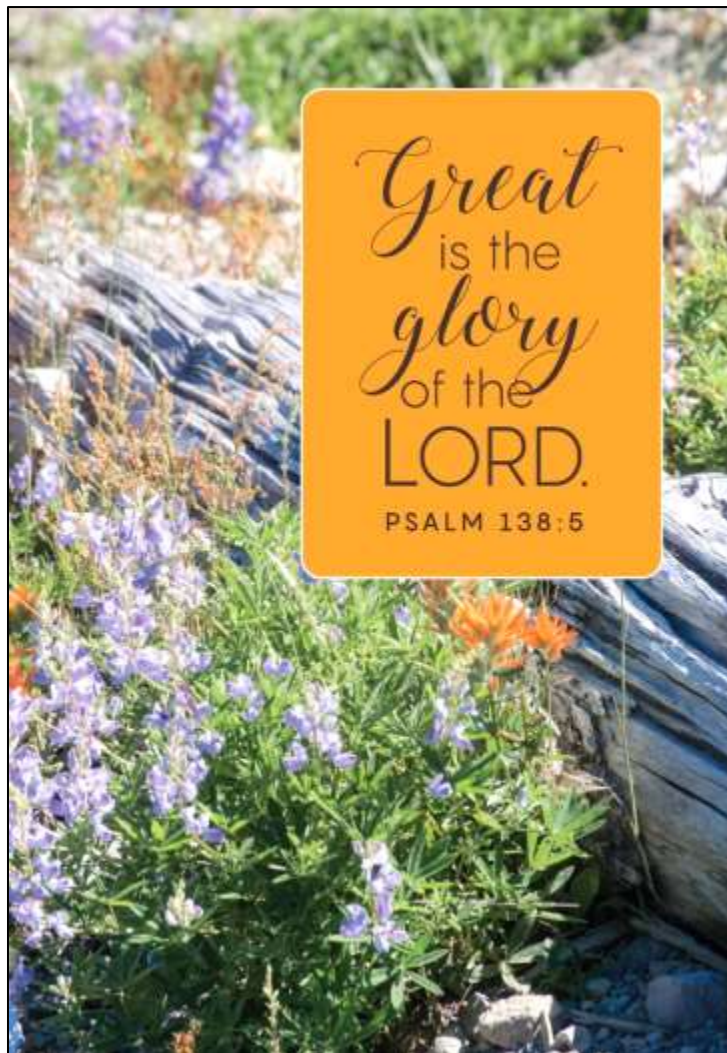


*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin*

June 10, 2018



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

JUNE 10, 2018

9:30 AM

“THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

*“Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.”
~George Burns*

*“Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”
~Jesus in Mark 3:35*

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:30 worship service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">~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.	<p><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><i>As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">~ <i>Worship faithfully</i>~ <i>Welcome openly</i>~ <i>Grow spiritually</i>~ <i>Care passionately</i>~ <i>Serve generously</i>
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PRELUDE

“I'm Feeling Mighty Fine”

CHORD SMASH!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We come to worship God, who has made us and knows us.

P: **We come to celebrate God's presence among us!**

L: We come to follow Jesus, who leads us to new life.

P: **We come with joy, knowing in Christ we have eternal life!**

L: We come to listen to the Holy Spirit, who calls us forth.

P: **We come knowing the Spirit is alive among us!**

All: **Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

*HYMN

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

With a backbeat G C G Am7 G

1. I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so) (God can

G7 C G7 C Am G C

use me,) an - y time and an - y - where
(yes an - y time) (yes an - y -

G G C G B7

where) I'm gon-na live so God can use me
(I'm gon-na live so)

Em C G A7 D7 G C G

an - y time and an - y - where.
(an - y time,) (yes an - y - where).

2. I'm gonna work...

3. I'm gonna pray...

4. I'm gonna sing...

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Lord, you call, but we do not always recognize your voice.

P: Sometimes we don't listen carefully. Sometimes we're caught off guard.

L: Lord, you call, but we haven't always taught others to hear you.

P: Sometimes we stand in the way, allowing our voices to ring out over yours.

L: Lord, you call, but we don't always believe our ears.

P: Sometimes we believe we know better. Sometimes we think you can't possibly be calling us, or her, or him.

All: Forgive us, Lord, our unpracticed listening, our closed ears. Help us to hear. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: The power of Christ's liberating forgiveness sets us free from the anger and sin that beset us. Hear, believe and live this good news:

P: Jesus Christ frees us from all unrighteousness and makes us a new creation. Thanks be to God!

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**

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Beautiful Savior"

CHORD SMASH!

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

PSALM 138 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Refrain

Re - joi - ce and be glad! Bless - ed are you;
ho - ly are you! Re - joi - ce and be glad!
Yours is the king - dom of God!

