First Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

August 30, 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 30, 2026 9:30AM
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ~ New Member Sunday

PRELUDE
Larghetto Domenico Scarlatti (1685-1757)

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*
*CALL TO WORSHIP
One: Lamb of God, your burden is easy.

All: Good shepherd, your way is righteous.

One: Give us the resolve to follow wherever you lead,

**All: Knowing there are hills and valleys ahead,
places of great suffering and deep hope along the way.**

One: May our worship be worthy of the calling you have given us.

All: Strong and gentle Jesus, make our hearts ready for true praise.

*OPENING HYMN #487
Abide with Me EVENTIDE

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE
One: We seek the will of God but still find ourselves conformed to this world, instead of being transformed into God's image. Let us seek forgiveness for the ways we have turned away from justice and mercy.

**All: Be patient with our stumbling.
Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow,
and lead us in your ways of peace.**

One: Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still. This is the good news that prevails!

All: In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, we are forgiven!

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.

SOLO ANTHEM

The Call Poem by George Herbert (1593-1633)
Music by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Herbert was considered one of the foremost devotional lyricists and metaphysical poets of the 17th century.

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joys in love.

SCRIPTURE READING Jeremiah 15:15-21 LouAnn Graf

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.
In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts.

I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation.

Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed?
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail.

Therefore thus says the LORD:
If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them.

And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD.

I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON *"Unfailing Waters"* Pastor Nick Hatch

*HYMN (see bulletin page 7)
Beneath the Cross of Jesus ST. CHRISTOPHER

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION

Today we welcome:
Peter Stahlschmidt, Erin Stahlschmidt, Val Dunham, Bob Dunham,
Bill Schulz, Kim Schulz, Al Cattani, Barb Cattani, Claudia Barlow,
Jenna Rompelman, Jason Weiss, Harley Davies, Melissa Wege, Danny Wege,
Dan Oberschlake, Ann Oberschlake, Harley Krause, Janet Krause

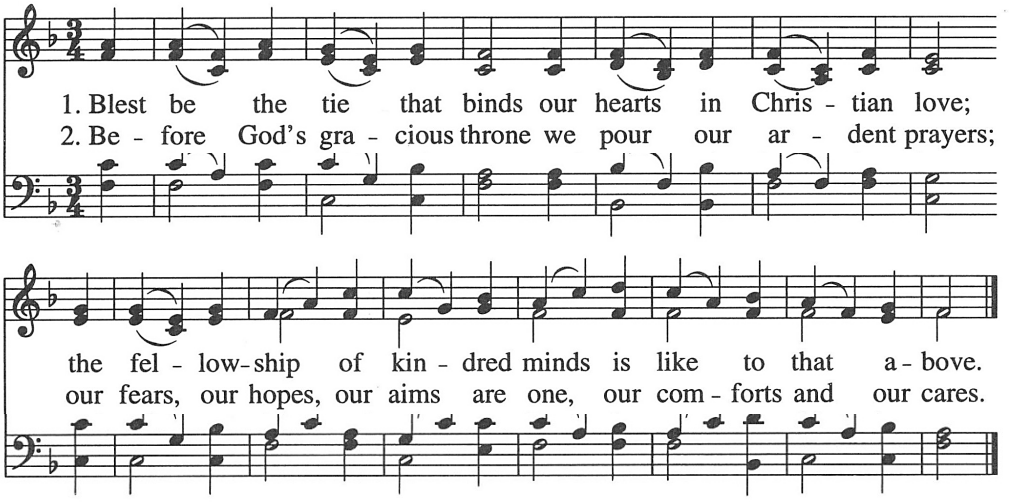
* UNISON WELCOME

We thank God for the faith within you.
We thank God that you are here.
We welcome you with love, acceptance, and respect,
no matter where you are on your faith journey.
Together we will worship and work, learn and grow.
Together we will work for peace and justice,
and care for each other in times of need.
Together we will be faithful stewards of God's grace,
following Jesus into the world to love and serve our neighbors. Amen.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

*HYMN #368 (see bulletin page 5)
Blest Be the Tie That Binds DENNIS
St. 1 & 2

Blest Be the Tie That Binds



WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782, alt.
MUSIC: J. G. Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
SM

This text was written when 'ties that bind' convinced Fawcett that he should remain with the small Baptist congregation at Wainsgate, Yorkshire, England.

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

If I...

Poem by Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
Music by Lori Laitman (b. 1955)

Dickinson was intimately acquainted with Herbert's poetry, and their style and thematic material share many common characteristics.

