

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

September 26, 2021



***Come and Be Fed
Fed by Justice***

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

September 26, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Come, gather together and let us give God praise.

P: **Let us sing of God's love and God's amazing grace.**

L: May we give God praise for God's forgiveness and mercy.

P: **Let us sing of God's justice and compassion.**

L: May we give God praise for all the wondrous acts from God to all the earth's people.

P: **Let us sing of our praises to God and worship God fully with our hearts and minds.**

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

***HYMN**

Send Down the Fire

Congregation join on refrain:

***Send down the fire of your justice, send down the rains of your love;
Come, send down the Spirit, breathe life in your people,
and we shall be people of God.***

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of infinite tenderness and strong compassion, **weave your will into the fabric of our lives. Weave your joy into our songs, your peace into our prayers and your justice into our deeds. Let this time of worship be a holy moment where the frayed edges of our lives are woven into a beautiful tapestry that comforts and blesses, inspires and renews. God of infinite tenderness and strong compassion, weave your love into our service of praise that what we do here today may bring healing to our souls and our world. Amen.**

L: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have all fallen short of God's call. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

P: **So let us ask God for grace to be reconciled in faith to God, to neighbor and to ourselves.**

L: In Christ and in his grace, we are forgiven.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

***GLORIA**

*He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forevermore.*

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON

Micah 6:6-8

PSALM 33:1-12

R

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

L: Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous. Praise befits the upright.

P: **Praise the LORD with the lyre; make melody to him with the harp of ten strings.**

L: Sing to God a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

P: **For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.**

L: God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

P: **By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all their host by the breath of his mouth. R**

L: He gathered the waters of the sea as in a bottle; he put the deeps in storehouses.

P: **Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.**

L: For God spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm.

P: **The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to nothing; and frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

L: The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations.

P: **Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom God has chosen as his heritage. R**

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Celebrating the Meal

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

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Come from the north and the south, the east and the west, and eat at Christ's table. Come young and old and every age in between, the faithful and the struggling, the rich and the poor, and drink at Christ's table. It has been set before us that we might again know Christ has come into our world to bless us with his love, grace and peace. So come let us gather at Christ's table as one people.

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: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Words of Institution

L: As we together proclaim the mystery of faith...

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

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

Let Us Be Bread

Congregation join on refrain:

Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, broken and shared, life for the world.

Let us be wine, love freely poured. Let us be one in the Lord.

Breathe On Me, Breath of God

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 (Children preschool through grade 8 leave for Sunday School.)

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Amos 5:21-24

SERMON

Come and Be Fed by Justice

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Bring Forth the Kingdom

Congregation join on refrain:

Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;

Bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

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

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

P: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

We Shall Overcome

Chancel Choir

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.

Sending

*HYMN

I Am the Light of the World

Congregation join on refrain:

*I am the Light of the World you people come and follow me. If you follow and love,
you'll learn the mystery of what you were meant to do and be.*

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Note about offering: During the pandemic we are not passing the offering plate. We thankfully receive your gifts, tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the back table. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Traci Hagberg</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>JoAnn Lentz, Barb Mahoney</i>
Deacons:	<i>Marshall Skule, Cindy Gandrud, Natasha Rayne, Traci Hagberg, Sheila Peterson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Traci Hagberg</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matt Herum</i>
Counters:	<i>Jean Smith, Janice Healy</i>
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastors:	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
Minister for Community:	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Sept 19, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,889	\$ 354,950
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 351,956

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), Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Carolyn Larrabee, Donna Moseman, Kelly (friend of Barb Stephens), Neil and Kamilla (relatives of Yvonne Benson), Joyce Kampstra, Joan Hyland

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the return of our music and youth programs—hallelujah!
- For High Schoolers meeting for their first Youth Group Meeting today, may they grow together in love and grace
- For those who will receive college packs, that they may bring the love of God close to our college students
- For our new Church Council and committee who met for the first time on Tuesday—may the Holy Spirit guide them
- For the Among Friends program as they plan their October 5 re-opening, come Holy Spirit
- For Coffee Fellowship Hosts, welcomers and liturgists who help enhance our Sunday morning
- 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 stressed out world, may we find the peace of Christ and the joy of faith
- For the 12,500 Afghani refugees at Fort McCoy, WI, that they may be strengthened in their journey
- For our troubled creation as climate change rears its ugly head, that we may collectively change our behavior
- For those fighting forest fires, may God speed their work
- For healthcare workers who are exhausted after the pandemic, may you be given God's strength
- For teachers, aides and administrators trying to do and balance so much

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For Lydia Katherine Koecher born 7 weeks early to Dan and Mari, granddaughter of Steve and Lara Koecher
- For a return of choir and bells, may they make beautiful music together
- For Darlene Sumption who celebrated her 95th birthday on Sunday, September 19
- 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 nearly 212 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- 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 680,000 Americans and over 4.55 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.

FIRST LESSON: Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Amos 5:21-24

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

- Tues., Sept 28 9:00-10:00 am Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
- Wed., Sept 29 1:00-2:30 pm Adult Bible Study
- 6:00-7:00 pm Jubilee Ringers
- 6:30-7:30 pm Pre-Confirmation (Gr 6) and Confirmation Years 1 & 2 (Gr 7 & 8)
- 6:30-7:30 pm High School Youth Group
- 7:00-8:00 pm Chancel Choir
- Thur., Sept 30 9:00-10:00 am Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
- Sun., Oct 3 8:45-9:45 am Adult Forum in the Youth Room
- 9:00-9:45 am Music Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
- 9:45-11:15 am Nursery Open
- 10:00-11:00 am Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
- 10:00-10:30 am Children in Worship
- 10:30-11:15 am Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
- 11:00-11:30 am Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
- 11:00-11:30 am WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM