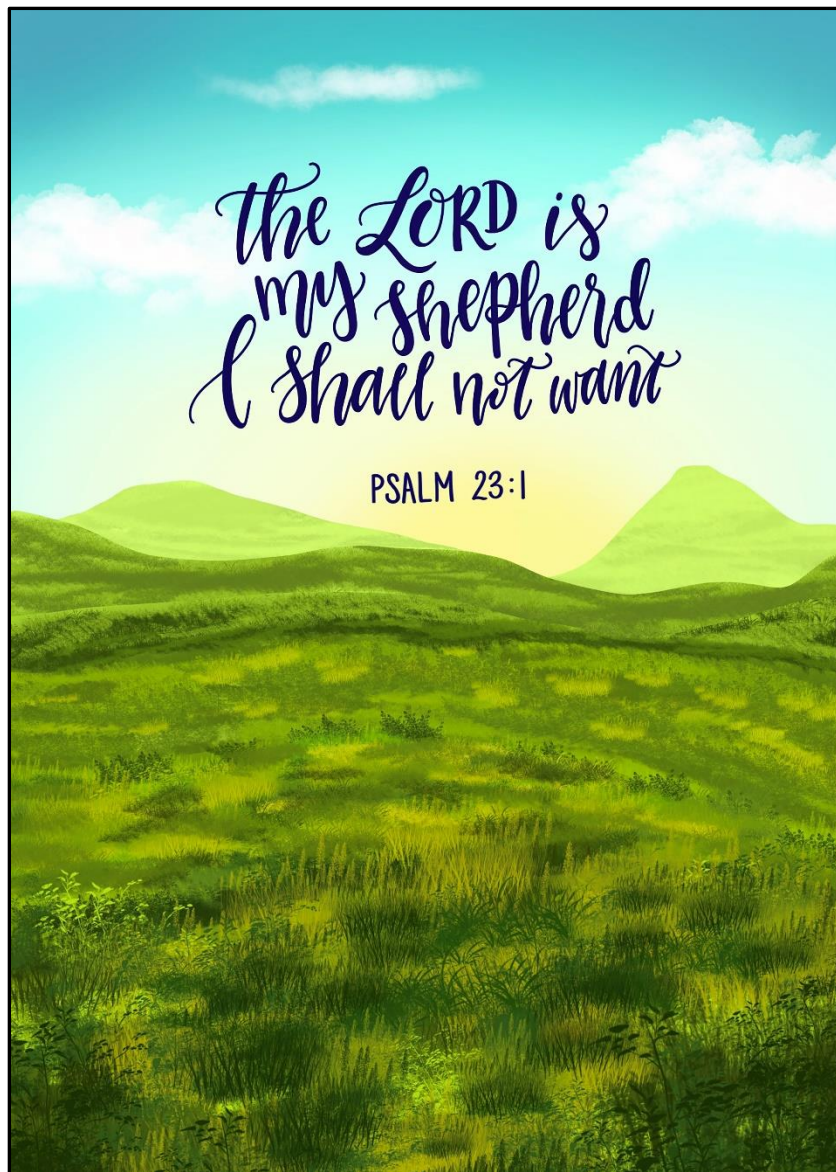


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

May 8, 2022



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

May 8, 2022

*Mother's Day
Fourth Sunday of Easter*

10:00 am

Gathering

“Motherhood is the biggest gamble in the world. It is the glorious life force.
It’s huge and scary — it’s an act of infinite optimism.”
Gilda Radner

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The nursery is available for young children.- Activity bags are available for children.- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.- Please stand when noted by the *- Congregation responses are in bold.- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>As Jesus’ courageous disciples, living God’s grace, we strive to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Worship faithfully</i>- <i>Welcome openly</i>- <i>Grow spiritually</i>- <i>Care passionately</i>- <i>Serve generously</i>
---	--

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is like the gentle shepherd,

P: **Leading us beyond our wants,**

L: Leading us beyond our fears,

P: **Leading us to a place of rest,**

L: Where we sing the music of God's love

P: **And feel new strength to walk through the valleys and shadows of life.**

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

***HYMN**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

#43

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Like a shepherd with his sheep, Jesus calls us his own.

P: **But we do not always hear.**

L: Jesus calls us to follow him,

P: **Yet we prefer to make our own way.**

L: Jesus offers eternal life,

P: **Yet we choose our worldly attachments.**

All: **Loving Messiah, whose knowledge of God surpasses any of ours, forgive us when we do not follow you. Give us ears to hear your loving call, that we might be made one with you. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: The shepherd who calls us to follow him also leads us beside still waters and restores our souls.

P: **He offers us gifts beyond our imagining. His love is without limit.**

L: Brothers and sisters, God's mercy is embodied in the one we call Christ, who leads us into life. In Christ we are forgiven.

