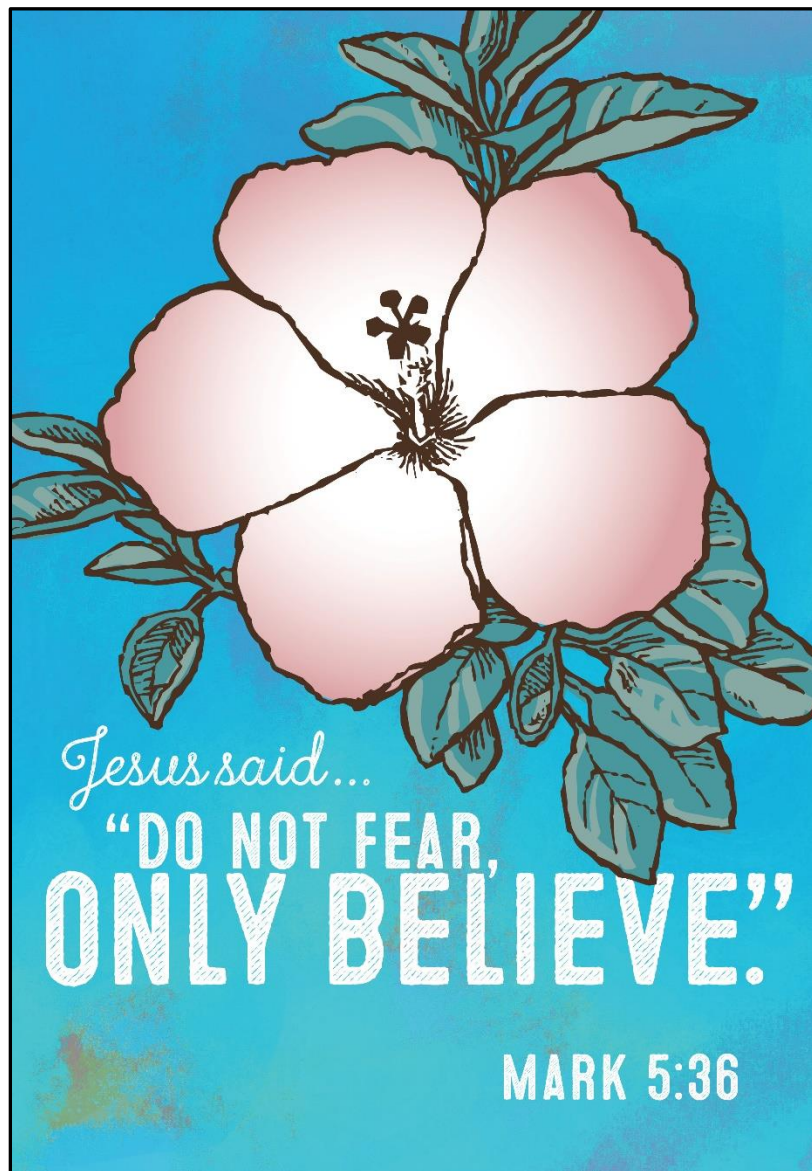


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

June 30, 2024



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

June 30, 2024

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

Who knows what kind of story Mark is telling here, but the enormously moving part of it...is where Jesus takes the little girl's hand and says, 'Talitha cum' - 'Little girl, get up' - and suddenly we ourselves are the little girl.

- Frederick Buechner

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

Ave Maria
arr. Verdi

Trombone Quartet

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: As we enjoy beautiful summer days, God, help us always to remember that these welcome days are your magnificent gifts.

P: **And so we gather this day to worship you, to give you thanks and honor for all your creation.**

L: Your gifts of life and love are so abundant that sometimes we take them for granted, neglecting to take time to give you thanks.

P: **But today, God, we sing with joy, we pray with conviction, we embrace you with deepest thanks.**

L: Open our hearts as we worship you!

P: **As we lift our hearts to you, may your Spirit dwell within us this lovely morning and always!**

All: **Let us worship God in gratitude and with great joy!**

*HYMN

All You Works of God

(verses 1-4)

Refrain

All you works of God, ev-'ry moun - tain, star and tree, bless the One
 who shapes your beau - ty, who has caused you all to be one great
 song of love and grace, ev - er an - cient, ev - er new. Raise your
 voic - es, all you works of God!

