

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

**June 2, 2024**



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

June 2, 2024

*Graduation Sunday  
Second Sunday after Pentecost*

9:30 am

**Gathering**

There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.  
C.S. Lewis

Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!

- 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.
- Please note our worship service is livestreamed.

*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: Chapters end,

**P: New ones begin -**

L: More school or new work or something completely different.

**P: Endings carry the seeds of new possibility.**

L: Endings are never the last word in God's eyes.

**P: There is grace surprising us,**

L: Resurrection freeing us,

**P: Hope reviving us,**

L: Life calling us,

**P: Music lifting us.**

L: Praise God for endings and beginnings.

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

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: If we choose to protect our faith rather than live it,

**P: Forgive us, O God.**

L: If we admire our faith, rather than be molded by it,

**P: Forgive us, O God.**

L: If we cling to a faith too small for the challenge of this life and the hope of the life to come,

**P: Forgive us, O God.**

**All: Forgive us and renew within us a great and living faith. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God's mercy is sure.

**P: God's grace is more powerful than our sin.**

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

**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**

*Love is Flowing*

*Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;*

*Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.*

**Hearing the Word**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

**John 13:33-35**

**PSALM 139:1-14 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)**

**R**

I praise your name for fill-ing me with joy at  
 what you make, O God.

L: O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.

**P: You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.**

L: Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely.  
P: **You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.**  
L: Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.  
P: **Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? R**  
L: If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
P: **If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**  
L: If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.  
P: **For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.**  
L: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
P: **Wonderful are your works; that I know very well. R**

<b>Proclaiming the Word</b>
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## **BLESSING OF GRADUATES**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**1 Samuel 3:1-11**

### **SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

### **\*HYMN**

*Borning Cry*

**Blue #680**

### **\*STATEMENT OF FAITH – from the Iona Ecumenical Community in Scotland**

L: Let us affirm our faith.  
P: **We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of the One God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky. Born of Mary, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth. Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, He died but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and sent them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as brothers and sisters and to the grace of the Holy Spirit. 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.**

## GATHERING OUR GIFTS *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

Sarah Plum

### \*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 you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

### \*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious God, **you are the One who creates us, the Christ who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit who fills us with hope. May we and our gifts be instruments of your purpose here on earth. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## PRESENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Jenny Luedtke

### Celebrating the Meal

(All Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord. The bread is gluten-free. 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 you thankful people come.

**P:** **Come and eat the bread of life!**

**L:** Come and drink the cup of blessing!

**P:** **Come and gather around Christ's table as friends and family.**

**All:** **Together let us thank the God of abundance and let us take our place as God's thankful people.**

## ***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 remember 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:*

### **You Are Mine**

*Congregation join on refrain:*

Refrain

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you

each by name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you

home; I love you and you are mine. **D.C.**

**I Say Yes My Lord**  
Congregation join on refrain:

Verses: (Invocation) Cantor: All:

I say "Yes," my Lord. I say "Yes," my Lord.

6 Refrain:

I say "Yes," my Lord, in all the good - times, - through all the bad times

10

I say "Yes," my Lord, to ev - 'ry word - you - speak. \_\_\_\_

**Gather Your People, O Lord**  
Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain

Gath-er your peo-ple, O Lord. Gath-er your peo-ple, O

Lord. One bread, one bod-y, one spir-it of

love. Gath-er your peo-ple, O 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

## *I've Got Peace Like A River*

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
2. I've got joy like a foun - tain, I've got joy like a  
3. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

1  
riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in my  
foun - tain, I've got joy like a foun - tain in my  
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in my

2  
soul. I've got riv - er in my soul.  
soul. I've got foun - tain in my soul.  
soul. I've got o - cean in my soul.

\*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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**SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS**

Preacher: Chris Myers  
Celebrant: Chris Myers  
Cantor: David Reilly  
Liturgist: Graduates  
Deacons: Lance Lueck, Karen Lloyd,  
Cindy Gandrud, Graduates  
Organist: Terry Mithun  
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman  
Trustee: Louie Filkins  
Coffee  
Fellowship: Christian Ed  
Welcomers: JoAnn Lentz, Barb Mahoney  
Counters: Trish Graves, Allen Barnes  
*Altar flowers are given by Melissa Wilson in  
honor of the 2024 graduates.*

**CHURCH STAFF**

Pastor: Christopher Myers  
Education Pastor: Stacy Johnson Myers  
Community &  
Outreach Pastor: Deb Meyer  
Youth Minister: Alex Plum  
Music Coordinator &  
Bell Director: Jamie Mills  
Choir Director: Sarah Plum  
Organists: Terry Mithun,  
Marsha Pearson  
Building Manager: Timothy Bylander  
Church Moderator: Kathy Rausch  
Office Administrator: Missy Luedtke  
Nursery Attendant: Kahla Fuller  
Custodian: Farnum Fuller

