First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
724 E. South River Street, Appleton, WI 54915

July 6, 2026

Hello families of possible confirmands.

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.

An integral part of confirmation is the mentor-confirmand relationship. Mentors are not here to "have all the answers," nor do they need to be members of our denomination. 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.

Parents and confirmands are responsible for identifying a mentor. Think about:

- Family friends or relatives who the youth does not live with.
- Ask an adult you see at FCUCC on Sundays. Many would be honored to be asked, even if you don't know them well!
- Parents of confirmands often help each other out by mentoring each other's youth. We encourage you to consider serving in this way. Let Sarah know if you'd like help pairing with another family.
- A few adults already volunteered to mentor next year. If you need help finding a mentor, let us know soon so we can connect you.

Enclosed are the registration materials. The papers stapled to this letter are for confirmands to complete or keep. The additional packet includes papers for your mentor to complete or keep.

Please register and pay on Realm, or by returning all forms along with a $150 check to the church office. Scholarships are available; please contact Sarah or one of the pastors if assistance is needed.

The registration deadline is Sunday, August 9, but we ask that you please help us by registering as soon as you know your youth will participate. You do not need to have a mentor chosen before registering. Early registration helps us plan and prepare for a meaningful year together.

Please email, text, or call with any questions. This is an exciting and new adventure; we want you to have the information and support you need to make this a wonderful journey.

I look forward to growing in faith with your confirmand and your family.

Grace and Gratitude,

Sarah Wilterdink
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
swilterdink@uccappleton.org
920-540-2576

Visit our Confirmation page with this link FCUCC Confirmation or QR code.

Confirmand Expectations

Attendance

Confirmation gatherings are typically on the first and third Sundays, September-April. Confirmands and mentors will attend the 9:30AM worship service and the 10:45AM class. Regular attendance is required. Two absences can be made up by completing discussion guides. In this type of program, one person's attendance affects everyone. We appreciate you making this program a priority for your youth, and the best interested of all invested youth and mentors.

Family Reflections

Take-home work is designed to lead discussions between confirmands and their families. The reflections should take about one hour each month to complete by the youth and their adults.

Meditation Reflection Forms

These forms will help confirmands focus with intent on each worship service's meditation. The forms can be found in the clear wall hanger that is just inside the main church doors. Once completed, they should be placed in the folder at the back of the hanger. We will collect forms each Sunday. It is great if you attend worship at a different church when out of town! In that case, be sure to indicate the scripture and what church you attended.

Faith Experiences

These trips are fundamental parts of the Confirmation process (Winter retreat, MLK Service, funeral home visit, varying denominational service, etc.). These experiences help you form your understanding of God and religion. If one of these experiences is missed, you are encouraged to make it up the following time FCUCC offers the experience, even after you have been confirmed.

Serve the Church and Community

Each confirmand will serve Communion at least one first Sunday during the Confirmation program year. You will also serve in a position that most speaks to you: usher, greeter, coffee server, liturgist, soloist, AV assistant, Sunday School teacher, etc**.**

Each confirmand will take part in at least one community service project that is offered by FCUCC. In addition to the opportunities that our CYF program offers each month, there are many opportunities listed in the bulletins.

Statement of Faith

Created throughout the program's activities, these statements will be discussed with Sarah in April. There is no correct Statement of Faith. Alternately, these statements are created so confirmands intentionally reflect upon their current faith and beliefs. Discussing their Statements of Faith helps confirmands articulate their thoughts and beliefs

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Please return ASAP or register on Realm. Thank you!

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2026-2027 Confirmation Class Registration

Please include $150 registration fee with this form or contact Sarah Wilterdink to inquire about scholarship availability.

Youth's name _____ Youth's birthdate _____

Youth's school _____ Youth's phone _____

Youth's email _____ Youth's adult shirt size (S-XXXL) _____

Please list any allergies or special needs: _____

_____

Has this student been baptized? Yes_____ No _____ Date (if known) _____

Full proper name _____
(as you'd like it printed on the Confirmation certificate)

Parent/Guardian's name_____

Full address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Relationship to FCUCC (check one): ____Member ____Prospective member ____Visitor

How would you like to serve as a volunteer? Check all that apply:
____Bring treats for class ____Help at events ____Serve as a chaperone

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Requested Mentor's Information

Each confirmand will be paired with their own mentor who will accompany them through their Confirmation experience. Meetings with mentors will take place during regularly scheduled class times, two or three times per month. If there is an adult that you would like to have designated as YOUR mentor, please fill out the following.

