First
Congregational
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 18, 2026

serve *courageously* give *joyfully* live *gratefully*

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 two-year-olds every Sunday. 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 Group: Our PreK - 5th graders begin in worship. After the children's message, they walk together to the CYF wing for Sunday School. Kindergarten – 5th graders may enjoy a communion mini-lesson on the 1st Sunday of the month. Children begin in worship, leave with the director, and return to partake in communion with their families. Youth gather on Wednesday evenings.

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

October 18, 2026 9:30AM
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost ~ Baptism Sunday
Second Sunday of Stewardship

PRELUDE

Toccata in D Minor, BWV 565 J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

In honor of Trunk or Treat today, we offer up this spooktacular organ piece that is often associated with Halloween.

CALL TO SILENCE & RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

**Please rise in body or spirit*

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this place,

All: friends and strangers meet,
the broken are mended,
and the weary welcomed.

One: In this moment,

All: the ordinary becomes sacred
and we pay attention to God.
This is holy time.

One: In this sanctuary,

All: God's goodness is revealed,
and God's grace is poured out.
Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN (see bulletin page 8)

As Saints of Old FOREST GREEN

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

One: God has chosen us, but we often fail to choose God's will for our lives.
Let us go before God, seeking forgiveness and peace.

All: God of justice and truth,
you ask us to give to you the things that are yours.
If we are honest, we know we hold so much back.
We have promised you our worship,
but we give our attention to idols instead.

We have promised to do your work in the world,
but we put it last on the list of priorities.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.
Increase our generosity that we might give freely,
grateful for all of the gifts you have given us.

One: The good news remains true:
God has chosen us, forgives us, and walks beside us,
helping us become imitators of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Alleluia!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Baptism of Oliver John Christensen
Parents: Justin and Grace Christensen
Godparent: Noelle Fey

ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENT

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

BLESSING OF THE WATER

ACT OF BAPTISM

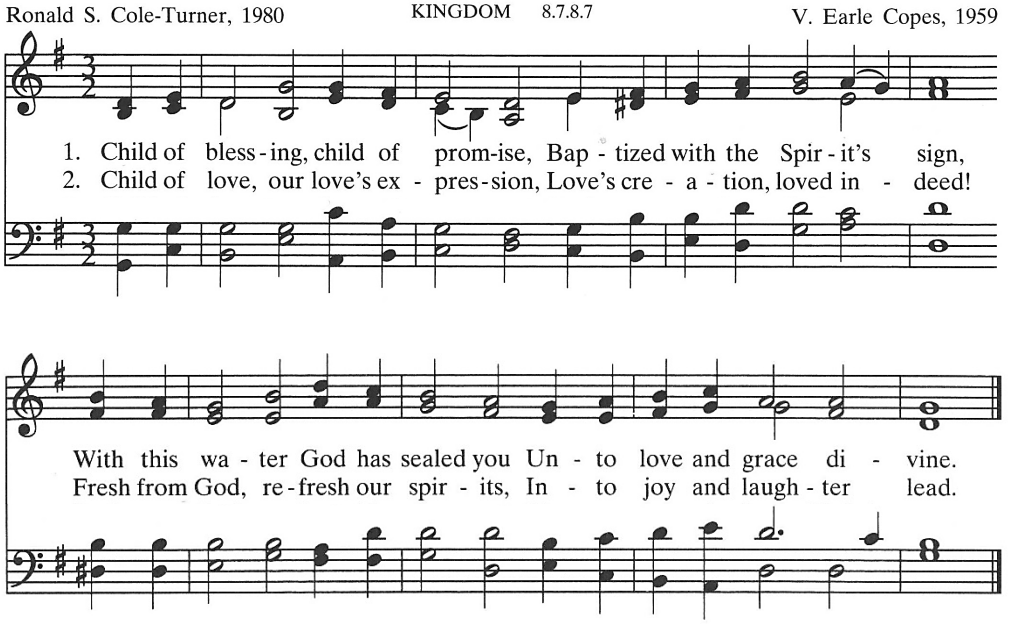
UNISON PRAYER OF BLESSING
We give you thanks, O Holy One, Mother and Father of all the faithful, for the grace witnessed here today in water and the Holy Spirit. Embrace us in the household of your love. Grant us grace to nurture this child in the faith and family of Jesus Christ. Give him strength for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

INTRODUCTION

BAPTISMAL HYMN #306
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise KINGDOM
St. 1 & 2