- L: I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.
- P: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my strength of soul.**
- L: All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD, for they have heard the words of your mouth.
- P: They shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.**
- L: For though the LORD is high, God regards the lowly; but the haughty God perceives from far away.
- P: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.**
- L: The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever.
- P: Do not forsake the work of your hands. ℞**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 3:31-35

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Catherine Engstrom

OFFERTORY

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

CHORD SMASH!

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"

Two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is". The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee." The music consists of quarter and eighth notes, with a final quarter rest at the end of the second staff.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, we give our gifts in love and thanksgiving for all that we have been given. Help us give with hearts and minds open to the possibilities of what we can do to heal the brokenness of our world. Let our love travel where we do not, making pathways of peace where there are none, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

"I'll Fly Away"

#595

***COMMISSIONING**

God be in your head, and in your understanding. God be in your eyes, and in your looking. God be in your mouth, and in your speaking. God be in your heart, and in your thinking. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord your God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

"No More Sorrow"

CHORD SMASH!

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Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following worship for coffee, treats and more music from CHORD SMASH!

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Jan Hansen</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Music Committee</i>
Ushers:	<i>Suzanne Hagen, Gloria Gardner, Peter Rayne, Dan Herum</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Ruth Anne White</i>
Nursery:	<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Rover:	<i>JoAnn Lentz</i>
Trustee:	<i>Dan Meier</i>
Counters:	<i>Marie Roe, Jean Smith</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:	<i>Norma Revels</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 Dave and Roz Ostendorf
in celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary.*

CHORD SMASH! Special Music Guest Today

CHORD SMASH is an award winning Barbershop Quartet comprised of our own Scott Perau (choir director), Sam Sather, Erik Eliason and James Estes. They perform for audiences all over the country and have competed at the International Convention in Nashville last July. You can learn more about them on their website, www.chordsmash.com.

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

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

Sun., June 10 9:30 am - Worship Service – with musical guests CHORD SMASH!
 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

Mon., June 11 5:00 pm - Endowment Grant Committee Meeting

Tues., June 12 8:00 am - Men's Group Gathering
 9:00 am - Yoga
 9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
 4:00 pm - Among Friends Dementia Series Planning Meeting
 5:30 pm - Among Friends Board Meeting

Wed., June 13 8:30 am - Picture the Bible Meeting
 9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16

Thurs., June 14 9:00 am - Yoga
 12:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16

Sun., June 17 9:30 am - Worship Service
 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

Graduation Sunday



Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Avis Thompson (Alice Hanson's sister), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Rae and Mike Farley, Carolyn (mother of Paula Tiede), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Brad (son-in-law of Midge and Glenn Kees), John Hyland, Alice Hanson, Dee Nelson (see prayers of thanksgiving below), Ginny Hilden, John (husband of Melanie Viney Tevik), Terry (one of the volunteer site supervisors at Back Bay Mission), Andy Krueger, Martha and Bill Olson, Peg Thompson, Roger Becker (nephew of Sonny Miner)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Chord Smash (our choir director, Scott Perau's barbershop group) here in worship this Sunday
- For our graduating High School and College seniors that they may grow in faith, love and service
- For those who keep our church gardens beautiful (and you could join them!), thank you for bringing us joy!
- For the delegates who met for the Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting in Green Lake this weekend (our delegates are Rebecca and Bob Ferguson and Pastor Chris)
- For those enjoying the first games of the church softball season
- For the Care for Creation group meeting this week to plan further ways to help build a sustainable future
- For Kate Jennings who shares her faith story next Sunday during the Tell Me A Story moment

Prayers for our world:

- For the people of Guatemala after a devastating volcanic eruption there
- For those whom family life is difficult, that they may find the strength and courage to love anyway
- For those struggling with depression, that they may find hope
- For the hope and the possibility of peace in the Koreas
- For those who are adopting
- For those who are victims of random violence
- For our political leaders that our nation might work justly and for the common good
- For those working to care for our delicate creation and the daily decisions we make to help do this

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Dave and Roz Ostendorf as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 9th
- For Jennie Sperling who celebrated her 80th birthday June 8th
- For the return of the church softball season (there is room for you!)
- For the last day of school!
- For our church neighbor, member and 102 year old friend: Praise and glory for each new day!
- For the joy of graduation parties and celebrations
- For the gift of summer schedules
- For the ability to plant flowers, gardens and watch them grow
- For those who are pregnant that God may watch over them and keep them healthy

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Heidi (mother of our asylum family) whose family members (father, brother and sister) died in the recent unexpected volcanic eruption in Guatemala
- For those who are in mourning including the Tomlinson and Grisar families

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.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:1

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 3:31-35

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."