Name _____ Phone_____

Address _____

Email _____ Adult Shirt Size (S-XXXL) _____

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Permission and Emergency Medical Consent

The purpose of this form is to allow my child to attend all off-site activities for FCUCC Confirmation.

Student Name_____ Current Grade in 2026-2027 School Year_____

I, _____, as parent/guardian of the above-named youth, give my permission for him/her to accompany pastors and/or authorized adult chaperones of my local church. I AUTHORIZE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEEMED NECESSARY FOR THE YOUTH NAMED ABOVE IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT OR INJURY, UNDERSTANDING THAT I WILL BE CONTACTED PROMPTLY IF SUCH A SITUATION ARISES. I also acknowledge that I will be ultimately responsible for the cost of any medical care not reimbursed by health insurance available to the child involved.

FCUCC'S GENERAL CONDUCT AGREEMENT AND MEDICAL INSURANCE WAIVER

1. I have no known physical or medical conditions which would make my participation in this activity unsafe for me or other participants.

2. I have informed First Congregational UCC of the nature of any health, mobility, dietary or other special needs I have related to my participation in this activity.

3. I will conduct myself in accordance with all local, state, and federal laws and will comply with all applicable laws, regulations, and rules.

4. While participating in this activity, I understand that I represent First Congregational UCC and will conduct myself in a respectful, responsible, and safe manner. I will follow the directions of adult leaders, respect the traditions, customs, and rules of the places we visit, and obey all applicable laws. I understand that alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons, and other prohibited items are not allowed during this activity, and I will help create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.

5. I understand that there are risks of accidents and injuries related to travel and participation in this activity. I understand that I am not covered under First Congregational UCC's medical insurance policy, and I confirm that I have my own health insurance coverage for any illness or injury I sustain during my participation in this activity. I agree to assume responsibility for all medical and other expenses for any treatment I receive during or related to my participation in this activity. I understand and agree that First Congregational UCC will not be responsible for any such expenses.

Insurance company or health care plan: _____

Food Allergies/Intolerances: _____

Participant's Signature _____Date _____

Parent/Guardian's Signature _____Date _____

Confirmation Mentor Information

You should feel very proud. It is a wonderful honor to have a young person request that you fulfill this very important role! Read below to see the role that a confirmation mentor fulfills at FCUCC.

- ✓ Between September–May, meet with all confirmands and mentors about twenty Sundays for worship and class. It is understandable that mentors may miss one or two classes due to other commitments.

- ✓ In addition to classes, attend the Confirmation Blessing Service, funeral home touring, confirmation rehearsal and celebration, and Confirmation Sunday. Consider chaperoning the Winter Retreat (only a few mentors needed).

- ✓ Inform Sarah and the confirmand's guardians if any sensitive information comes up that clearly places a confirmand in harm's way or is cause for concern.

- ✓ Much class time is spent in small group discussions. Be engaging, understanding, and welcoming of your confirmand during the time you have together. Consider yourself one of their *mentor-ministers.*

- ✓ Reach out to your confirmand's guardians at least once during this process to check in (email, letter, phone call).

- ✓ Connect with your confirmand at least three times during the year to develop a mentoring and welcoming relationship.
    - Obtain parents' consent to do so and copy parents on any written correspondence. Do not send private messages back and forth unless you yourself are family to the confirmand.

    - Always meet with your confirmand in the presence of at least one other mentor/confirmand pair. Never meet alone with your confirmand inside or outside this church.

- ✓ Comply with Our Safe Church Conduct Policy
    - Please complete the attached background check and send it to our church office. "Passing" means that you don't have a criminal background pertinent to you working with minors and being a trustworthy team member.

    - Once you pass the background check, you will receive an email invitation from "Mobilize My Ministry," to watch a video on child safety, accompanied by a brief quiz you must pass at 70% or better.

- ✓ Once you receive the book *Way to Live*, read the chapters "Being with Young People" and "The Formative Power of the Congregation" to further clarify your role as mentor.

As you discern your potential role as a confirmation mentor, please contact us with any questions that arise. We look forward to working with you.

