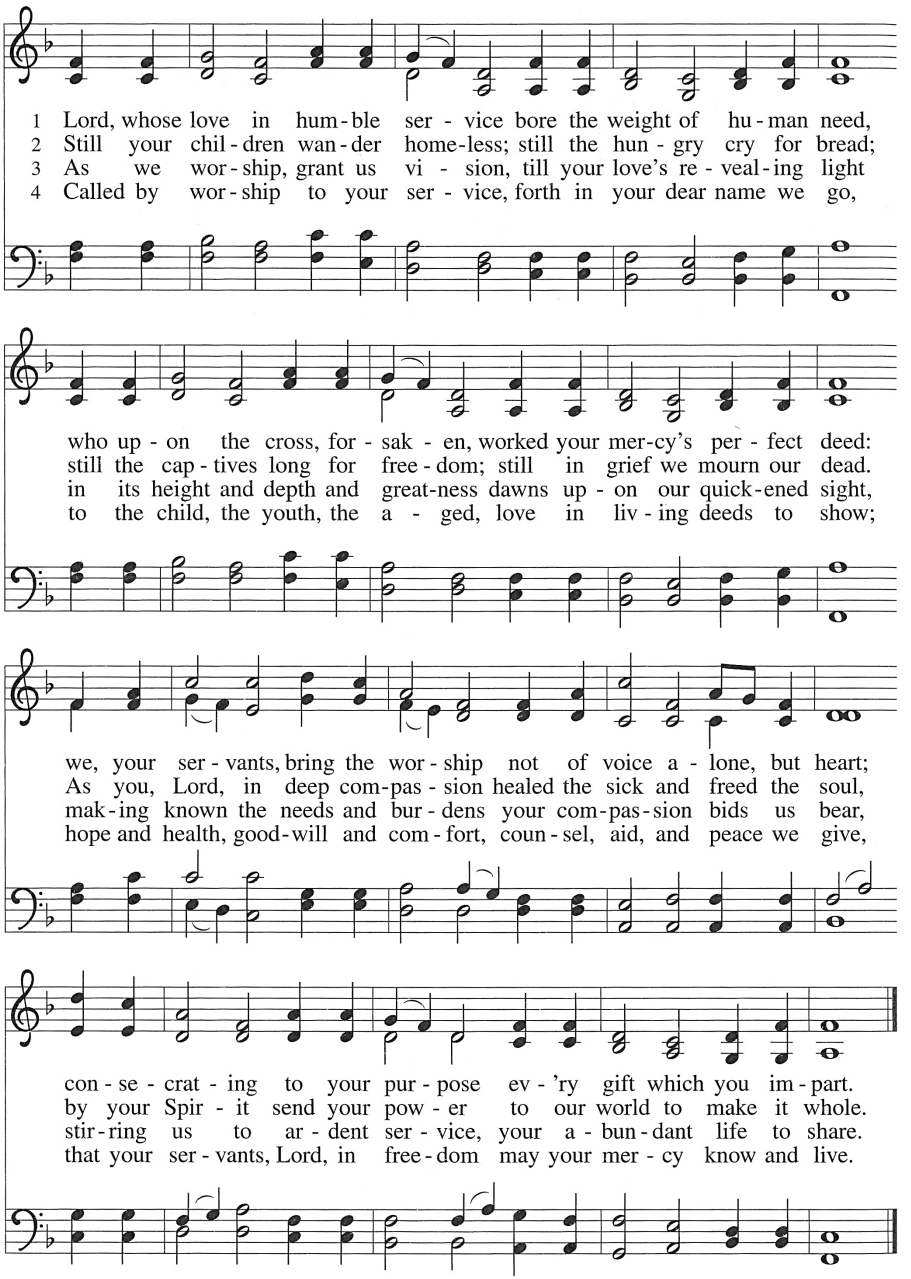
All: We gather to be renewed, transformed, and sent forth with courage.

One: Let us worship the God whose presence satisfies our deepest longing.

All: Let us worship together!

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 3)
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service BEACH SPRING

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984
Music: *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
Text © Oxford University Press
Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress

BEACH SPRING
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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the Children's Message, the Prayer Request and Connection Cards will be collected. After the Children's Message, the children may return to be with their families.)

CHILDREN'S HYMN

Jesus Loves Me JESUS LOVES ME

St. 1: **All**

Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong; they are weak, but he is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 14:13-21 Sue Detienne

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *Youth Trip Testimonies* Sarah Wilterdink

Genevieve Pershey (sophomore)

Anika Pretasky (sophomore)

Henry Clothier (recent graduate)

Eva Schmidt (young adult mentor)

*HYMN (see bulletin page 5)

Praise and Thanksgiving BUNESSAN

Praise and Thanksgiving

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © Oxford University Press
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

BUNESSAN
5554D

OFFERING

CALL TO THE OFFERING

(To give online please visit our website at uccappleton.org and click "Give Now" for a one time gift or to sign up for automatic giving, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256.)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

The Battle Is the Lord's

Rebecca St. James, Heath Balltzglier, Seth Condrey, & Tedd Tjornhom

Hillary Reynolds, *voice and piano*

*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.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

You are invited to eat the bread when you receive your communion elements.
Please wait to drink the cup until instructed. Communion is gluten free and alcohol free.

INVITATION

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.)

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.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Breathe Michael W. Smith

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, we give you thanks for the gifts of this table. Send us forth with courage and joy in the name of Jesus Christ, that we too, may become bread and peace for one another and the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #316

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ LINSTEAD

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur Théodore Salomé

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Sarah Wilterdink, *Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries*
Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*
Sue Detienne, *Lay Reader*
Hillary Reynolds, *voice and piano*
Ruth Hallett, Genevieve Pershey, Anika Pretasky,
Henry Clothier, Eva Schmidt, *youth trip participants*
John Aaholm, *percussion*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries*

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USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

TODAY'S USHERS: Team 3: Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Susan Houston, Cathy Paynter, Ryan Smith, Chris Calhoun, Ryan St. Clair, Lorenzo Pisan and Team 5: Abby Schmidt, Andy Schmidt, Rick Behm, Peter Carmen, Jeff McLaughlin
AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Lisa Hanna, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Nick Hatch
1 Kings 19:9-18
Music: Heather and Ruth Hallett, *soprano & cello*

ON THE CALENDAR

August 16 & 23	10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Classes

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.**
All those affected by the recent storms and tornado The family and friends of Mary Hamlin upon her passing The family and friends of Bob Barlament upon his passing Anika Abraham Slowinski Chad Dishno Ann Hage Jill Anthony and her nephew Katie Behl and Barb Behl
Unless a prayer request comes in with a request to remain in print continuously, prayer requests will be included for four weeks. Of course, you are always welcome to re-submit requests at any time.

We're seeking two passionate individuals to join our ministry team!

If you're looking to use your gifts in a welcoming, collaborative, and faith-filled community, we'd love to hear from you! For complete position descriptions and application information, visit our website or scan the QR codes.

Associate Director of Music Ministries ~ Help lead and grow our vibrant music ministry by collaborating in worship planning, accompanying ensembles, and nurturing musicians of all ages. We're looking for someone who is passionate about church music, enjoys working with volunteers, and is excited to build on a strong tradition of musical excellence. Questions or application materials may be sent to music@uccappleton.org.

Associate Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries ~ Join our Children, Youth & Family team in creating meaningful faith formation experiences for children and youth. This role focuses on building relationships, leading engaging programs, equipping volunteers, and helping young people grow in faith while fostering a welcoming sense of belonging. Questions or application materials may be sent to swilterdink@uccappleton.org.

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

Sometimes we stumble along the way, but with God's gentle hand someone comes along to shoulder our stay.

While not finished healing, this is a simple "Thank You" for the many prayers and gifts you have given us.

~ Ann & Art

Pillars Adult Shelter Meal: First Congregational hosts a meal at Pillars Adult Shelter the first Thursday of each month. We can use your help! We have two options to assist: bring ingredients and/or volunteer to prepare and serve the meal. If you haven't helped in the past, please give it a try! Homeless individuals are always very thankful to receive our delicious meals. Check out this **Pillars Sign Up** link or use this QR code to sign up for Thursday, **August 6**.

Special Coffee Hour: Join us in the Fellowship Hall **Sunday, August 9** at 10:30AM for an enhanced coffee hour in celebration of the 36-year (and still going) partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Hear heartfelt stories and memories from new and long-time volunteers. We invite everyone who has ever been a volunteer to attend and share your story. If you can stay for only a few minutes, that's fine. Please come down to enjoy a treat and sign a beam that will be incorporated into this year's Faith Build house.

