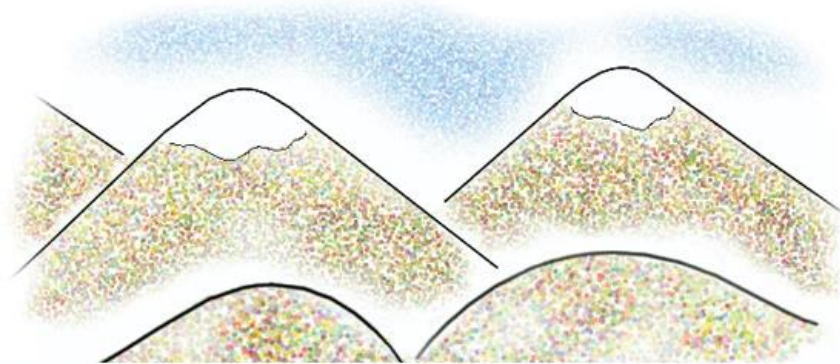


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

June 26, 2022



WALK BY THE SPIRIT.
GALATIANS 5:16, NIV



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

June 26, 2022

Third Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and
Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

<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><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><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>
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: From the side of the roads we travel daily, Jesus calls:

P: **"Follow me."**

L: In the midst of our duties and distractions, Jesus says again:

P: **"Follow me."**

L: In our work and in our play, Jesus says again:

P: **"Follow me."**

L: Even when the task seems urgent, or the person important, Jesus persists:

P: **"Follow me."**

All: **With focused faithfulness, let us join in worship, striving to follow him. Come let us worship the Lord our God!**

Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun-lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing-ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet-ness of the wet
 one light E-den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev-ery

Am G C G Am Dm GW C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, forgive us if we take ourselves too seriously. Wrapped up in our ourselves we forget to laugh and celebrate, rejoice and give thanks. In trying to be grown up, we sometimes forget how to play. Remind us of the words of your Son— unless we become like children we will not experience your kingdom. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Let us embrace the words of Jesus and humble ourselves.

P: Let us embrace the grace of Jesus and be changed.

L: Let us embrace the love of Jesus and forgive.

P: Let us embrace the peace of Jesus and be made whole.

L: In Christ we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God.

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

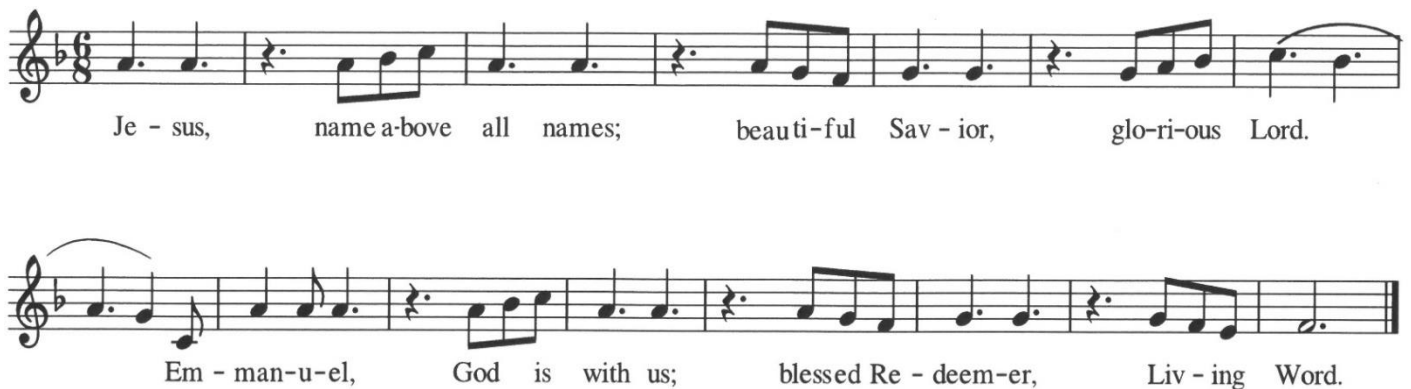
P: And also with you.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

***GLORIA (Sung twice)**

Jesus, Name Above All Names



Je - sus, name a-bove all names; beau ti-ful Sav - ior, glo-ri-ous Lord.

