

*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin*

October 8, 2017



Psalm 118:24, NRSV

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

OCTOBER 8, 2017

9:00 & 10:30 AM

"EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"

*"The world is a dangerous place to live; not because of the people who are evil,
but because of the people who don't do anything about it."*

~Albert Einstein

Welcome to our guests who are visiting
with us today!
Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall
between the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.

- ~The Nursery is available for young children.
- ~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children.
- ~Large print bulletins and hearing impaired devices are
available from the ushers.
- ~Please stand when noted by the *
- ~Congregation responses are in bold.

*No matter who you are. No matter where
you are on your spiritual journey, you are
welcome here!*

*As Jesus' courageous disciples,
living God's grace, we strive to:*

- ~ *Worship faithfully*
- ~ *Welcome openly*
- ~ *Grow spiritually*
- ~ *Care passionately*
- ~ *Serve generously*

PRELUDE

**Judith Permann, Pianist
Marsha Pearson, Organist**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: In the midst of meaninglessness,

P: You call us to meaning, O God.

L: In the midst of divisiveness,

P: You call us to community through Christ.

L: Out of our brokenness,

P: You call us to wholeness and new life in the Spirit.

L: In praise and thanksgiving,

All: Let us worship the Living God who leads us into life!

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

1. Come, Chris-tians, join to sing: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
2. Come lift your hearts on high: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
3. Praise yet our Christ a - gain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Loud praise to Christ we bring: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Let prais-es fill the sky: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
Life shall not end the strain: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

Let all with heart and voice, be - fore his throne re - joice;
Christ is our Guide and Friend on whom we can de - pend;
On heav-en's bliss - ful shore his good-ness we'll a - dore,

praise we with grate-ful choice: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
his love shall nev - er end: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er - more: Al - le - lu - ia! A - men!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, we long for and need the presence of Christ in our lives. We long for a holy visitation, but confess that we are too distracted to notice when it arrives. We long for peace, but confess that we will not be still long enough to greet it. Forgive us, Lord. Forgive our misplaced priorities that crowd you out of our worship and our lives. Renew us. Remake us. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the good news:

P: God hears our prayers and responds with compassion and mercy!

L: Hear the good news:

P: Christ is here, offering a healing touch to those who need it!

L: Hear the good news:

P: God's Spirit will lead us into a new a different future. Amen.

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: And also with you.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please greet one another with signs of peace)**

***GLORIA**

"Come, All You People"

*Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,
Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,
Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,
Come now and worship the Lord.*

*Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior,
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior
Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior,
Come now and worship the Lord.*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am) (Children preschool through grade 8 may go to Sunday School. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

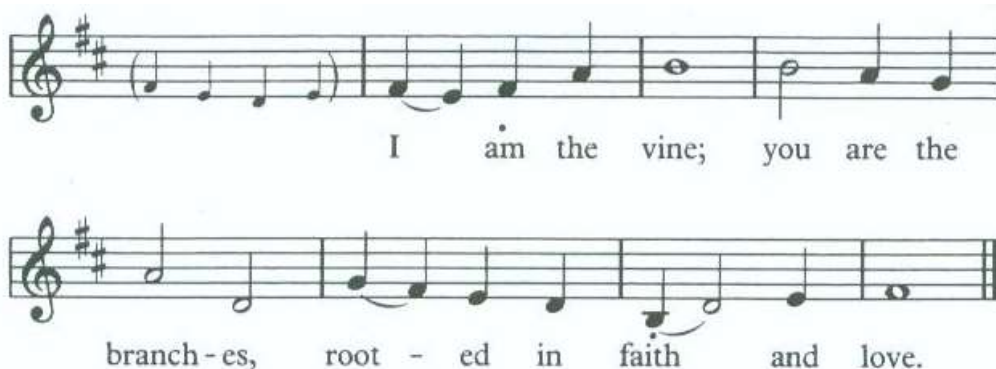
*Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 20:1-4

PSALM 80:7-15 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

R



- L: Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.
- P: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.**
- L: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.
- P: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches;**
- L: It sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River.
- P: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?**
- L: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.
- P: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted. *R***

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 21:33-43

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

DEDICATION OF THE BEARS

OFFERTORY

**Judith Permann, Pianist
Marsha Pearson, Organist**

*(As we offer our gifts today, ask yourself the question:
"What are my past failures and how has God enabled me to learn from them?")*

"Accept, O God, the Gifts We Bring



Ac - cept, O God, the gifts we bring of spir - it and of clay,



trans - form them in - to bless - ings on those we serve to - day.



