

February 7 Highlights at First Congregational

TODAY:	Virtual Fellowship with Pastor Dianne Droster	p. 5
TODAY:	Drive-Thru Communion (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM)	
TODAY:	Ash Wednesday Ash Distribution (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM).....	p. 5
TODAY:	“Sunday School at Home” Kit Distribution (11:00 AM – 12:00 PM)	
TODAY:	High School Zoom Devotional with Pastor Nick.....	p. 5
February 10:	Posture and Breathing for Singing with Dr. Karen Leigh-Post	p. 11
February 17:	Ash Wednesday Livestream Service at 7:00 PM	

Donating to First Congregational UCC

You are invited to donate via virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click “Give” to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256. Checks can also still be mailed to the church.

References to God

References to God in traditional prayers, readings, and hymns in our worship may sometimes be gender specific. As we pray and sing together, you are invited to substitute terms that reflect your understanding of the full inclusiveness of the spirit of God.

Land Acknowledgement

Our church is located on the ancestral homelands of the Menominee Nation. We acknowledge this indigenous community who stewarded this land throughout the generations and pay respect to their elders past and present.

Online Streaming and Podcasting

Audio and video recordings of our sermons and a written transcript are accessible at www.firstcongoappleton.org/sermons.

You can watch a live stream of First Congo services on [Facebook.com/1stCongo](https://www.facebook.com/1stCongo) or at www.firstcongoappleton.org/worship-with-us/livestream.

Online Documents and Information

Official documents of First Congregational and links to announcements, news and other information reside on our website: www.firstcongoappleton.org.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 7, 2021

9:30 AM

Rev. Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Rev. Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Dianne Droster, Interim Sabbatical Pastor

PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord

arr. David H. Pettit

Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist* Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

RINGING OF CHURCH BELL

YOUTH PRAYER

Lacie Whipple

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Loving God, quiet our devices and our distractions. {Take a breath}

Allow us to be fully present. {Take a breath}

**We come with gratitude for this morning and this time to simply be.
{Take a breath}**

**Give us peaceful knowledge that there is nowhere else we ought to be.
{Take a breath}**

**Wherever our journey finds us this day, move us in your direction.
{Take a breath}**

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

OPENING HYMN #250 (see bulletin p. 7-8)

Here in This Place (Gather Us In)

GATHER US IN

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Dianne Droster

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:29-39

MEDITATION

"Making a Little Room in There"

Rev. Dr. Laurie Lyter Bright

MUSICAL REFLECTION

A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester

David Barton

Emma Milton, *soprano* LU Music Scholars (*pre-recorded*)

(During this time, you are invited to a virtual offering. Please visit our webpage and click "Give" to make your weekly offering, or text FCUCC GIVE to 73256).

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy adapted from Black History Communion Liturgy by Rev. Amantha Barbee and Rev. Dr. Kelle Brown, More Light Congregations)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE LORD'S PRAYER (In unison)

**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.**

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Let us share the bread.

All: It is the gift that reminds us of our gifts.

Leader: Let us drink deeply.

All: So that we may always travel on.

(You are invited to share the elements you have prepared at home or to receive the elements at "drive-thru" communion in the church parking lot from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM this morning.)

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

O God, with gratitude and praise
you have blessed and fed us in this sacrament,
united us with Christ, and given us hope in the face of turmoil,
to remind us that in you, everything is already alright.
Make us children of remembrance
so that herstory and history lives on in us.
Send us from this place with purpose and in your power,
blessed, transformed and bent toward the arc of justice
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING WORDS

CLOSING HYMN (see bulletin p. 6)

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM, LORD

LITANY

Leader: Let us make room in the inn of our hearts

People: Let us build peace in our own minds.

Leader: May God make in each of us an open heart and an open mind.

People: May we become the living church of the open door.

