

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

"Father's Day"

June 20, 2021

"Fourth Sunday after Pentecost"

9:30 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: A gift of a new day,

P: Unlived, untried, ready to be opened.

L: A new day with surprising miracles;

P: With love to be given,

L: Kindness to be shared

P: And peace to be enjoyed.

L: A gift of a new day,

P: God's gift to us.

L: Let us receive it with joy

P: And live it in expectation.

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

SONG

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning, leaning, Yes, I am leaning on the everlasting arms

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;

O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Leaning on Jesus Christ, my Savior, safe and secure from all alarms;

Leaning on Jesus Christ my Savior, leaning on the everlasting arms

Oh, yes, I'm leaning on the everlasting arms.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy and Loving God, **we give you thanks for our fathers. For all about them that is kind, generous, dependable and good, we are grateful. For all they have taught us about living with integrity, respect and honor, we thank you. We appreciate the sacrifices they made, the discipline they instilled and the faith they modeled. For their shortcomings and failures, we ask for forgiveness. Where hurt or wounds have been inflicted, we ask for healing and grace. For those whose fathers have passed on, we ask for the peace of good memories and freedom from regret. For those still living, we ask your blessing upon them this day. For the sake of Christ we pray. Amen.**

BAPTISM OF SAWYER THOMAS SITZ

Welcome and Presentation

L: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them.

P: “Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate God’s gift of grace in the baptism of Sawyer Thomas Sitz. To us a child is given!

P: Thanks be to God!

Address

L: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given a part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event, the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be a part of God’s people.

P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.

Questions

L: As parents and sponsors of this child, will you encourage him to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Will you teach him that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by sharing with him the church’s life, worship, and fellowship?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Christ will first be known to Sawyer by the Christ seen in your home. By the grace of God, will you model the Christian life for him, provide instruction in the Christian faith, and live with him in the covenant of baptism so that he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Will you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, nurture one another in the Christian faith and include Sawyer in your love and prayer?

P: We promise our love and prayer.

Act of Baptism

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, bless this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in your servant Sawyer Thomas who will be baptized this day, that he too may rise with Christ. Glory to you, Eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Sawyer Thomas, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

Baptismal Song

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”

*Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit’s sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.*

*Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.*

Prayer

L: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for this child and the grace acknowledged here in water and the Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive and nurture this new member of the body of Christ.

P: **Give to the newly baptized: strength for life’s journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Name: Sawyer Thomas Sitz

Born: June 17, 2020

Baptized: June 20, 2021

Sawyer’s parents are Daniel and Heather Sitz

Sawyer’s sponsors are Melissa Swanson-Albert, Thad Albert and Rachel Sitz

PSALM 9:1-10

- L: I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
- P: **I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**
- L: When my enemies turned back, they stumbled and perished before you.
- P: **For you have maintained my just cause; you have sat on the throne giving righteous judgment.**
- L: You have rebuked the nations, you have destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name forever and ever.
- P: **The enemies have vanished in everlasting ruins; their cities you have rooted out; the very memory of them has perished.**
- L: But the LORD sits enthroned forever, God has established his throne for judgment.
- P: **God judges the world with righteousness; and the peoples with equity.**
- L: The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
- P: **And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 4:35-41

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG

"It is Well With My Soul"

*When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul. Refrain*

Refrain: *It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.*

*Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control;
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain*

*My sin O, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul. Refrain*

*And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, It is well with my soul. Refrain*

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. Amen.

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

Lord in your mercy ...**Hear our prayer.**

...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

"Lord, I Trust Thee"

Lord, I trust thee, I adore thee.

Ah, thou friend of human, restore me

On thy loving grace relying,

For the bread of life I'm sighing.

Quench my thirst and let my hunger cease,

Fill my heart with joy and endless peace.

When the breath of life has left me,

May my soul be blended with thee.

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 4:35-41

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"



From the church at Magdala, Israel, along the shores of the Sea of Galilee near where the gospel lesson for today takes place. Notice the altar table and pulpit are shaped like a boat with the sea in the background.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Andy Myers
*Music: Natalie Nelson, Jamie Mills, Brad Wilkinson,
 David Reilly, Marsha Pearson*
Liturgist: Brad Williams
Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 13, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,080	\$ 255,477
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 222,288

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Augie (friend of Rose Rude), Peg Thompson, Roger Hirstein, Jim, Mischa (friend of Bobbie Kuhn), Jodi (sister of Lori Johnson), Raelle, Jeff and Kim Jorae, Sam (grandson of Jan and Glenn Hansen), Barbara Stephens, Marjorie Faulks

