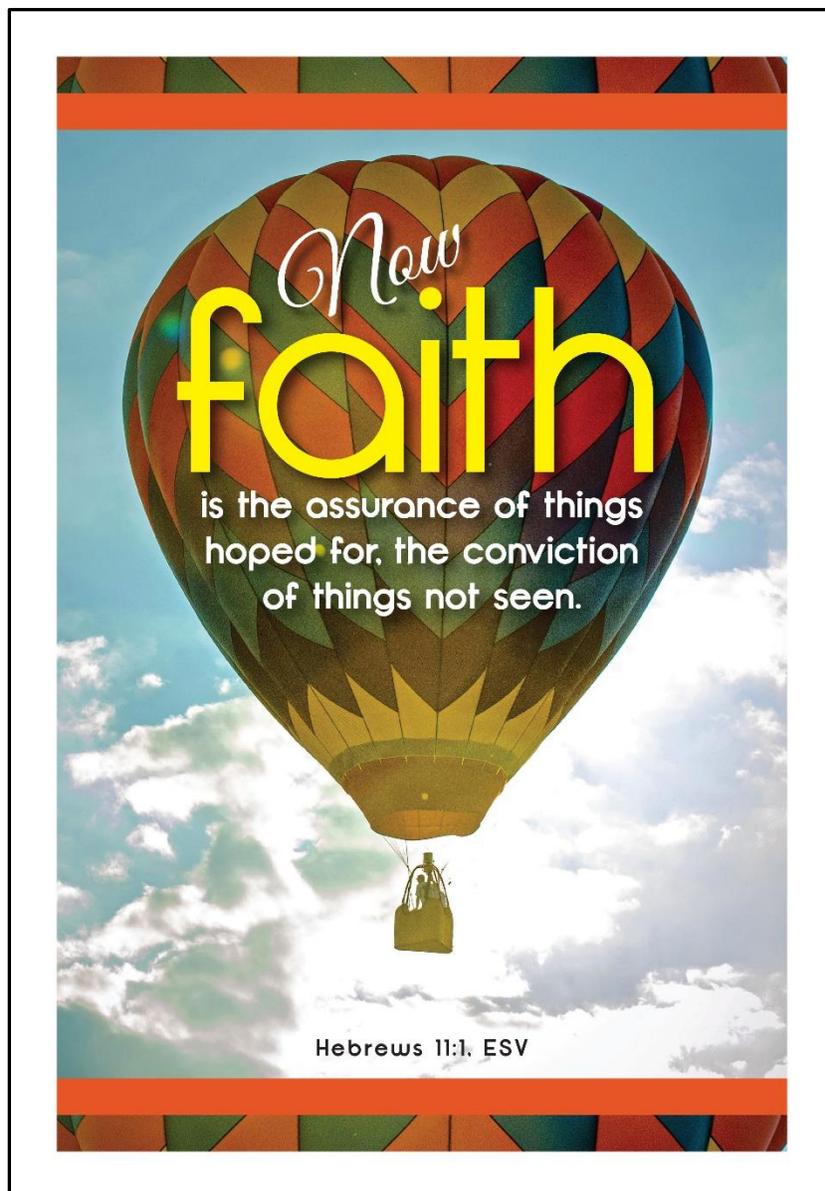


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

August 7, 2022



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

August 7, 2022

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.
- The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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: We are God's work of art,

P: Each one a precious gem, a marvelous tapestry, a potter's delight.

L: We are God's handiwork, reborn in Christ Jesus to be a blessing.

P: Every one of us, woven together in love, shaped with infinite compassion, painted with incredible beauty.

L: We are God's new creation,

P: All of us, touched by grace, saved by faith and beckoned to praise.

All: Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

#407

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: I lift my eyes unto the hills – Where does my help come from?

P: **Forgive us, O God, when we believe our only help is in our own strength.**

L: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.

P: **Forgive us, O God, when we believe that our only hope is in the quickness of our own minds.**

L: The Lord watches over you – The Lord is at your right hand.

P: **Forgive us, O God, when we believe that our future is in our hands alone.**

L: The Lord will keep you from all harm; he will watch over your life.