From the Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee: **From the Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee:** Attending one of our local powwows is a great way to learn more about our Indigenous community. The Mohican Pow Wow will take place from **Friday, August 7 to Sunday, August 9** at N9125 Mohheconnuck Rd. Bowler, WI 54416. For helpful information about powwow protocol and how to be a good guest, consult this resource WI Powwow Calendar or QR code.

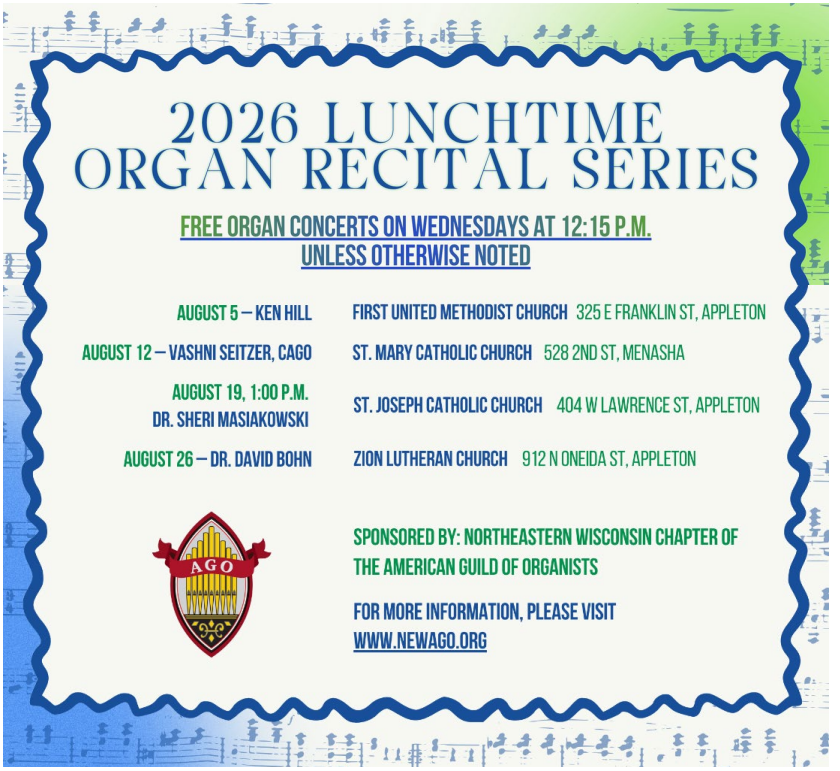
Onsite and Online New Member Class: Are you new to First Congregational and want to learn more about our faith community? Would you like to find a place to ask your questions of faith and call your faith home? Then join Pastor Katherine and Pastor Nick after worship Sunday, **August 16 and 23** in the chapel, 10:45-11:45AM. We'll be talking about our journeys of faith. We will share about this church, our theology, and get to know one another. We hope to listen to the story of your spiritual journey and the questions that have guided you to seek a new community. Please RSVP for the new member exploration class by signing up on the sheet in the narthex or by contacting the church office at info@uccappleton.org, and, if joining online, to receive the Zoom link.

Library News: The theme for August is Fiction. We have lots of great fiction books. Come check them out! Here are a couple: *We Are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza and *The Seed Keeper* by Diane Wilson.

Ride Request: A church member is seeking anyone who lives at Buchanan Cottages for a ride to church on Sunday mornings. Contact the church office for further information.

Look What We Found! Your faithful Fellowship Team went through the MANY kitchen items that have been sitting unused for many years. Stop this Sunday or next Sunday to find treasures you'd like for your home in the church Isaiah Room, across from Fellowship Hall, before all is donated on September 10. Free will offerings will be accepted for future fellowship events… or take it for free!

Women's Fall Retreat: Pastor Katherine will lead our 2026 fall women's retreat at Moon Beach, **September 25-27**. Our theme this year is Journey of Prayer. We will consider the many ways we can pray - in words or silence, through community or solitude, by movement or meditation. The cost of the retreat is $200. Please register as soon as possible, no later than September 7. Click here to register: Fall Women's Retreat Registration or use the QR code. Scholarship monies are available – please contact Pastor Katherine at kwpershey@uccappleton.org. If you would like to sponsor scholarships, you may register as a sponsor and pay $225 rather than as a standard registrant.



Registration for Confirmation 2026 - 2027 is now open! We invite your child to join us for our 2026–2027 Confirmation experience. This year will provide meaningful opportunities for both youth and families to grow in faith and in relationships, with God and with each other. Using scripture and ideas in the *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*, we will worship, serve, discuss and fellowship together. For more information, check out our website's **Confirmation page**. To register, **open this link** or use the QR code.

