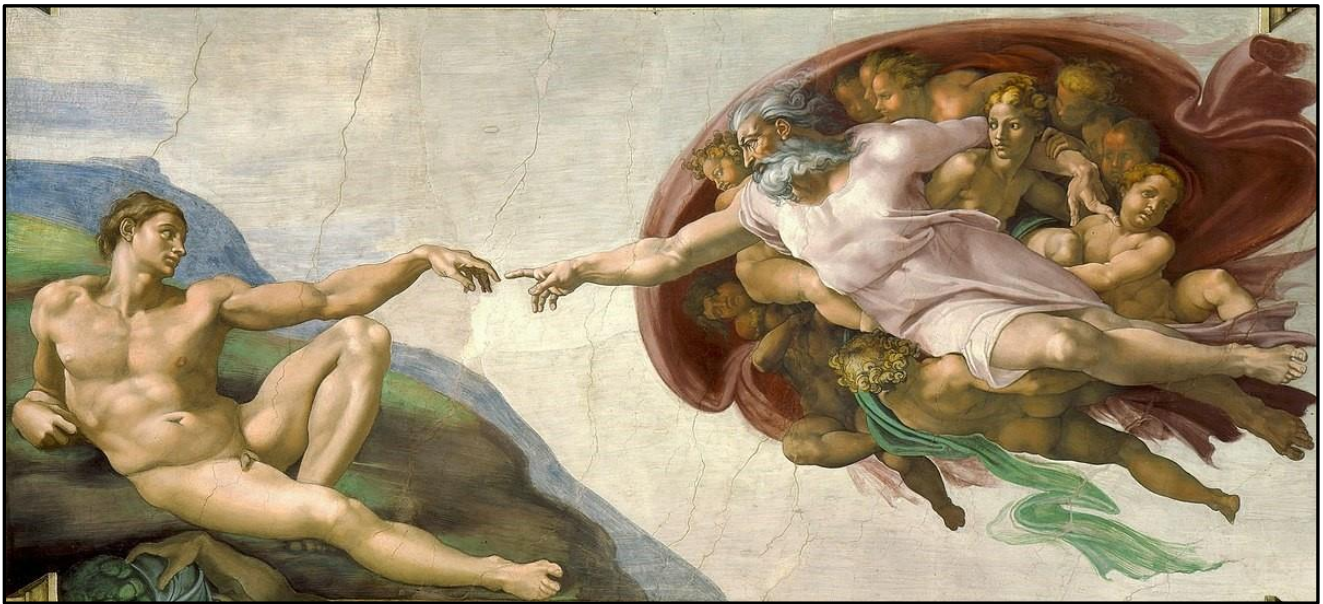


**First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
River Falls, Wisconsin**

**October 6, 2024**



**What Are People For?**

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

*World Communion Sunday  
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*

October 6, 2024

10:00 am

**Gathering**

I'm not concerned with your liking or disliking me... All I ask is that you respect me as a human being.  
- Jackie Robinson

In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit.  
- Albert Schweitzer

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!*

People of the Way  
September 8 – Love Your Neighbors  
September 15 – Forgive Others (and Yourself)  
September 22 – Heal Division  
September 29 – Bring Justice

**GATHERING MUSIC**

**WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** We gather as God's people:

**P:** **To seek direction in the living of our lives.**

**L:** We gather as God's people:

**P:** **To be still and hear what God would have us do.**

**L:** We gather as God's people:

**P:** **To be renewed, restored and recreated.**

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

\*HYMN

# All You Works of God

(Verses 1, 3, 5 and 7)

## 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

*Soloist:* *All:* *Soloist:*

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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:     | 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:       |

*All:* *Soloist:*

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:

*All:* **D.C.**

Raise up your joy - ful song.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the Banquet, we confess that too often we prefer junk food over the real food you provide. You offer us the bread of life, but we are content to waste our calories on things that do not satisfy us. Forgive our short sightedness. Feed us at your table this day that we may be satisfied. Amen.

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: In Jesus Christ, God is in our world freeing us from the sins of the past.

P: **And by his grace, we are made new and whole again.**

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**

**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**

**Hebrews 2:5-12**

**PSALM 8 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)**

**R Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed your hand has provided,  
Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!**

L: O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

**P: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a stronghold because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

**P: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**

L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

**P: O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! R**

### **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: From the North and the South, the East and the West,

**P: Come let us eat at Christ's table.**

L: From Europe and Africa, Asia to South America, from around the corner to around the world,

**P: Come let us drink at Christ's table.**

L: Young and old and every age in between; the faithful and the struggling, the rich and the poor,

**P: Come let us gather at Christ's table as one 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:

### The Lord's Prayer

*Unison*

F C F C F Dm Bb C

1. Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,  
2. Done on earth as it is in heav-en,  
3. And for-give all our debts, hal-low-ed - a be thy  
4. Lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion,  
5. Thine is the king-dom, pow-er, and glo-ry,  
6. A - men, a - men, a - men,

F C F C7 F C

name. Thy king - dom come, thy will be done,  
Give us this day our dai - ly bread,  
As we for - give our debt - ors,  
But de - liv - er us from e - vil,  
For - ev - er and ev - er,  
A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

F Bb C F *Fine*

hal - low - ed - a be thy name.