P: **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 (Sung twice)

Alleluia! Give the Glory

Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia!

Al-le - lu - ia! Give the glo - ry

1 and the hon - or to the Lord!

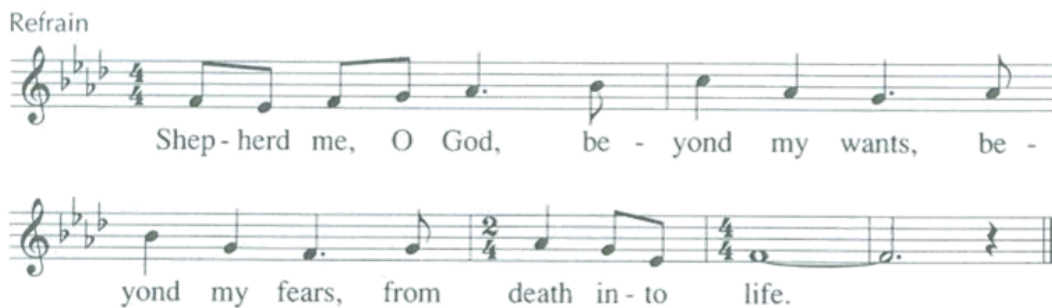
2 and the hon - or to the Lord!

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 9:36-43

PSALM 23 (Cantor leads verses, congregation joins on refrain below)



TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. I've got river in my soul.*

Celebrating the Meal

(All Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord. The bread is gluten free and wine and grape juice are offered. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.)

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Come to the table of the Good Shepherd. Come and listen to his voice as he calls you. Come and see how he sets a table and invites you to join him. Come and hear how even though we fail him, he is faithful with us. Come just as you are, and join him at his table.

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 good always to give thanks, ...

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:

Blest Are They

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain

Chords: All C D7 G D Em G C G

Re - joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you;

Chords: Am A D C D7 Em Em7

ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!

Chords: C Dsus D C G

Yours is the king-dom of God!

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'Blest Are They'. It consists of three staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. Chords are indicated above the notes: All C, D7, G, D, Em, G, C, G. The lyrics 'Re - joice and be glad! Bless-ed are you;' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with chords Am, A, D, C, D7, Em, Em7. The lyrics 'ho - ly are you! Re - joice and be glad!' are written below. The third staff concludes the phrase with chords C, Dsus, D, C, G. The lyrics 'Yours is the king-dom of God!' are written below. The music ends with a double bar line.

You Are My All in All

Congregation join on refrain:

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the hymn 'You Are My All in All'. It consists of two staves of music in G minor (two flats). The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style. The lyrics 'Je - sus, Lamb of God, wor - thy is your name!' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with the same lyrics. The music ends with a double bar line.

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.***

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

John 10:22-30

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

#252

***STATEMENT OF FAITH** (Based on 23rd Psalm)

**You, O God, are our Shepherd.
You provide everything we need.
You let us rest in green meadows
and lead us beside quiet streams.
You renew our strength,
and guide us in ways that bring honor to Your name.
Even when we walk through difficult valleys,
we will not fear,
for you never are far away—
protecting and comforting,
guarding and guiding every step we take.
You prepare a feast for us
in the presence of our enemies.
You welcome us as friends
and lavish your blessings on us.
We know that your goodness and unfailing love
will continue to pursue us all the days of our lives,
and that after our lives here are over,
we will spend eternity in your presence.**

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**

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

#82

***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. You can use the QR Code to give electronically. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:
OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021



Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Jan Hansen</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Judith Permann's Coffee Group</i>
Deacons:	<i>Cindy Gandrud, Traci Hagberg, Jena Most, Suzanne Hagen, Lois Martin</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Susan Walden</i>
Nursery:	<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Allen Barnes</i>
Counters:	<i>Janice Healy, Diane Welsh</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 the Permann Family
in honor of Judith's birthday and Mother's Day.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>May 1, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 16,334	\$ 215,605
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 178,362

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Roger Hirstein, Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), David Lewis (friend of Jan Hansen), Deb Larson (Jen Meyer's mother), Zeke Wells, Margaret (friend of Dave Reilly), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Natasha Rayne, Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Sydney and Gloria Johnson (Tanya Larsen's folks), Alex (grandson of Barb Stephens), Carolyn Larrabee, Larry, Joan Alexander, Ken Phillips

