

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

July 4, 2021

"Sixth Sunday after Pentecost"

9:30 am

...no place is devoid of God's presence... If we fail to sense that presence or to hear God's voice, it is because we have allowed our lives to be overwhelmed by distractions. -Rabbi Herman Abramovitz

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, let us worship Almighty God!

P: **Let us lift our songs, our prayers, and our praises to the Creator.**

L: Come, let us honor Jesus Christ!

P: **Let us love Christ with all our hearts, our minds, our spirits.**

L: Come, let us be filled with the Spirit of the Living God.

P: **Let us welcome God into our hearts, and let us be strengthened in our worship together.**

All: **We welcome God into our midst. We welcome all into this community of God!**

SONG

"Praise to the Living God"

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,

Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;

Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see, pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

*Praise to the living God, around, within, above, beyond the grasp of human mind,
but whom we know as love. In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,*

May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of all Creation, **let us be mindful this day of your wonders, your blessings, your everlasting embrace. We lift our voices in thanksgiving for this land and its many peoples, and for all your peoples on earth. We ask that we might live with open hearts, endless kindness, and boundless love. We ask for forgiveness when we wander from your ways. May this time of worship lift our hearts, our spirits, our lives to you. Amen.**

PSALM 67

L: May God be gracious to us and bless us and shine upon us.

P: **That your way, God, may be known upon earth, your saving power among all nations.
Let all the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you.**

L: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.

P: **Let the peoples praise you, O God, let all the peoples praise you.**

L: The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.

All: **May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere God.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Job 7:1-6; James 5:10-11

HOMILY

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

SONG

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

*I sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies. I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.*

*I sing the goodness of our God that filled the earth with food; God formed the creatures with a
word, and then pronounced them good. Oh, how your wonders are displayed, wherever I turn my
eye; If I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky!*

*On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glory known. The clouds arise and spread
their showers by order from your throne. All life is but a gift from you and ever in your care;
Wherever people gather, you, O God, are present there.*

***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 (debtors/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.**

THE COMMUNION (All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord)

The Invitation to the Supper

L: Beloved in Christ, this is the table of freedom, born of sacrifice. It is the table of plenty, born of
our want for God. It is the table of fulfillment, born of our emptiness. We come to this table not
because we must, but because we may. Not because we are fulfilled, but because we are empty,
and in our emptiness we stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. All who seek to know God
in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup are welcome at this holy table.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

L: We offer you praise, ...

The Words of Institution

L: As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Music during the distribution of the elements: **“Let Us Be Bread” and “Blest Are They”**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SONG

“This Is My Song”

This is my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for lands afar and mine.

*This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine;
But other hearts in other lands are beating with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country’s skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine;
But other lands have sunlight, too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine.*

O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.

COMMISSIONING

Go from this holy place in peace. Love God. Know that God is with you, ever-present, ever-embracing. Love one another, love your neighbor. And may God’s embrace and the gift of Holy Communion sustain you, even as the gift of life given through Jesus Christ sustains us always. **Amen**

POSTLUDE

JULY 4, 2021

(B)

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: Job 7:1-6

“Do not human beings have a hard service on earth, and are not their days like the days of a laborer? Like a slave who longs for the shadow, and like laborers who look for their wages, so I am allotted months of emptiness, and nights of misery are apportioned to me. When I lie down I say, ‘When shall I rise?’ But the night is long, and I am full of tossing until dawn. My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens, then breaks out again. My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle, and come to their end without hope.

James 5:10-11

As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter

Music: Marsha Pearson, David Reilly, Deb Hoffman

Liturgist: Traci Hagberg

Preacher: Pastor Dave Ostendorf

Treasurer’s Report

	<u>June 27, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,885	\$ 276,669
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 240,812

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, Sam (grandson of Jan and Glenn Hansen), Barbara Stephens, Marjorie Faulks

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those who took 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 the UCC General Synod meeting online July 11-18, that they may help us grow in love of Christ
- 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 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 Marjorie Faulks who turned 98 on June 14—congratulations!
- 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 Sawyer Sitz, son of Heather and Dan Sitz who was baptized on June 20 and Weston Fuller, son Kahla and Farnum Fuller who was baptized on June 27—that they may grow in grace and years
- For Jenna Lawrence who was 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 nearly 180 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Mark Mahoney, son of Barb and Terry Mahoney, who died suddenly in an accident and whose Memorial Service will be held here on July 11, that they may be strengthened by our support and God's grace and peace
- For the family of friends of Scott Ainsworth who gathered recently to remember and celebrate his life (Scott died in December), may they receive God's grace and peace
- For the 600,000 Americans who died of Covid, may they not have died in vain
- For the families of Ruth Reilly, Ruth Bowman and Phil Stewart who gathered recently to remember and celebrate their lives

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