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those taking part in the family conversations as we plan for the fall, may the Holy Spirit guide us
- For those who will rest in and enjoy our new Memorial Garden, may it kindle peace, faith and joy
- For the Youth Ministry Search team who are now searching for a new Youth Minister, that they may find someone who will love our church kids and help them grow in God's love
- For the Church Van Campaign, that we may quickly raise enough funds to purchase a used 15 passenger van
- For Carol Merriman who is helping at Moon Beach Camp this summer
- For those who were vaccinated here at church on Wednesday, June 2 and will receive their second shot on Wednesday, June 23rd from 5-7pm, that it may speed our return to normal
- For our incredibly faithful and flexible musicians, webteam and deacons who are willing to put in the extra work each week for worship
- 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 rain for farmers and gardens enduring a drought
- For peace and resolution to the intractable problems of our world, come Holy Spirit
- For an end to gun violence and the lives it destroys
- For the rest of the world as it navigates an increasingly aggressive pandemic
- For police officers who are struggling with so many expectations
- That justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24)
- For our fractured nation, that we may find ways to come together and solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For a win in the first church softball league match of the year—go team!
- For Marjorie Faulks who turned 98 on June 14—congratulations!
- For Dave Mountain who polished our communion table candles—they look brand new!
- For Carole Mottaz who has been nominated as this year's UWRF distinguished alumnus—what an honor!
- For healing from cancer for Megan (daughter of Janice Healy) and Jackie (sister of Marshall Skule), thanks be to God!
- For the Memorial Garden Committee (Lu Lueck, Marshall Skule, Susan Walden, JoAnne Friedell and Pastor Chris) who took the idea of a beautiful place for the saints of our church to rest and made it a reality—God bless you
- For our church mowing team: Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Joel Larsen—hallelujah!
- For Catherine Engstrom and Steve Papp who are the proud parents of Margaret Jean Papp born April 29 at 7 pounds 5 ounces and 20.5 inches long with happy siblings Brandon, Wes and Trudy—may she grow in love and trust
- For Sawyer Sitz, son of Heather and Dan Sitz to be baptized on June 20 and Weston Fuller, son Kahla and Farnum Fuller to be baptized on June 27—that they may grow in grace and years
- For Jenna Lawrence to be confirmed on June 27 and Cheyenne Wilson to be confirmed on August 15 (due to Covid), that they may grow in the faith and love of Jesus
- For Tim Bylander who is single handedly renovating the lower level bathroom and tiling the serving counter in the Fellowship Hall—it looks mighty fine!
- For the over 176 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of friends of Ruth Reilly who gathered to celebrate her life on Saturday, June 19, may her gifts inspire us today
- For the 600,000 Americans who died of Covid, may they not have died in vain
- For the families of Ruth Bowman and Phil Stewart who are gathering this week to remember and celebrate their lives
- For those in mourning, including the Larson, Wymer, and Reilly 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.

New Church Van Needed

Perhaps the most hopeful sign we are nearing the end of the pandemic is the need for a new church van. You may recall that when the pandemic began we sold our old church van (an aging 2004 Ford Econoline 15 passenger van that was rusting and had high mileage) rather than have it sit unused for a year. As we anticipate a more normal fall, we will need a church van to continue our current ministries. Below please find some details about the Church Van Campaign.

Q: Do we really need a church van?

A: Yes! In fact Stacy says on Wednesday afternoons when we pick up kids for Wednesday School, we could use two church vans! The church van is used to pick up Wednesday Schoolers, take our youth on trips to Feed My Starving Children, retreats, and monthly trips. The van is driven back and forth to Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi for our annual mission trips saving us many dollars in baggage fees. We also hope to resume senior lunch trips in the fall.

Q: What kind of van are we looking for?

A: Church Council has authorized a small team to research options for a used 15 passenger van that is safe, has about 50,000 miles on it and will be easy for both youth and seniors to enter and exit. Right now we are looking at both Sprinters and Transits in the used car markets.

Q: Can we get an electric or hybrid church van?

A: After carefully looking into this option, the short answer is no. While there are some exciting new possibilities for hybrid vans, they would have to be bought new which would double our price. An all electric van would not allow us to use it on trips to Back Bay.

Q: How much will it cost?

A: We estimate it will cost between \$30—32,000 dollars used. The used car market is really hot now, driving up costs so we are starting a Church Van Campaign to raise \$32,000 to purchase a slightly used church van.

Q: When will we get it?

A: When we raise the money! We hope we can quickly raise the money in the next 8 weeks so we can purchase it, have it lettered with our church name and be ready for us by September. Please write 'Church Van Campaign' in the memo. You can also make donations on the church website under the 'give' option. No gift is too big or too small!

**Church Van Fund
\$32,000 Goal!**