Sarah Wilterdink
Director of Children, Youth & Family Ministries
swilterdink@uccappleton.org 920-540-2576

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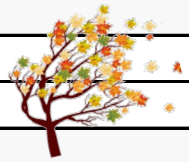
2026-2027 Confirmation Calendar

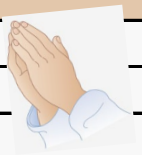
**All classes will be in the High School Youth Room on Sundays, unless otherwise noted.*
Our time together includes the 9:30AM service and 10:45-11:45AM meeting.
**Activities in ORANGE indicate a service project. They are optional but can count towards your confirmation service requirements.*

SEPTEMBER		
Wednesday 9	6:30-7:30 PM	Confirmation orientation with mentors
Sunday 13	**9:30 AM**	**Rally Sunday; Confirmation liturgy in church**
	10:30 AM	**Rally Sunday Brunch**
Sunday 20	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
	11:45 AM-12:15 PM	Mentor training

OCTOBER		
Sunday 4	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Sunday 11	**10:30 AM**	**Apple Crisp Bake field trip**
Sunday 18	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Wednesday 21	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**



NOVEMBER		
Sunday 1	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Sunday 15	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Wednesday 18	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**



DECEMBER		
Wednesday 2	**6:00-7:30PM**	**6PM dinner & decorating, 7PM *Hanging of the Greens* Service**
Sunday 6	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class, **no** mentors
Wednesday 16	**6:00-8:30 PM**	**Youth groups & confirmands: Caroling w/ a Bus & Dinner**
Sunday 20	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors

JANUARY		
Sunday 3	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Sunday 17	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Monday 18	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Martin Luther King Service with mentors @ Lawrence Chapel**
Wednesday 20	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**

Sarah Wilterdink, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
(920) 851-9559 swilterdink@uccappleton.org

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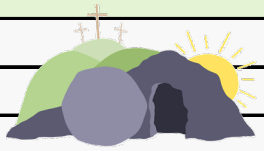
FEBRUARY		
Sat 6/Sun 7	**ALL DAY**	**HS Winter Retreat in Chicago: Saturday 8AM - Sunday 5PM**
Wednesday 10	**6:00-7:45 PM**	**6:00 Dinner & 7:00 Confirmand-led Ash Wednesday Service**
	7:45-8:15 PM	Confirmation class with mentors
Saturday 13	**6:00-8:00 PM**	**Valentine's Day Dance**
Wednesday 17	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**
Sunday 21	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors

MARCH		
Sunday 7	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Wednsday 10	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**
Wednsday 17	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project continued**
Sunday 21	**9:30-11:45 AM**	**Palm Sunday Breakfast - confirmand & mentor led**



APRIL		
Sunday 4	9:30-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Wednesday 7	**6:30-8:00 PM**	**Funeral home visit for confirmands and mentors**
Sunday 18	9:45-11:45 AM	Confirmation class with mentors
Wednesday 21	**6:30-7:30 PM**	**Service project**
Saturday 24	9:00 AM-4:00 PM	20 min. appointments with Pastors - **no** mentors

MAY		
Wednesday 12	6:00-7:30 PM	Confirmation rehearsal and celebration with confirmands, mentors, and families
Sunday 16	**9:30-10:30 AM**	**Confirmation worship service**
	10:45-11:30 AM	**Optional picnic lunch for everyone**

JUNE		
Sunday 6	**9:30-11:30 AM**	**Service Sunday & luncheon**

Sarah Wilterdink, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries
(920) 851-9559 swilterdink@uccappleton.org

rev. 06/30/26

The First Congregational United Church of Christ of Appleton, Wisconsin

Background check authorization

This form must be returned to First Congregational UCC's office seven (7) days prior to starting any commitment.

Name _____
Last First Middle

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Phone _____ Email _____

☐ I am an adult completing this for myself

☐ I am an adult completing this for a minor/another adult and am authorized to sign on their behalf.

I have never been convicted of, or pled guilty or no contest to, a crime. (Exclude convictions that have been sealed, expunged or legally eradicated, misdemeanor convictions for which probation was completed and the case was dismissed, or offenses about which inquiry is not permissible in this state.)

True ☐ Not True ☐

If not true, please briefly describe the nature of the crime(s), the date and place of conviction and the legal disposition of the case. The church will not deny its position to any applicant solely because the person has been convicted of a crime. The church, however, may consider the nature, date and circumstances of the offense, as well as whether the offense is relevant to the duties of the position.

Is there any fact or circumstance involving you or your background that would call into question your being entrusted with the responsibilities of the position for which you are applying?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please provide a brief explanation.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Covenant of Integrity: Commitment and Authorization Agreement for First Congregational UCC

The covenants between persons seeking employment with the church require honesty, integrity, and truthfulness for the health of the church. To that end, I attest that the information set forth in this application is true and complete. I understand that any misrepresentation or omission may be grounds for rejection of consideration for, or termination of, the position I am seeking to fill. I acknowledge that it is my duty in a timely fashion to amend the responses and information I have provided if I come to know that the response or information was incorrect when given or, though accurate when given, the response or information is no longer accurate.