## One Bread, One Body

Congregation join on refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.**

## Be Not Afraid

Congregation join on refrain:

*Refrain*

Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways. Come, fol - low

me, and I will give you rest.

## *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.**

## Proclaiming the Word

**TIME WITH CHILDREN**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

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

***He's got the whole world in his hands,  
He's got the whole wide world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands,  
He's got the whole world in his hands.***

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

**Genesis 2:18-24**

**SERMON**

**Rev. Chris Myers**

**\*HYMN**

***I Sing the Almighty Power of God***

**Blue #31**

**\*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**

*How Beautiful*

Chancel Choir

**\*OFFERTORY**

*We Praise You, O God*

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Glorious God, above the noise of conflict, there is a song of peace. Above the world's weeping, there is a song of hope. Above the cries of hate, there is a song of love. Bless these gifts, O Lord, that we, too, might be singers of Your song. Amen.

<b>Sending</b>
----------------

**\*HYMN**

*Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

Blue #719

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

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**SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS**

Preacher: Chris Myers  
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers  
Cantor: David Reilly  
Liturgist: Marie Roe  
Deacons: Lance Lueck, Jena Most,  
Kathy Rausch, Becky Pajac,  
Marshall Skule  
Organist: Marsha Pearson  
Nursery: Kahla Fuller  
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman  
Trustee: Matt Bastien  
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Julie Bauer  
Coffee  
Fellowship: Merry Widows with Donuts  
from St. Bridget's  
Counters: Marie Roe, Diane Welsh  
*Altar table flowers are given by Marie and  
Roland Roe in memory of Rosemary Roe.*

**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>Sept 29, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,935	\$ 391,125
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 408,057

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:**

Sue Taylor, Melissa Oscanyan (friend of Ann Nelson), Jeff (brother-in-law of Janice Healy), Rev. Kurt Katzmar, Barbara de Souza, Darlene Sumption, Ronald (father of Cindy Gandrud), Mike (friend of Mark Hudnall), Jean Smith

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

- For those headed to Moon Beach Camp for their work week October 7-13, may you travel safely there and back and do good work
- For the Music Committee preparing for the Silent Movie on Sunday, October 20, may it be a fun filled evening!
- For the next Learning Community on October 8 featuring the art of Japanese artist Sadao Watanabe, that it may be a time of seeing our Christian faith through new eyes
- For ALL who enabled us to recently burn our church mortgage, thank you!
- For Josh Sippel who leaves for basic training on November 4th, and Ryan Luedtke who enters the Air National Guard, may they be given strength and courage for the journey ahead

**Prayers for our World:**

- For a lasting peace in the Middle East that brings justice to all people
- For those cleaning up after Hurricane Helene, may you be given strength and help from neighbors and others
- For the 100,000 meals packed by you and our River Falls neighbors through Feed My Starving Children in mid-September which are currently on their way to Madagascar and Haiti, may they bring life and hope to those who receive them
- For civilians caught in bloody conflict in Israel, Lebanon and Gaza, Ukraine and Russia 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
- For our nation as we gear up for the next election, that we may talk respectfully about issues and solve our real problems without violence

**Prayers of Thanksgiving:**

- For the return of Wednesday School and Wednesday Night Meals!
- For the gift of our new church sign, the ability to fully pay off our church mortgage and a new lawn tractor, we are thankful for your generous support!
- For Barb de Souza, our semi-retired healthcare missionary in Rio de Janeiro, who celebrates her 94th birthday on October 18th, may she recover from a recent fall and continue her feisty battle for her community

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

- For the family of Ron Truesdill (husband of Jane) as they mourn his sudden death, may they receive strength and courage
- For the family of Linda (daughter of Chuck White) who died peacefully at the age of 71, the same age as her mother, may God give the White family with strength and faith
- For the family of Liz Gandrud (Cindy Gandrud's mother) who died this past week, that they may mourn with hope and faith
- For the families of Zeke Wells and Donna Ray (mother of Norma Revels), may you be given God's strength, faith and gratitude

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

MUSIC AT FIRST CHURCH  
PRESENTS:

# THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME

FREE  
EVENT!

DRAMA - HORROR - ROMANCE

Sunday, October 20th

3:30 PM

First Congregational UCC  
110 N THIRD ST. RIVER FALLS, WI  
715-425-2052

The 1923 Lon Chaney silent film  
WITH LIVE ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT BY  
DENNIS JAMES

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 2:5-12**

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

‘What are human beings that you are mindful of them,  
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned them with glory and honor,  
subjecting all things under their feet.’

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

‘I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.’

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 2:18-24**

Then the LORD God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.’ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

‘This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.’

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.