

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

June 18, 2017



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

JUNE 18, 2017

9:30 AM

*“FATHER’S DAY”
“SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”*

Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go out and do it.
Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.
~Howard Thurman

Being a father helps me be more responsible... you see more things than you've ever seen.
~Kid Rock

Welcome to our guests who are visiting
with us today!

Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall
following the 9:30 worship service.

- ~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

Jim Moenke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As Jesus called disciples so long ago...

P: **Let us listen for our own names, for we too have been called by God.**

L: They were fishermen, tax collectors, keepers of homes, brothers and sisters.

P: **God transformed them into the beloved community.**

L: We are teachers and nurses, engineers and retired folks, fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters.

P: **May God transform us into the beloved community.**

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

***HYMN**

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Amazing God, there is more to life than we can see or fathom, yet how often we try to shrink the mystery, tame the dream, limit what is possible. Remind us that the Spirit is always blowing new life into our days, surprising us with wonder and blessing. Forgive us for dull awareness and hesitant witness. Let us be made new again and again no matter what age we are. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: In Christ, God is making all things new

P: And by the power of Holy Spirit, we are freed from the sins of the past.

All: 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

"May God Give You a Blessing"

*May God give you a blessing; May God give you a blessing
May God give you a blessing, ever more*

*May we love one another; May we love one another
May we love one another, ever more*

*Peace on Earth to His People; Peace on Earth to His People
Peace on Earth to His People, ever more*

SPECIAL MUSIC

Summer Choir

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING (Sunday School resumes in September. Children may sit with their parents. Those 5 and younger may return to the nursery. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 18:1-15

PSALM 100 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

R



Sing for joy. Give thanks and bless God's name.

L: Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

P: **Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

L: Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

P: **Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.**

L: Give thanks to him, bless his name.

P: **For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. *R***

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 9:35-10:8

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

"You Have Come down to the Lakeshore"

#173

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - Indonesia**

I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.

I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.

I do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of our world is what God intended.

But I dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. 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.

TELL ME A STORY

Sheila Peterson

OFFERTORY

Jim Moenke

(As we offer our gifts today, ask yourself the question: "What am I most thankful for today?")

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, accept these gifts as signs of our desire to serve you. Make our offerings to be instruments of peace and grace in the world. Let all that we do be a foretaste of your reign on earth. Amen.

*HYMN

"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"

#286

*COMMISSIONING

May the Holy Spirit strengthen you this week as you leave on your discipleship walk. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

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Upcoming Summer Sunday Events

Today: Summer Choir helps to lead worship and Sheila Peterson will share her faith story during the Tell Me a Story Moment as we celebrate Father's Day.

Sunday, June 25: Baptism of Elizabeth Marie Veith, daughter of Troy and Kate Veith, granddaughter of Norma and Roger Veith.

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Ministers:	<i>The Whole Church</i>
Liturgist:	<i>Jean Smith</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	
Ushers:	<i>Cori Fosmo, Merle Paulson, Matthew Myers</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Jean Smith, Alice Hanson</i>
Nursery:	<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:	<i>Judith Permann</i>
Rover:	<i>Duane Church</i>
Trustee:	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
Counters:	<i>Allen Barnes, Jean Smith</i>
Music Coordinator:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Scott Perau</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 Steinmetz
in memory of Bill Wells.*

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

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

Mon., June 19	9:00-11:00 am - Youth Musical
	7:45 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., June 20	9:00-11:00 am - Youth Musical
	9:00 am - Yoga
Wed., June 21	9:00-11:00 am - Youth Musical
	9:00 pm - Worship Service on Channel 16
Thurs., June 22	9:00-11:00 am - Youth Musical
	9:00 am - Yoga
	6:00 pm - Youth Musical Dinner and Program
Sat., June 24	2:00 pm - Barb Wall Birthday Party
Sun., June 25	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Kara (sister of Tanya Larsen), Michelle (daughter of Norma Revels), Bill (father of Tricia Perau), Ross Pierson (father of Kate Jennings), Marlee (relative of Diane Welsh), Susie (cousin of Midge Kees)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Youth Musical that begins this coming week (join us on Thursday for dinner!)
- For Elizabeth Marie Veith to be baptized on Sunday, June 25
- For JaNae and Adam Westrich who welcomed their son Seth Adam, born May 29, 6 lbs 14 oz & 19 in long. Big sisters Verity and Felicity are enjoying their new brother!
- For Liam Standish Pearson and Finley Gretchen Krueger baptized recently
- For our Nominating Committee who will be filling open slots for our committees and teams
- For our yoga group led by Jan Hansen

Prayers for our world:

- For those working to protect and care for the creation
- For those traveling and enjoying the fruits of the summer
- For those affected by sudden tragedy
- For those changing jobs
- For those who are moving
- For police officers and fire fighters, and EMT responders, especially those in our community

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Barb Wall as she celebrates her 80th birthday with a party on June 24th
- For our graduating High School seniors
- For the Jazz Camp that meets here the week of the 26th
- For Elizabeth Marie born on May 18th to Troy and Kate Veith. She weighed 7 lbs 10 oz and was 19 inches long
- For Jim and Bobbie Kuhn who keep our church pews neat and tidy!
- For our softball team - newcomers are welcome!
- For those who serve as welcomers and deacons each week
- For those who provide flowers for the altar table each week

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For those in mourning, especially the Smith and Miller 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 18:1-15

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 9:35-10:8

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.