First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 9, 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 9, 2026 9:30AM
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Hear Ye, Israel & O Rest in the Lord from Elijah, Op. 70

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Ever-present God, forever seeking us and always teaching us:

All: Open our minds to the truth of your care.

One: Open our hearts to the gentle power of your love.

All: Open our lips to share stories of faith.

One: Open our hands to create beauty, to do justice and to show kindness.

All: Open our souls to the breath of your Spirit.

One: Open our mouths to sing boldly and loudly your praises.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

God is Calling through the Whisper W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

One: We come seeking God's voice, a voice that loves us, cares for us,
but also challenges us to do better, to love more fully,
speak more truthfully and believe more wholeheartedly.

**All: Holy God, it is easy to confess with our lips that you are Lord,
but it is much harder to believe with our hearts,
to live in a way that puts you first.
We are quick to trust in idols.
We depend on what we can see, touch, and control,
instead of waiting to hear your still, small voice.
Forgive us, Lord, and help our unbelief, so that what we confess with our lips
we may truly believe in our hearts.**

One: Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
There are no prerequisites, no disqualifications, no exceptions.

All: We are saved, we are forgiven, we are freed! Hallelujah!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(During the Children's Message, the Prayer Request and Connection Cards will be collected. After the Children's Message, the children will follow their teachers to the CYF building.)

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.

ANTHEM

Hear My Prayer, O Lord, Op. 99 No. 6 Antonín Dvořák (1841-1904)

Heather Hallett, *soprano*

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Kings 19:9-18 Lyle Van De Hey

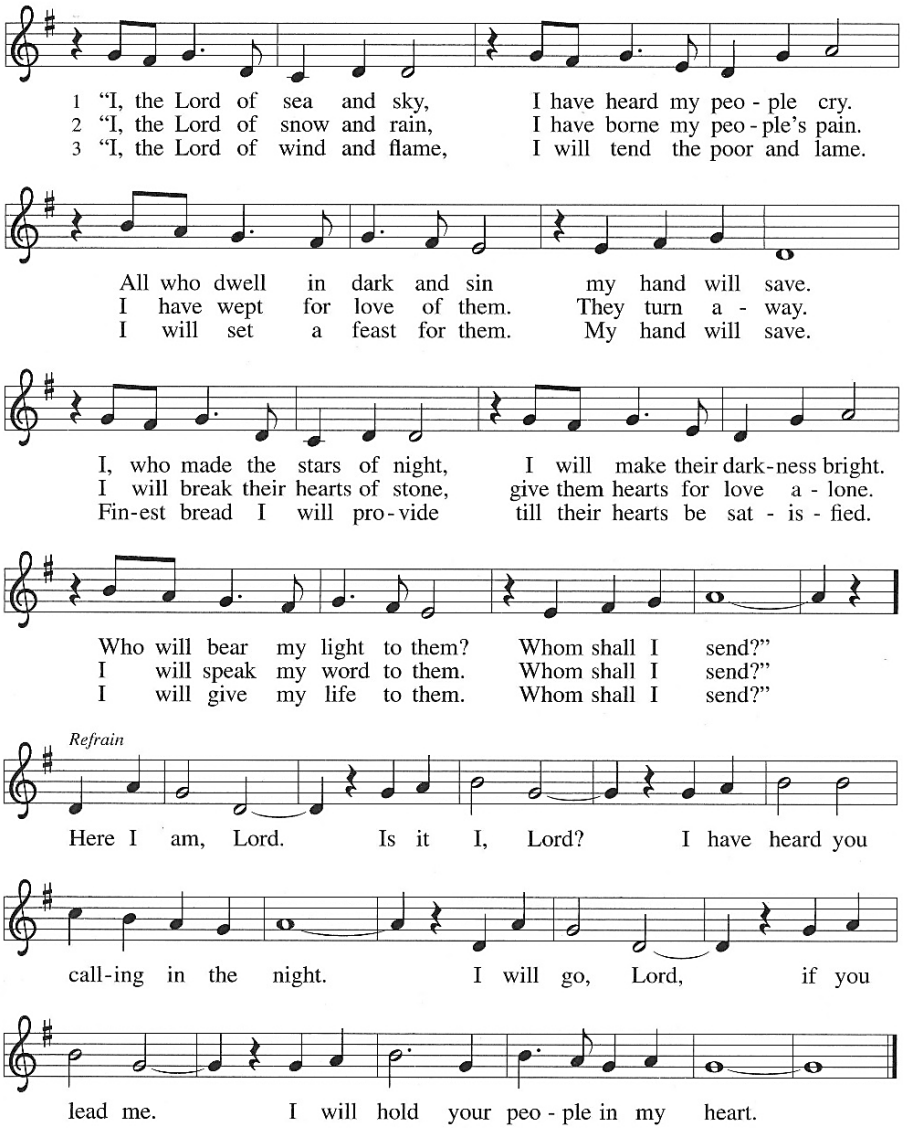
At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there. Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the Lord, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the Lord said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *"Running and Trusting in Holy Silence"* Pastor Nick Hatch

