First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin

September 18, 2022

Living the Prayer of Jesus:

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.

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
RIVER FALLS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

September 18, 2022 *Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost* 10:00 am

Gathering

To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible
than to be alive without breathing.
- Martin Luther

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: People of God, we are together to worship and pray.
P: We do not know how to pray.
L: Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, has taught us how to pray.
P: But we do not know how to pray as we ought to pray.
L: The Holy Spirit engages with our spirit to teach us to pray as we ought.
P: But how can we have the Holy Spirit?
L: God comes with the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who ask.
P: In the power of the Holy Spirit, let worship and pray.
All: Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!

HYMN** ***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God **#439**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Gracious God, we do not always pray as we ought. When pray, "Our Father in heaven," but forget to embrace all people as your children...

P: Forgive us God, and set us back on your path.

L: When we say "Your kingdom come" without working for your kingdom on earth...

P: Forgive us God, and set us back on your path.

L: When we ask for our daily bread, but do not recognize it as your gift...

P: Forgive us God, and set us back on your path.

L: When we request forgiveness for ourselves, but fail to pardon others...

P: Forgive us God, and set us back on your path.

L: When we plead not to be led into times of trial, but walk willingly into temptation...

P: Forgive us God, and set us back on your path.

L: When we honor you with our lips, but fail miserably with our lives...

All: O God, create spaces in our prayer, that we might hear and live out your words back to us, words of love and justice, grace and forgiveness. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Brother and sisters in Christ, know that God longs to hear our prayer, and longs to communicate back. Let us believe and live the good news of the gospel:

P: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.

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)**

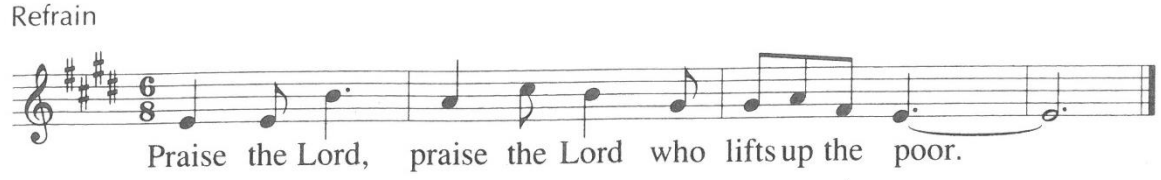
***GLORIA (Sung twice)**

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 **Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

PSALM 113



L: Praise the LORD! Praise, O servants of the LORD; praise the name of the LORD.

P: Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time on and for evermore.

L: From the rising of the sun to its setting the name of the LORD is to be praised.

P: The LORD is high above all nations, and his glory above the heavens.

L: Who is like the LORD our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth?

P: He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people.

L: He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children.

P: Praise the LORD! *R*

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 came to seek out the lost and lonely.

P: Come Lord Jesus, come to us we pray.

L: He came with healing in hands, love in his heart and peace in his wake.

P: Come Holy Spirit, come to us we pray.

L: He came proclaiming God's kingdom is coming and yet is also here among us.

P: Come, God, come to us we pray.

All: Come let us be a part of God's Way here and now as we eat and drink at your table.

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 Are They

Congregation join on refrain:

Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you; holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God!

We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day!
Oh, deep in my heart I do believe we shall overcome some day!

2. ***We'll walk hand in hand***
3. ***We shall all be free***
4. ***We shall live in peace***
5. ***The Lord will see us through***

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN **Rev. Chris Myers**

SONG (Children preschool through grade 8 leave for Sunday School.)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