P: **Forgive us when we believe that we can live without Your grace.**

L: The Lord will watch over your coming and your going both now and forevermore.
Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Hear the good news and live: In Jesus Christ, God has freed us from the sins of the past.

All: **Alleluia.**

L: Let us live as forgiven people.

All: **Alleluia.**

L: And let us share Christ's peace with others.

All: **Alleluia.**

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)

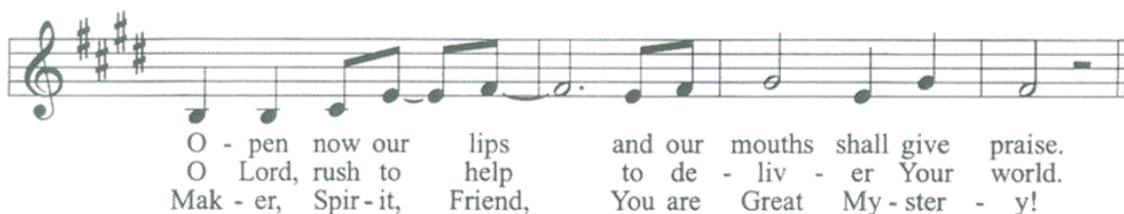
*GLORIA



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!_____



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!



O - pen now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.
O Lord, rush to help to de - liv - er Your world.
Mak - er, Spir - it, Friend, You are Great My - ster - y!

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jonah 1:11-2:1, 10

PSALM 32:12-22

Refrain

I turn to you in time of trou - ble,
and you fill me with the joy of sal - va - tion.

L: Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

P: **The LORD looks down from heaven and sees all humankind.**

L: From where he sits enthroned he watches all the inhabitants of the earth—he who fashions the hearts of them all and observes all their deeds.

P: **A king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.**

L: The war horse is a vain hope for victory, and by its great might it cannot save.

P: **Truly the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love, to deliver their soul from death and to keep them alive in famine.**

L: Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.

P: **Our heart is glad in him because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you. R**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

#418

***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.

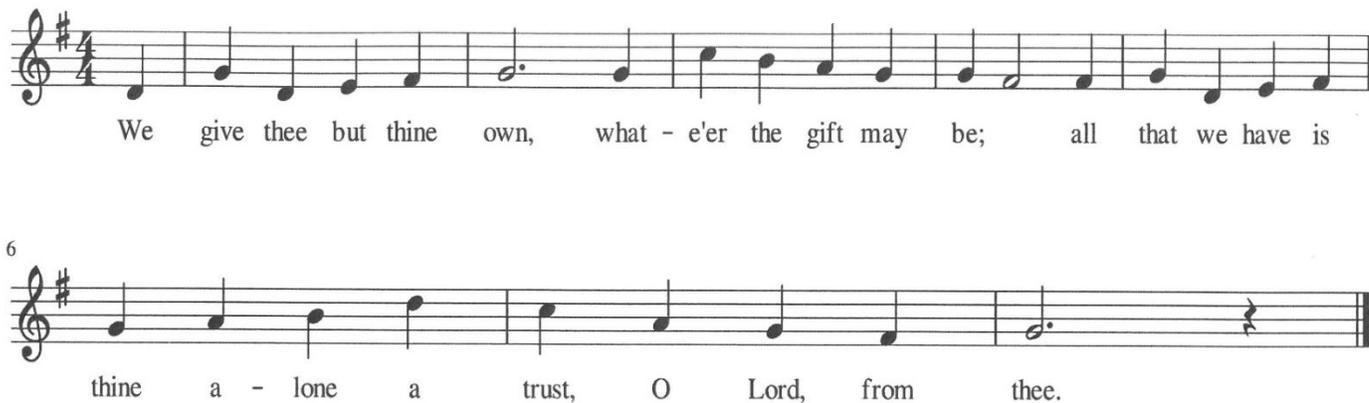
OFFERTORY

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Jamie Mills

*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
thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*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 red wine and white grape juice are offered. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.)

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

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:

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Congregation joins on refrain

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (two sharps). The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics for this system are 'Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by'.

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics for this system are 'morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your'.

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics for this system are 'hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!'.

