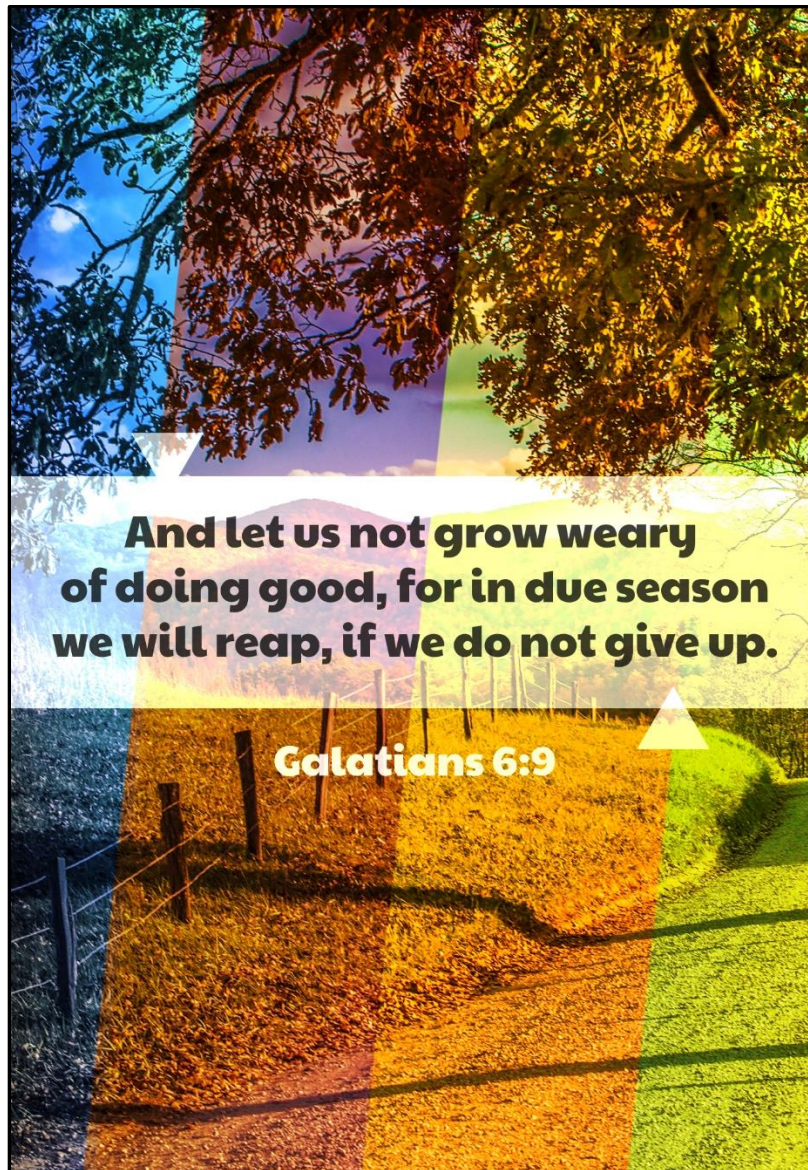


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

July 3, 2022



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

July 3, 2022

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

"There are three kinds of patriots. Two bad and one good. The bad ones are the lovers and the loveless critics. The good patriots carry on a lover's quarrel with their country, a reflection of God's lover quarrel with the world."

- Rev. William Sloane Coffin

<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>
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: A summer stillness rests in each morning.

P: **Taste and see how good God is.**

L: A summer vacation opens the vistas of God's creation.

P: **Taste and see how good God is.**

L: Long days of light, picnics and play until night.

P: **Taste and see how good God is.**

L: Summer wonder, summer rest, summer worship.

P: **Taste and see how good God is.**

All: **Today we not only hear and sing, but we also taste and see how good God is.
Come let us worship!**

***HYMN**

Some Glad Morning (I'll Fly Away)

#595

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: For the times we have lied to one another and the times we have been lied to,

P: **Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

L: For the times we have laughed at another's pain and the times we have been laughed at,

P: **Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

L: For the times we have spoken when we should have remained silent and the times we have remained silent when we should have spoken,

P: **Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

L: For the times we have not respected another's freedom to be different from us,

P: **Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

L: For the times we have betrayed a friend and the times we have been betrayed,

P: **Heal us, Jesus, Savior of the world.**

All: **Teach us to empty ourselves of the things that destroy us and keep us alone. Empty us of our jealousy, of our meanness, of our fear of others. For Jesus' sake. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting.

P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**

L: God's grace is poured out to us freely.

P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**

L: In him we are set free from our sin and unburdened from the past.

