

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

April 18, 2021

*“Third Sunday After Easter”*

10:00 am

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing.

P: **Calling us to heal and transform the brokenness and the violence of our world.**

L: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing.

P: **Calling us to seek out the lonely and the lost and those who need to experience God’s love.**

L: The risen Christ lives among us, calling us to be a blessing.

P: **Calling us to be disciples to the world, blessed, healed, and filled with joyous good news!**

All: **Come let us follow as the Risen Christ goes ahead of us, leading and guiding us today.  
Come let us worship the Risen Lord!**

**SONG**

*“Lead Me, Guide Me”*

Refrain: *Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.*

*Lord, let me walk each day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.*

*I am weak and I need thy strength and power to help me over my weakest hour.*

*Help me through the darkness thy face to see. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me. Refrain*

*I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am blind without thy Light to see,*

*Lord, just always let me thy servant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me. Refrain*

**OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

O God, we are still basking in the glory and joy of Christ’s Easter victory. The stone was rolled away! The “stones” which have trapped us – our worries, fears, anxieties, troubles of various sorts – need not threaten us. We pray that your power that raised Christ from the dead will also raise us out of darkness and sorrow today. Amen.

**PSALM 16**

L: Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

P: **I say to the LORD, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”**

L: As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

P: **Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.**

L: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

P: **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**

L: I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

P: **I keep the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

L: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

P: **For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.**

L: You show me the path of life.

P: **In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

SONG

*"I Will Change Your Name"*

*I will change your name, you shall no longer be called wounded, outcast, lonely or afraid.  
I will change your name, your new name shall be confidence, joyfulness, overcoming one,  
faithfulness, friend of God, one who seeks my face.*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EASTER**

**We believe in the God of Resurrection,  
Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;  
Who rolls away each stone of doubt;  
Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends, silence and laughter;  
Who raises us from sadness and despair to the possibilities of blessing and joy.  
We believe in Jesus the Christ,  
Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,  
Who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name and sends us on the paths of  
peace to speak of an awesome love that is not overcome by death.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit our Guide,  
The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,  
Who fills our every breath with blessing;  
Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good, speaks to us in dream and image, and  
watches over us with tender compassion.  
We believe in the church,  
An instrument of God in this present moment, striving for justice, celebrating in joy, clawing  
at despair, living in hope, praying for healing and forever proclaiming the Good News of  
God's persistent and redeeming love. Amen.**

TELL ME A STORY

Dennis Grisar

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

Come God, ...open our hearts and minds.

...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.

SONG

*"Bind Us Together"*

*Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.  
Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love.*

*There is only one God, there is only one King; There is only one body, that is why we sing.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmillers), Peg Thompson, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Dorothy Shavers (Rene Bylander's mother), Roger Hirstein, David Anderson, Mark Otto, Jim, Barb Stephens, TC (brother in law of Cori Fosmo) and his family

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For committees and Church Council meeting on April 20, that they may have the mind of Christ
- For the Northwest Association as it gathers for their Annual Meeting on April 17 with our own Pastor Dave as one of its keynote speakers (held via Zoom so you too can join – ask him for the link)
- For Katy Kapaun, our Wednesday Night Cook, Evelyn Purdy and Susan Walden who help in the kitchen, and our interns and JaNae Westrich who work together to make our Wednesday Family Meals a success
- For our Youth Minister JaNae Westrich and her husband Adam, pastor at St. Paul's UCC in Ellsworth, who have accepted a call at First UCC in Green Bay and will be moving there in May. We are planning on a farewell celebration for JaNae on Sunday, April 25th. Please pray for strength and guidance for them during this transition and for our church as we begin the search for a new Youth Minister.
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

**Prayers for our World:**

- For those trying to be vaccinated and those who already have, that we may continue to act safely
- For justice, peace and healing as the trial for Derek Chauvin continues, and as we relive it all over again with the recent death of Daunte Wright, that God's power of resurrection may be at work
- For police officers who are struggling with so many expectations
- For those in the military, especially for Jean Smith's grandson Jake who leaves for an overseas deployment
- For high school seniors contemplating college choices and plans, may they receive God's guidance
- For those who have been vaccinated (hallelujah!), for those who are anxiously awaiting their turn
- For our fractured nation that we may find ways to come together and solve our real problems

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the gift of Easter and signs of new life in our world, that we may we follow God's lead
- For Mikayla Peterson, one of our church interns, who successfully organized a blood drive at our church this past week that was completely filled—God bless you!
- For the RFHS Forensics Team who won the State Championship!
- For Nate Lawrence who soon graduates from the ROTC Honor Society program at SDSU
- For the birth of William Dystra, new great grandchild of Mary and Duane Church
- For JoAnne Friedell who retired this month after 33 years of social work in Rusk and St Croix counties—may you rest from your labors!
- For the over 120 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For the family of Robert, brother in law of Yvonne Benson, who died recently, that he may rest in God's strong care
- For those in mourning, including the Wymer, Williams, Huber, Filkins, Reilly, Zeman and Greub families as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 24:36-48**

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers  
 Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly  
 Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers

**Treasurer’s Report**

	Week of <u>Apr 11, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,489	\$ 175,783
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 138,930

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.