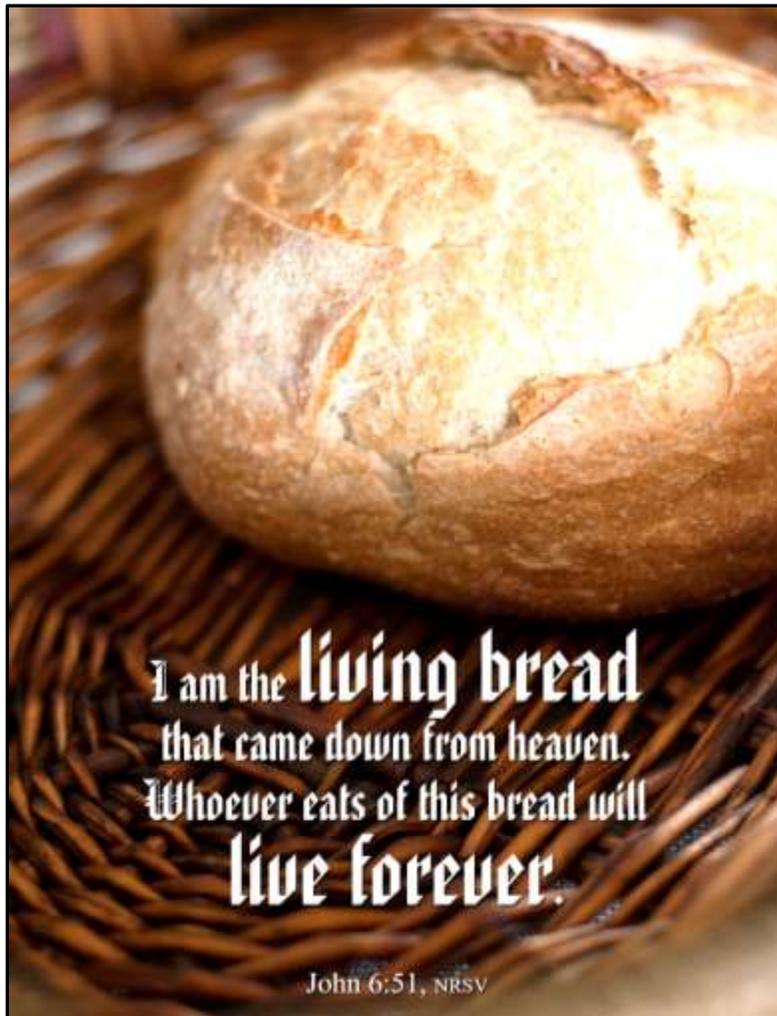


*First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin*

*August 12, 2018*



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

AUGUST 12, 2018

9:30 AM

*"TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"*

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"I used to pray that God would feed the hungry, or do this or that, but now I pray that he will guide me to do whatever I'm supposed to do, what I can do."

~Mother Teresa

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**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP (taken from Psalm 121)**

**L:** I lift up my eyes to the hills -- from where will my help come?

**P:** **Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.**

**L:** The Lord is the One who will not let your foot be moved.

**P:** **The God who keeps us will not slumber.**

**L:** God neither slumbers nor sleeps.

**P:** **The Lord is our keeper.**

**L:** The Lord is the shade at our right hand.

**P:** **The sun shall not strike us by day, nor the moon by night.**

**L:** The Lord will keep us from all evil.

**P:** **God is the keeper of our lives.**

**L:** The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in,

**P:** **From this time on and forevermore. Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN

"How Can I Keep from Singing"

Verses



1. My life flows on in end - less song A -  
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I  
 3. What though the tem - pest 'round me roar, I  
 4. When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, And  
 5. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I hear the real though  
 hear that mu - sic ring - ing; It sounds and ech - oes  
 hear the truth it liv - eth. What though the dark - ness  
 hear their death knells ring - ing; When friends re - joice both  
 foun - tain ev - er spring - ing. All things are mine since



far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 in my soul; How can I keep from sing - ing?  
 'round me close, Songs in the night it giv - eth.  
 far and near, How can I keep from sing - ing?  
 I am his; How can I keep from sing - ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm, While to that rock I'm



cling - ing. Since love is Lord of heav - en and earth,



How can I keep from sing - ing?

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful Savior, you are the bread of life, the one in whom we find forgiveness and grace. Yet too often we look elsewhere for that which will sustain us. We trust the security of intellect or jobs or relationships rather than the security of your unfailing love. We invest our time and energy in building our bank accounts and retirement portfolios rather than in pursuing the priorities of your kingdom - justice, an end to poverty and violence, feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, poor and lonely. Forgive us, we pray. Give us fresh eyes to see the needs of this world as you see them. Empower us to love boldly, forgive radically and believe with abandon. Amen.

## **\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Jesus says, "I am the bread of life. Whoever believes has eternal life."

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free for new life here and now.

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** (Sung twice)

(#236)

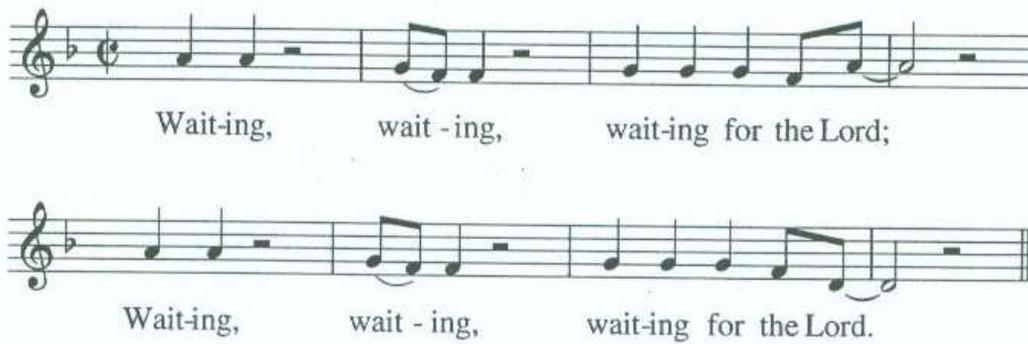
*Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah  
Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

**PSALM 130** (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

*R*



Wait-ing, wait -ing, wait-ing for the Lord;  
Wait-ing, wait -ing, wait-ing for the Lord.