Em - man-u-el, God is with us; blessed Re - deem-er, Liv - ing Word.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 5:16-25

PSALM 16:5-11



- L: The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.
- P: **The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.**
- L: I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.
- P: **I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**
- L: Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.
- P: **For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.**
- L: You show me the path of life.
- P: **In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore. R**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 9:51-62

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

I Am the Light of the World

#584

*STATEMENT OF FAITH (from a morning prayer liturgy at Eastern Mennonite Seminary)

We believe in God:

Whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
Whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
Whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
And whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; And
in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves in the service of others,
To seek justice and to live in peace,
To care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,
To live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love,
and in the company of the faithful, so to be the church for the glory of
God. 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

Peace Like a River, Kum Ba Yah

Deb Hoffman

Sarah Plum

*DOXOLOGY



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've

3
giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will

6
meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, **thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us each and every day. Help us to be more aware of your many gifts and guide our lives in such ways that we and our gifts may be gifts to others. In Christ's name, we pray. 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: Jesus said: Follow me. Follow me and I will teach you about God's way. Follow me and I will lead you to places you would never go on your own. Follow me and I will heal you and grant you abundant life. Follow me and you will catch a glimpse of God's kingdom come down to earth.

P: **So come, let us follow Jesus as he comes among us yet again to feed us.**

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:

Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior

Congregation joins on refrain

Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry;

While on others you are calling, do not pass me by.

Taste and See

Congregation joins on refrain

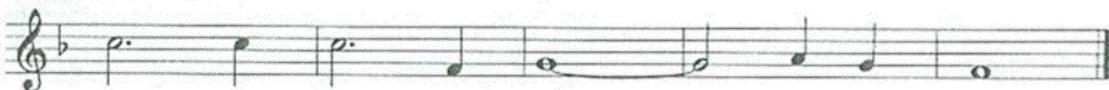
Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the



Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the



good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Live In Charity

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

The musical score is written for two staves (treble and bass clef) in 2/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system of music includes chords F, C, Dm, Bb, D, G, and C. The second system includes chords F, C, Dm, Gm, C, and F. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The score 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.

Sending

*HYMN

God Be With You

#81

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Susan Walden</i>
Deacons:	<i>Marshall Skule, Linn Lawrence, Jena Most</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Jean Smith, JoAnn Lentz</i>
Nursery:	<i>Emma Cernohous</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matthew Thurston</i>
Counters:	<i>Roz Ostendorf, Allen Barnes</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>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given in celebration of
Alex and Sarah Plum's wedding anniversary.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 19, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,283	\$ 254,603
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 247,725

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

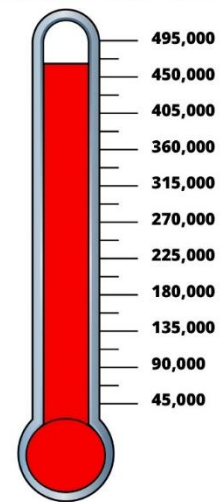
*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



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 help us reach our goal of retiring bank debt, updating our audio & visual systems and installing a new church sign. Please return your pledge cards by the end of June.

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Roger Hirstein, Rosalie Harper (cousin of 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), Barbara Johnson (mother of Pastor Stacy), Neal Prochnow

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those who will gather at the Veterans Lunch this 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:

- For those struggling with rising prices and financial uncertainty
- For Father Jerry and the people at St. Bridget as he celebrates his many years of ministry there and moves to Amery
- For those working outside in the heat and humidity, may we appreciate their efforts
- 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 Deb Hoffman and Sarah Plum providing special music this Sunday and for all of our summer soloists, bless you!
- For Barb de Souza as she returns to Brazil later this month to continue her work in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, may you go with the strength and compassion of God
- 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 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 and Concert! 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. 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; 2. Sign up link on website: 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 5:16-25

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 9:51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to prepare for his arrival, but they did not receive him because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." And Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." And Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."