

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

**October 31, 2021**



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

*All Saints Sunday*

October 31, 2021

*Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am

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

**WELCOME**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** On this All Saints Sunday, we remember and celebrate,

**P:** **The saints of yesterday and of today.**

**L:** Let us remember the faithful people who set their hopes on Christ.

**P:** **The saints of yesterday and of today.**

**L:** Those who with their lives, praised the God they loved and served.

**P:** **The saints of yesterday and of today.**

**L:** May our hearts and minds be open, not just to the saints of old, but to the saints around us here and now.

**P:** **Like the saints of yesterday and of today.**

**L:** Here in our worship let us commit ourselves to living lives that are pleasing to God.

**P:** **Like the saints of yesterday and of today.**

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

**\*HYMN**

***For All The Saints***

**(insert)**

*Congregation sings verses 1, 3 and 4*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

**L:** If we fail to live our lives with integrity,

**P:** **Forgive us, Holy God.**

**L:** If we forget to reach out to the lost and lonely,

**P:** **Forgive us, Holy God.**

**L:** If we neglect to be a beacon of hope and joy in our world,

**P:** **Forgive us, Holy God.**

**All:** **Set us on your path, O God. Teach us anew what it means to be your disciples. Fill us with your Spirit that we may be your faithful servants, today and tomorrow. Amen.**

**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**

*“Jesus, Name Above All Names”*

*Jesus, name above all names; beautiful Savior, glorious Lord.  
Emmanuel, God is with us; blessed Redeemer, Living Word.*

Hearing the Word
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**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

**PSALM 24**

**R**      *Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!  
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

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

**P:**    **For he 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. R**

**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, he is the King of glory. R**

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**SONG OF BLESSING**

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, “Let them come to me.”*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

## 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 to this table as all saints do, with love in your hearts, grace on your lips, memories buried deep in your soul, and a faith that holds it all together. Come and join the long procession of men and women, young and old who have gathered around this table longing to be fed with food that truly satisfies. On this All Saints Sunday, let us take our place in the feast of life.

### ***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:*

### ***As the Grains of Wheat – Brass Group***

### ***This is The Body of Christ***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole; this cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord: food for the good of the soul.***

### ***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**

**John 11:32-44**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*SONG**

***Shall We Gather at the River***

*Congregation join on refrain:*

***Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river,  
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.***

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**TELL ME A STORY**

**Marie Roe**

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

*Paul Anderson, John Hyland, Mark Mahoney, Phil Stewart, Bernice Larson,  
Jennie Sperling, Polly Wymer, Daniel Filkins, Ruth Reilly, Roy Zeman,  
Barbara Greub, Virginia Hilden, George Anderson*

**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

**\*SONG**

***When the Saints Go Marching In***

**\*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>Jean Smith</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Kathy Rausch</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Cindy Gandrud, Marshall Skule, Peter &amp; Natasha Rayne, Suzanne Hagen</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Louie Filkins</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
<b>Pianist:</b>	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Louie Filkins</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Trish Graves, Marie Roe</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 24, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,060	\$ 393,929
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 398,266

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

**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 Marie Roe this week
- For the saints of First Congregational Church who have lived, died and now live with God including: Paul Anderson, John Hyland, Mark Mahoney, Phil Stewart, Bernice Larson, Jennie Sperling, Polly Wymer, Daniel Filkins, Ruth Reilly, Roy Zeman, Barbara Greub, Virginia Hilden, George Anderson
- For Andy Krueger and the crew gearing up for the annual Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 14 (sign up for your meal!)
- For our Trustees planning the spruce up our church grounds on Saturday, October 30, may many hands make light work
- For our faithful Wednesday night kitchen crew of Katy Kapaun, Evelyn Purdy and Susan Walden—thanks for feeding us!
- 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 those meeting in Glasgow this week to help address our troubled creation as climate change rears its ugly head, that we may collectively change our behavior

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the gift of Halloween and the joy of trick or treating and young kids in costumes, may it be safe & fun
- For the River Falls Varsity Soccer team advancing to the regional finals including our church interns Evan Luedtke and Justin Elsesser (who kicked the game winning goal!)—Go Wildcats!
- For our River Falls Football team including our church intern and varsity center, Monty Wilson, who are in the playoffs—Go Wildcats!
- For our Sunday School and Wednesday School teachers and volunteers—you rock!
- For our Brass Group helping to lead worship today—may your notes kindle joy in our hearts
- 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 for Jim MacDaniel (father of Jane Wakefield), Paul Anderson (husband of Synneva) and Nancy Hines (sister of Diane Welch), may they be comforted
- For the family of Noah Dwyer, a sophomore at RFHS who died this week of a rare blood infection, may he rest in God's care
- 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: Isaiah 25:6-9**

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever.  
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.  
It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 11:32-44**

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"  
Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."



Heb. 12:1

William W. How, 1864; alt.

1 For all the saints who from their la - bors rest, who to the  
 2 You were their rock, their ref - uge, and their might: you, Christ, the  
 3 Still may your peo - ple, faith - ful, true, and bold, live as the  
 4 Ringed by this cloud of wit - ness - es di - vine, we fee - bly  
 5 And when the strife is fierce, the war - fare long, steals on the

world their stead-fast faith con-fessed, your name, O Je - sus,  
 hope that put their fears to flight; 'mid gloom and doubt, you  
 saints who no - bly fought of old, and share with them a  
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet in your love our  
 ear the dis - tant tri - umph song, then hearts are brave a -

be for - ev - er blessed.  
 were their one true light.  
 glo - rious crown of gold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 faith - ful lives en - twine.  
 gain, and faith grows strong.

*This traditional All Saints Day hymn originally consisted of eleven stanzas written for the Sarum Hymnal (1869) and set to a tune by that name, Sarum. It has grown in popularity since it was later paired with the enduring Sine Nomine in The English Hymnal (1906).*

Tune: SINE NOMINE 10.10.10.4.  
 Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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

Tues., Nov 2	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	11:30am-12:30pm	Personnel Meeting
Wed., Nov 3	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	Confirmation Year 3 (Grade 9)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Nov 4	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall
Sun., Nov 7	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 & 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

### **Remember to:**

- Sign up by 4:00 pm Tuesday for the Wednesday Meal
- Sign up for the Giving Thanks Meal
- Look at items needed for the Christmas Shoebox Project (list on sign up table)