

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

August 28, 2022



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

August 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

As Martin Marty, a noted Lutheran theologian, says, "In a world where strangers meet strangers with gunfire, barrier walls, spiritually landminded paths, the spirit of revenge, and the record of intransigence, it sounds almost dainty to come on the scene and urge that hospitality has a strong and promising place. In every congregation I observed, hospitality ranked as one of the strongest practices."

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: Lord, when did we see you?

P: **In the face of the child scared on the first day of school.**

L: Lord, when did we see you?

P: **In the hug given to the spouse filled with grief.**

L: Lord, when did we see you?

P: **In the flowers anonymously left on the doorstep of a neighbor.**

L: Lord, when did we see you?

P: **In the welcome offered to the stranger.**

L: Lord, when did we see you?

P: **In the joy found in a community gathered to worship your Son.**

L: Let us not neglect to show hospitality to strangers.

P: **For by doing so some have entertained angels without knowing it.**

All: **Come let us worship!**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, our lives seem to be so full. We feel like we have far too much to do. Settle us down; help us to center upon you and your will. Calm our spirits and refresh our energies.

L: When we are sorrowful and troubled,

P: **Send your comforting Spirit.**

L: When we are lonely and isolated,

P: **Send your encouraging Spirit.**

L: When we are lost and perplexed,

P: **Send your guiding Spirit.**

L: When we are sick and ill,

P: **Send your healing Spirit.**

L: When we are confused and filled with doubt,

P: **Send your faithful Spirit.**

L: When we are worn out and hassled,

P: **Send your calming Spirit.**

L: When we are at war or in anger,

P: **Send your loving Spirit.**

In all the seasons of our lives, your Spirit is always available to us and for us. Teach us that all we need to do is simply ask you, great God, for your Spirit to come upon and over us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: The sins of the past are gone.

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

L: This is good news!

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**

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

Glory, glory hallelujah, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

I feel better, so much better, since I laid my burdens down.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

PSALM 81:1, 10-16

Response

Antiphon: Jean Slates Hawk, 1994

Unison

Shout for joy to the God of Ja - cob.

- L: Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
- P: **I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt. Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it.**
- L: “But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.
- P: **So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels.**
- L: O that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!
- P: **Then I would quickly subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes.**
- L: Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their doom would last forever.
- P: **I would feed you with the finest of the wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.” R**

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Proclaiming the Word

SERMON

Rev. Roger Kampstra

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
vealed 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; } All are wel - come, all are wel - come,
feast that frees us;
floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come in this place.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - Indonesia**

I believe in God, who is love and who has given the earth to all people.

I believe in Jesus Christ, who came to heal us, and to free us from all forms of oppression.

I believe in the Spirit of God, who works in and through all who are turned toward the truth.

I believe in the community of faith, which is called to be at the service of all people.

I believe in God's promise to finally destroy the power of sin in us all, and to establish the kingdom of justice and peace for all humankind.

I do not believe that suffering need be in vain, that death is the end, that the disfigurement of our world is what God intended.

But I dare to believe, always and in spite of everything, in God's power to transform and transfigure, fulfilling the promise of a new heaven and a new earth where justice and peace will flourish. 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**



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've

3 giv - en to us, let us share. In our neigh - bor to - day we will

6 meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O Lord, you have called us to follow you. May we follow you to the bedsides of those who are sick, to the tables of those who are hungry, to the prison cells of those who are captive, to the dark nights of those who have no hope. We cannot be all places, O God, so bless these gifts to be your love in all places, for all peoples. Bless these gifts and send them to places of need. Bless those who give, and send us to the places of our calling. 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: Come people of God, let us sing!

P: **Let us sing for we are God's people and God has done wonderful things.**

L: Let us come into God's presence with joy and thanksgiving.

P: **Let us come into God's presence and let God feed us on the Bread of Life and the Cup of Blessing. Come Holy Spirit, come!**

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:

They'll Know We Are Christians

***We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored:***

***Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.***

***We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: Refrain***

***We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride: Refrain***

***All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: Refrain***

Let Us Break Bread Together

***Let us break bread together on our knees;
Let us break bread together on our knees;***

***Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

***Let us drink wine together on our knees;
Let us drink wine together on our knees; Refrain***

***Let us praise God together on our knees;
Let us praise God together on our knees; Refrain***

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

In Christ There Is No East or West

#395

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Guest Preacher:	Rev. Roger Kampstra
Liturgist:	Jean Smith
Cantor:	David Reilly
Coffee Fellowship:	Jean Smith
Deacons:	Cindy Gandrud, Karen Lloyd
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Welcomers:	JoAnn Lentz
Video Team:	Ryan Luedtke
Trustee:	Scott Nelson
Counters:	Jane Truesdill, Trish Graves
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	Jamie Mills
Choir Director:	Sarah Plum
Church Moderator:	Joel Larsen
Office Administrator:	Missy Luedtke
Youth Pastors:	Alex and Sarah Plum
CE Minister:	Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers
Senior Pastor:	Rev. Chris Myers

*Altar table flowers are given by Andy and Christina Krueger
in celebration of their 35th wedding anniversary.*

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), Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Gina (friend of Barb Stephens), Neal Prochnow, Harry (friend of Ann Nelson), Peyton, Mike Joosten (Sarah Plum's dad), Dorothy Sorenson

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the 370 local kids who received school supplies through our Tools for School ministry, may it contribute to a great school year!
- For the Rev. Roger Kampstra who is preaching this Sunday so pastor Chris can have a week off, thank you!
- 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 who had their last game this past week, thanks for a great year!
- For the Sunday and Wednesday School volunteers who are needed, is God calling you to teach this year?
- 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 going off to college and getting ready for back to school season, may it be better year
- For those getting Covid in the latest wave, may they rest and not spread it
- 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:

- Congratulations to Andy and Christina Kruger who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on August 22, may your love continue to grow!
- For the 370 kids who were helped by Tools for Schools ministry this past week, thank you!
- For the Rev Roger Kampstra preaching this Sunday, may his preaching inspire us
- For Diane Welsh who did our church laundry this week, you are an angel!
- 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 grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of the Rev. Don Laue who died this past week. Don was ordained at this church many years ago and lived in Colorado. A graveside service is being planned for September.
- For the family of Rosalie Harper, including Cheryl Zakrzewski and JoAnn Lentz, who died recently and who hosted a Memorial Gathering in the Fellowship Hall Wednesday, August 24, with a prayer service led by Pastor Roger Kampstra, may the family be comforted by the love and presence of others
- For the families of Jen Syverson and Stacy Johnson as they mourn their dad and mom, may God comfort you.

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: Rally Day, the first day of Sunday School, is September 11. At this point we need three more teachers to have the *minimum* number of teachers to effectively run the Sunday School program. Please consider volunteering. All classes are team taught. No one teaches every week. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. 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**.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

What can anyone do to me?"

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 14:1, 7-14

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."