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980 KINGDOM 8.7.8.7 V. Earle Copes, 1959



Text: © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: Copyright © 1960. Renewal 1988 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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, sung by **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

You Call Us, Lord (Incorporating the tune Rhosymedre by John D. Edwards)
Jane Marshall (1924-2019)

Sanctuary Choir

You call us, Lord, to be a people set apart, to feel with thoughtful mind and think with tender heart.
***Refrain**: Thus chosen, now, O Lord, we ask for faith in your unfailing grace to make us equal to the task.*
You call us, Lord, to be good stewards of the earth; to tend it as a place of blessedness and worth. ***Refrain***
You call us, Lord, to care for self and neighbor too, to take the risk and dare to show what love can do. ***Refrain***

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Michael Weaver

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, "He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SHARING OF TESTIMONY Sue Detienne, Adam Vandenberg, and Susan Houston

*HYMN #454

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending BEACH SPRING

St. 1

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

Morning Has Broken Gaelic tune

Text by Eleanor Farjeon

Michael Murphy, *guitar and vocals*

*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 #467

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me I'M GONNA LIVE

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565 J.S. Bach

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Katherine Willis Pershey, *Co-Pastor*
Sue Detienne, Adam Vandenberg, and Susan Houston, *Lay Speakers*
Michael Weaver, *Lay Reader*
Sanctuary Choir; Michael Murphy, *soloist*
Dr. Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries*

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USHERS/AUDIO/VIDEO

TODAY'S USHERS: Mike Weaver, Liz Dettwiler, Doug Gilbert, Becky Gilbert, Wayne Lannoye, Susan Forsythe
AUDIO & VIDEO: Tim Hanna, Lisa Hanna, Matt Feuerhelm

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR NEXT SUNDAY

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost, Reformation & Heritage Sunday
Pastor Nick Hatch 1 Timothy 6:17-19
Sanctuary Choir; John Daniel, *trumpet*; John Aaholm, *timpani*

ON THE CALENDAR

October 18	11:30AM-1:00PM	Trunk or Treat
October 18	5:00PM	Hope & Justice Sing-Along: An Evening of Music, Singing and Community
Oct 25 & Nov 1	10:45AM-12:00PM	New Member Classes
November 4	5:45-7:30PM	Hopefest

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.

Ralph and Carol DiBiasio-Snyder
The family and friends of Paula Chandler who recently passed away
The family and friends of Britney Meinhardt who recently passed away
James Grimes
Pat Streur
Donna Haberland
Michael Weaver
Steve Hirby
Gale Korth
Phyllis Zeiss
Tonya Griswold
Harley Davies
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.

As Saints of Old

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.
Music: English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

FOREST GREEN
CMD

Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company
Arr. © Oxford University Press

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

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 **ESTHER - E**mpowerment **S**olidarity **T**ruth **H**ope **E**quity **R**eform. Founded in 2004 by six faith communities (FCUCC being one). As an interfaith social justice organization, it aims to build collective power in the Fox Valley to address social and economic injustices and work for more equitable communities that embrace diversity. ESTHER works with congregations and individuals in collaboration with community partners and public officials so that everyone can have a voice and role in bringing about strong and just communities. ESTHER sometimes seeks to mobilize support for or opposition to particular legislation or rule-making; we do not, however, advocate for candidates or parties. To learn more, connect with Sara Companik or Karen Pfefferle (call church office 920.733.7393 for contact info) or go to https://esther-foxvalley.org/about or use the QR code.

Church Family Handbell Workshops – Come Ring! Church Family Handbell Workshops begin next Sunday, **October 25,** in the Amistad Room at 10:30AM (right after worship.) Come experience ringing our Whitechapel Handbells and have fun learning a variety of techniques under the leadership of Beth Vercouteren. Open to elementary age through adults; *families are encouraged to come ring together!* Workshop rehearsals continue each Sunday morning at 10:30AM (October 25, November 1 & November 8, NO REHEARSAL on November 15; you do not need to attend every week) with a dress rehearsal on Saturday, November 21, (time tba, based on schedule of the participants.) We will perform at 9:30AM worship on November 22, with special music that celebrates Thanksgiving. To register, please contact Beth directly, or speak with Nathan Birkholz, *Director of Music Ministries.*

We're OFF to Mosquito Hill Nature Center: Outdoor Fun and Fellowship invites you to take a walk to catch the last of the fall colors on the trails of Mosquito Hill Nature Center. We'll walk for about an hour on easy trails with only small hills. Saturday, **October 31**, 10:30AM. Meet in the parking lot. N3880 Rogers Rd, New London. Group lunch afterwards for those interested. Contact Nancy Brown-Koeller through the office.