Taste and See

Congregation joins on refrain

Refrain

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

The first system of musical notation for the hymn 'Taste and See'. It consists of a single treble clef staff in the key of D minor (two flats). The melody is simple and repetitive. The lyrics for this system are 'Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the'.

Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the

The second system of musical notation continues the melody. The lyrics for this system are 'Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the'.

good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics for this system are 'good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.'

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**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

#471

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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Vacation Bible School 2022



Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Marie Roe</i>
Cantor:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Lee and Lu Lueck</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule, Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Art Rice, Elaine Dixen</i>
Nursery:	<i>Katy Myers</i>
Video Team:	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
Trustee:	<i>Louie Filkins</i>
Counters:	<i>Dennis Linder, 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>

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July 31, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,158	\$ 296,203
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 307,179

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, Gina (friend of Barb Stephens), Neal Prochnow, Henry (friend of Ann Nelson), Dennis Grisar

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For all who enjoyed our VBS week, it was awesome!
- For our new Minister of Community and Outreach, the Rev Deb Meyer, as she notifies her congregation of her intention to begin serving on our church starting this fall and who hopes to begin her ministry here November 1
- For the church softball team competing in this year's church league who had their first win recently, keep at it!
- For our new church van that is built and FINALLY now here, check it out!
- For those who each Sunday volunteer as liturgists, deacons, trustees, nursery workers, garden geeks
- 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 in Kentucky mucking out and trying to move forward, may they receive help
- For those getting Covid in the latest wave, may they rest and not spread it
- For those traveling, especially those flying, may they pack lots of patience and God bless the baggage handlers, gate agents and TSA folk
- For those who must work outside in the hot, humid weather
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For all who helped with VBS this week, thank you!
- For Tim Bylander and Andy Myers who helped take down a BIG tree in the back alley to keep our new van safe and secure, wow!
- For Edward Jang, one our former UWRF Korean exchange students who is 'home' visiting his host parents Fred and Yvonne Benson after finishing his PhD in Educational Psychology at Auburn, congratulations!
- For Glenn and Jan Hansen who celebrated 38 years of marriage on July 25, and Neal and Caren Prochnow who celebrated their 60th anniversary on July 21, congratulations!
- For Danni Filkins and Matt Robbins who were recently engaged and are planning a July 2023 wedding
- For Thea Jane, daughter of David and Jennifer Querna, who was baptized recently, may she grow in faith, love and service
- For those contributing school supplies for Tools for Schools, may your generosity lead to happy outcomes for our local kids

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Rosalie Harper, including Cheryl Zakrzewski and JoAnn Lentz, who died recently and who will host a Memorial Gathering in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, August 24, from 4-7pm with a prayer service led by Pastor Roger Kampstra at 5pm, may the family be comforted by the love and presence of others
- 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 at 1pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on August 13.

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...

Rally Day: Sunday School resumes on **Rally Day, September 11**. Following Sunday School and worship we will have a meeting for parents of all students. Parents of children younger than confirmation age will leave after the first portion of the meeting. The second part of the meeting will be to outline the confirmation program. All confirmands and parents of confirmands are expected to attend this meeting.

Sunday School Teachers for 2022-23: Even though it is still summer, we need to make plans for fall and the beginning of Sunday School. Please consider volunteering to help with Sunday School. All classes are team taught. No one teaches every week. Please consider helping to support this critical ministry of the church. To volunteer, please sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-sunday1>

Wednesday School Workers Needed: Wednesday School begins on **October 5**. We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. Please sign the list on the sign-up table or volunteer online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday38>

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 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...

The Annual Ice Cream Social at the Historic Kinnickinnic Church will be held **TODAY from 2:00-6:00 pm** in the churchyard. The church is located on County J, less than a mile off of Hwy 65, near River Falls. Ice cream, homemade pie and root beer floats will be available, along with other beverages. Live music will entertain you as you socialize with neighbors and new friends. Proceeds support the 150+ year old church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Check our Facebook page at Kinnickinnic Historical Association for more information.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jonah 1:11-2:1, 10

Then they said to him, "What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?" For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, "Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you, for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you." Nevertheless, the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the LORD, "Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man's life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood, for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you." So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah, and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish.

Then the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah out onto the dry land.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.