All: This day, and always. Amen.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Peppiludio

Hans-Andre Stamm

TODAY'S MUSICIANS

Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*

Kristen Henke, *trumpet*

Emma Milton, *LU Music Scholar soprano*

LU Music Scholars (*pre-recorded*)

John Albrecht, *Director for Music Ministries*

Thank you to Ross Erstad for serving as our lay reader this morning!

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

Join us for a Zoom Fellowship and Talk Back with Pastor Dianne immediately after worship today at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86093385402>

Pastor Nick will host a Zoom Devotional for High School Youth at 10:30 AM TODAY at:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89063172391>

Upcoming Worship Schedule

February 14, 2021

Transfiguration Sunday

Livestreaming at 9:30 AM

Pastor Dianne Droster

Scripture Reading: Luke 9:28-36, 1 John 4:11-13

Music: Shelley Nulton, *assistant organist*; LU Music Scholars (*pre-recorded*)

Lay Reader: Susan McFadden

Ash Wednesday Ash Distribution

TODAY, February 7, during Drive-thru Communion (11:00 AM-12:00 PM) you can pick-up ashes to be used during our livestream Ash Wednesday service on February 17 at 7:00 PM. The ashes are palm ashes from last year's Palm Sunday service.

Ashes will also be available for pick-up Monday, February 8 through Thursday, February 11 during church office hours (9:00 AM-3:00 PM). They will be located outside the main church entrance.



Pastor Nick, Elijah and Maddi carefully packaging the palm ashes.

Here I Am, Lord

574



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

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

Here in This Place

(Gather Us In)

Unison

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, now the dark night has
2. We are the young— our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
3. Here we re-ceive new life in your wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
4. Not just in build-ings, small and con- fin- ing, not in some heav- en,

van-ished a - way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his - tory,
bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
light years a - way, here in this place the new light is shin - ing;

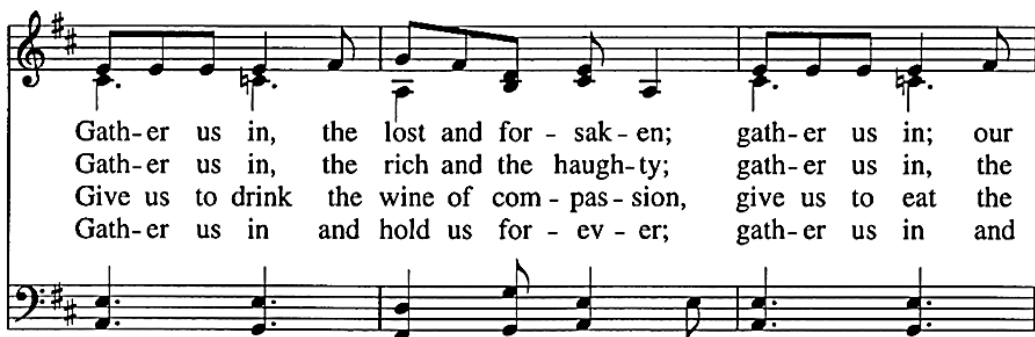
brought here to you in the light of this day.
called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.
now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

WORDS and MUSIC: Marty Haugen, 1981, alt.

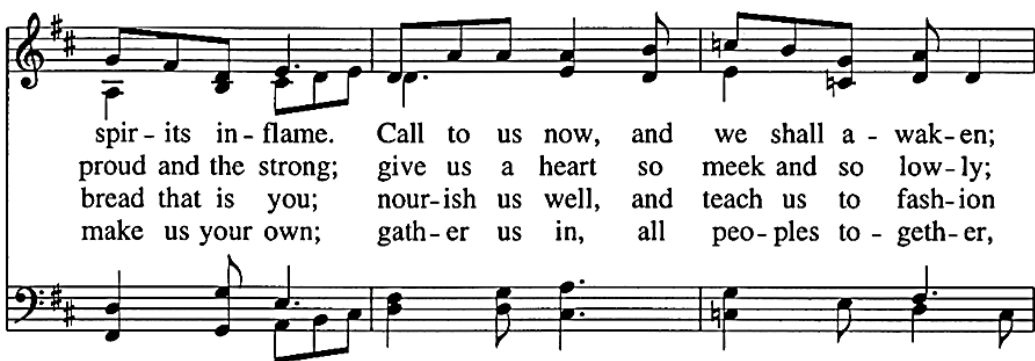
Marty Haugen is a member of Mayflower United Church of Christ, Minneapolis MN, where he is composer-in-residence.