Shoe and Backpack Drive: Check your/your kids' closets! Menominee Tribal Youth Services helps K-12 youth be equipped for sports and school. They seek new or gently used backpacks and boys' and girls' athletic shoes for all ages. Let's put our best foot forward by dropping off shoes or backpacks in good condition in the blue cart in the narthex during the month of October.

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, October 25 and November 1 in the chapel, 10:45-11:45AM. 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.

E2F (Empty to Full) Pans: On Sunday, **October 25**, First Congregational UCC will participate in a project to allow members to prepare pans of food, in their own home, primarily to serve Pillars, with a smaller number going to COTS & Apricity. Willing participants can pick up an empty pan that contains the recipe & shopping list to prepare & fill the pan with an easy recipe. (Cost is approximately $16) The recipes are so simple...no cooking or basic cooking required. This is a great activity for all ages and skills. (**The pans are not baked; the shelter will do this**.) The prepared pan is returned on Sunday, *November 1, before the church service. * Note: If you're unable to bring the pan back on November 1, it can be placed in the church kitchen freezer the week before. Call the office to make sure the kitchen is open. If this doesn't work please ask for Cindi MacSwain through the main office, 920.733.7393.

Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation – GrapeVine Program: Join Amanda Hatch, Public Health Nurse with the City of Appleton, at the Appleton Public Library on **October 20**, 1:00PM for a free 1-hour educational event on brain health. Memory, thinking, and decision-making skills are important for quality of life. Although the risk of dementia increases with age, it is not a normal part of aging. Research shows that healthy lifestyle choices can support brain health and help preserve these skills and independence over time. Walk away with new knowledge, fun ideas to support healthy aging, and a free gift. All adults are welcome to attend. Please scan the QR code to register.

Library News: The theme for October is Indigenous People. We have a large selection of books – please come check them out. Here are a couple: *Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults* by Robin Wall Kimmerer and *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.*

Are you looking for a way to get involved at church and meet new people, but you really don't have much time? Come volunteer in the church library. We're looking for a few people to help check books out of the library. It's Sunday mornings – set up a display before church and staff the table after church (10:30–11:00AM). Volunteer as often as you want – every Sunday or a few times a year. For more information or to sign up, contact Mary Sullivan through Realm or the church office.

We also need people who are interested in helping to choose books for the church library. We meet a couple of times each year to choose how to spend our budget. Contact Mary Sullivan if interested.

Finally, we need one or two people to help with inventorying the library collection. This would take several hours over a few weeks. We are flexible about scheduling these sessions. Again, contact Mary Sullivan if interested.

NOAHH Requests: An item needed is a baby gate. Call Barb Mincheff, Outagamie County Health & Human Services Volunteer Services Coordinator at 920-832-5515 for pick-up or drop-off.

Leopold Benches: A talented member of our congregation has offered to build Leopold benches for the new Gathering Garden outside of the CYF building and for the Grace Trail which will be built in 2027. We will need 10 benches, and the cost of materials is about $120 per bench. You can see an example of these beautiful cedar benches in the narthex. You may contribute for them by either dropping off a check in the office or via Realm. (They will have the church logo only, no memorial or sponsor names.) Please be sure to put "Leopold Benches" in the memo line. Any amount is appreciated and brings us closer to our goal of a more welcoming campus.

The 2026 - 2027 Ministries & Activity Guide is now online! Misplaced your hard copy of the guide? From any page on the FCUCC website, scroll to the banner at the bottom to find the **26-27 Activity Guide** button or scan this QR code.

Step into the Wardrobe: Help us Bring Narnia to Life! Have you read the *Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, or perhaps watched one of the movie adaptations? If so, perhaps you've imagined stepping into the wardrobe, pushing past the fur coats, and entering that magical, snow-covered world yourself. On Sunday, December 6 from 3:00-5:00PM, we are doing just that! The Adult Education and CYF teams are collaborating to create a Narnia Night inspired by *Advent in Narnia*, a devotional book by Heidi Haverkamp.

In C.S. Lewis's beloved children's book, *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, Narnia is trapped under a spell where it is "always winter, but never Christmas" – until the arrival of Aslan, a lion who represents Christ. We want to bring that same sense of joyful anticipation to our community by creating a Narnia-themed Advent celebration.

