

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

June 12, 2022



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

June 12, 2022

Trinity Sunday

9:30 am

Gathering

Holy, holy, holy, God the Almighty! Early in the morning we praise your majesty.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

<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 AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: **Creator, Holy One, Sovereign God, Maker of heaven and earth.**

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: **Jesus Christ, God-with-us, Savior, Brother, Lord.**

L: Come, let us worship God!

P: **Holy Spirit, tongues of fire, a rushing wind, a still, small voice.**

L: God is holy, three-in-one!

All: **Come let us worship the Triune God!**

***HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy

#277

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: All of us have fallen short of God's call. As those made in the image of the Creator, we have not been good stewards of God's creation.

P: **Have mercy on us, O Triune God.**

L: As those called to follow in the path of Christ, we have not loved others as he loves each of us.

P: Have mercy on us, O Triune God.

L: As those equipped by the Spirit, we have been too timid and lack passion.

P: Have mercy on us, O Triune God.

All: Restore us. Renew us. Revive us, for your sake. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God our Creator can make new ways out of the dead ends in our lives.

P: God our Savior brings hope to the most hopeless corners of our lives.

L: God the Spirit offers a peace we cannot find on our own.

P: Let us embrace the good news of God's grace known to us in Jesus Christ.

L: 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)**

*Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah
Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

BAPTISM OF JAMESON TODD MEYER

Welcome and Presentation

L: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them.

P: "Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate God's gift of grace in the baptism of Jameson Todd Meyer. To us a child is given!

P: Thanks be to God!

Address

- L: Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given a part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event, the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be a part of God's people.
- P: This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ's body.**

Questions

- L: As parents and sponsors of this child, will you encourage him to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

- L: Will you teach him that he may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by sharing with him the church's life, worship, and fellowship?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

- L: Christ will first be known to Jameson by the Christ seen in your home. By the grace of God, will you model the Christian life for him, provide instruction in the Christian faith, and live with him in the covenant of baptism so that he may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

- L: Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Will you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, nurture one another in the Christian faith and include Jameson in your love and prayer?

P: We promise our love and prayer.

Act of Baptism

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

- L: Let us pray. Gracious God, bless this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in your servant Preston who will be baptized this day, that he too may rise with Christ. Glory to you, Eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
The Holy Spirit be upon you, Jameson, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

Baptismal Song **Child of Blessing, Child of Promise**

***Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign;
with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.***

***Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.***

Prayer

L: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for this child and the grace acknowledged here in water and the Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive and nurture this new member of the body of Christ.

P: **Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Name: Jameson Todd Meyer

Born: September 10, 2021

Baptized: June 12, 2022

**Jameson's parents are Ryan and Brittani Meyer
Jameson's sponsors are Mike and Melissa O'Keefe**

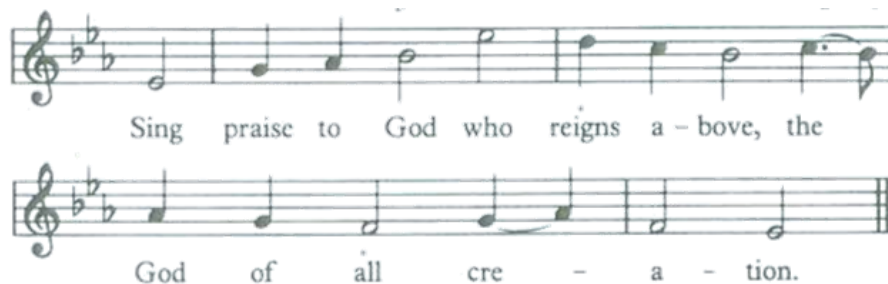
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 5:1-5

PSALM 8

R



L: O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

P: **Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

P: **Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.**

L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

P: **O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! R**

GOSPEL LESSON

John 16:12-15

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

#12

*STATEMENT OF FAITH – from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland

L: Let us affirm our faith.

P: **We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

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.

OFFERTORY

The Call by Ralph Vaughan Williams

Natalie Nelson

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, **faith walks hand in hand with serving, and love expresses itself in giving. May we be faithful, O Lord, in our serving and loving in our giving. For we do these things in your name and asking your blessing. Amen.**

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: Beloved in Christ, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!

P: **Come let us gather to celebrate a feast for all time.**

L: Come let us join with Jesus and his disciples in an upper room.

P: **Come let us join the saints of all ages who have come in faith all along the way.**

L: Come let us let God feed us with the bread of life and be sent with the power of the Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ for the world.

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:

Bind Us Together

Congregation joins 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.

You Are Mine

Congregation joins on refrain

Refrain

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you
each by name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you
home; I love you and you are mine. D.C.

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

***In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid; Lift up your voices, the Lord is near;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.***

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.

