

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

**June 19, 2022**



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

*Father's Day*

June 19, 2022

*Second Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 am

**Gathering**

You can tell what was the best year of your father's life  
because they seem to freeze that clothing style  
and ride it out. – Jerry Seinfeld

Welcome to our guests who are visiting with  
us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship  
Hall following the worship service.

- 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.

*No matter who you are. No matter where  
you are on your spiritual journey, you are  
welcome here!*

*As Jesus' courageous disciples,  
living God's grace, we strive to:*

- *Worship faithfully*
- *Welcome openly*
- *Grow spiritually*
- *Care passionately*
- *Serve generously*

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** There is something deeper than trouble.

**P:** **It is God's amazing grace, carrying, lifting, holding us in all seasons.**

**L:** There is something more powerful than despair.

**P:** **It is God's amazing love; seeing us through dark nights, waves of sadness,  
mountains of grief.**

**L:** There is something longer lasting than pain.

**P:** **It is God's healing touch; bringing us hope, leading us to joy, teaching us to sing.**

**All:** **Come let us raise our voices in praise to the Living God who leads us into life!**

# \*HYMN

## *Rain Down*

Refrain



Rain down, rain down, rain down your love on your peo - ple. Rain down,

11



rain down, rain down your love, God of life.

1 Faith - ful and  
2 We who re -  
3 God of crea -

18




true is the word of our God. All of God's works are so  
vere and find hope in our God live in the kind - ness and  
a - tion, we long for your truth; you are the wa - ter of

23



wor - thy of trust. God's mer - cy falls on the just and the  
joy of God's wing. God will pro - tect us from dark - ness and  
life for our thirst. Grant that your love and your peace touch our

28



right; full of God's love is the earth.  
death; God will not leave us to starve.  
hearts, all of our hope lies in you.

to Refrain

# \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Earth and Sky, of Rest and Waking, **we give thanks for your goodness. With our eyes, we see your love for beauty. With our ears we hear your love of music. With our hearts we know your love for people. With painful awareness, we know how often we have participated in the scarring of your beautiful world, how often we have ignored the music of a robin or shunned the sounds of another culture, how often we have turned aside from the hurt of another heart, how often we have avoided the beckoning of your Son. Give us eyes to behold your creation and hands to revere each part. Give us ears tuned to tears and laughter, and a clean heart to act kindly and speak justly. Through Christ, renew us and our world. Amen.**

## \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: In Christ, God comes to free us.

P: **Let us live then as free people and be at peace. 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

### *Love is Flowing*

*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.*

## Hearing the Word

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 3:23-29

## PSALM 95

Response

Antiphon: Robert Fryson, 1994

A7 D

Let us make a joy - ful noise to God with songs of praise.

L: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: **Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

L: For the LORD is a great God and a great King above all gods.

P: **In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.**

L: The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

P: **O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!**

L: For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice! **R**

P: **Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, as on the day at Massah in the wilderness, when your ancestors tested me and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.**

**L:** For forty years I loathed that generation and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray, and they do not regard my ways."

**P:** Therefore in my anger I swore, "They shall not enter my rest." *R*

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 8:26-39**

<b>Proclaiming the Word</b>
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### **SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

### **\*HYMN**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**#43**

### **\*STATEMENT OF FAITH - Indonesia**

**I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.**

**I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.**

**I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.**

**I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.**

**I do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of our world is what God intended.**

**But I dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. 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**

*Faith In Spring*

**Jamie Mills**

### **\*DOXOLOGY**

*We Praise You, O God*

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.*

*We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

## **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, Jesus promised his disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit, a gift that remains as powerful and transformative today as it was on the first Pentecost. With generous and thankful hearts, we offer our gifts to you – our time, treasure and talent. Use us and these offerings for your purposes and glory. Amen.

<b>Celebrating the Meal</b>
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(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: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” So come, sisters and brothers, just as you are. Let him feed you, so that you can go to feed others. Let him love you, so we can go to love others. Let him bind us together into his body, so that together we may become Christ’s body at work in the world today.

### ***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:*

### ***They'll Know We Are Christians***

***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:***

***Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: Refrain***

***We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: Refrain***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: Refrain***

### ***I Say Yes My Lord***

*Congregation joins on refrain*

Verses: (Invocation) Cantor: All:



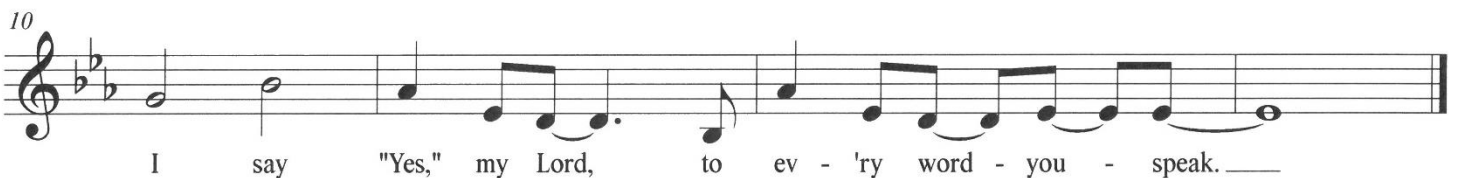
I say "Yes," my Lord. I say "Yes," my Lord.

6 Refrain:



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

10



I say "Yes," my Lord, to ev - 'ry 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.

### **Sending**

**\*HYMN**

*Rejoice, You Pure in Heart*

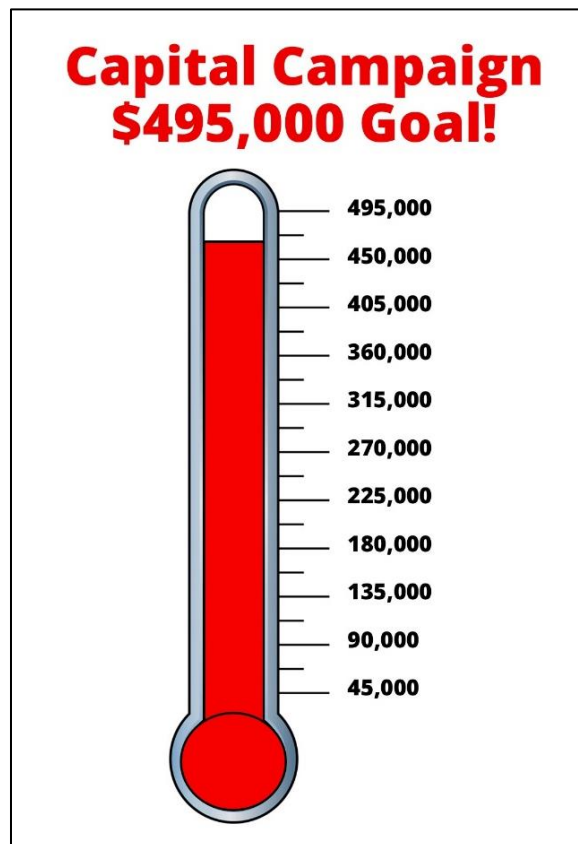
**#55**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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Please help us reach of goal of retiring bank debt, updating our audio and visual systems and installing a new church sign.

Please return your pledge cards by the end of June.



**Assisting in today's worship service are:**

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<i>David Reilly</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Karen Lloyd, Jena Most, Cindy Gandrud, Peter and Natasha Rayne</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Emma Cernohous</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Scott Nelson</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Jean Smith, Trish Graves</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>CE Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by the Permann Family  
in memory of Judith Permann.*

**Treasurer's Report**

	<u>June 12, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 9,221	\$ 251,820
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 237,816

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), 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 those who will gather at the next Veterans lunch on Sunday, June 26, that it may be a time of true fellowship
- For the church softball team competing in this year's church league, may it bring joy to all of you
- For Jamie Mills and the Music Team getting ready for our Thursday, July 7 concert and pizza party (sign up!)
- For our new church van that is FINALLY in production and should be delivered soon, hallelujah!
- 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 Alex, Deb and Jeff and those who will enjoy time in the BWCA, may it bring rest and renewal
- 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:**

- On Father's Day, we pray for all who have been given the gift of fatherhood, that they may grow in wisdom, courage and strength
- For those struggling with rising prices and financial uncertainty
- For our new holiday of Juneteenth, that day commemorating the emancipation of enslaved Black Americans, may we learn from our past history
- For Father Jerry and the people at St. Bridget as he celebrates his many years of ministry there and moves to Amery
- 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 Fred Benson and Lu Lueck and the Garden Geeks who have tidied up our church garden and the Memorial Garden this past week in the heat
- For Jamie Mills providing special music this Sunday and for all of our summer soloists, bless you!
- For the \$470,000 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 all who helped serve the luncheon following the Memorial Service for Judith Permann, thank you for offering the family this gift
- For the over \$15,000 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 whose life was celebrated on Saturday 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 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 \$15,000. 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 two spots left!

**Veterans Gathering:** On **Sunday, June 26, at 11:15 am**, Mission Education will host a Veterans Gathering. For more information, contact Rose Rude at 715-781-7032 or [rose.rude@uwrf.edu](mailto:rose.rude@uwrf.edu). If you're a veteran, please complete the UCC Veteran's contact form <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA8AA2AAAFD0-uccveterans>

**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](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org); 2. Sign up link on website: [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org); 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: Galatians 3:23-29**

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 8:26-39**

Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.