We will provide copies of the book to all of our families in October – though, to be clear, people do not need to have read the book to enjoy the event!

We need many volunteers to make this event a success. We'll need people to:

- Act as welcomers
- Bake cookies, Turkish delight, & prepare a drink table
- Help with costumes
- Make a lamppost
- Dress up as book characters (the White Witch, Mr. Tumnus, Mr. & Mrs. Beaver, etc.)
- Read a storybook
- Prepare and lead crafts
- Set up our wardrobe of coats and forest of Christmas trees

We will work on the event after worship on Sunday, November 30, and will have shifts to set up, help during the event, and clean up on Sunday, December 6. Use the link or the QR code:

Advent in Narnia sign-up link

Faith at the Ballot Box: What the 2026 Midterms Reveal About American Christianity: **October 25** at 10:45AM in the sanctuary. Karen Park returns to First Congregational to help us consider what the upcoming election is revealing about Christianity in American public life. She will not discuss predictions or how Christians should vote, but some of the deeper religious questions underneath our politics: Christian nationalism, immigration and the biblical stranger, human dignity, the common good, and competing Christian understandings of political power. Dr. Park is a historian of American religion, acquisitions editor at Broadleaf Books, and a regular columnist for the *National Catholic Reporter*. She previously taught theology and religious studies at St. Norbert College for seventeen years. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago Divinity School and writes *Ex Voto*, a newsletter about religion, culture, and public life. *Note: this event will be livestreamed via Facebook and YouTube.*

Economic Justice Work Group (EJWG) Our Faith Compels Us: Action-Oriented Levers *Need Your Involvement*: EJWG is committed to building stronger, more equitable communities through faith-based action. The current focus is on housing insecurity. We're working alongside community partners to:

- **Welcome people in need** by helping develop sustainable solutions for emergency winter shelter.
- **Advocate for affordable housing and policies** that help our neighbors find safe, stable homes.
- **Build stronger neighborhoods** by discovering community strengths, building relationships, and supporting local initiatives.
- **Exploring opportunities** for all people to have a living wage.
- **Imagine new possibilities** for how churches, businesses, land, and facilities can contribute to thriving communities.

We need your involvement! Please contact: Monk Elmer – monkelmer567@gmail.com or Jo Muehl – josephine.muehl@gmail.com

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, October 19

6:00-7:30PM	Grief Support Group – *by Zoom*
6:00-8:30PM	Fox Valley Flute Choir – *Sanctuary*
7:00-8:30PM	EJWG Meeting – *by Zoom*
7:00-8:30PM	Scout Troop 67 – *Fellowship Hall*

Tuesday, October 20

8:00-9:00AM	Facilities Meeting – *Upper Lounge*
9:00-10:00AM	ADRC Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
1:00-2:30PM	Chrysalis – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-8:00PM	Safety Committee – *Upper Lounge*
6:30-7:30PM	Living Sober AA – *Common Grounds*
7:30-9:00PM	Fireside AA – *Common Grounds*

Wednesday, October 21

2:00-3:00PM	Peabody/Heritage Worship @ *Peabody Chapel*
5:45-6:25PM	Youth Handbells – *Amistad Room*
6:30-7:30PM	Bible Study – *Chapel*
	No Youth Group
7:00-8:30PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*

Thursday, October 22

9:00-10:00AM	ADRC Strong Bodies – *Fellowship Hall*
12:00-1:00PM	AA Search for Serenity Group – *Common Grounds*
6:30-8:00PM	TNT: SOAR Fox Cities – *Fellowship Hall, River Room*
7:00-8:00PM	Fox Valley 94 AA – *Common Grounds*

