

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

July 10, 2022

LOVE
the Lord your God
with all your
HEART
and with all your
SOUL
and with all your
STRENGTH
and with all your
MIND...

L U K E 1 0 : 2 7

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

July 10, 2022

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.
- Teresa of Avila, 16th century mystic*

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: O God, who created us in love,

P: **Create us anew in love as we worship you.**

L: O Jesus Christ, who redeemed this world in hope,

P: **Reclaim our hearts as we worship you.**

L: O Holy Spirit, who moves this world toward its God-appointed end,

P: **Move within us as we worship you.**

All: **Come let us worship!**

*HYMN

God of the Ages

#592

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we live in the joy and wonder of your love. However, we find it so easy to be in disagreement. We take each other for granted. Too often we are tempted to cut the ropes of love that bind us together. Other times we take life and each other for granted. Help us, Lord, to renew our faith in you and restore our love of each other with the powerful cords of compassion. May we be reminded of the joys and beauties of being alive in Christ. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: No matter the situation, no matter the problem, no matter the trouble, God is always with us. God is always ready and willing to...

P: **Receive us,**

L: Redeem us,

P: **Renew us,**

L: Restore us,

P: **Refresh us,**

L: Rebirth us,

P: **Now and always**

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

Alleluia! Give the Glory

(sung twice)

The musical score is written for a single voice part in G major (one flat) and 12/8 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al-le - lu - ia!' and 'Al-le - lu - ia!'. The second staff contains 'Al-le - lu - ia!' and 'Give the glo - ry'. The third staff contains 'and the hon - or' and 'to the Lord!'. The fourth staff contains 'and the hon - or' and 'to the Lord!'. There are first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' respectively.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. 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

***DOXOLOGY**

O God Beyond All Praising

***O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end;
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your Word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.***

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Welcoming God, **there are many who need your hospitality, many who yearn for a taste of your love and a drink of your life-giving water. Help us give of our resources and of ourselves with a most generous spirit. May we be love to others as we give our gifts and share in your loving presence. In the name of Jesus. 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 you thankful come. Come and eat the bread of life! Come and drink the cup of blessing! Come and gather around Christ's table as friends and family. Together let us thank the God of abundance and let us take our place as God's thankful people.

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

Be Thou My Vision

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 of Grace and God of Glory

#436

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Brass Group:	<i>Marsha Pearson, Tim Mills, Alex Plum, Jamie Mills</i>
Liturgist:	<i>Steve Koecher</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly, Sarah Plum</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Kristin Andes and Tom Magraw</i>
Deacons:	<i>Laura Anderson, Karen Lloyd, Suzanne Hagen</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Arthur Rice and Elaine Dixen</i>
Nursery:	<i>Beatrix Gilberg</i>
Video Team:	<i>Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Jeff Hoffman</i>
Counters:	<i>Janice Healy, Dennis Linder</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 by Joan Hyland
in memory of John Hyland.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July 3, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,524	\$ 257,689
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 267,543

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

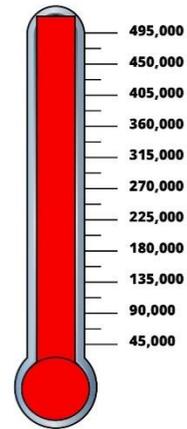
*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



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, Henry (friend of Ann Nelson), Donna Moseman, Dennis Grisar

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 our new church van that is built and should be here this coming week!
- For Carole Mottaz and her crew who served the meal at the Simpson Shelter this summer, you are a blessing!
- 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 our nation as we struggle through waves of violence
- 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 Sheila Peterson, one of our deacons, and James Gregory who were married in a simple, quiet ceremony this past week, that they may grow in love
- For Colin Cosgrove and the Bigmouth Buffalo String Band as they helped lead worship music this past Sunday and performed an outdoor concert on Thursday, we are still singing in our minds!
- For Jamie Mills and the Music Committee who hosted our pizza party and concert last Thursday, thank you!
- 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 Neal and Caren Prochnow who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, you are an inspiration
- For the return of River Falls Days and all of its joy, may we enjoy it
- 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 August 13.
- 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...

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!

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Colossians 1:1-14

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."