

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

**August 15, 2021**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

August 15, 2021

*"Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost"*

9:30 am

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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We are gathered for worship.

**P: There is much to do in this world, for the hungry cry to be fed, the homeless to be housed. We live in the midst of a world in need of peace and a people in need of hope.**

L: We are gathered for worship.

**P: There is much to do in our lives. There are commitments to fulfill, jobs to do. We must care for our children, our parents, our homes.**

L: We are gathered for worship.

**P: The problems of this world call for energy and vision.**

L: In worship we seek God's vision of hope and wholeness and meet the Spirit who gives strength to the weary.

**P: The demands of our lives call for patience and compassion.**

L: In worship our spirits are renewed by God's grace and our hearts are made wide by God's love.

**P: We have gathered for worship.**

**All: Come, let us worship God in this hour that we may live as God's people in days to come.**

**HYMN**

*"Morning Has Broken"*

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: God of Grace and Glory, you have called us to great visions.

**P: But we confess that too often we have let petty matters sidetrack great dreams.**

**All: Forgive us when we are so preoccupied by the trivial that we lose sight of the eternal.**

L: You have called us to be brothers and sisters.

**P: But we confess that too often we find it easier to find fault than to offer grace.**

**All:** Forgive us when we are more interested in how we will look to one another than in how we will live together.

**L:** You have called us to be salt and light to a hurting world.

**P:** But we confess that too often we have been content to be pale imitations that neither cause a ripple nor make a difference.

**All:** Forgive us when we would rather go along with this world than risk challenging this world. Amen.

### ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

**L:** God does not want us to stay trapped by the sins of the past.

**P:** In Christ, God opens a new way, full of grace, hope and love.

**L:** So let us follow in the path of Christ and live as his people.

**P:** In Christ we are forgiven and set free for service in his name. Thanks be to God!

**L:** The peace of Christ be with you all.

**P:** And also with you.

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** (Please greet one another with signs of peace)

**\*GLORIA (Sung twice)**

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

### FIRST LESSON

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

### PSALM 111

**R**

With all our hearts we praise you, O Ho - ly One.

**L:** Hallelujah! With all my heart I praise you, Holy One, in the congregation of truthful people.

**P:** How great are your works, pondered by all who delight in them.

**L:** Majesty and splendor clothe them, always faithful and just.

**P:** Your wondrous deeds have won renown; you are so gracious and merciful. **R**

L: Food you give to those who revere you.

**P: Always you remember your covenant.**

L: The power of your works you show to your people, by giving them the heritage of nations.

**P: Your handiwork is true and just; all your precepts worthy of trust, enduring forever, performed in faithfulness and truth.**

L: You sent redemption to your people, ordained your covenant for all time;

**P: Holy and revered is your name.**

L: The beginning of wisdom is reverence for you, Holy God; sound insight comes to all who follow it.

**P: Your praise continues forever! R**

## SECOND LESSON

John 21:15-19

## HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

## HYMN

***“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***O Jesus, you have looked into my eyes;  
Kindly smiling, you’ve called out my name.  
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you I will seek other seas.***

## \*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.**

## RITE OF CONFIRMATION FOR CHEYENNE JOSEPHINE WILSON

*Welcome*

*Questions of the Candidate*

*Prayer*

*Act of Confirmation*

*Prayer of Confirmation*

**All: O Merciful God, we rejoice in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in the Spirit's power to awaken us to new truth and to inspire us to venture into the fullness of life. We give you thanks that Cheyenne has been moved to affirm her baptism. Help her to live not for herself but for Christ and those whom Christ loves. Keep her steady and abounding in hope, never giving up, pressing toward the goal of life with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Welcome*

**L: Let us, the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.**

**P: We promise you our continuing friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.**

*Presentation of Cross*

*The cross presented to our Confirmand was hand-made by Bob Johnson, a church member.*

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

Holy God ...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.**

**HYMN**

*"Borning Cry"*

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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Worship participants for this week:

*Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman*  
*Music: David Reilly, Emily Stifter*  
*Organist: Marsha Pearson*  
*Liturgist: Kristin Andes*  
*Coffee Fellowship: Kristin & Tom Andes and Magraws*  
*Welcomer: Traci Hagberg*  
*Trustee: Steve Pfeiffer*  
*Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers*

Upcoming Events

Mon., Aug 16 4:30-6:30 pm Tools for School  
Tues., Aug 17 9:00 am Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom  
10:00-12:00 pm Tools for School  
Thurs., Aug 19 9:00 am Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom  
Sun., Aug 22 9:30 am In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary  
and Livestream  
10:30 am Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall  
10:30 am Project for Kids  
11:00 am WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

**New Church App:** The church has a new mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Aug 8, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,665	\$ 309,456
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 296,384

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, Wendy MacDougall (wife of our Association Minister Rob), Troy Veith, Edna (friend of the Danielsons and Petersons), Bill Olson, Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Carolyn Larrabee

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

- For Cheyenne Wilson to be confirmed this Sunday (our last COVID confirmand), that she may grow in faith, love and service
- For all those who helped with our peach fundraiser which provides over \$2300 to our Youth Ministry—God bless you!
- For all those collecting school supplies through Tools for School, that it may be a blessing to our local community
- For the Among Friends program as they plan their October 5 re-opening, come Holy Spirit
- For our choir as it meets for a backyard party on August 11, and summer choir on August 22
- For Coffee Fellowship Hosts, Welcomers and Liturgists who help enhance our Sunday morning
- For our incredibly faithful and flexible musicians, webteam and deacons who are willing to put in the extra work each week for worship
- For the garden geeks who keep our church garden watered and weeded—what an oasis of calm you provide
- 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 our troubled creation as climate change rears its ugly head, that we may collectively change our behaviors
- For the gift of rain this past week for farmers and gardens enduring a drought
- For peace and resolution to the intractable problems of our world, come Holy Spirit
- For those who are not vaccinated and getting sick from the Delta variant, please talk to your doctor
- For an end to gun violence and the lives it destroys
- For renters who are worried about paying their rent and landlords wondering how they can maintain their properties

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For our Three Peach Queens—Deb Hoffman, Laura Miller and Diane Welsh who helped organize and distribute all our peaches!
- For the weekly Mini Farmers Market in our Fellowship Hall when people (Roland Roe and others) bring in their fresh veggies for us to enjoy, bless you
- For the birth of Ella Suzanne Middlestaedt, new and first grandchild to Ann and Scott Jameson
- For the gift of the Pierce County Fair, a fun annual tradition
- For VBS and the way it brings together so many people in creative, intergenerational ways
- For not just one but two new Youth Ministers—Alex and Sarah Plum who begin in late August—thanks be to God!
- For Bailey Plackner who is recently engaged to Alex Boyer and is planning a July 2022 wedding, may you grow in love
- For successfully raising money for a new church van!
- For the nearly 190 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

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

- For the family of Dick Reilly who died in May and whose graveside service was July 31, may he rest from his labors
- For the families of Gus de Souza and Wayne and Marian Wolfe who will be interred in the church Memorial Garden on Thursday, August 12 at 10:30am, that they may rest in a beautiful and welcome environment
- For those in mourning including the families of Mark Mahoney, John Hyland and Barb Greub, that they may receive the peace of Christ
- For the 611,000 Americans and over 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.

**AUGUST 15, 2021**

**(B)**

**TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**FIRST LESSON: Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace you have been saved — and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**SECOND LESSON: John 21:15-19**

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

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**PEACHES**

Thank you to all who helped with the peaches this year. We raised over \$2300 for our youth!