Friday, October 23

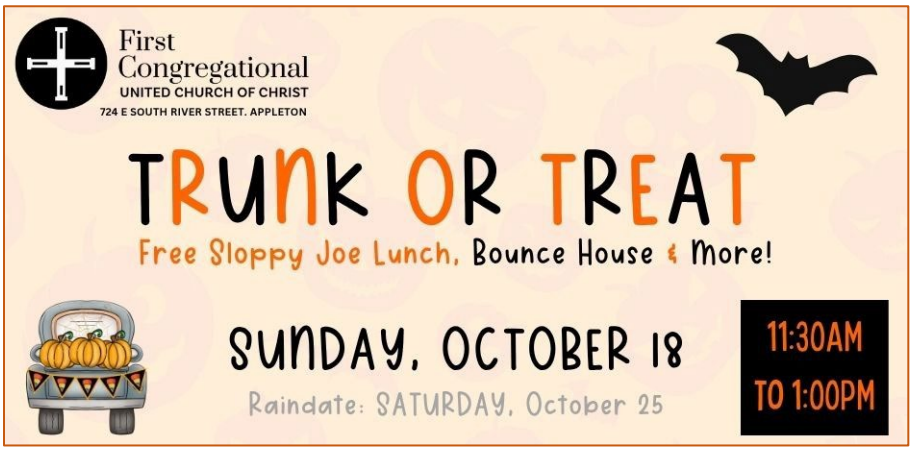
10:00-11:30AM	Bulletin Folders – *Library*
7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – *Upper Lounge*
7:00-8:30PM	N.A. – *Common Grounds*

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25

8:00AM-12:00PM	E2F Pan Handout – *Narthex*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday School – *CYF Wing*
9:30AM-12:00PM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
10:30-11:15AM	CYF Committee Meeting – *CYF Wing*
10:30-11:30AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room*
10:30-11:30AM	Church Family Handbells Rehearsal – *Amistad Room*
10:45-11:45AM	New Member Class – *Chapel*
10:45-11:45AM	Adult Education – *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary*
5:00-6:00PM	LU Music Scholars Rehearsal – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – *Chapel* / Alateen – *Upper Lounge*



HOPEFEST

Register Here!

Navigating Life with Hope

November 4, 2026

5:45PM-7:30PM

Join us for an uplifting evening dedicated to honoring mental health, building community, and spreading hope.

Whether you're seeking encouragement, looking to learn, or simply want to stand in solidarity with others, this event is for you! ALL ARE WELCOME!

Sponsored by ESTHER/First Congregational Mental Health Task Force

****FREE EVENT****

5:45-6:30PM
Free Dinner & Resource Fair

6:30-7:00PM
Music by Karma's Mailbox

7:00-7:30PM
Presentation by Karen Iverson Riggers from Ebb and Flow Connection Cooperative

GUEST SPEAKER
KAREN IVERSON RIGGERS

Please call 920-733-7393 or visit uccappleton.org to register by October 30!

First Congregational Church in the Fellowship Hall
724 E. South River St, Appleton

Dear FCUCC Family and Friends,

You embody what it means to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus.

After seventeen years as a fellow member, the past four years as of directing our CYF programming have been full of theological learning, growing programming, staff changes, new responsibilities, coursework, and - most importantly - a deepening of my faith.

I thank God for Jesus - for the love, grace, and example he gives us - and for each of you who have shared that love and grace with me. Proverbs 19:20 instructs us to "listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future." I am humbled by your unbelievable prayers of support and the opportunity to continue listening, learning, and leading, as we walk together in our faith journeys.

Grace and Gratitude,
Pastor Sarah Wilterdink

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart;
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 9.1

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.

TODAY AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

9:30-10:30AM	Sunday Worship – *Sanctuary, Upper Lounge, Chapel*
9:30-10:30AM	Sunday School – *CYF Wing*
9:30-11:45AM	Confirmation Class – *HS Room*
9:30AM-12:00PM	Childcare – *Childcare Room*
10:30-11:30AM	Children's Choir Rehearsal – *Choir Room*
10:30AM-1:30PM	Private Event – *Common Grounds*
10:45-11:45AM	Adult Education – *Fellowship Hall, Sanctuary*
11:30AM-1:00PM	Trunk or Treat – *CYF parking lot*
5:00-6:00PM	LU Music Scholars Rehearsal – *Sanctuary, Choir Room*
5:00-6:30PM	ESTHER/Karma's Mailbox Singalong – *Sanctuary, Kitchen*
7:00-8:00PM	First Things First AA Meeting – *Fellowship Hall, Common Grounds*
7:00-8:00PM	Al-Anon – *Chapel* / Alateen – *Upper Lounge*

Upstairs, to the left	Downstairs, to the left	Downstairs, to the right	Upstairs, to the right
Scripture Tent 1st & 2nd graders	**Middle School Room** 4th & 5th graders	**High School Room**	**Art Kitchen**
Theater 2nd & 3rd graders	**Little Angel's Room** Preschoolers	**Lower Classroom**	
Childcare Room Infants & Toddlers			

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 & November 1.

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