

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

August 21, 2022



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

August 21, 2022

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

Did I offer peace today? Did I bring a smile to someone's face? Did I say words of healing? Did I let go of my anger and resentment? Did I forgive? Did I love? These are the real questions. I must trust that the little bit of love that I sow now will bear many fruits, here in this world and the life to come.

- Henri Nouwen

<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><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><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>
---	--

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: When we feel we are the wrong age or gender or social status,

P: **God calls us.**

L: When we feel we are too weary or weak or fearful,

P: **God calls us.**

L: When we feel we are too busy or untrained or not qualified,

P: **God calls us.**

All: **Let us open ourselves to the word of God and the fullness of the Spirit. Let us worship the God who leads us into life.**

***HYMN**

For the Fruit of All Creation

#425

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: When we fail to be agents of Christ's love,

P: Heal us Holy God, and set us on your path.

L: When we are angry and take out our problems on others,

P: Heal us Holy God, and set us on your path.

L: When we say hurtful things, or lose our patience,

P: Heal us Holy God, and set us on your path.

L: When we find it easy to see the sins of others, but forget to look to ourselves,

P: Heal us Holy God, and set us on your path. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Our God does not desire that we wallow in the sins of the past.

P: In Christ, God frees us from the sins of the past and opens to each of us a bright new future.

L: 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

Alleluia! Give the Glory

Capo 3: (C/D) Eb/F (G) Bb (Bm7) Dm7 (C) Eb (Cm) Ebm

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -

(G) Bb (Bm7) Dm7 (C) Eb (Cm) Ebm 1 (G/D) Bb/F (Em7) Gm7

lu - ia! Give the glo - ry and the

(A7) C7 (D) F (A7) C7 (D) F (D7) F7 (C/D) Eb/F

hon - or to the Lord! Al - le -

Final (G/D) Bb/F (Em7) Gm7 (A7) C7 (C/D) Eb/F (G) Bb (C/G) Eb/Bb (G) Bb Fine

glo - ry and the hon - or to the Lord!

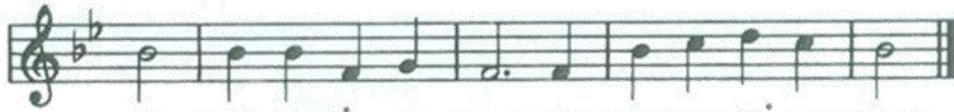
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 12:18-29

PSALM 71:1-6

R



O Lord, you are my hope, my trust, Lord, from my youth.

L: In you, O LORD, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame.

P: **In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me.**

L: Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress.

P: **Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.**

L: For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

P: **From my birth I have leaned upon you, my protector since my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you. R**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 13:10-17

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

#551

*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

*DOXOLOGY

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, thank you for the gifts you bestow upon us daily. Make us aware of each blessing that comes our way - and create in us the constant desire to be blessings for others. Bless what we bring before you, we pray. 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 I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.
- P:** **In the company of all who are hungry and thirsty, we come to this table to know the risen Christ and to share in the life giving bread of life and cup of blessing.**

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:

Blest Be The Tie That Binds

Here I Am, 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**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

#76

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:

OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Peter Rayne</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Larry & Barb Peterson and Randy & Diane Welsh</i>
Deacons:	<i>Karen Lloyd, Jena Most</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Dennis and Lynn Linder</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman</i>
Trustee:	<i>Trish Graves</i>
Counters:	<i>Allen Barnes, 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 Jean Smith in memory of the August birthdays
of her parents Marlyn and Bernice Mohr.*

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Aug 14, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,478	\$ 302,024
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 326,997

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
- 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 who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary, congratulations!
- For all who helped and were helped by Tools for School, 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 of 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 who contributed 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 24th, 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 Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on August 13th.

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 and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays 9am to 2pm**.

Loving Self...

Softball News: Here is the schedule:

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 12:18-29

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 13:10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.