

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

**October 24, 2021**



***Come and Be Fed  
Fed by Compassion***

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

October 24, 2021

*Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am

<b>Gathering</b>
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**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** Loving Christ, you are our gentle Shepherd.

**P:** **We are your people; we long to know your will and to live in your way.**

**L:** Keep us safe and secure in your compassionate hands.

**P:** **Lead us into new paths of love and service.**

**L:** As you lead and guide us, touch our hearts and minds,

**P:** **So that our spirits may be refreshed and our lives be filled with joy and praise.**

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

**\*HYMN**

***My Hope Is Built***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;  
all other ground is sinking sand.***

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

Merciful God, you call us to be salt and light and to live as your holy people. We want to, Lord, but we fall short. We want to do what is right, but our fears and anxieties lead us to self-protection rather than service to others, to hoarding rather than freely sharing, to self-righteousness rather than compassion. Forgive us, O God. Restore us by your mercy that having received the gift of your infinite love, we might turn to our neighbor and give your love away. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.

**L:** God's forgiveness is freely extended to all who cry out in faith.

**P:** **Hear and believe the Good News: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**All:** **Thanks be to God!**

**L:** May 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

Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!\_\_\_\_\_

Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!

O - pen now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.  
O Lord, rush to help to de - liv - er Your world.  
Mak - er, Spir - it, Friend, You are Great My - ster - y!

## Hearing the Word

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Philippians 1:3-11

### PSALM 66:1-12

Response C Am Dm7 C Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings, 1994

Let the sound of God's praise be heard.

- L: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name; give glorious praise.
- P: **Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you. All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."**
- L: Come and see what God has done: God is awesome in his deeds among mortals.
- P: **God turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.**
- L: There we rejoiced in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let the rebellious not exalt themselves.
- P: **Bless our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard, who has kept us among the living, and has not let our feet slip.**
- L: For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us as silver is tried.
- P: **You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs; you let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a spacious place. 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.*

<b>Celebrating the Meal</b>
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(All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord.)

### ***The Invitation to the Meal***

L: Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest of your weary souls.

### ***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: We praise your name 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***

*Hymns during the distribution of the elements:*

### ***Lord's Prayer***

### ***I Say Yes***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***I say "Yes," my Lord, in all the good times, through all the bad times,***

***I say "Yes," my Lord, to every word you speak.***

### ***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.*

<b>Proclaiming the Word</b>
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**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Matthew 9:35-38**

**SERMON**

**Come and Be Fed by Compassion**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*HYMN**

***Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,***

***Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.***

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – African Creed**

**We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. God created the human person for happiness in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know God in the light.**

**God promised in the Scriptures to save the world and all the nations and tribes. We believe that God kept all promises by sending Jesus Christ, a person in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humankind, showing that the meaning of religion is love. Jesus was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven by God. We accept the gift of baptism and in the community of faith we live in ways of love and share the bread of life. We announce the good news to all people so long as God gives us breath. We believe that the Spirit is in the world and that God cares for us in life and in death. This we believe. Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

***Here I Am Lord***

**Chancel Choir**

**TELL ME A STORY**

**Scott Jameson**

## 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**

***May You Run and Not Be Weary***

**\*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:**

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Sue Danielson</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Barb and Larry Peterson</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule, Cindy Gandrud, Laura Anderson, Jena Most</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Diane Crist</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
<b>Pianist:</b>	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Tim Bylander</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Roz Ostendorf, Jane Truesdill</i>
<b>Music Coordinator &amp; Bell Director:</b>	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastors:</b>	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
<b>Minister for Community:</b>	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

#### **Treasurer's Report**

	<u>Oct 17, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 11,510	\$ 392,369
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 389,004

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:**

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), Donna Moseman, Tom (friend of Barb Stephens), Joan Hyland, Charles Hoffman (father of Jeff Hoffman), Jean and Ted Hagberg (mom and brother of Traci), Peter Kwong, Megan and baby Nora, Jeff Peterson, Dirk Ficca

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

- For those who share their faith story as part of the Tell Me A Story segment in worship including Scott Jameson this week
- For Andy Krueger and the crew gearing up for the annual Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 14 (further details coming soon)
- For our Trustees planning the spruce up of our church grounds on Saturday, October 30, may many hands make light work
- For the High School Youth Group who head to the Corn Maze today—may it be a time of bonding and fun
- 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 missionaries abducted in Haiti (men, women and children) and for those abducting them
- For veterans as we approach Veterans Day on Thursday, November 11, that they may be honored and be at peace
- For our stressed out world, may we find the peace of Christ and the joy of faith
- For the 13,000 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 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 Kahla Fuller our tireless and welcoming nursery attendant who each weeks welcomes young people into the church nursery
- For the River Falls Varsity Soccer team advancing to the regional finals including our church interns Justin Elsesser and Evan Luedtke
- For our River Falls Marching Wildcats who won the state tournament in Whitewater this weekend—Go Wildcats!
- For a return of choir and bells, may they make beautiful music together
- 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 the family of Jim MacDaniel, father of Jane Wakefield who died this past week, may he rest from his labors
- For the family of Paul Anderson who died peacefully at home recently, that his wife Synneva and sons Raymond and Aaron may grieve with hope
- For Nancy Hines, sister of Diane Welch, who died suddenly recently, that her family may be comforted
- For those mourning loved ones as we approach All Saints Sunday on October 31
- For the 700,000 Americans and over 4.6 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: Philippians 1:3-11**

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 9:35-10:8a**

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.



# ***Bringing the Bible to Life!***

## **Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 pm**

Explore the Art

Hear the Story

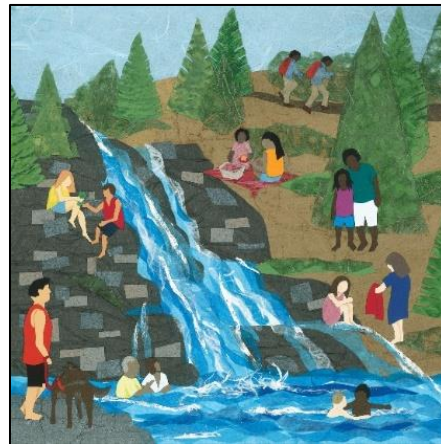
See the Resources

Our church commissioned the artwork that graces our space and that is at the heart of **Picture the Bible**, a resource being used nationwide. The story of the 51 collages goes back many years to Stacy and Chris' ministry beginning in Atlanta. From...



Creation

to



Let Justice Roll

this is a powerful story of the many gifts provided by our church to the larger church.

***Gather with Pastor Stacy, who authored the book, in the Fellowship Hall for this unique Learning Community following Wednesday Dinner, next week October 27.***

### **This Week at a Glance:**

Tues., Oct 26	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Personnel Meeting
	5:00-6:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wed., Oct 27	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:15-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Learning Community – Bringing the Bible the Life!
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Years 1 & 2 (Grades 7 & 8)
	6:30-7:30 pm	High School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Oct 28	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	3:00-4:30 pm	Church Book Club
Sat., Oct 30	9:00-11:00 am	Fall Clean Up
Sun., Oct 31	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Brass Rehearsal
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall & Livestream
	10:00-10:30 am	Children in Worship
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-Sch–Gr 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM