

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

October 3, 2021



***Come and Be Fed
Fed by Community***

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

October 3, 2021

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To seek direction in the living of our lives.**

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To be still and hear what God would have us do.**

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To be renewed, restored and recreated.**

L: We rejoice that we are God's people:

P: **To serve, to love and to sing God's praise.**

All: **Together as God's people let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

***HYMN**

All Are Welcome

Congregation join on refrain:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

***OPENING PRAYER**

God of Abundance, **we acknowledge your presence among us today. Open our eyes to see the path before us. Deepen our faith to walk with you upon this path. Strengthen our hearts with courage to embark on the journey. Enlarge our hearts with gratitude for your provision along the way. Teach us these things today, O God. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

L: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we have all fallen short of the 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 by 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**

*We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.
We are singing in the light of God, we are singing in the light of God.*

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON

1 Corinthians 12:13-27

PSALM 133 and 134

R *Unite us, God, unite us in your everlasting love.*

L: How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

P: **It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.**

L: It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the LORD ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

P: **Come, bless the LORD, all you servants of the LORD, who stand by night in the house of the LORD!**

L: Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the LORD.

P: **May the LORD, maker of heaven and earth, bless you from Zion. 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: This table is for all of us, near and far, rich and poor, young and old. This table is for all of us, as we gather from the east and the west, the north and the south. It is not our table. It's God's table, set that we might again remember Jesus' call to be people of love and grace, hope and peace. So come and take your place at the table. Come and be fed at the table of our Lord as together we share this holy meal.

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:

One Bread, One Body

Congregation join on refrain:

***One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.***

O Christ, Surround Me

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

Hebrews 10:19-25

SERMON

Come and Be Fed by Community

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Bind Us Together

Congregation join on refrain:

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together with cords that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord, bind us together. Bind us together in love.

***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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Down to the River to Pray

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**

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

***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>Steven Koecher</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Linn Lawrence, Natasha and Peter Rayne, Cindy Gandrud</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Lara and Steve Koecher</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter</i>
Trustee:	<i>Allen Barnes</i>
Counters:	<i>Marie Roe, Dennis Linder</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>

Altar table flowers are given by Evelyn Purdy.

Mon., Oct 4	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Personnel Meeting
	5:00-6:00 pm	Endowment Grant Committee Meeting
Tues., Oct 5	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., Oct 6	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:15-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:15 pm	Wednesday Meal
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Year 3 (9 th Grade)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Oct 7	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Oct 10	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Choir 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
	11:15 am	Middle School Youth Group Trip to Corn Maze

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Peg Thompson, Roger Hirstein, Jim, Wendy MacDougall (wife of our Association Minister Rob), Edna (friend of the Danielsons and Petersons), Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Carolyn Larrabee, Donna Moseman, Kelly (relative of Barbara Stephens), Neil and Kamilla (relatives of Yvonne Benson), Joan Hyland, Charles Hoffman (father of Jeff Hoffman), Paul Anderson

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the return of our music and youth programs—hallelujah!
- For our Trustees planning to spruce up our church grounds on Saturday, October 23, may many hands make light work
- For those being fed at the Thai Cooking Class, may it be a time of connection and joy
- For those mourning loved ones as we approach All Saints Sunday on October 31
- For those who will receive college packs, that they may bring the love of God close to our college students
- For the Among Friends program as they plan their October 5 re-opening, come Holy Spirit
- For Glenn Kees and Tim Bylander who head to Moon Beach Camp for the fall work weekend
- 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 our church mowing team—Joel Larsen, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Mike Stifter—thanks for a great year!
- For Lydia Katherine Koecher born 7 weeks early to Dan and Mari, granddaughter of Steve & 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: 1 Corinthians 12:13-27

For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 10:19-25

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Sept 26, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,036	\$ 358,486
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 361,218

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.