First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 16, 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.

~ The flowers are in memory of Jennifer Anne and Andrea Tatlock. ~

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 16, 2026 9:30AM

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ~ Baptism Sunday

PRELUDE

Adagio from Sonata in F Major Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Jann Kostecke, *flute*

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is a holy time and a holy place.

All: This is a church for all people.

One: Let us praise the God of all nations.

All: Let us give thanks and rejoice.

One: May God grant us strength and courage.

All: May we be rooted and grounded in love.

One: We are here to worship the Lord!

All: Let us worship together in wonder and in faith!

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 7)

Let Us Build a House (All Are Welcome) TWO OAKS

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

One: We call to God, saying, "Have mercy on us!"
We call to God, saying, "Lord, help us!"
We call to God even in the midst of our sin,
knowing that God is gracious and just.

All: God of all goodness, we do not want to face what is in our hearts.
We want to focus on the good— on the love, the compassion, the care and ignore the bad— the greed, the envy, the cruelty.
But before you, God, we must face everything.
Forgive all the ways we have let evil take hold in our hearts. Cleanse us.
Help us face our own demons and empower us to live a Christlike life.

One: We wander from God, but we have received mercy.

All: Let us live our lives transformed by the abundant mercy of God!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Baptism of Natalie Dove Aman
Parents: Nicole & Nicholas Aman
Godparents: Ashtin Aman and Doug Wilson

The Baptism of Abe Eric Kempfert
Parents: Collin & Hannah Kempfert
Godparents: Nathan & Jen Abrahamson

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (when prompted):
All: We promise our love, support and care.

BLESSING OF THE WATER

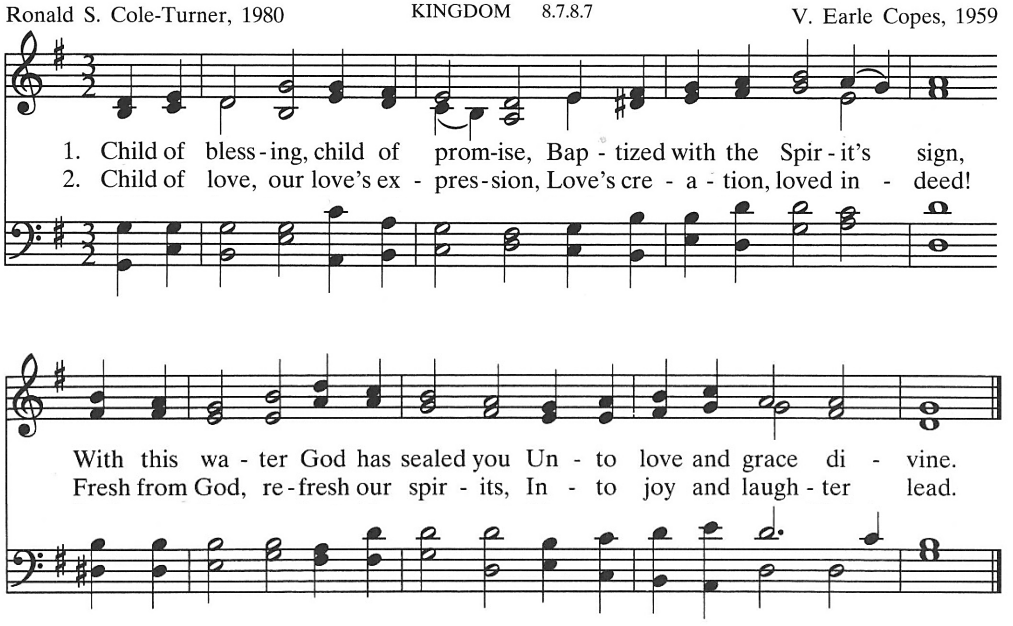
ACT OF BAPTISM

UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING
We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of all the faithful, for the grace witnessed here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us in the household of your love. Grant us grace to nurture these children in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. Give them strength for life's journey, courage in times of suffering, and hope in new life through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306 (see bulletin page 4)
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM
St. 1 & 2

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise



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Music: Copyright © 1960. Renewal 1988 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

ANTHEM

Peace in Christ — Nik Day

Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*

SCRIPTURE READINGS — Dan Pannebaker

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Thus says the LORD: Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come and my deliverance be revealed. And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD, to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD, and to be his servants, all who keep the Sabbath and do not profane it and hold fast my covenant—these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar, for my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Thus says the Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel: I will gather others to them besides those already gathered.

Matthew 15:21-28

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *"Yes, And"* Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey

*HYMN #72

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy WELLESLEY

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

Largo-Allegro from Sonata in F Major Benedetto Marcello

*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)

O God of Every Nation — LLANGLOFFAN

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Allegro from Sonata in F Major — Benedetto Marcello

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*
Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*
Dan Pannebaker, *Lay Reader*
Jann Kostecke, *flute,* Jesse Baumgart, *tenor*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries*

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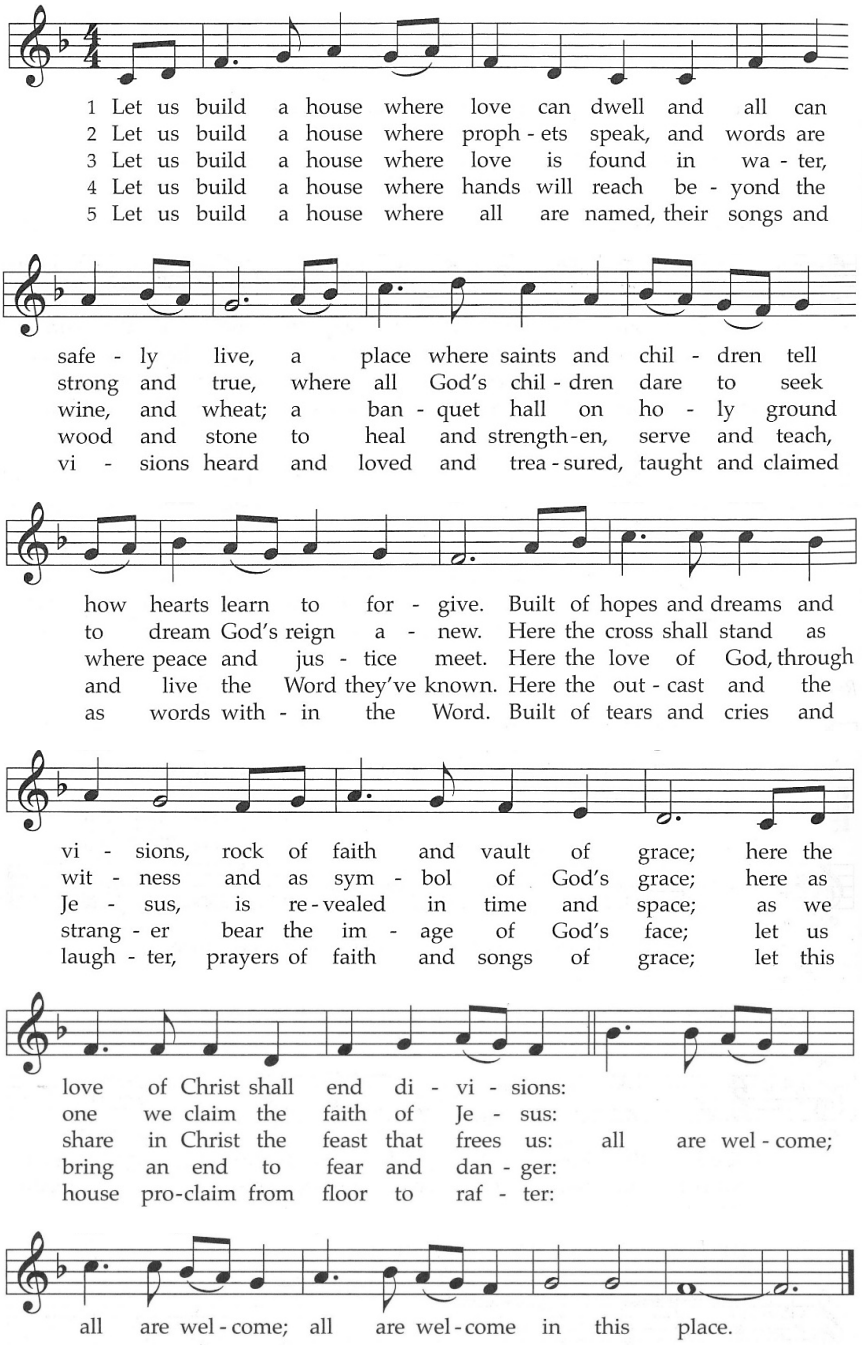
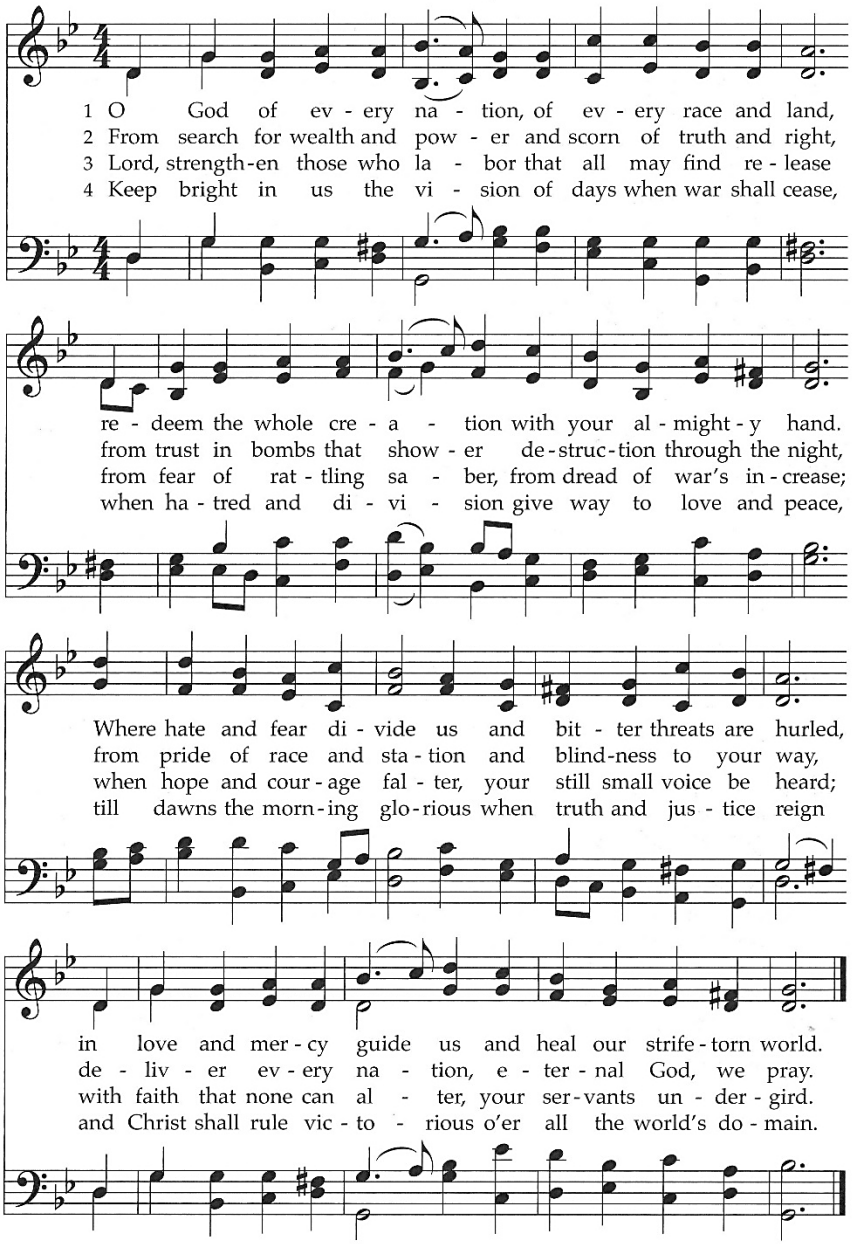
Let Us Build a House

