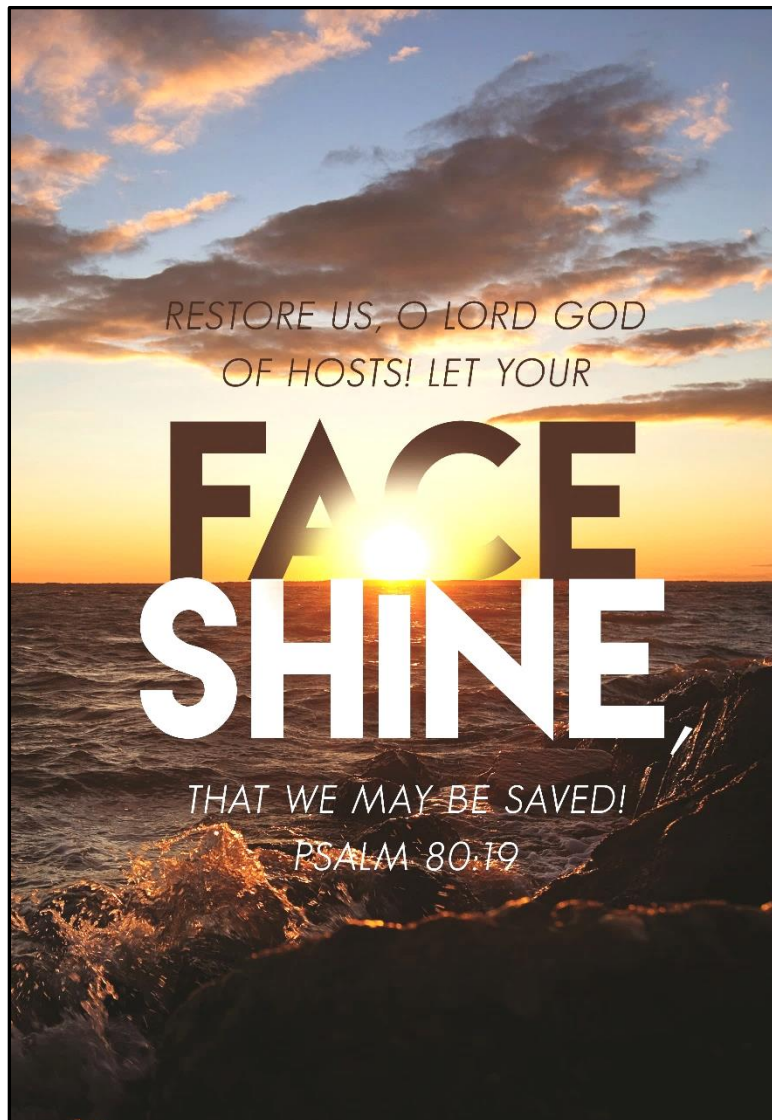


**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**August 14, 2022**



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

August 14, 2022

*Tenth Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 am

**Gathering**

Faith is not the belief that God will do what you can't.  
It is the belief that God will do what is right.  
- Max Lucado

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 have been called.

**P: Called to be the church.**

L: We have been given gifts.

**P: Many gifts, all for the same purpose.**

L: To model the new way of being that God has planned for us all.

**P: Then let us worship God with this same spirit.**

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

# 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

Merciful God, forgive us for failing to understand and accept the great demands placed upon us by your love. We enlist in your causes, but find ourselves losing interest. We promise to be courageous, but find ourselves afraid. We want to be sensitive, but find ourselves hard and callous. Forgive us; take our limitations and turn them into possibilities for service. Have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.

## \*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Listen! Here is good news:

P: Christ Jesus came into the world and is people

L: To forgive our follies and foibles

P: And set us back on God's path of grace and peace, hope and new life.

L: This is good news!

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

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

## Hearing the Word

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Exodus 3:1-12

### PSALM 80:1-2, 8-19

Response

D Unison Gm (Eb) Asus4 Antiphon: Véne de la Peña, 1994 A D

Stir up your might and come to save us.

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.

P: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

L: You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it.

**P: You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.**

L: The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

**P: Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? R**

L: The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.

**P: Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.**

L: It has been burned with fire; it has been cut down; may they perish at the rebuke of your countenance.

**P: But let your hand be upon the one at your right hand, the one whom you made strong for yourself.**

L: Then we will never turn back from you; give us life, and we will call on your name.