P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**

All: **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**

Glory, Glory Hallelujah

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Galatians 6:1-10

PSALM 30

R ***Sing praise to God, who has shaped and
sustains all creation!***

- L:** I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up and did not let my foes rejoice over me.
- P:** **O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.**
- L:** O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.
- P:** **Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.**
- L:** For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.
- P:** **Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.**
- L:** As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."
- P:** **By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.**
- L:** To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication: "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness? Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"
- P:** **You have turned my mourning into dancing;**
- L:** You have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.
- P:** **O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever. *R***

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:1-10

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River

#478

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. 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

All Around You

Bigmouth Buffalo String Band

***DOXOLOGY**

Let us bring every gift, let us treasure every grace;

As you’ve given to us, let us share.

In our neighbor today, we will meet you face to face;

Let your love be the rule everywhere.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Lord, may our lives reflect the praises that we sing. We have received grace upon grace, so may we live in grace with one another. We have received forgiveness, so may we forgive. We have received gifts far beyond our need, so may we give. Bless these gifts given this day and always. 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: Come people of God, let us sing!

P: Let us sing for we are God’s people and God has done wonderful things.

L: Let us come into God’s presence with joy and thanksgiving.

P: Let us come into God’s presence and let God feed us on the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. Come Holy Spirit, come!

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:

Seed Scattered and Sown

Congregation joins on refrain

Seed, scat-tered and sown, wheat, gath-ered and grown, bread, bro-ken and shared as one, the

7
Liv-ing Bread of God. _____ Vine, fruit of the land, wine, work of our hands, one cup that is

14
shared by all; the Liv-ing Cup, the Liv-ing Bread of God.

Let Us Break Bread

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees;

**Refrain: *When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees; Refrain

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**

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain: *Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home;*

Swing low, sweet chariot, coming for to carry me home.

I looked over Jordan, and what did I see, coming for to carry me home?

A band of angels coming after me, coming for to carry me home. Refrain

If you get there before I do, coming for to carry me home;

Tell all my friends I'm coming too, coming for to carry me home. Refrain

I'm sometimes up, I'm sometimes down, coming for to carry me home;

But still my soul feels heavenly bound, coming for to carry me home. Refrain

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Special Music:	<i>Bigmouth Buffalo String Band</i>
Liturgist:	<i>Peter Rayne</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Peter & Natasha Rayne, Suzanne Hagen, Lois Martin</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Carole Mottaz</i>
Nursery:	<i>Beatrix Gilberg</i>
Video Team:	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
Trustee:	<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
Counters:	<i>Marie Roe, Janice Healy</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
Tom and Jean Smith's 46th wedding anniversary.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 26, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,562	\$ 255,665
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 257,634

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

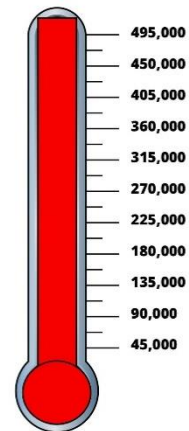
*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



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!**



WE DID IT!

We officially met our Capital Campaign Fundraising goal of \$495,000 to pay off our bank debt, upgrade our sound and video systems and install a new church sign. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting the long-term ministry of First Congregational!

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), Neal Prochnow

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- 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 traveling over the holiday weekend, may they be given superhuman patience
- For those struggling with rising prices and financial uncertainty
- For migrants especially the families of the over 50 people who perished in a trailer in Texas this past week, may their families be comforted
- For Father Jerry and the people at St. Bridget as he celebrates his many years of ministry there and moves to a new parish in 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 our divided nation, that we may work together to solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For Colin Cosgrove and the Bigmouth Buffalo String Band as they help lead worship music this Sunday and perform an outdoor concert on Thursday, let the toe tapping begin!
- For Jamie Mills and the Music Committee who are hosting our pizza and concert this Thursday from 6-8pm, may it feed us all!
- For Carole Mottaz and her group feeding those at the Simpson Shelter this past Thursday, you are a blessing
- For Barb de Souza who left this past Wednesday to return to Brazil where she will continue her work in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, may you go with the strength and compassion of God
- For meeting and even exceeding our goal of \$495,000 for the Capital Campaign to pay off our building bank debt, upgrade our sound/video systems and install a new church sign, together we did it!
- For the gift of summer, may we enjoy it fully
- 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 Pastor Stacy and her family as they mourn the death of her mom Barbara who died peacefully at home last Sunday surrounded by her family. A Memorial Service will be in Minneapolis in early August.
- 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

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...

Tools for School: On **Monday, August 15, and Tuesday, August 16**, families in the River Falls School District can receive free school supplies for the upcoming year through the Tools for School Event. Please see the flyer for more information. The sorting and distribution of supplies will be here at our church. Please use the sign-up sheet if you can help sort and/or assist families during the give-away. Please bring your donated school supplies to our church **by Friday, August 12**. If you would like to give by check, please make a note “Tools for School” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

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!

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 – please include name, phone and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

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



SCRIPTURE LESSON: Galatians 6:1-10

My brothers and sisters, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10:1-10

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say,