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

*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 #444

Lord of All Hopefulness SLANE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Voluntary and Fughetta George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Nicholas J. Hatch, *Co-Pastor*
Vince Salvia, *Director of Operational Ministries*
LouAnn Graf, *Lay Reader*
Dr. Karen Leigh-Post, *mezzo-soprano*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries*

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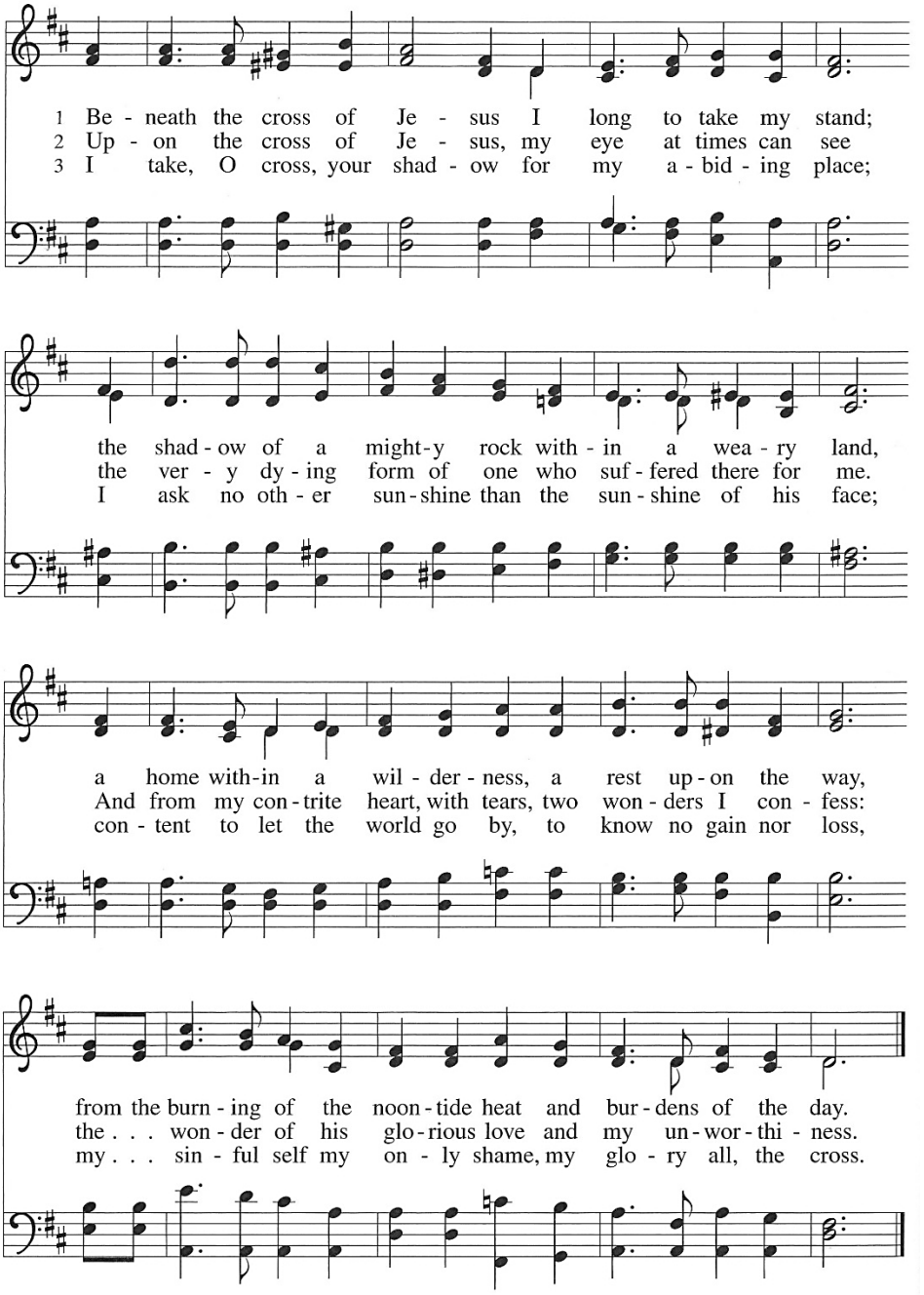
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

ST. CHRISTOPHER
76 86 86 86

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: Seb Pershey, Rod Reynolds, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost Pastor Nick Hatch
Exodus 12:1-14 Music: Karma's Mailbox

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
October 10	9:00AM-3:00PM	Men's Retreat
October 18	5:30PM	Hope & Justice Sing-Along: An Evening of Music, Singing and Community

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.**
Prayers for peace and comfort for the loss of our grandson Baby Cooper and his family Gale Korth Phyllis Zeiss Tonya Griswold Harley Davies Paul, struggling with MRSA Jack Vanden Boogaard Victoria Williams Ann Oberschlake's nephew, Jon in ICU Bill Platt's sister in relocation, Ron, with ALS, and a friend healing after knee replacement Donna Haberland Mike, having foot surgery next week Cameron George, National Guard serving in the Middle East 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.

Sunday Morning Main and CYF Entrances Security Communication: Beginning today, 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.

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 today, **August 30** in Fellowship Hall immediately after service. Light refreshments will be served. Contact person: Eilene Hoft-March Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu

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, **September 3**.

