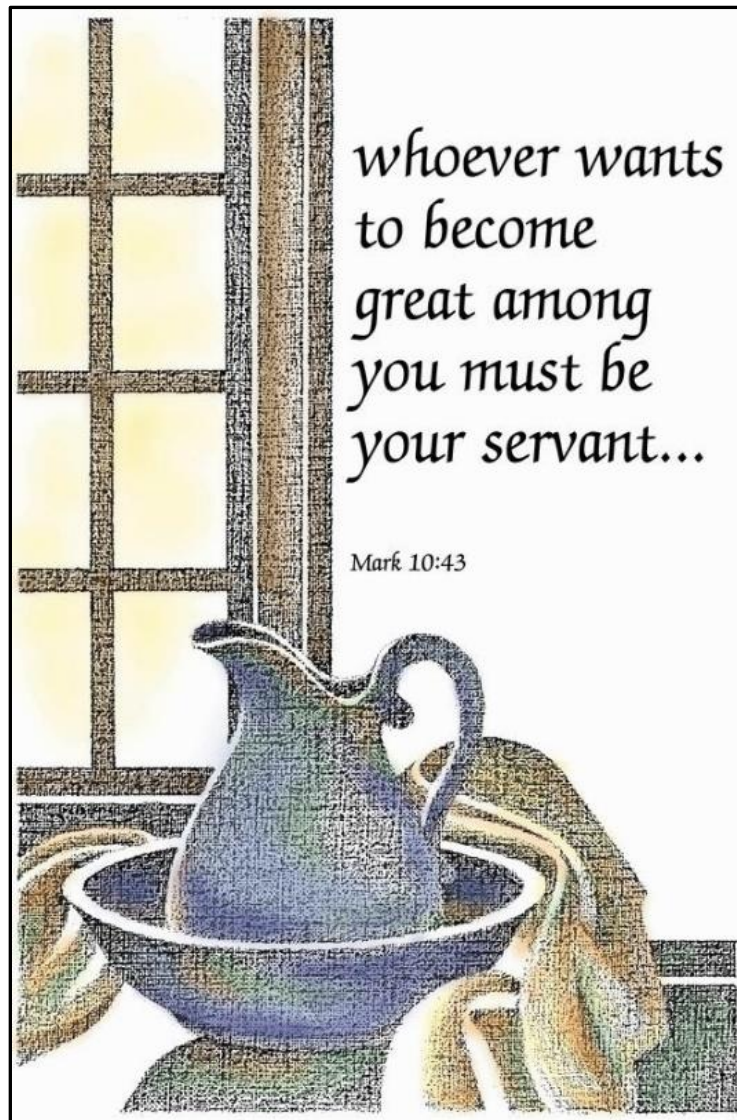


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

October 20, 2024



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

October 20, 2024

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

And this morning, the thing that I like about it: by giving that definition of greatness, it means that everybody can be great, because everybody can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know about Plato and Aristotle to serve. You don't have to know Einstein's theory of relativity to serve. You don't have to know the second theory of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love. And you can be that servant.

- Sermon by Martin Luther King Jr.

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p>
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- 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.

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: God is at work.

P: Light pierces the darkness.

L: Love calms fear.

P: Joy tickles sadness.

L: Hope lifts up despair.

P: Peace disarms anger.

L: Kindness dances around hostility.

P: Music sings away troubles.

L: God is at work!

P: Rejoice!

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

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: O God, you created us for relationship.

P: Yet we separate ourselves into divisions of our own choosing.

L: Jesus Christ, you have formed us to love.

P: Yet we still hurt those we love the most.

L: Holy Spirit, you have given us the gift of life.

P: Yet we get distracted and overwhelmed and fail to live life abundantly.

All: Forgive us, Holy God.

L: Send your Holy Spirit upon us,

P: That broken relationships may be healed, distrust of others overcome, and your whole creation made one again. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the Good news:

P: By grace we are saved through faith.

L: This is God's gift to us.

P: It is freely poured out on all those who ask.

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**

Come, All You People

Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,

Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,

Come, all you people, come and praise the Most High,

Come now and worship the Lord.

Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior,

Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior,

Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior,

Come now and worship the Lord.

