

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

July 17, 2022



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

July 17, 2022

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

Christian faith is a way of life not a grocery list of beliefs. The Christian religion asks us to place our trust not in ideas and certainly not in ideologies, but in a God who was vulnerable enough to become human and die and desires to be present to us in everyday circumstances It is in the realm of the daily and the mundane that we must find our way to God.

- Kathleen Norris

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: Come to me, Jesus invites,

P: All you who are weary.

L: Come to me,

P: All you who are carrying heavy burdens.

L: Come to me,

P: All you who are busy, stressed and anxious.

All: Jesus bids us to learn from him so we may find rest for our souls. Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!

All Are Welcome



Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, and
Let us build a house where love is found in
Let us build a house where all are named, their



words are strong and true. Where all God's chil - dren
wa - ter, wine and wheat; A ban - quet hall on
songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



dare to seek to dream God's reign a -
ho - ly ground, where peace and jus - tice
taught and claimed as words with - in the



new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as
meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re -
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of



sym - bol of God's grace; Here as one we claim the
veiled in time and space, As we share in Christ the
faith and songs of grace. Let this house pro - claim from



faith of Je - sus;
feast that frees us; } All are wel - come, all are wel - come,
floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come in this place.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Mender God, we bring to you torn and ragged lives, our communities fraying at the seams, the cuffs and collars. Won't you take your hand to us? Won't you look us over, see what can be done? Mender, maker, seamstress God, shake us out, straighten those crooked hems, mend the ragged, gaping tears. Mender, maker, seamstress God, make this garment whole again. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God takes the torn and broken places of our lives,

P: **And mends them, making us whole again.**

L: Christ calls us to look beyond the frayed edges of our world,

P: **And see his kingdom being brought about all around us.**

L: By the Spirit's power, the stains of the past are gone,

P: **And we are God's new creation, here and now.**

L: In Christ we are forgiven and set free for service in his name.

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 (Sung twice)

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

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 1:15-28

PSALM 34:1-15

*R Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me into life.*

L: I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

P: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

L: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

P: **I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.**

L: Look to him, and be radiant, so your faces shall never be ashamed.

P: **This poor soul cried and was heard by the LORD and was saved from every trouble. R**

L: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and delivers them.
P: **O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.**
L: O fear the LORD, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have no want.
P: **The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.**
L: Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the LORD. Which of you desires life and covets many days to enjoy good?
P: **Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit.**
L: Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.
P: **The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. R**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 10:38-42

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

#498

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (taken from the New Zealand Church)**

**You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life.
Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us.
You are God.**

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ, who lived and died
and rose again. You are with us now.**

You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and hear; you overcome death. You are our God. We worship 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.

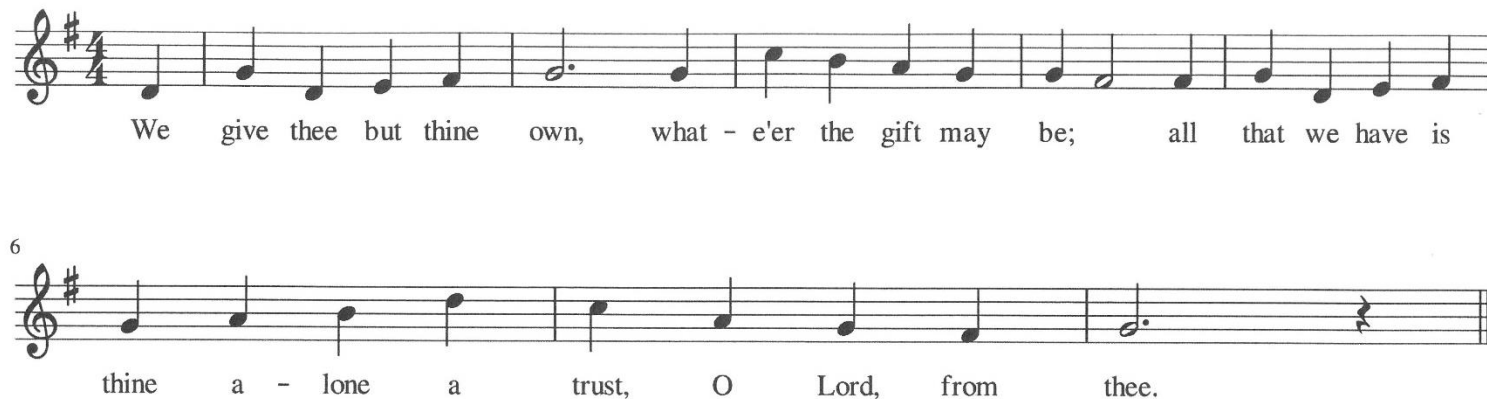
OFFERTORY

Consider the Lilies

Roger Kampstra

*DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee But Thine Own



We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is
6
thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: In the name of Jesus,

P: We are reminded of how much we have been loved.

L: In the name of Jesus,

P: We find the grace to love one another.

L: In the name of Jesus,

P: We offer up our worship on this day.