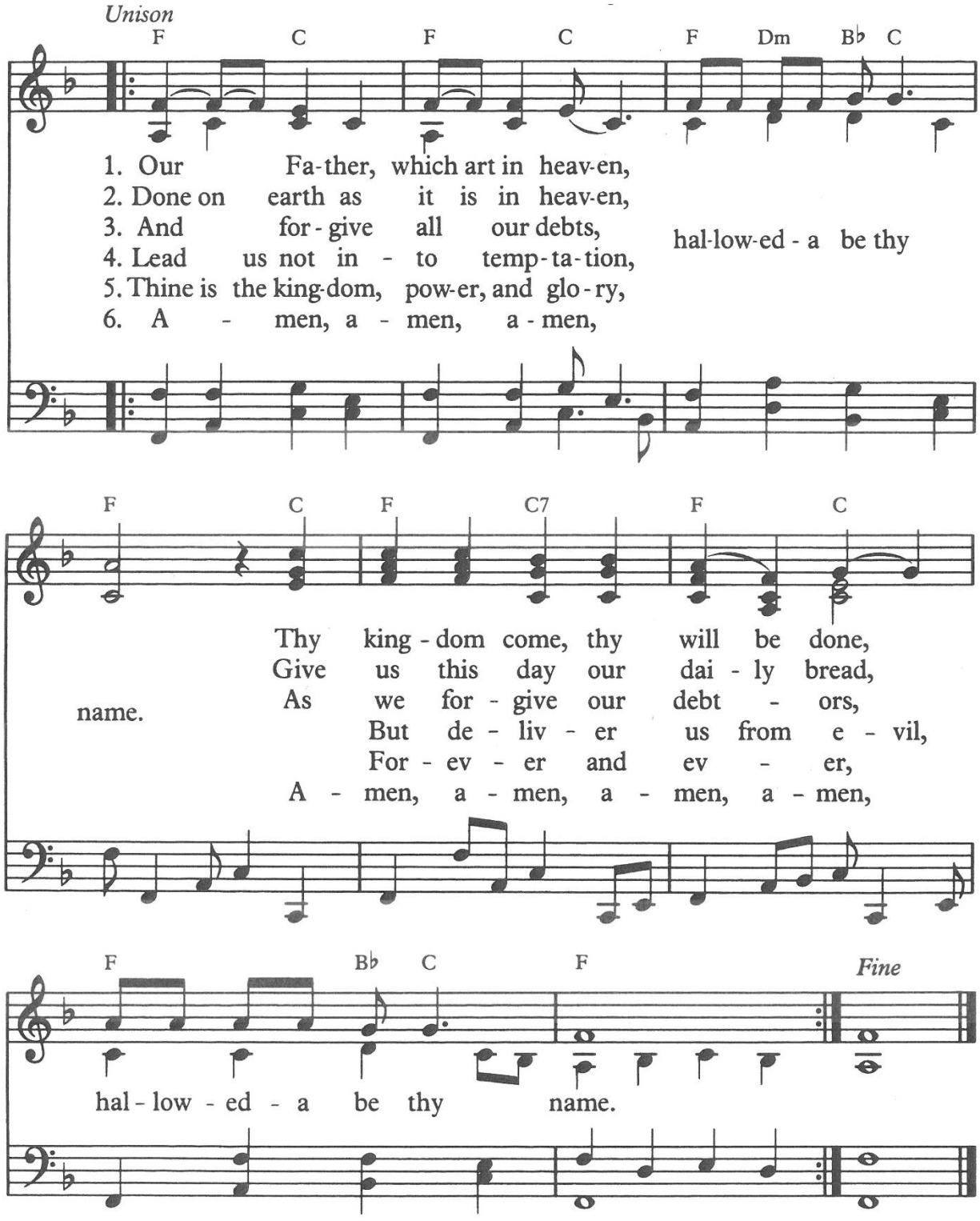
Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON **Luke 15:1-10**

SERMON **Rev. Chris Myers**

***HYMN**

The Lord's Prayer



***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Canada**

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

P: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

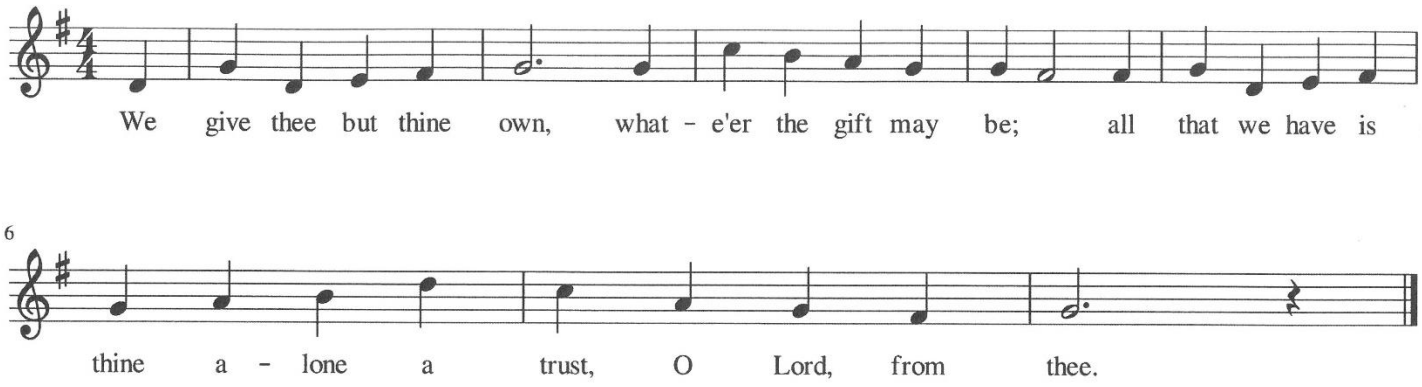
THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