Verses

1. Sun and moon:	Stars of heav - en:	
2. Winds of God:	Cold and win - ter:	
3. Night and day:	Light and dark - ness:	
4. All the earth:	Bless your Mak - er!	Hills and moun - tains:
5. Wells and springs:	Seas and riv - ers:	
6. Fly - ing birds:	Beasts and cat - tle:	
7. All who live:	Men and wom - en:	

Chant your praise!	Show - ers and dew:
	Snow - storms and ice:
	Light - nings and clouds:
	Green things that grow:
	Whales in the deep:
	Chil - dren at play:
	Ser - vants of God:

Raise up your joy - ful song.

D.C.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal and Merciful God, **you bring light out of darkness and hope out of despair. You bring life out of chaos and life out of death itself. Share your love with us this day that we may better love one another. Touch our hearts and help your love shine through us into a world hungry for your peace. Amen.**

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: We have needed the love of God and the light of Christ.

P: **And indeed we have received that light and love through the forgiveness of God.**

L: God's love shines on us! The light of Christ guides our lives.

P: **With lasting gratitude and love we give God thanks. We give God our lives.**

L: We are forgiven indeed! We move forward in the light!

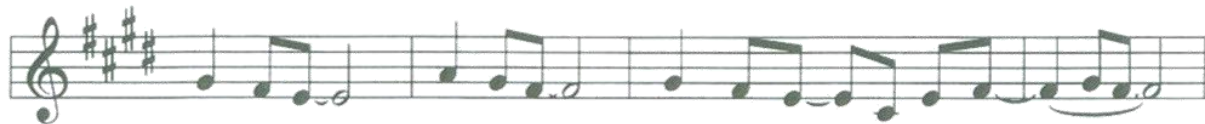
All: **Let us give God thanks! Let us give God our praise! Amen.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

*GLORIA

Gloria



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!_____



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!



O - pen now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.
O Lord, rush to help to de - liv - er Your world.
Mak - er, Spir - it, Friend, You are Great My - ster - y!

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

PSALM 30:2-7, 11-12 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy.

L: Sing praises to the Lord, you faithful ones, and give thanks to the Lords' holy name.

P: **For the Lord's anger is but for a moment; the Lord's favor is for a lifetime.**

L: Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

P: **As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved." By your favor, Lord, you have established me as a strong mountain.**

L: You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

P: **So that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord, I will give you thanks forever. R**

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

SERMON

Get Up!