Re - kin - dle deep with - in us all a pas - sion to ful - fill



the min - is - try dis - ci - ples have, em - power'd to do your will.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

On my own, O God, what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love is multiplied. Bless these gifts and multiply their usefulness. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

***HYMN**

"Shall We Gather at the River"

#597

***COMMISSIONING**

Go with God's knowledge in your head, Christ's healing in your hands, and the Spirit's power in your life. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

**Judith Permann, Pianist
Marsha Pearson, Organist**

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Ministers:		<i>The Whole Church</i>
Liturgist:	9:00 am	<i>Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Midge Kees</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>Roger and Joyce Kampstra, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Peter Rayne, Lee Lueck, Bernice Larson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Cori Fosmo, Kathy Rausch, Matthew Myers</i>
Welcomers:		<i>Ron and Carlene Krueger, Diane Crist</i>
Nursery:		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Rover:		<i>Barb Peterson</i>
Trustee:		<i>Bob Ferguson</i>
Counters:		<i>Jean Smith, Midge Kees</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Choir Director:		<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:		<i>Ross Fugl</i>
Church Moderator:		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
Church Secretary:		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastor:		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Minister for Community:		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Peg Thompson
in memory of Wayne's birthday.*

First Congregational UCC, 110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

Tel: 425-2052 Email: office@firstchurh.org Fax: 425-9800

Sun., Oct 8	8:00 am	- Music Practice
	9:00 am	- Worship Service
	9:00 am	- Adult Forum
	10:00 am	- Coffee Fellowship – In Honor of Del and Judith Permann
	10:30 am	- Worship Service
	10:30 am	- Sunday School
	11:00 am	- WEVR Broadcast
Tues., Oct 10	9:00 am	- Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	- Among Friends
	1:00-2:30 pm	- Bible Study
	7:00 pm	- Cribbage
Wed., Oct 11		- Newsletter Deadline
	3:45-5:15 pm	- Wednesday School
	5:15 pm	- Family Meal
	6:00 pm	- Jubilee Ringers
	6:30 pm	- Pre-Confirmation (6 th Grade)
	6:30 pm	- Confirmation Year 2 (8 th Grade)
	7:00 pm	- Chancel Choir
Thurs., Oct 12	9:00 pm	- Worship Service on Channel 16
	9:00 am	- Yoga
Sun., Oct 15	8:00 am	- Music Practice
	9:00 am	- Worship Service
	9:00 am	- Adult Forum
	10:00 am	- Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am	- Worship Service
	10:30 am	- Sunday School
	11:00 am	- WEVR Broadcast

Have you signed up for the small group “Journeying Together”
meeting at Pastor’s house?

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Marlee (relative of Diane Welsh), Wayne Petersen, Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Jim French (Missy Linaberry's dad), Dale Purdy (husband of Evelyn), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Mike (son of Laura Miller), Wanell Hansen (Jill Paulson's mother), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Howard (uncle of Barry Butenhoff), Henry Gomez, June (friend of Carol Merriman), Marlene Wells

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Del and Judy Permann as they leave for Tacoma to join family
- For Norma Revels and the Among Friends team as the adult respite program begins this month
- For Church Interns (10-12th Grades) meeting this week to learn more about their gifts using Strengthfinder
- For Wendy Hill who will be sharing her faith story next Sunday as the Tell Me A Story speaker
- For those in their second year of the 2-year Lay Academy Program, Jean Smith and Suzanne Hagen

Prayers for our world:

- For the victims of the latest mass shooting in Las Vegas
- For cleaning up and rebuilding after Irma, Harvey, Jose and Maria
- For peace on the Korean peninsula
- For those for whom watching the Ken Burns PBS special on Vietnam is painful
- For the people of Mexico recovering from another earthquake
- For those struggling with politics

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For the return of our Wednesday Night Family Meal program. Sign up!
- For all EMT's, firefighters and first responders who run into crises while others run away
- For our senior church members and the wealth of wisdom, knowledge and life experience they provide
- For Joan Hyland who made 3 more baby quilts to be given at baptism
- For our Sunday School teachers, deacons, liturgists, trustees and worship leaders
- For those who are providing coffee fellowship this week (could you provide this in the future?)

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- John Hanson who died this week, and for his wife Alice and family
- For those who are grieving that God may comfort and strengthen them

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please see the pastor
or use the blue prayer cards in the pews or on the back sign-up table.

WELCOME BACK WEDNESDAY SCHOOL



OUR 1ST YEAR 7TH GRADE CONFIRMANDS



SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 20:1-4

Then God spoke all these words:

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 21:33-43

“Here’s another story. Listen closely. There was once a man, a wealthy farmer, who planted a vineyard. He fenced it, dug a winepress, put up a watchtower, then turned it over to the farmhands and went off on a trip. When it was time to harvest the grapes, he sent his servants back to collect his profits.

“The farmhands grabbed the first servant and beat him up. The next one they murdered. They threw stones at the third but he got away. The owner tried again, sending more servants. They got the same treatment. The owner was at the end of his rope. He decided to send his son. ‘Surely,’ he thought, ‘they will respect my son.’

“But when the farmhands saw the son arrive, they rubbed their hands in greed. ‘This is the heir! Let’s kill him and have it all for ourselves.’ They grabbed him, threw him out, and killed him.

“Now, when the owner of the vineyard arrives home from his trip, what do you think he will do to the farmhands?”

“He’ll kill them—a rotten bunch, and good riddance,” they answered. “Then he’ll assign the vineyard to farmhands who will hand over the profits when it’s time.”

Jesus said, “Right—and you can read it for yourselves in your Bibles:

The stone the masons threw out
is now the cornerstone.

This is God’s work;
we rub our eyes, we can hardly believe it!

“This is the way it is with you. God’s kingdom will be taken back from you and handed over to a people who will live out a kingdom life. Whoever stumbles on this Stone gets shattered; whoever the Stone falls on gets smashed.”