Hearing the Word

PSALM 91:9-16 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

Refrain

And he will raise you up on ea - gle's wings, bear you on the
breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and
hold you in the palm of his hand.

To verses

- L: Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling-place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
- P: **For God will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.**
- L: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
- P: **You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.**
- L: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
- P: **When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation. 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: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.
- P: **This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, young and old, come from the east and the west, the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**
- L: This table is for all people who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's 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:

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.

Come and Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

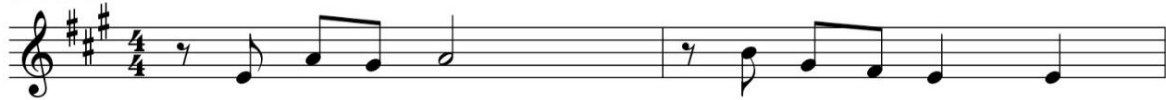
You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia!

Bread for the World

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain



Bread for the world: a world of hun - ger.



Wine for all peo - ples: peo-ple who thirst. May we who eat



be bread for oth - ers. May we who drink pour out our love.

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.)

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

God made the trees.

God made the seas.

God made the elephants too.

My God is so big, so strong and so mighty

There's nothing my God cannot do.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:35-45

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

D (allow to ring off) G D/F# A7 D

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

G D/F# A7 D G D A7 D

Share the fla-vor of life, O peo-ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
Shine so ho-ly and bright, O peo-ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus-tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain
G D/F# A7 D G D/F# A7 D

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

G D/F# A7 D G D/F# A7 D

Bring forth the reign of jus-tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. 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

Gabi, Gabi

Chancel Choir

Arr. by William Powell

***OFFERTORY**

We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is

6
thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Gracious God, you have blessed us with all that we need and often more than we need. Help us receive what you give with grace. In turn, help us be generous with our gifts and our very lives. We ask that you would accept and consecrate all these gifts to further your work in the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Sending

***HYMN**

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

Blue #581

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Steve Koecher
Deacons: Karen Lloyd, Becky Pajac,
Loral Keil, Brian Miller,
Lance Lueck
Organist: Terry Mithun
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: JonPaul Okal
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Skip Koosmann
Coffee
Fellowship: Discipleship Committee
Counters: Vicki Sippel, Marie Roe
Altar table flowers are given by Evelyn Purdy.

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>Oct 13, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,949	\$ 414,059
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 428,983

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, Mike (friend of Mark Hudnall), Miranda (daughter of Karri Van Dell), Rose Rude, Ivy (granddaughter of Deb Meyer)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the Krueger Clan and their team who are gearing up for the Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 17th, that we may all stop and give God thanks (and sign up early too please!)
- For Barb de Souza, our healthcare missionary who worked for decades in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil who celebrates her 94th birthday on October 18th, may God bless you with strength and purpose
- For those who went to Moon Beach Camp for their work week October 7-13, thank you for your good work
- For the Music Committee preparing for the Silent Movie on Sunday, October 20, may it be a fun filled evening!
- For those getting ready for the next Learning Community on Tuesday, November 12th on the Anxious Generation book which seeks to find ways to better help and support our young people
- 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 and security to all people and for those working for a lasting peace in the Middle East, may God's Spirit be present
- For those cleaning up after Hurricanes Helene and Milton, may you be given strength, help from neighbors and others
- For the River Falls High School Marching Band (and its leaders including our own Alex Plum) as they compete in the state Marching Band competition in Whitewater this weekend, may you do well and return home safely (and champions for the 26th time!)
- 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 all of us as we work to better care for the gift of God's good creation and reduce the effects of climate change
- For families challenged by mental health issues
- 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 fun and joy of college packs which went out to our college kids last week, thank you church!
- For the gift of Stella Rose Tanis born on September 11 to parents Sarah and Corey Tanis and proud grandparents Doug and Cheryl Hoffman, may they all grow in love and faith
- For the gift of a cancer free diagnosis after treatment for Glenn Kees

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Jan Charpentier as they mourn and plan for a Memorial Service here on Saturday, November 9 at 2pm, may they be given peace
- For the families of Ron Truesdill, Liz Gandrud (Cindy's mom) Linda White (Church White's daughter), 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

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be servant of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

12 Discipleship Traits



Thanks to all who donated items for our college packs.