Fall/Winter Sign-Up for Coffee Hour Now Available! The coffee ministry is looking for 'perky' people to serve coffee (and optional treats) on Sundays after service in September (starting September 20) through December. "Bean" wanting to do this? It's a great way to help and meet people, and a great (and pretty easy) volunteer opportunity! It's also a good spot for a church group to promote their upcoming activity -- or for a family to serve together. And most Sundays the coffee is already made -- what more could you ask for?! Check your 2026 calendar and sign up for one, or even a 'cupple' of dates! (See what we did there?) Sign-up sheets are in the narthex on the sign-up board just outside of the library. Questions? Ask the person today serving coffee or contact the church office to sign up today!

Library News: The theme for August is fiction. We have lots of great fiction books. Come check them out! Here are a couple: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon and *Gilead* by Marilynne Robinson.

Please support this year's Turtle Trek Challenge! This year's Turtle Trek Challenge will run **Sunday, August 23 through Sunday, November 1**. 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 today. For more information, contact Eilene.Hoft-March@lawrence.edu

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!

From the Indigenous Peoples' Allies Committee: Attending one of our local powwows is a great way to learn more about our Indigenous community. This one is a wonderful community celebration in downtown Neenah. The Neenah-Menasha Intertribal Powwow will take place on Saturday, **September 12** at 230 E. Wisconsin Ave., Neenah, WI 54956. For helpful information about pow wow protocol and how to be a good guest, consult this resource WI Powwow Calendar or QR code.

Upcoming ESTHER Events:
Thursdays in September, 6:30-8:00PM at First Congregational UCC ~ Understanding Your Mental Health Workshop: A 4-Part Free Workshop Series. Register with this QR code:

September 15 ~ We Will Not Be Silent: An Immigration Vigil is POSTPONED TO THE FALL. A new date and details will be shared soon.

October 18, 5:30PM at First Congregational UCC ~ Hope & Justice Sing-Along: An Evening of Music, Singing and Community

Habitat Faith Build 2026: Do you want to improve the life of a family and make a difference in your community? This is your opportunity! On Thursday, **September 24**, First Congregational Church volunteers will be installing drywall. The build site location is 2111 East Esther Street, Appleton. We need 8 construction volunteers and several food providers. Jose and Cecillia's family would appreciate your efforts. Help represent our church in this meaningful partnership by signing up! For more information you can call or text Tim De Hart (ask office for information), or email at **tdehart@new.rr.com**.

Preschool Opening: The Children's School Montessori, Inc., which shares our building, has an enrollment opening for a 5-year-old child. As a preschool co-op, The Children's School provides a budget-friendly Montessori program where children are celebrated and empowered in a community where they each belong. The program runs Tuesday-Friday from 8:30-11:30AM from September-May following the AASD for holidays. With over 20 years of experience, our teacher, Ms. Stacie Clark, helps lay the foundation for children to be lifelong learners who pursue their interests. Family involvement helps keep tuition affordable and strengthens their support network. Please visit our website to learn more The Children's School or contact Tressa at (920) 472-9073.

Join us for a new season of Chrysalis beginning September 1! Our women's spiritual formation group builds community through book study, fellowship, and prayer. We reflect on our spiritual journeys and share our joys, sorrows, experiences, and hopes to connect with one another and deepen our relationship with God. We meet on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 1:00-2:30PM. Our first book for the year is *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation* by Alice Connor. The book costs $12 and will be available for pick up at our first meeting of the fall, September 1. The group is facilitated by Sheryl De Hart, Trish Brehm, and Pastor Katherine (**kwpershey@uccappleton.org**).

Fall Fire & Faith: Join Pastor Nick **September 2, 9, 16, & 23** from 6:30-7:45PM in the labyrinth for a campfire fire and faith-filled conversations. We will discuss "Spirituality 101" by learning about common misconceptions and important practices in Christian spirituality. Then, we will be "Discerning What God is Doing" through a brief study of the book of Acts. This is a great way to make new connections and enjoy brisk fall weather. Join on the weeks you are available. All are welcome to come early or stay late to walk the sacred path of our labyrinth. Our rain day location will be the chapel. Please bring: your own chair, a headlamp for reading, reading glasses if you need them, and an open heart. Dress for fall weather success! All other materials will be provided.

NOAHH Requests: Items needed include 5-10 storage bins. Call Barb Mincheff, Outagamie County Health & Human Services Volunteer Services Coordinator at 920-832-5515 for pick-up or drop-off.

This Week's Schedule

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

6:00-8:00PM	Worship & Music Ministry Team – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:00-8:30PM	Scout Troop 67 – *Fellowship Hall*
7:30-9:00PM	Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, September 2

6:30-7:45PM	Fire & Faith – *Labyrinth*

Thursday, September 3

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 Dinner (Outreach) @ *Pillars Adult Shelter, Appleton*
6:30-8:00PM	Understanding Your Mental Health Workshop – *Chapel*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, September 4

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

Saturday, September 5

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, September 6

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*

The Prophet Jeremiah, Michelangelo Buonarroti Circa 1510

We are glad you are 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/New Member Sunday – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel, Common Grounds (for nursing mothers)*
10:30AM-12:00PM	Re-Member Presentation – *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 October 25 and November 1.

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