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**Treasurer's Report**

	<u>May 26, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 9,618	\$ 244,217
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 219,723

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'
-

## 2024 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

**Murphy Beatty**, son of George and Susan Beatty, will be attending Mankato State University for Professional Flight.

**Emma Cernohous**, daughter of Matt and Tara Cernohous, will be attending Mankato State University for Nursing.

**Sawyer Cudd**, son of Jena Most and Josh Cudd, will be working at Kinni Sport and Power.

**Jenna Lawrence**, daughter of Tim and Linn Lawrence, will be attending Odessa College – Texas for Business and Welding and will be competing on the Rodeo Team.

**Ryan Luedtke**, son of Kit and Jenny Luedtke, will be attending University of Wisconsin – Madison for Biology.

**Connor Rude**, son of Dan and Rose Rude, will be attending University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point for Secondary Education – Math, Science, or Social Studies.

**Stella Theisen**, daughter of Mitch and Amy Theisen, will be attending Winona State University for Psychology.

**Gabrielle Van Dell**, daughter of Keith and Karri Van Dell, will be attending University of Wisconsin – River Falls for Management or Marketing.

**Cheyenne Wilson**, daughter of Justin and Melissa Wilson, will be attending College of St. Scholastica for Nursing.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Words for Our Graduating Seniors

What words, advice, scripture texts or prayer do you have for our graduating seniors? Please use the enclosed colored paper to share your words with them.

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

**Those who are ill or recovering:**

Carsten (grandson of Duane Church), Sue Taylor, Melissa Oscanyan (friend of Ann Nelson), Glenn Kees, Linda (daughter of Chuck White), Jeff (brother-in-law of Janice Healy), Joe (Christina Krueger's brother)

**Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:**

- For High School Seniors and their families as we celebrate Graduation Sunday on June 2nd, may it be a time of celebration and new beginnings
- For our Wisconsin Conference UCC which will gather for their annual meeting June 7-9 in Green Lake, that along with our delegates Pastor Deb and Carol Merriman, they may grow in love, justice & grace
- For Habitat for Humanity as it breaks ground on a house in River Falls on West Maple, may God bless the new family owners
- For our Among Friends ministry to families with dementia as they expand to welcome guests on Tuesday and Thursdays starting June 6, may they be an oasis of grace
- For Pastor Stacy as she continues her sabbatical, may it feed her in body, mind and soul

**Prayers for our World:**

- For the FMSC mobile packing event coming to River Falls on September 11-12, that our community may be bound together and demonstrate the love of Jesus in word and action
- For those cleaning up after spring storms, may God's love be visible through your neighbors
- For ANYONE who has to cross the I-94 bridge in Hudson, especially commuters, may they be given patience beyond their own ability
- For civilians caught in bloody conflict in Israel and Gaza who are always the ones who suffer in times of war, may a new way forward be found to bring lasting peace
- For those working to care for the gift of God's good creation

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For those graduating from high school and college, may you look for God's guidance as new opportunities arise
- For Rebecca and Bob Ferguson who celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on June 7, may your love continue to grow
- For Lily Rachel new granddaughter of Maxine and Tom Sitz born to Rachel and Quinn, may she grow in age and wisdom
- For our baptism boom which is now at 9 children of God in 5 months including Evie Pearson (Mike and Justine) baptized January 14, Hope Withers (Erik and Vanessa) baptized February 25, Laney Sitz (Heather and Dan) baptized March 3, Nora Koecher (Dan and Mari) baptized March 10, and four Thompson children (Talia, Orion, Oliver, Tova) baptized May 5, and Dean Wilhelmy (Heidi and Mason) baptized May 19, may they all grow in love and faith!

**For those grieving the loss of loved ones:**

- For the Knutson family mourning Debbie, the Carrison family mourning Dahn, the Rausch family mourning Bill, the Fosmo family mourning Harold, the Prochnow family mourning Neal, may you be strengthened through the care of others

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

**JUNE 2, 2024**

**(B)**

**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**GOSPEL LESSON: John 13:33-35**

Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Samuel 3:1-11**

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.' Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle.



**DIAPER DRIVE**  
**MAY 12- JUNE 16**  
First Congregational UCC

Receiving the following donations:

- All Diaper Sizes**
- Newborn - 6**
- Baby Wipes**

Help us honor God and our parents  
between Mother's Day and Father's Day



Join us  
**FOR A FREE CONCERT**  
*on the lawn*

**July 11th**  
**6-8 PM**  
110 N 3RD ST. RIVER FALLS

WITH  
**Slapdash**  
**BLUEGRASS**  
Band

food for purchase by  
**AND ROLLIN' RIVER FOOD TRUCK**

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