- L:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!
- P:** **If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.**
- L:** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, more than those who watch for the morning.
- P:** **O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities. *R***

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 6:35, 41-51**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*HYMN**

*"Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"*

**#18**

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH - from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland**

- L:** Let us affirm our faith.
- P:** **We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. 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.

### Prayer Response...

*If you believe and I believe and we together pray, the Holy Spirit will come down and set God's people free, and set God's people free, and set God's people free; the Holy Spirit will come down and set God's people free.*

## MISSION MOMENT

Hope for Creation

## OFFERTORY

Emily Stifter and Alyssa Larsen

### *"We Give Thee but Thine Own"*

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) 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, starting with a measure rest (6), contains the melody for the second line: "thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee." The notes are simple, mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests.

We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is

thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

## \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Extravagant God, as you have lavished your grace and blessings upon us, so we delight to share our bounty with others. Thank you for the privilege of participating in your kingdom. Use these gifts, we pray, to bring healing, comfort and hope to a world in need of you. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

"Standing on the Promises"



1. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ my King,  
2. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es that can - not fail,  
3. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of Christ the Lord,  
4. Stand - ing on the prom - is - es I can - not fall,



Through e - ter - nal a - ges let his prais - es ring;  
When the howl - ing storms of doubt and fear as - sail,  
Bound to him e - ter - nal - ly by love's strong cord,  
Lis - tening ev - ery mo - ment to the Spir - it's call,



Glo - ry in the high - est, I will shout and sing,  
By the liv - ing Word of God I shall pre - vail,  
O - ver - com - ing dai - ly with the Spir - it's sword,  
Rest - ing in my Sav - ior as my all - in - all,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.  
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God.

*Refrain*



Stand - ing, stand - ing,  
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,



Stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God my Sav - ior;



Stand - ing, stand - ing, I'm  
Stand - ing on the prom - is - es, stand - ing on the prom - is - es,



stand - ing on the prom - is - es of God. A - men.

## \*COMMISSIONING

Here we have been taught to live as God's children. Let us leave here now as Christ's disciples, daring to be his people for the world. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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### Assisting in today's worship service are:

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Marie Roe</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Chuck &amp; Ruth Anne White, Dianne Barnes</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<i>Martha &amp; Bill Olson, Suzanne Hagen, Cori Fosmo</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>JoAnn Lentz, Ginny Sortor</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Kaye Anderson</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Rover:</b>	<i>Norma Revels</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Marie Roe, Janice Healy, Mike Gardner</i>
<b>Among Friends Coordinator:</b>	<i>Norma Revels</i>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b>	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Scott Perau</i>
<b>Bell Choir Director:</b>	<i>Ross Fugl</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>	<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
<b>Church Secretary:</b>	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastor:</b>	<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
<b>Minister for Community:</b>	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	<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](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) Fax: 425-9800

Mon., Aug 13	7:45 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., Aug 14	9:00 am - Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
	7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
Thurs., Aug 16	9:00 am - Yoga
Fri., Aug 17	5:30 pm - Wedding Rehearsal
Sat., Aug 18	3:00 pm - Conley/Bos Wedding
Sun., Aug 19	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Thank you for an awesome week!



**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), 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), Peg Thompson, Roger Becker (nephew of Sonny Miner), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Mary Morse (Dan Rude's sister), Ashton and Cameron (twin babies born 10 weeks early to friend of Wendy Hill), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Mary (co-worker of J.Y.), Finley (niece of Sheila Peterson), Larry Bauer, Nancy (sister of Ruth Reilly), Dan Rude

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those who enjoy our Yoga and Among Friends ministries
- For those who share their musical gifts with us each Sunday, especially Emily and Alyssa this week
- For a well needed brief lull in the church calendar before fall hits!
- For the Creation Care group of churches who met this past week
- For Church Council who meets next week
- For those who trained for the "Saints Program" to preserve, record & share the faith stories of our church saints
- For those who are at Moon Beach, one of our two Wisconsin Conference Camps

Prayers for our world:

- For firefighters, especially those working on wild fires out West
- For college students getting ready for school and new roommates!
- For parents struggling to raise children and children struggling to grow into adulthood
- For those struggling with depression and mental health issues, that they may find hope
- For those who are traveling that they may safely return home
- 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 the gift and fun of the Pierce County Fair
- For all who made the School Supply Give Away a big success
- For Troy and Cheryl Zakrzewski on the arrival of granddaughter Ruth
- For the beautiful cathedral constructed by our VBS kids and their teen/adult helpers
- For summer concerts in the park
- For Polly Wymer who writes out birthday cards, organizes name tags and stuffs our bulletins each week
- For those who are pregnant that God may watch over them and keep them healthy

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Nora Roen (Wayne Roen's mother) who died recently and whose funeral will be in North Dakota on August 18. In addition a prayer service will be led by Pastor Chris at Red Cedar Canyon in Hudson on Monday, August 13 at 3:30 pm in their chapel. Please remember the Roen family in your prayers.
- For the Seidl family as they mourn the death of Bodey, a RFHS senior
- For those who are grieving including the Williams family

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: Ephesians 4:25-5:2**

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 6:35, 41-51**

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."