GATHER US IN
10 9.10 10 D

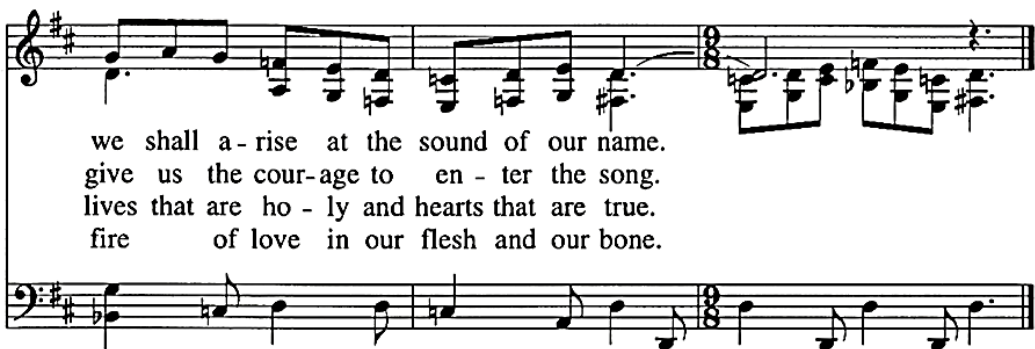
© 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh - ty; gath-er us in, the
 Give us to drink the wine of com - pas - sion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er; gath-er us in and



spir - its in - flame. Call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low - ly;
 bread that is you; nour - ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion
 make us your own; gath - er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.
 lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

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JOYS AND CONCERNS OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Members of our church family benefit from our prayers, support, and words of encouragement as they celebrate special times or struggle with difficulties in their lives. Please keep these people in your prayers and greet them with a loving word when you see them.

If you are in the hospital, please let the church know, as we are not always notified. In cases of a pastoral emergency, please call (920) 810-2600.

All pregnancies to be safe and guided by our faith in God

Jill Anthony's sister

Jill Anthony's nephew, Darryl

Sherry Bassett

Paul Bauman

Katie Behl

Barbara Ann Behl, Katie's sister

Arlene Beyer

Clair Brown

Judy Burdick, Megan Burdick-Grade's mother

Olive Bopp

Alyssa Villarreal Brooks

Don Brittnacher

Charlie and Britt Carlson and infant son, Miller
Stephen Carlson

Dick Casperson

Steve Chapin

Carole Conway's daughter, Catherine Stevic,
who is battling cancer

Lynn Cook

Karen Crawford

Dana and Tony who are battling cancer

Michael, Dick and Kathy Devries' son-in-law

Ralph DiBiasio-Snyder

Jim Edwards and Rachel DeMoss Edwards

Friend of Pat Severin who is facing a serious
health issue

Esther Gehrt

Ken Geiger

Denny Giles

Joan Gruenstern

Lynn Hanna

Jayne Heinrich

Maggie Hendrick

Ken Hocking

Ron Hurm

Jean Jepson

Elizabeth Keggi's stepmother, Jeanne

Our Kenyan partners and friends

Allen Korth

Rick Kramer, Richard Miller's son-in law

Jennifer Lemmert

Lindsey, friend of Kristen Scheuerman

David List, son of Bob and Sharon List (recently
diagnosed with stage 4 cancer)