***HYMN**

Here I Am, Lord HERE I AM, LORD

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946
Music: Daniel L. Schutte
Text and music © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.

HERE I AM, LORD
7 7 7 4 D and refrain

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Habitat for Humanity — Amy McGowan

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

Siciliano from Sonata for Flute, BWV 1031 — J.S. Bach/trans. Charles Krane

Ruth Hallett, *cello*

*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 8)

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine — SHOWALTER

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Ricercare in G Minor — Johann Jakob Froberger (1616-1667)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*
Barb Schmidt, *Liturgist*
Lyle Van De Hey, *Lay Reader*
Heather Hallett, *soprano* and Ruth Hallett, *cello*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries*

Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, #A-714899. All rights reserved.
Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from CCLI, #20670260. All rights reserved.

USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

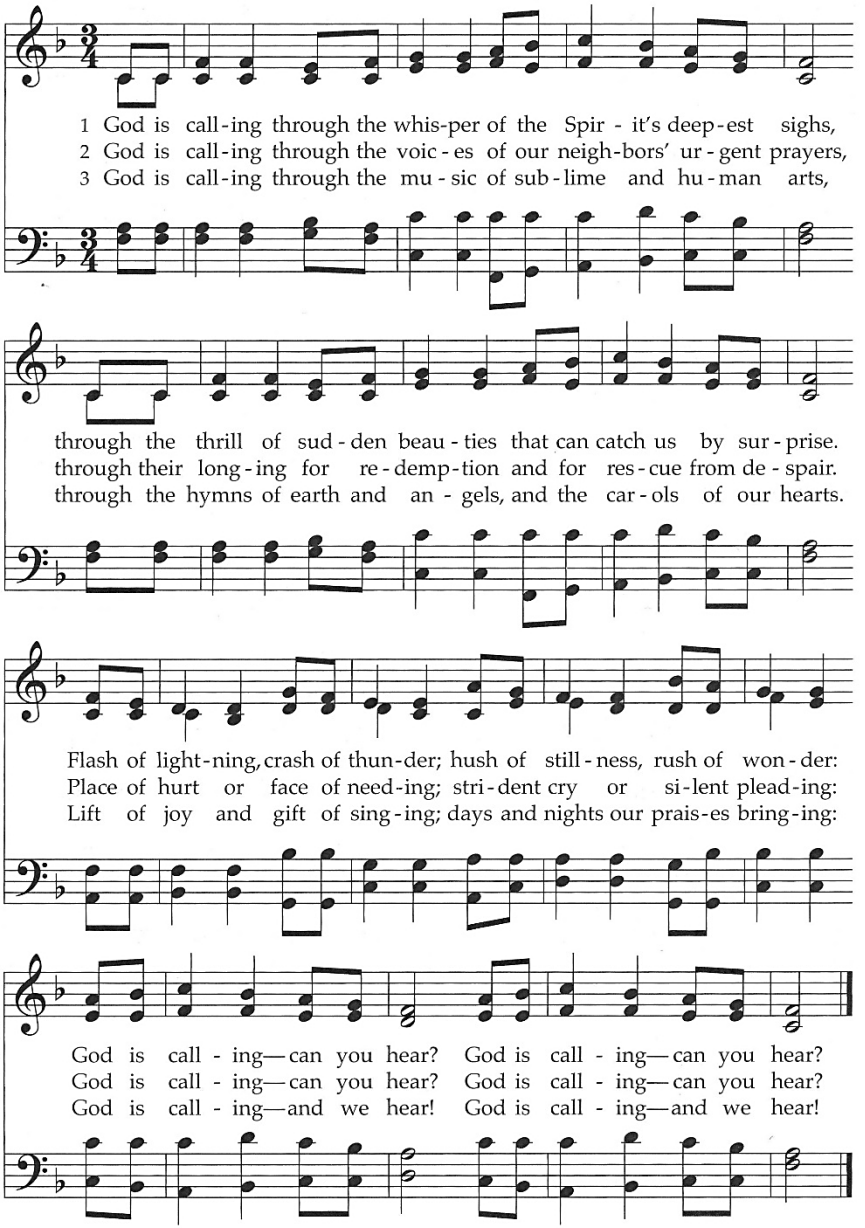
TODAY'S USHERS: Team 3: Mark Shropshire, JoAnn Shropshire, Kevin Gentile, Susan Houston, Cathy Paynter, Ryan Smith, Chris Calhoun, Ryan St. Clair, Lorenzo Pisan and Team 5: Abby Schmidt, Andy Schmidt, Rick Behm, Peter Carmen, Jeff McLaughlin
AUDIO & VIDEO: Travis Retzlaff, Rick Behm, Kris Behm, Matt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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey
Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 and Matthew 15: (10-20), 21-28
Music: Jann Kostecke, *flute* & Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