All Are Welcome

TEXT and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1994

Text and Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

TWO OAKS

9.6.8.6.8.7.10 with refrain

O God of Every Nation

If we truly believe that God cares for all people, we cannot limit our prayers and songs for peace to the welfare of our own nation, no matter how much we may love it. This challenging text is set to a stirring Welsh tune, named for a hamlet with a prominent Baptist chapel.

TEXT: William W. Reid Jr., 1958, alt.
MUSIC: Welsh folk melody; *Llwybrau Moliant*, 1872; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

LLANGLOFFAN
7.6.7.6.D

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: John Aaholm, Shannon Glenn, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey
Matthew 16:13-20
Music: Murphy Family Musicians

ON THE CALENDAR

September 13	9:30AM-12:00PM	Rally Sunday, Blessing of the Backpacks and Rally Sunday Picnic
September 25-27		Women's Retreat

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.**
Donna Haberland Mike, having foot surgery next week 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 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.

Learn about Re-Member: What do you know about our church's mission partner, Re-Member, on the Pine Ridge reservation? Learn about this remarkable organization, among the longest serving and most trusted non-profits on Pine Ridge. Executive Director Will Paese and former Executive Director Cory True will talk about Re-Member's current work, challenges, and aspirations in a presentation on Sunday, **August 30** in Fellowship Hall immediately after service. Light refreshments will be served. Contact person: Eilene Hoft-March Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu

Please support this year's Turtle Trek Challenge! This year's Turtle Trek Challenge will run Sunday, August 23 through Sunday, October 25. TTC is a fund-raiser for our mission partner, Re-Member, which serves the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge reservation. You can raise funds by trekking (walking, running, skating, ambling, etc.) 100 miles in 10 weeks. Please find trekker information with the QR code or open this link: Turtle Trek sponsor sheet. If you can't trek, please consider sponsoring our trekkers in any amount. There will be a sign-up table for trekkers and sponsors in the narthex on August 16 and August 23. For more information, contact Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu

Outreach Ministries Bulletin Board: Each month the Outreach Ministries bulletin board in the narthex, across from the elevator, highlights our Mission Partners. This month features **Habitat**, a non-profit organization that helps people and families in our community and around the world build or improve a place they can call home. The organization aims to eliminate substandard housing for families by working in partnership to build or repair affordable homes. A Faith Build occurs in late summer, where representatives from diverse faith communities work together with a family to construct their home. FCUCC participates by providing work crews and financial support. This year we celebrate 36 years of partnership with Habitat! To become involved contact **Tim De Hart** tdehart@new.rr.com or learn more at www.foxcitieshabitat.com.

Library News: The theme for August is fiction. We have lots of great fiction books. Come check them out! Here are a couple: *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee and *Future Home of the Living God* by Louise Erdrich.

September Collection for Henderson Settlement: A large group will be serving at Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY, October 11-17. This year the need is for bath towels and washcloths. These items do not need to be the top of the line, however durable towels that dry and absorb are the request. We are also collecting personal hygiene items: shampoo, conditioner, men and women's deodorants, body wash, bar soap, hand soap. Items should be regular size, not travel nor extra-large. All items can be placed in the blue bin in the narthex. We realize there is a great need right here in the Fox Valley for many items due to the tornado. The need at Henderson Settlement is a continuing one. Whatever you are able to donate will be greatly appreciated!

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

NOAHH Requests: Items needed include couch/loveseat, a dining table and chairs, 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.

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.** Scholarship monies are available; please contact Pastor Katherine at kwpershey@uccappleton.org.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, August 17

7:00-8:30PM	EJWG Meeting – *by Zoom*

Tuesday, August 18

8:00-9:00AM	Facilities Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
2:00-4:00PM	Library Committee – *Library*
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:00PM	Safety Committee Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM	Scout Troop 67 – *HS Youth Room*
7:30-9:00PM	Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, August 19

2:00-3:00PM	Peabody/Heritage Worship @ *Peabody Chapel*

Thursday, August 20

9:30-10:30AM	Adult Education Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
12:00-1:30PM	Theology Discussion Group @ *Holidays Pub & Grill, Appleton*
5:30-7:00PM	Family/Friends NAMI Mental Illness Support Group – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, August 21

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 22

10:00AM-12:00PM	Bob Barlament Service, 10:00AM Visitation, 11:00AM Service – *Sanctuary, Narthex, Memorial Garden*
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 23

9:30-11:00AM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel, Common Grounds (for nursing mothers)*
10:45-11:45AM	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*

UNDERSTANDING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Workshop

4 Part **Free** Workshop Series
6:30-8pm Thursdays in September

Presented by:
Grace Christensen, MSW, LCSW, CSAC

Week 1 & 2

Regulate: The Foundation for Change

- Mapping the mind-body connection behind feeling overwhelmed
- Step-by-step tools to soothe your nervous system

Week 3

Relate: The Road to Healing

- The science of connection: Why we can't heal alone
- How to set and keep boundaries

Week 4

Repair: Restoring the Story

- Deeper into the mind: thought patterns & beliefs
- Skills for forgiveness & practical steps towards healing

RSVP NOW

Scan to register on Realm or Call/text 920-744-3345

Location:
Chapel
First Congregational United Church Of Christ
724 E South River St
Appleton, WI 54915

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)*
10:45AM-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 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