Mike Mathews

Bob McClory and his family upon a COVID-19
diagnosis

Shari Mitchell

Mory, Anthony Padilla's son

Diane Ragus

Steve Reinkober, brother of Chris Brittnacher

Sharrie Robinson

Mary Rowland

Frank Severin

Mike Seymour's mom, Debbie

Jake Smasal

Cole Stoffel

Sue, friend of Mark Yonan

Jack Thiel

Peter Thiel

Brenda Timm

James Totzke and his mother, Leah Totzke

Beverly Trombla

Don Utschig

Jean Van Wagenin

Mya Wardle, Brian and Lecia Wardle's daughter

Jean Wegner

Paris Wicker

Jennifer Wild

THE OPEN DOOR

February 7, 2021

Volume 21, Issue 06

Pastor's Message

Special thanks to Dianne Droster, who will be serving as our Interim Sabbatical Pastor during Pastor Steve's absence. She will assist with worship, prayer chapel and pastoral care.

Dianne Droster grew up on a small hobby farm in Burlington, Wisconsin. She graduated from Lawrence University and received a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Warren Wilson College. She worked as a writer for Lawrence University and taught writing at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay, before returning to her alma mater as a professor, teaching in the Freshman Studies program and in the ESL program for Japanese exchange students.

Dianne began her faith journey anew at First Congo in 2011. She completed training for Stephen Ministry, received a certificate for four years of Lay Academy, and is now a Member in Discernment on a path to ordination. She has been a Stephen Minister and a member of the Fellowship team, the Service Sunday team, the Mental Health Task Force, the Intergenerational Musical and Children's and Youth Ministry. She has completed additional training in Congregations and Mental Health and Youth Mental Health and Suicide Prevention.

Dianne has been the Caring Ministries Coordinator for First English Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Appleton, providing pastoral care for the homebound, hospitalized and those in hospice care since 2017. In 2020 she served for seven months as the Interim Pastor for Our Shepherd UCC in Howards Grove, Wisconsin, leading them into the era of on-line worship and outdoor services.

Dianne is an avid reader, enthusiastic walker and nature lover. Her pandemic partner is Pip, a bouncy Bearded Collie dog. She has two beloved step-daughters, Tanya and Kate.



Youth and Families

Faith, fun and service.

Church School News

“Sunday School at Home” kits will be distributed TODAY from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

There will also be a special “Bring Lent to Life” package handed out to each child that will help the children experience Lent at home and prepare for the wonderful gift of Easter and the new life of the risen Christ.

As always, there will be additional kits available for pick up in the church office during business hours; Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Feel free to contact Colleen at cberry@firstcongoappleton.org with any questions.

February Lesson Themes:

February 14: Love IS
(Mr. Albrecht will join us for this lesson.)

February 21: Keys to a Happy Heart

February 28: Living Love
(Mr. Albrecht will join us for this lesson.)



Visits from Pastor Nick

Pastor Nick continues to do socially distanced, masked, at-home visits for youth (grades 7-12) from the driveway or front yard.

He will also bring you a treat of your choice from Starbucks or Happy Bellies Bake Shop.

If you would like a visit, please contact jdewitt@firstcongoappleton.org for the sign-up link.



Worship and Music

*A diverse community practicing faith,
finding spiritual connection and experiencing
the Holy through artful sound.*

Posture and Breathing for Singing with Dr. Karen Leigh-Post

Wednesday, February 3 and 10
7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

How can we all continue to improve as singers, even in these pandemic times?

Dr. Karen Leigh-Post (LU Conservatory of Music Faculty,

performer, author, clinician and member of our Sanctuary Choir) will lead us in two Zoom sessions on posture and breathing for singing.

Each session will be an “active” presentation (be ready to move and try things out from the comfort of your



home!) of about 40 minutes of instruction/application, followed by about 20 minutes of social “check-in” time. Sanctuary Choir members and anyone interested in singing are welcome to attend!

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84310440344?pwd=V2dRbHpXNzhpVVIY0VHRlcURHN1V2QT09>

Welcome Dr. Nathan Birkholz, Organist/Accompanist!

We are pleased to announce the hiring of **Dr. Nathan Birkholz** as our **staff organist/accompanist**, joining us as of **Monday, April 12, 2021**. Some of us have already worked with Dr. Birkholz through the Appleton Boychoir and the Lawrence Conservatory of Music.

Our Organist Search Committee -**David Cook, Lori Murphy, Shelley Nulton, Anthony Padilla, Ruby Wells, Ernestine Whitman, and John Albrecht** (chair) believes that Nathan brings us exceptional musical artistry, coupled with a deep understanding of sacred music and its role in worship.

Dr. Nathan Birkholz has been active in church music ministry for over a decade, most recently as organist and music director at First English Lutheran Church of Appleton.

Nathan holds degrees in piano performance from Northern Illinois University, Indiana University, and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign with minors in French, conducting, and musicology.

He studied organ with the late Frank Rippl of Appleton, was a member of the Appleton Boychoir, and has served as principal accompanist for the Appleton Boychoir and the Badger State Girl Choir. Dr. Birkholz also serves as staff accompanist at Lawrence University for the Voice Area.

Your Organist Search Committee,
John Albrecht, *chairperson*



Dr. Nathan Birkholz

Lenten Bible Study

Begins February 21

Pastor Dianne and Pastor Laurie will be hosting Lenten Bible Study classes from 11:00 AM-12:00 PM on Sundays via Zoom beginning on Sunday, February 21.

Participants can either drop-in or attend weekly. They will be using a curriculum from Sanctified Art called "Cultivating and Letting Go".

Everybody is welcome! We would appreciate it if folks could register their

interest ahead of time so the Pastors can plan accordingly.

You can register on Realm at:

<https://e.onrealm.org/events/a60dff6d-1799-45ca-b665-acc500faef95/meetings/2c7c76e9-550e-45fa-8d6a-acc500faef98> or by calling the church office at (920) 733-7393.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88429611887?pwd=bzNtelliNytSczZjdnh1UXRYQU1CQT09>



Mission and Service

*Building relationships, serving others,
pursuing justice.*

Black History Month

February, Black History month, provides many opportunities to expand your awareness of the black experience in America. Check out the programming on PBS for February and beyond at: <https://www.pbs.org/articles/2021/02/celebrate-black-history-month-2021/>

Another good resource is ESTHER Fox Valley's website, <https://esther-foxvalley.org/> which lists a number of upcoming events focusing on Black History and racial equity.

Water Taps for Kenya Schools

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to supply water taps at Kenya schools – three schools were chosen to receive them and installation will begin soon.

The committee chose Kamwogo Primary in Kerio Valley South. This school only has 100 pupils but does not have any water because it is situated in a very dry area. They also chose Sambalat, which is the most populated school in the Kerio region with over 1,000 pupils, and Kamogo Primary which has a population of 700 students.



The Ministry

Reverend Dr. Stephen P. Savides, Senior Pastor
Reverend Nicholas J. Hatch, Pastor for Youth and Family Ministries
Reverend Laurie Lyter Bright, Interim Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions
Dianne Droster, Interim Sabbatical Pastor
Reverend Art Wille, Pastor of Visitation
John M. Albrecht, Director for Music Ministries
Colleen Berry, Director for Christian Education
Jennifer DeWitt, CYF Coordinator
Carolyn Frederick, Office Manager and Administrative Assistant
Holly Volkman, Administrative Assistant for Communications
Jane Malin, Administrative Assistant
Siri Witt, Bookkeeper
Jonathan Steffen, Technology Coordinator
Bart Forseth, Custodial Supervisor
Theresa Iacullo, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Cassidy Behm, Infant/Toddler Child Care Provider
Tom Ott, Custodial Assistant
Mary Lou Cliff, Custodial Assistant
Lauren Micke, Weekend Custodial Assistant

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Appleton, Wisconsin 54915

Phone: (920) 733-7393

Website: www.firstcongoappleton.org