Covenant of Integrity cont.

Beginning such relationships with an open exchange of relevant information builds the foundation for a continuing and healthy covenant between applicants and the church they seek to serve. To that end, I authorize First Congregational UCC or its agents to make inquiries regarding my character and qualifications, including all statements I have set forth above. I also authorize all entities, persons, former employers, supervisors, courts, law enforcement, and other public agencies to respond to inquiries concerning me, to supply verification of the statements I have made, and to comment on and state opinions regarding my background, character, and qualifications. To encourage such persons and entities to speak openly and responsibly, I hereby release them from all liability arising from their responses, comments and statements.

First Congregational UCC's authorized recruitment process involves the sharing of information regarding applicants with those persons in a position to recruit, secure and supervise both the position I am seeking to fill and program I am seeking to participate in. To that end, I authorize First Congregational UCC and its agents to circulate, distribute and otherwise share information gathered in connection with this application to such persons for these purposes. I understand that First Congregational UCC will share with me information it has gathered about me if I request it to do so.

If I am offered and accept employment with the church, I agree to comply with the accompanying Code of Conduct and SafeConduct™ policy, especially in reporting known or suspected child neglect or abuse and similar requirements. If requested to do so, I will cooperate with any church investigation of a possible violation of church policies and rules by providing complete and truthful information in an oral and/or written statement.

I acknowledge I have received and agree to implementing The Code of Conduct, part of First Congregational UCC's SafeConduct™ Policy and Procedure.

Printed Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For a complete version of the SafeConduct™ Policy, please visit www.uccappleton.org.

First Congregational UCC Background Investigation Disclosure and Authorization

In connection with my application for employment with First Congregational UCC, I understand that a "consumer report" and/or "investigative consumer report", as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act will be requested from Protect My Ministry, Inc. ("Protect My Ministry"), a consumer reporting agency as defined by the Fair Credit Reporting Act. These reports may include information as to my character, general reputation, personal characteristics or mode of living, whichever are applicable. They may involve interviews with sources, such as my neighbors, friends or associates. The report may also contain information about me relating to my criminal history, credit history, driving and/or motor vehicle records, social security number verification, verification of education or employment history, worker's compensation (only after a conditional job offer) or other background checks.

Such reports may be obtained at any time after receipt of this Disclosure and Authorization and if I serve as an employee, or volunteer, whichever is applicable, throughout the course of my service, as permitted by law and unless revoked by me in writing.

I understand that I have the right, upon written request made within a reasonable amount time after the receipt of this notice, to request disclosure of the nature and scope of any investigative consumer report to Protect My Ministry, Inc., 14499 N. Dale Mabry Hwy., Suite 201 South, Tampa, FL 33618 or 1-800-319-5581.
For information about Protect My Ministry's privacy practices, see www.protectmyministry.com

Acknowledgement and Authorization

By signing below, I voluntarily and knowingly authorize First Congregational UCC or its authorized agents to obtain or prepare consumer reports or investigative consumer reports about me. I acknowledge receipt of a copy of A Summary of Your Rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act and certify that I have read this Disclosure and Authorization as well as the summary explaining my rights under the Fair Credit Reporting Act

☐ **Optional:** I wish to receive a copy of any consumer report on me that is requested.

☐ **Optional:** I have been explicitly asked and been delegated the responsibility of driving children and (or) vulnerable adults on behalf of First Congregational UCC for an authorized ministry program or event.

Signature _____ Date _____

Social Security Number _____ Full Date of Birth _____

Driver's license or State ID number _____ State issued _____

Please list other names you may have had **(including maiden name)**

_____

Previous states/countries of residence _____

For minor applicants

I, _____, the parent/guardian of the minor named above, hereby authorize and consent to the conducting of a background check as part of the volunteer and employment process. I understand that this may include verification of personal information, employment history, and criminal background as permitted by law. I release First Congregational Church and its representatives from any and all liability arising from the collection or use of such information for employment purposes.

Parent/Guardian signature _____ Date _____

Once this form has been submitted to Protect My Ministry by First Congregational UCC, those who will be working with children will automatically receive an email containing a link to the required training. Please be looking for an email message from Mobilize My Ministry.

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