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 ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus*** **Jubilee Ringers**

***DOXOLOGY**

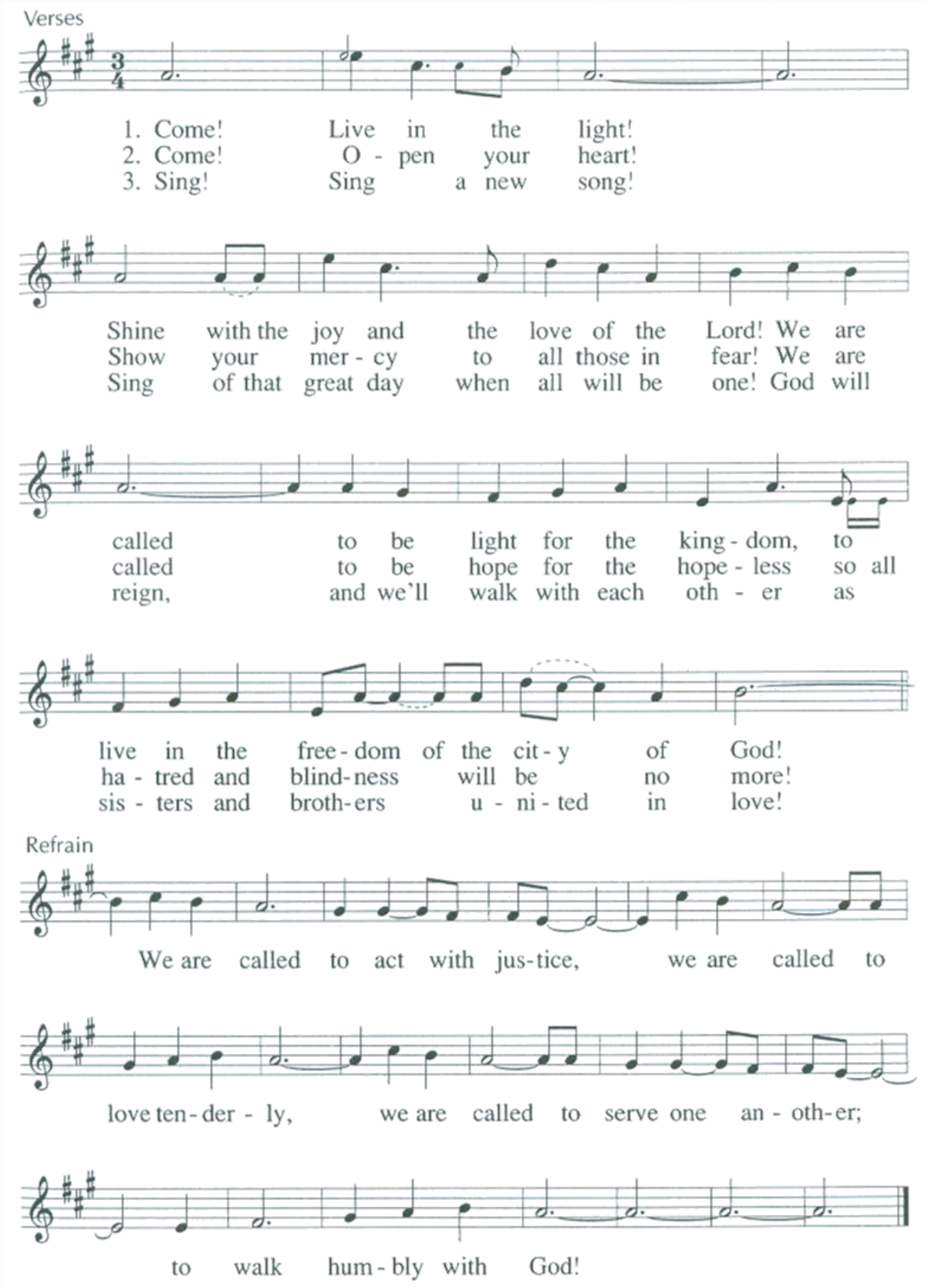


***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

O God, **You who transformed the water into wine, who transformed one small meal into food sufficient for thousands, who transforms strangers into neighbors, we ask for your transforming power to grace these gifts. May these ordinary gifts become extraordinary by the power of Your love. May they become healing. May they become good news. May they become hope. Amen.**

