

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

July 11, 2021

"Seventh Sunday after Pentecost"

9:30 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is waiting for us

P: **With a tender heart and a searching question.**

L: God is ready for us

P: **With truth and wisdom from a deep well.**

L: God is blessing us

P: **With springs of living water.**

L: God is sending us

P: **To sing, pray and be God's body at work in the world today.**

L: God is here speaking to us.

P: **Let the conversation begin.**

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

SONG

"How Can I Keep From Singing"

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Holy God, **weave praise into the fabric of our days so our lives become a blessing to others.**

Weave peace into our words and deeds so hatred and anger are disarmed.

Weave love into our work so accomplishments are imbued with humility.

Weave kindness into our actions so the world becomes a joyous place to live.

Weave hope into every encounter so we may testify to God's continuing resurrection.

Weave songs into our worship so our morning might echo in praise to God.

Weave us into your plans to restore, renew and reconnect our world. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 12:1-3

PSALM 24

L: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

P: **For God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

L: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

P: **Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

L: They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation.

P: **Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

P: Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts is the King of glory.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:3-6 (The Message)

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG

"Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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

Holy God ...bless us and help us to be a blessing to others.

...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

"Long Journey"

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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 Colin Cosgrove and his band leading us in worship – thank you
- 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 Carol Merriman who is helping at Moon Beach Camp this summer
- For those who received their second vaccine here at church on Wednesday, June 22, that it may speed our return to normal
- 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 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 successfully raising money for a new church van!
- For the return of River Falls Days!
- For Carole Mottaz who has received this year's UWRF Distinguished Alumni—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 baptized on June 27—that they may grow in grace and years
- For Jenna Lawrence 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 183 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 recently and whose Memorial Service is this Sunday, that they may be strengthened by our support and God's grace and peace
- For the family of John Hyland who died after getting lost during his morning walk, may his family and friends receive God's grace and peace as they gather on Monday for his Memorial Service
- For the family of Barb Greub who died last year and whose Memorial Service will be this coming Saturday, that her husband Lou and their family may celebrate her life
- For the 605,000 Americans and 4 million worldwide who have died of Covid, may they not have died in vain

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 1:3-6 (The Message)

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

Worship participants for this week:

<i>Audio/Visual:</i>	<i>Jeff Hoffman</i>
<i>Music:</i>	<i>Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly</i>
<i>Special Music:</i>	<i>Helen Forsythe, Banjo; Nick Vande Krol, Bass; Simon Cropp, Guitar; Colin Cosgrove, Mandolin</i>
<i>Liturgist:</i>	<i>Lou Greub</i>
<i>Coffee Fellowship:</i>	<i>Susan Walden</i>
<i>Preacher:</i>	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July 4, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,430	\$ 277,743
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 250,074

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.