Deadline for registering is August 9.

An Incredibly Meaningful Volunteer & Learning Opportunity: An integral part of our confirmation experience is the mentor-confirmand relationship. Each confirmand is responsible for connecting with mentor, but we love to connect people if at all possible. Mentors are not here to "have all the answers." A mentor is a baptized Christian who is willing to listen, engage in thoughtful conversations, be open to different perspectives, and support your youth as they grow closer to God. Mentors, please contact Sarah with any questions or to volunteer for this commitment of about one-hours on 20 Sundays and a lifetime of Christian fellowship.

Submitting items for Weekly Church Emails /Social Media/Website Announcements / Sunday Bulletin Open Door Announcements

1. The hub of communication will be our **website**.
2. **Weekly Emails** will be sent out Tuesdays and Fridays.
   a. The mid-week emails will be sent out late in the day on Tuesdays to provide updates about activities occurring in the church the remainder of the week.
   b. The Friday emails will provide the virtual version of the coming Sunday's "Open Door."
3. Look for us on **social media**.

Articles/items submitted for **Weekly Church Emails /Social Media/Website Announcements** should be 150 words or less and can also include pictures and clipart and links for people to "learn more." Deadline for submitting articles for these announcements is 4:00PM on Monday.

Articles submitted for the **Sunday Bulletin's The Open Door Announcements** are limited to 2 Sundays per month and are subject to editing for clarity and/or space available. Deadline for submitting these announcements is 4:00PM on Tuesday.

Submit articles, questions, or ideas to opendoor@uccappleton.org.

Land Covenant

The land now occupied by Appleton, Wisconsin and surrounding areas - including the current site of this church - 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, August 3

3:30-5:00PM	IPAC Meeting – *Upper Lounge and by Zoom*

Tuesday, August 4

9:30AM-12:30PM	Mary Hamlin Funeral Service; 9:30AM Visitation, 10:30AM Service, 11:30AM Reception
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:30PM	Scout Troop 67 – *HS Youth Room*
7:00-9:00PM	Worship & Music Ministry – *Upper Lounge*
7:30-9:00PM	Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 5

Thursday, August 6

12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-1:30PM	Theology Discussion Group @ *Holidays Pub & Grill, Appleton*
5:00-7:30PM	Pillars Outreach Dinner @ *Pillars Adult Shelter*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 7

10:00-11:30AM	Bulletin Folders – *Library*
7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM	N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, August 8

1:00-5:00PM	Women's Craft Circle – *Upper Lounge*
4:00-5:00PM	St. Julia's Worship Service – *Chapel*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Sunday, August 9

9:30-11:00AM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel, Common Grounds (for nursing mothers)*
10:30AM-12:00PM	Habitat for Humanity Celebration – *Fellowship Hall*
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – *Chapel* / Alateen – *Upper Lounge*

Kwik Trip card sales today in the narthex after worship!

Fundraising CARD PROGRAM

Order Form

Kwik Trip | Kwik Star

First Congregational UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Member Name

Address: Date

Special Notes:

QTY	Car Wash (5ct)	Total
	$36.00	

QTY	Grocery Only	Total
	$5.00	
	$10.00	
	$20.00	

QTY	Fuel Only	Total
	$50.00	
	$75.00	
	$100.00	
	$200.00	

Total:

Office use Only

Payment Type:

Cash Credit Card

Check Online

Card Number Expiration MM/YY CVV Initial here if you would like to pay the 2% processing fee

Member Email Address 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 – 40% Grocery Cards – 15% Fuel Cards – 10%

Your Kwik Trip card purchase helps support our youth trips! ~ Thank You!

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 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

9:30-11:00AM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel, Common Grounds (for nursing mothers)*
10:30-11:00AM	Kwik Trip Fundraising – *Narthex*
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 proud to be an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. This designation is given to congregations that have made a public covenant to welcome fully persons of all sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions.

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Appleton, WI is a WISE congregation. This designation is given to congregations that have made a public covenant to welcome fully and promote inclusion and compassionate support for persons of all mental health experiences.

WISE Congregations for Mental Health® — Welcoming Inclusive Supportive Engaged

Interested in joining First Congregational? The next New Member Classes are August 16 & 23.

724 E. South River Street | Appleton, WI 54915
920.733.7393 | uccappleton.org | info@uccappleton.org

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