ON THE CALENDAR		
August 16 & 23	10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Classes
September 13	9:30AM-12:00PM	Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks and Rally Sunday Picnic

WORSHIP NOTES (space for your personal notes/thoughts)

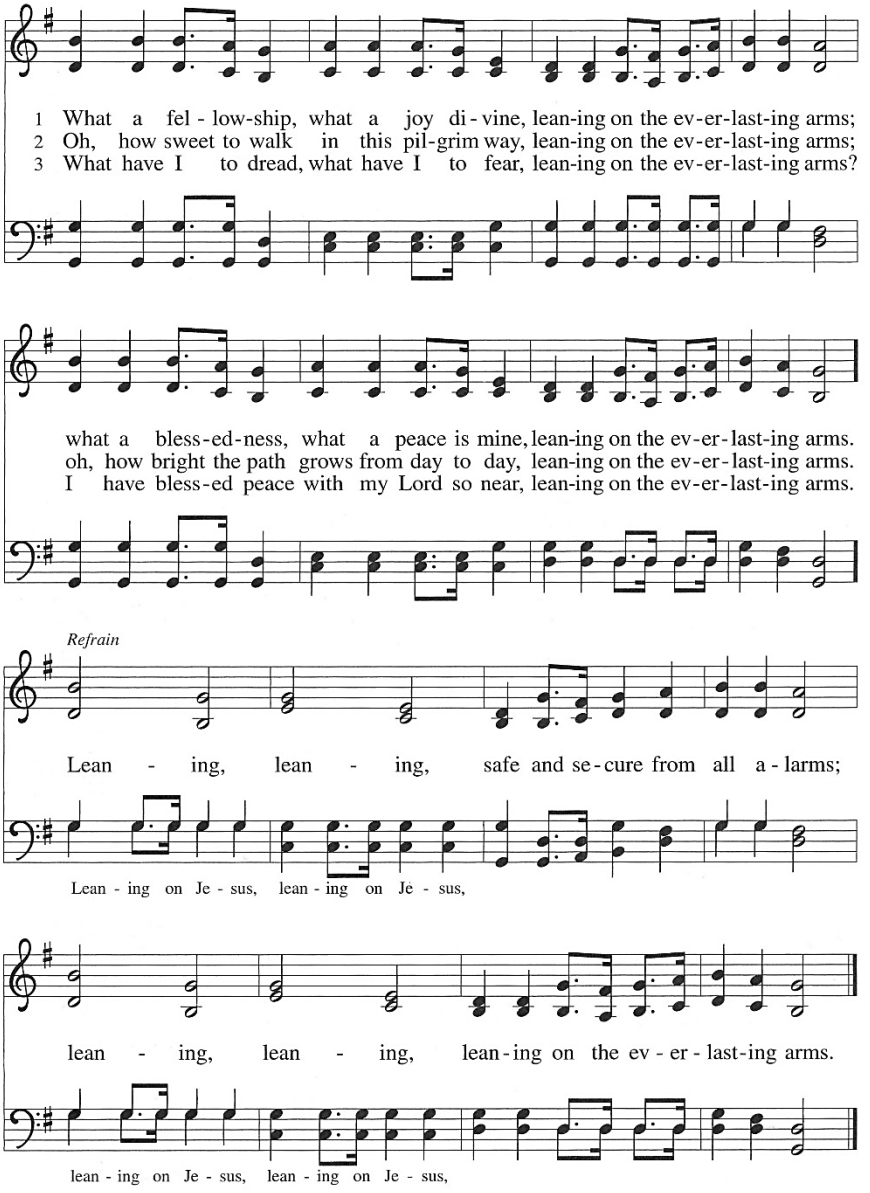
God Is Calling through the Whisper

This wide-ranging text reminds us of the many surprising and urgent ways God calls to us, both to draw us near and to send us forth. In the third line of music it is especially effective at harnessing the momentum of the phrases that are each a note higher than the one before.

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003
MUSIC: Polish carol; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958
Text © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music Harm. © 1958 Broadman Press (admin. Music Services)

W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY
8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7
(this tune in a higher key, 128)

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: Anthony J. Showalter, 1858–1924

SHOWALTER
10 9 10 9 and refrain

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.**
Cindy Kroll Bob Baeten Cameron George, National Guard serving in the Middle East All those affected by the recent storms and tornado 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.

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

Sunday Morning Main and CYF Entrances Security Communication: Beginning on Sunday, **August 30**, we will be locking the main (West) church and the CYF entrances at 9:35AM until our church service ends. Locking the doors allows the congregation to be safe and secure during our worship service. Ushers and/or members of the safety team will be monitoring both doors to facilitate entry after the service has started. If you have questions, please check with anyone on the Safety and Security Committee: Wayne Lannoye, Shannon Glenn, Tim Hanna, Dennis Korth, Bruce Danz and Rick Behm

Habitat for Humanity Partnership Celebration! Everyone is invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall today, **August 9**, at 10:30AM for a light continental breakfast in celebration of the 36-year (and still going) partnership with Habitat for Humanity. Hear stories and memories from new and long-time volunteers. We especially 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. Update: HFH's office in Menasha was damaged and is partially unusable. Any donations at the breakfast will go towards its repair.

Fall Grief Support Group: Judy Long is hosting a Group Support group for members and friends of First Congregational UCC this fall. This eight-week support group is for individuals who have experienced the death of an adult loved one. Group meetings are focused on receiving and offering support through personal sharing, listening, discussion, reflection, meditation, and ritual. This support group is open to all and is offered free of charge. The group will be limited to twelve participants. Meetings will be held via Zoom on Monday evenings from 6:00-7:30PM from September 14 through November 2. **Open this link** to register by **August 16.**