Sending

HYMN** ***We Are Called



***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	*Alan Tuchtenhagen*
Cantor:	*David Reilly*
Coffee Fellowship:	*Andy and Christina Krueger*
Deacons:	*Cindy Gandrud, Sheila Peterson, Linn Lawrence*
Organist:	*Terry Mithun*
Nursery:	*Kahla Fuller*
Video Team:	*Ryan Luedtke, Murphy Beatty*
Trustee:	*Jeff Hoffman*
Counters:	*Roz Ostendorf, Janice Healy*
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 Darlene Sumption with thankfulness for her long life.

Treasurer's Report

	Sept 11, 2022	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	$ 10,315	$ 337,102
General Fund Operational Needs	$ 9,909	$ 366,633

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, Dorothy Sorenson, Carole Mottaz, Loral Keil

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the return of Sunday School and Confirmation, Youth Group and Interns, Adult Forum and music groups
- For the trips, experiences and work that will be accomplished through our peach ministry whose proceeds go to the Youth Fund
- For our new Minister of Community and Outreach, the Rev. Deb Meyer, who begins her ministry here November 1
- For those who each Sunday volunteer as liturgists, deacons, teachers, 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 for whom affording the basic necessities in life are out of reach
- For the gifts of the fall season
- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For those who will receive their college packs soon, may it remind them they belong to a large family
- For the gift of our 20 Sunday School teachers, you are God's good gifts
- For our Trustees who painted the Sunday School hallway downstairs last week, it looks fabulous!
- For those celebrating wedding anniversaries including, Marshall and Gina Skule (46th), Yvonne and Fred Benson (36th), and Christina and Andy Krueger (35th), may you all grow in love
- For Pastor Dave who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. He was ordained on Sunday, September 3, 1972 at the Evangelical United Church of Christ, Godfrey, Illinois. May God continue to bless him in his retirement
- For Joe Querna and Marlee Gram who will be married on October 8 in Stillwater, may you be graced with Christ's love
- For Heidi and Mason Wilhelmy as they baptize their daughter Murphy Rose on October 23, together may they grow in faith

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Eva Shrank, daughter of Jason and Nancy, who graduated from RFHS 4 years ago, and who died this past week at the age of 22, may her family and friends be given strength through the tears
- For the family of Ryan Malm, a recent graduate of RFHS and former army vet who died recently in an accident in Ohio, and whose Memorial Gathering will be at the RF Golf Club on Saturday, October 8 from 1-4pm with Pastor Chris assisting, may they be given strength and faith
- For the family of the Rev. Don Laue who died recently. Don was ordained at this church many years ago and lived in Colorado. A graveside service at Greenwood Cemetery was September 10. Don served churches in Iowa, Wisconsin and Colorado.

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

Worship Notes: Praying with Jesus: God's Way and Me

Our current situation: Self!

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From My to Thine

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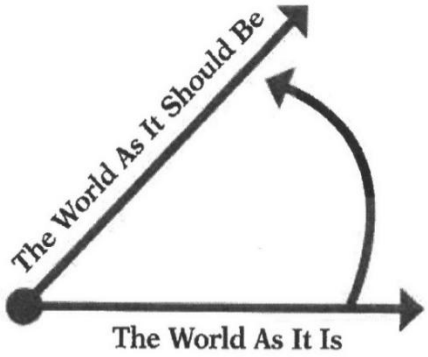

God's Kingdom

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God's Way

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Question

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Focus Scripture: Matthew 6:10

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Discipleship Focus: How can I be a part of God's work in our world today?

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 (C) FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENECOST

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 8:18-9:1

My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: 'Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?' 'Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?' 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.' For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me.

Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored? O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Wednesday Meals are Back!

Starting Wednesday, October 5, our Wednesday night family meals are back. Served in the Fellowship Hall, we encourage everyone to join us for food and fellowship whether you are here for Wednesday night programing or just hungry. Join us!

Committees Meet

On Tuesday, September 20, our church committees and council will meet. All new and returning members will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm before breaking into groups. Please pray for wisdom for our church leaders.