Sending

***HYMN**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#471

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist: *Jan Hansen*
Cantor: *David Reilly*
Coffee Fellowship: *The Myers Family*
Deacons: *Marshall Skule, Peter and Natasha Rayne, Laura Anderson*
Organist: *Marsha Pearson*
Nursery: *Emma Cernohous*
Video Team: *Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke*
Trustee: *Trish Graves*
Counters: *Diane Welsh, Janice Healy*
Music Coordinator & Bell Director: *Jamie Mills*
Choir Director: *Sarah Plum*
Church Moderator: *Joel Larsen*
Office Administrator: *Missy Luedtke*
Youth Pastors: *Alex and Sarah Plum*
CE Minister: *Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers*
Senior Pastor: *Rev. Chris Myers*

*Altar table flowers are in celebration of
Marjorie Faulk's 99th birthday on June 14.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 5, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,837	\$ 246,099
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 227,907

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

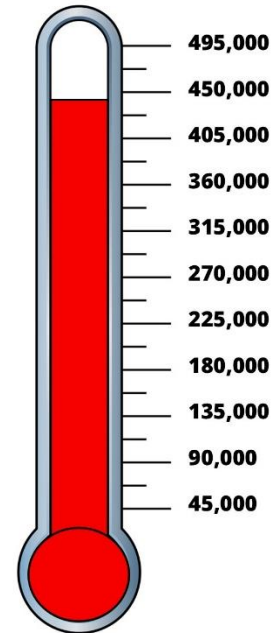
*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



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'

**Capital Campaign
\$495,000 Goal!**



**Please return your pledge cards by
June 26!**

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), Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Susan (niece of Barb Stephens)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Capital Campaign, that it may be successful in paying off our bank debt, upgrading our AV systems and church sign, come Holy Spirit!
- For those graduating from High School this year, especially our church seniors including Anna Anderson, Wyatt Bjork, Justin Elsesser, Virgil Jensen, Evan Luedtke, Aeva Noreen, Josh Sippel and Monty Wilson, may God guide and provide wisdom for the next stage of your living
- For Diane Welsh who coordinated our new church photo directory, God bless you
- For Jamie Mills and the Music Team getting ready for our Thursday, July 7 concert and pizza party (sign up!)
- For Carole Mottaz and her crew serving the meal at the Simpson Shelter this summer, may your efforts bring blessing to others and yourselves
- For those volunteering to staff the church nursery over the summer, may you be blessed by hanging out with our youngest folks
- For those who support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For the people of Uvalde, Texas, may we do better for our children
- For the gift of summer, may we enjoy it fully
- 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 soon, hallelujah!
- For Diane Welsh and her team who have been working on the church photo directory each day last week, bless you
- For Natalie Nelson providing special music this Sunday and for all of our summer soloists, bless you!
- For the \$440,000 pledged toward our goal of \$495,000 for the Capital Campaign to pay off bank debt, upgrade our sound system and install a new church sign
- For our church lawn mowers, Joel Larsen, Ryan Luedtke and Mike Stifter, who each week keep our lawn looking great, thank you
- For the over \$14,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Kate Jennings on the death of her mom, and Brent Plackner on the death of his mother, may they rest in peace and may you be supported in your grief
- 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 now one million Americans and 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

Loving God...

We Are Hiring! With the retirement of Pastor Dave, the church will be hiring a new part time Minister for Community and Outreach. Please see job description on the sign-up table and website. If you know someone, reach out to them or let the church office know.

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.

Ukraine Relief: Many of you are asking what you can do for the people of Ukraine. Please pray and please consider making a financial contribution to help them. Working through our partner church in Hungary, we will regularly send financial support. We have sent over \$14,000. **Our next deadline is Monday, June 6.** Thank you for your prayerful support.

Loving Neighbor...

Simpson Shelter Meal will be served by our congregation on **Thursday, June 30**. We will need many hands and bodies to cook and serve. See sign-up sheet or talk to Carole Mottaz for more details. This is an awesome service event for families and young people.

Loving Self...

Pizza Party! Kick off River Falls Days with pizza and a bluegrass band out on the church lawn. Join us **6-8 pm on Thursday, July 7**. Concert and pizza are free, but you do need to register for the pizza ahead of time. Sign up online or at the sign-up table today!

Canoe Trip: Alex is leading a Boundary Waters Canoe Trip open to youth and adults on **July 17-22**. See flyer on the sign-up table and contact Alex for more details. We have one spot left!

Peaches: It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! Single layer box is \$23.00 or two or more single layer boxes for \$21.00 each box. **Orders must be placed by August 1 for pick up in late August.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org – order anytime; 2. Sign up link on website: www.firstchurchrf.org – order anytime; 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – order Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name and phone and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 16:12-15

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

join us
JULY 7TH 6-8 PM
 First Congregational UCC | 110 N 3rd St. River Falls

FOR A FREE CONCERT ON THE LAWN

Featuring the
BIGMOUTH BUFFALO STRING BAND

AND ARTISAN PIZZA
FROM A Wandering Fire Pizza Truck

PIZZA BY RESERVATION ONLY
Sign up by June 26th
FOOD IS LIMITED
SCAN THE QR CODE
or call 715-425-2052