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our deacons, pastors and musicians who led awesome Holy Week worship services, alleluia!
- For our confirmands and church interns as the program season comes to an end with a night of bowling
- For our Amazing Wednesday School volunteers - Christina Krueger, Jen and Erin Syverson, Connor Rude and Anna Anderson, who are there each week welcoming kids and helping out as needed—what a great year!
- For our Trustees who cleaned inside and outside the church building last weekend, bless you for your efforts!
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For our mothers, and all those given the gift of motherhood, may we honor and appreciate them
- For those recovering from the latest Covid wave, may they heal quickly
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found
- For those helping refugees, especially for churches helping those fleeing in Ukraine
- For our divided nation, that we may work together to solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For our new church van that is FINALLY in production and should be delivered in the next 4 weeks, hallelujah!
- For those recently confirmed into the faith and family of Jesus Christ: Abby Brown, Alice Follstad, Libby Larson, Erica Sippel, Carter Sterba, may you grow in faith, service, and love
- For the fun of bowling enjoyed by our confirmands and interns as we bowled together at St Croix Lanes on the last day of programming for this year
- For our trustees, helpers and interns who did an awesome job spring cleaning our church building, many thanks!
- For our chancel choir whose singing season is now over, thank you for your beautiful music this year!
- For the over \$12,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Alex and Sarah Plum who completed their first program year as our new Youth Ministers, we are thankful for you!
- For Kaye Anderson who received one of 8 UWRF Chancellor's Awards this spring, we are proud of you!

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Kim Jorae who died suddenly on his farm this past week, may God grace them with peace as they gather to celebrate and remember his life on Tuesday, May 10 at 11am here at church
- For the family of Donald Matzek, father of Sue Danielson who died at 100 years old and whose funeral will be at St Bridget's Church on Sunday, may he rest from his labors
- For the family of Jim Kuhn who died peacefully at home this past week surrounded by his family, may they be strengthened as they gather at Glen Park on Friday, May 20 to celebrate his life
- For the family of Cathy Taylor, Yvonne Benson's sister-in-law who died this past week in Red Wing, that her family may be given peace
- For the family of Judy Permann planning a Celebration of Life for Judy on June 18, may the Holy Spirit fill you with strength and gratitude
- For the 990,000 Americans & over 6.2 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Dave Celebration!

Join us on Sunday, May 15, as we celebrate Pastor Dave's 8-year ministry with us. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:00 am worship service. Please have any gifts to the church office by Thursday, May 12.

Planning Your Good Funeral: Join Pastor Chris on Sunday, May 22, at 8:45 am in the Youth Room as he once again leads a class on how to plan for a good funeral. Handouts and coffee provided!

Graduation Sunday: Sunday, June 5, will be Graduation Sunday where we will honor our graduating seniors, church interns and award church scholarships. Graduates please submit a photo and your graduation plans.

Summer Trips: Alex is leading two summer trips. See flyers on the sign-up table. The South Dakota Trip for Middle and High Schoolers June 20-25. A Boundary Waters trip July 17-22 (open to all).

New Church Photo Directory: Photo sessions held **May 31 to June 4**. To schedule your photography appointment online go to www.ucdir.com, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **wi192** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 5 or more, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is not available Saturday or Sunday because we will be doing paper sign-ups at church. Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time. Please call the church office with any questions or for help scheduling.

Vacation Bible School: Please mark your calendars for the 2022 VBS! The dates are **August 1–4, 2022**. Our plan is to return to a pre-pandemic VBS format. This means we need lots of people: kids to participate, teens to help, and adults to guide students. Please register your willingness to help by signing up on the volunteer list on the sign-up table.

Church Softball: Our church sponsors a softball team in the River Falls Church Family League. The family league is a co-ed division. The league prefers players to be 14 years old. The co-ed description requires teams to have three women on the field at all times. The games are played on Monday nights at Hoffman Park. Games will begin the end May and continue until the second week of August. Practices have begun. If you are interested, please sign up. If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715) 781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612) 308-4945.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK OFF



All church families will be receiving an invitation this week to participate in the 2022 Capital Campaign. This campaign will do three important things:

- Pay off our bank debt of \$495,000 from the building project
- Update our antiquated church sound and video systems
- Install a new church sign

All of these projects are long overdue. Our church sound and video systems are cobbled together from the 1980's and 90's. Our church sign is from the 1970's and does not have the ability to be changed or updated in any way. And our building debt costs the church \$2,622 each month.

Our church building is more than a structure, it is the place where we celebrate so many of the important moments of our lives: baptisms and weddings, confirmations and marriages, funerals and celebrations of life. Our new Fellowship Hall is used for yoga and family meals, coffee fellowship and big celebrations like our annual Giving Thanks Dinner. Our classrooms, youth and music rooms are used each week for programming and outreach like our Among Friends program for families with dementia. Our church building enables our church ministries.

We kindly ask you to review the materials provided and return your pledge sheet to the church office by the end of May. Look to the newsletter and weekly word for updates on our progress. Together we move our church forward with the tools we need to expand our ministry and outreach.

Thank you for your generous support!

The Building Finance Team

Fred Benson, Scott Jameson, Joel Larsen, Carole Mottaz, Pastor Chris, Brad Williams

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."