Library News: The theme for August is fiction. We have lots of great fiction books. Come check them out! Here are a couple: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom and *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles.

NOAHH Requests: Items needed include bottles, wipes, clothing, toys, burp cloths, baby shampoo/soap, and a queen mattress. Call Barb Mincheff, Outagamie County Health & Human Services Volunteer Services Coordinator at 920-832-5515 for pick-up or drop-off.

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, 10:45AM-12:00PM. 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.

Confirmation Registration Deadline is today! 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.

An integral part of our confirmation experience is the mentor-confirmand relationship. 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. Please contact Sarah with any questions or to volunteer for this commitment of about one-hour on 20 Sundays and a lifetime of Christian fellowship.

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 10

10:30AM-12:00PM	Isaiah Project Community Partnership Task Force Meeting – *Library*
1:00-2:30PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry – *Common Grounds*
1:30-2:30PM	HR Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
6:00-7:30PM	Mental Health Task Force – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:30PM	Prayer Shawl Ministry – *Common Grounds*

Tuesday, August 11 ~ Election - *Narthex*

11:30AM-2:00PM	Private Event – *River Room, Kitchen*
1:30-3:00PM	Racial Equity – *by Zoom*
6:00-8:00PM	Wild Women of First Congregational @ Stone Arch Brewpub, *Appleton*
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM	Technology Committee – *by Zoom*
7:00-8:30PM	Scout Troop 67 – *Fellowship Hall*
7:30-9:00PM	Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 12

10:00-11:30AM	Steering Committee Meeting – *Isaiah Room*

Thursday, August 13

12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
6:30-7:30PM	Congregational Life Committee – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 14

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 15

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

Sunday, August 16

9:30-11:00AM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel, Common Grounds (for nursing mothers)*
10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Class – *Chapel and by Zoom*
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 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)*
10:30AM-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*

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