**P: Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. R**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**Luke 12:49-56**

<b>Proclaiming the Word</b>
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**SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*HYMN**

*You Are Salt for the Earth, O People*

**#181**

**\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – African Creed**

**We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. God created the human person for happiness in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know God in the light.**

**God promised in the Scriptures to save the world and all the nations and tribes. We believe that God kept all promises by sending Jesus Christ, a person in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humankind, showing that the meaning of religion is love. Jesus was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave.**

**We believe that all our sins are forgiven by God. We accept the gift of baptism and in the community of faith we live in ways of love and share the bread of life. We announce the good news to all people so long as God gives us breath. We believe that the Spirit is in the world and that God cares for us in life and in death. This we believe. 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

*Pie Jesu by Andrew Lloyd Webber*

Natalie Nelson

### \*DOXOLOGY



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've  
giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will  
meet youface to face, Let your love be the rule ev-'ry - where.

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, faith walks hand in hand with serving, and love expresses itself in giving. May we be faithful, O Lord, in our serving and loving in our giving. For we do these things in your name and asking your blessing. 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: This table is for all of us, near and far, rich and poor, young and old. This table is for all of us, as we gather from the east and the west, the north and the south. It is not our table. It's God's table, set that we might again remember Jesus' call to be people of love and grace, hope and peace. So come and take your place at the table. Come and be fed at the table of our Lord as together we share this holy meal.

## *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:*

### *A Place at the Table*

*Congregation joins on refrain*

*Refrain*

B $\flat$  Eb Cm7 Fm7  $\frac{A\flat}{B\flat}$  B $\flat$  Eb Cm D $\flat$   $\frac{D\flat}{F}$  G $\flat$ 2 G $\flat$

and God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, com - pas - sion and peace: yes,

B $\flat$ m D $\flat$ 6 C2 C7 Fm  $\frac{Fm}{A\flat}$  B $\flat$ 7  $\frac{Fm}{A\flat}$   $\frac{E\flat}{G}$  Am7(b5)  $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$  B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$

God will de - light when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, jus - tice and joy!

### *You Are Mine*

*Congregation joins on refrain*

***Do not be afraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.***

***Come and follow me, I will bring you home; I love you and you are mine.***

### *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**

***Shall We Gather at the River***

**#597**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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**Assisting in today's worship service are:**

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<i>Jean Smith</i>
<b>Cantor:</b>	<i>Natalie Nelson</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>	<i>The Myers Family</i>
<b>Deacons:</b>	<i>Cindy Gandrud</i>
<b>Organist:</b>	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>	<i>Lee and Lu Lueck</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>	<i>Katy Myers</i>
<b>Video Team:</b>	<i>Mike Stifter</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>	<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
<b>Counters:</b>	<i>Jean Smith, Roz Ostendorf</i>
<b>Music Coordinator &amp; Bell Director:</b>	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
<b>Office Administrator:</b>	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastors:</b>	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are in celebration of  
Lee and Lu Lueck's 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.*

**Treasurer's Report**

	<u>Aug 7, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,343	\$ 300,046
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 317,088

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)

**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 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 second 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 getting Covid in the latest wave, may they rest and not spread it
- For those cleaning up and hoping to rebuild in Kentucky, may they persevere
- For those traveling, especially those flying, may they pack lots of patience and God bless the baggage handlers, gate agents and TSA folk
- For the farmers dealing with either too much or too little rain
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For Lee and Lu Lueck celebrating their 53<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary this week, congratulations!
- For all who will help and be helped by Tools for School this Monday and Tuesday, you are all angels
- 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 Jason, 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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 School, 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 Wed, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 was at 1pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

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...

**Our Neighbors' Place:** Did you know that the day center at ONP offers shower facilities for their guests? Look for deals on towels & washcloths and bring them to our ONP bin. Mission Ed will make sure all these bath linens get to ONP to assist our neighbors in need.

**Among Friends** is open and accepting new referrals. Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce & St. Croix Counties. For more information, contact them at (715) 293-2651. Check out the website: [amongfriendsrf.com](http://amongfriendsrf.com) and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays 9am to 2pm**.

### Loving Self...

**Softball News:** Here is the schedule:

Aug 15 – 7:45 pm – Hoffman Park field 2 against St. Bridget's

Aug 22 – 6:30 pm – Hoffman Park field 1 against Servant of Shepherd

Come join in the fun and cheer us on!!! If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.



# MORE VBS FUN!



**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Exodus 3:1-12**

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness and came to Mount Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and spacious land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. Now go, I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

**GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 12:49-56**

"I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"