L: In the name of Jesus,

P: We give this offering of gifts that all peoples might hear this name, might know this Lord, might experience his love. 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: He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha and Mary, he was always the guest. At the tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. But here at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him, must first be served by him. Those who want to follow him, must first be fed by him. For this is the table where God intends for us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, a better life, a fairer world. Jesus Christ who sat at our tables now invites us to be guests at his.

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:

Bread for the Journey



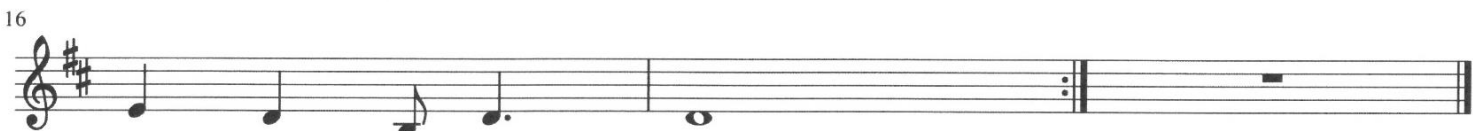
1,5	Give us	bread	for	the	jour - ney	give us	bread.	Give us
2	Guide our	way	as	we	trav - el	guide our	way.	Guide our
3	Make us	one	with	each	oth - er	make us	one.	Make us
4	Lead us	home	to	the	gar - den,	lead us	home.	Lead us



bread	for	the	jour - ney	give us	bread.	When our	legs	are	get - ting
way	as	we	trav - el	guide our	way.	With so	ma - ny	roads	be -
one	with	each	oth - er	make us	one.	All the	walls	we've	built
home	to	the	gar - den,	lead us	home;	where we'll	live	with	all



heav - y,	and	we're	hang - ing	down	our	heads,	give us	bread	for	the
fore us	where	to	go	is	hard	to	say.	Guide our	way	as
round us:	may	we	learn	to	tear	them	down.	Make us	one	with
a - tion	find	our	place	and	nev - er	roam.	Lead us	home	to	the



jour - ney,	give us	bread.
trav - el	guide our	way.
oth - er,	make us	one.
gar - den,	lead us	home.

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure,
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.***

***Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one desire:
That every earthly part of me may glow with holy fire.***

***Breath on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die,
But live with you the perfect life of your eternity.***

This is the Body of Christ

***This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord;
Food for the good of the soul.***

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

How Can I Keep From Singing

Verses



1. My life flows on in end - less song A -
2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I
3. What though the tem - pest 'round me roar, I
4. When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, And
5. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, A



bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion. I hear the real though
hear that mu - sic ring - ing; It sounds and ech - oes
hear the truth it liv - eth. What though the dark - ness
hear their death knells ring - ing; When friends re - joice both
foun - tain ev - er spring - ing. All things are mine since



far - off hymn That hails a new cre - a - tion.
in my soul; How can I keep from sing - ing?
'round me close, Songs in the night it giv - eth.
far and near, How can I keep from sing - ing?
I am his; How can I keep from sing - ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm, While to that rock I'm



cling - ing. Since love is Lord of heav - en and earth,



How can I keep from sing - ing?

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Suzanne Hagen</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Susan Walden</i>
Deacons:	<i>Laura Anderson, Jena Most, Marshall Skule, Suzanne Hagen, Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
Welcomers:	<i>JoAnn Lentz</i>
Nursery:	<i>Katy Myers</i>
Video Team:	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
Trustee:	<i>Allen Barnes</i>
Counters:	<i>Jane Truesdill, Diane Welsh</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>

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July 10, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,323	\$ 274,589
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 277,452

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, 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), Dennis Grisar, Dorothy Sorensen

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Interview Team meeting this coming week with candidates applying for the staff position of Minister of Outreach and Community, that they may be given discernment and wisdom to find the best candidate
- For the Boundary Waters group headed up for 5 days of fun, may you be renewed and safely return home!
- 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 who hosted our concert and pizza party, thank you!
- For our new church van that is built and should be here soon!
- For Carole Mottaz and her crew who served the meal at the Simpson Shelter this summer, you are a blessing!
- 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 Lu Lueck who painted Room 107, our future Resource Room, it looks fabulous!
- For Carole Mottaz who has spent many hours organizing all the sheet music for choir and bells in the Music Room, 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 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 Jen Syverson and her family as they mourn the death of her dad, Bruce Lindgren. A memorial service is Monday, July 18 in Bagley, MN
- For Pastor Stacy and her family as they mourn the death of her mom Barbara who died peacefully at home surrounded by her family. A memorial service will be in Minneapolis on August 13.
- For the family of JoAnn Lentz and Cheryl Zakrzewski on the death of Rosalie Harper

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...

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.

VBS Teachers and Volunteers Needed: We still need three more adult teachers, a minimum of three additional adult craft volunteers, and teenage helpers for VBS. Please volunteer online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers1> or by signing the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. There will be an orientation meeting for volunteers on **Thursday, July 28, at 6:00 pm**.

VBS Cookie Bakers Needed: Homemade cookies are a special part of the VBS snack, so we need volunteers. Please sign the list on the sign-up table to bring 4 dozen cookies for VBS snacks.

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!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Colossians 1:15-28**The Supremacy of Christ**

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

Paul's Interest in the Colossians

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 10:38-42**Jesus Visits Martha and Mary**

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."