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

***HYMN**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Black #403

***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.

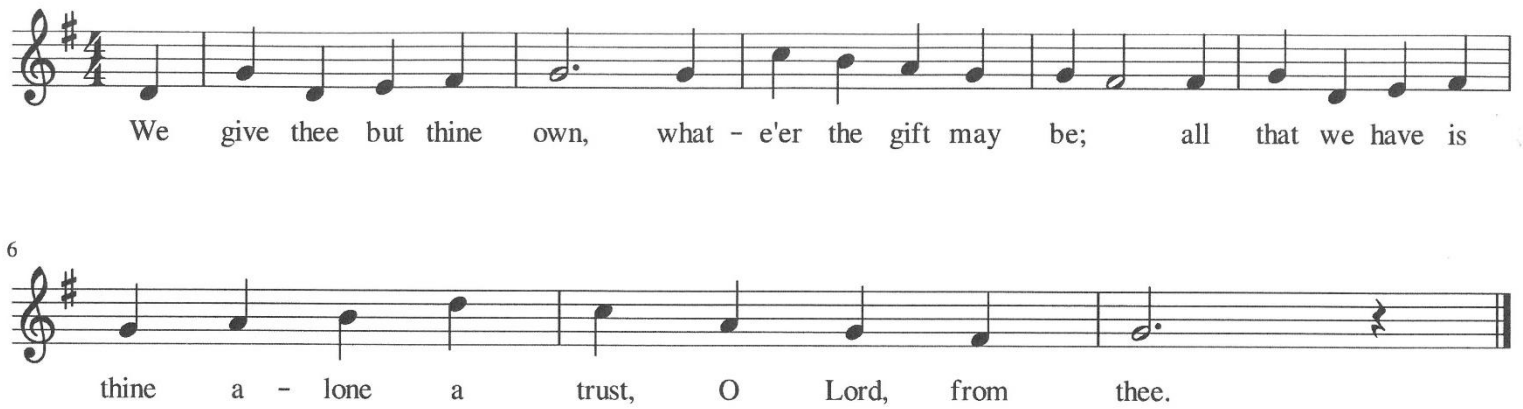
GATHERING OUR GIFTS

Pange Lingua
arr. Bruckner

Trombone Quartet

*DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee But Thine Own



We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is
thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bless these gifts, gracious God, and bless all those who will be served by them. We bring these offerings because we hope for a stronger church, a more compassionate world, a human family that might be fed and housed, and a time of peace. Help us through our giving to be more faithful to your Word and give us strength to be a people full of joy and good news. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

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: We are here because Jesus has called us – strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious. It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine, he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other. So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood. Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you. Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you, just as you are.

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 Satisfy the Hungry Heart

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With



gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O



sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



1. As	when the shep -	herd	calls his	sheep,	They
2. With	joy - ful	lips	we	sing to	you
3. Is	not the	cup	we	bless and	share
4. The	mys - t'ry	of	your	pres -	ence, Lord,
5. You	give your -	self	to	us, O	Lord;
					Then



know	and heed	his	voice;	So	when you	call	your
praise	and	grat - i -	tude,	That	you should	count	us
blood	of	Christ	out -	poured?	Do	not	one
mor -	tal	tongue	can	tell:	Whom	all	the
self -	less	let	us	be,	To	serve	each
						oth -	er



fam - 'ly,	Lord,	We	fol -	low	and	re -	joice.
wor -	thy,	Lord,	To	share	this	heav'n -	ly
loaf,	de -	clare	Our	one -	ness	in	the
not	con -	tain	Comes	in	our	hearts	to
in	your	name	In	truth	and	char -	i -
						ty.	

Let Us Be Bread

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free-ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

This is the Body of Christ

*This is the body of Christ, broken that we may be whole;
This cup, as promised by God, true to his word, cradles our Lord;
Food for the good of the soul.*

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

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

Black #551

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

Trombone Quartet

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Dave Ostendorf
Celebrant: Dave Ostendorf
Cantor: Jamie Mills
Trombone
Quartet: Ben Allen, Rick Gaynor,
Chris Lecher, Tim Mills
Liturgist: Jean Smith
Deacons: Lance Lueck, Karen Lloyd,
Traci Hagberg, Brian Miller
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Scott Elsesser
Coffee
Fellowship: Kristin Andes & Tom Magraw
Welcomers: Dennis & Lynn Linder
Counters: Marie Roe, Dennis Linder
Altar table flowers are given by Alex and Sarah Plum in celebration of their 5th wedding anniversary.

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

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 23, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 11,109	\$ 278,196
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 261,575

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:

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), Doris (sister-in-law of Bonnie Jones Witthuhn), Rose Rude, Ruth Anne White, Carole Mottaz

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Wisconsin Conference UCC who gathered 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 and grace
- For our Music Committee gearing up for the Bluegrass concert on the church lawn as part of River Falls Days on Thursday, July 11 from 6-8pm, let the good times roll!
- 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 Tuesdays and now also Thursdays which started 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 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 local families benefiting from the diaper drive sponsored by our Mission Team as a way to honor our parents, together we contributed over 7000 diapers!
- For those who graduated from high school and college, may you look for God's guidance as new opportunities arise
- For those celebrating graduation parties, may you be graced with many friends, lots of food and good weather!
- For Joyce and Roger Kampstra who celebrate their 60th anniversary on July 11, may your love continue to grow!

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.

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

First Congregational UCC
FIRSTCHURCHRF.ORG | 715-425-2052



SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. As it is written,

‘The one who had much did not have too much,
and the one who had little did not have too little.’

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 5:21-24, 35-43

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered round him; and he was by the lake. Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, ‘My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.’ So he went with him.

And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him.

While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, ‘Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?’ But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, ‘Do not fear, only believe.’ He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. When he had entered, he said to them, ‘Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.’ And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, ‘Talitha cum’, which means, ‘Little girl, get up!’ And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.