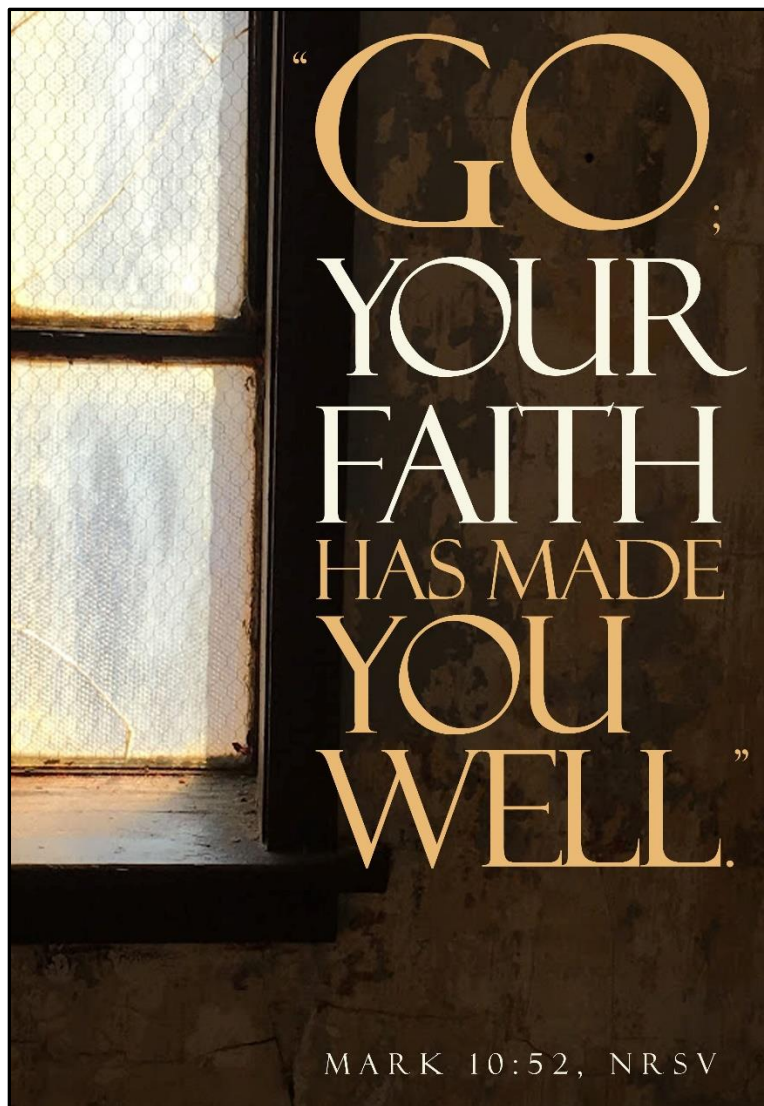


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

October 27, 2024



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

October 27, 2024 *Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday*

10:00 am

Gathering

*Pray as though everything depended on God.
Work as though everything depended on you.
- Saint Augustine*

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.

No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

- 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: We gather as a people of faith.

P: Knowing we can bring our questions to this haven of safety.

L: We gather as a people of faith.

P: Seeking to follow in the footsteps of Christ.

L: We gather as a people of faith.

P: Trusting in the goodness of God.

L: We gather as people of faith: knowing, seeking and trusting.

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

***HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Blue #68

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. Forgive us. Reform us to be a people powered by your love, speaking out for what is right, acting for what is just, and seeking the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us.

P: **In Christ our sins are forgiven and a new path is open for us.**

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 (Sung twice)**



A - men, we praise your name, O God. A - men, we praise your name, O



God. A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, A - men, we praise your name O God.

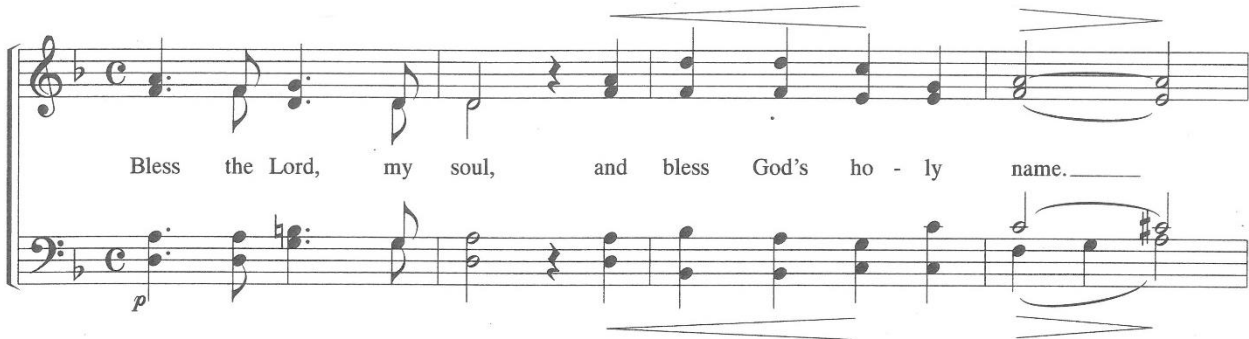
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

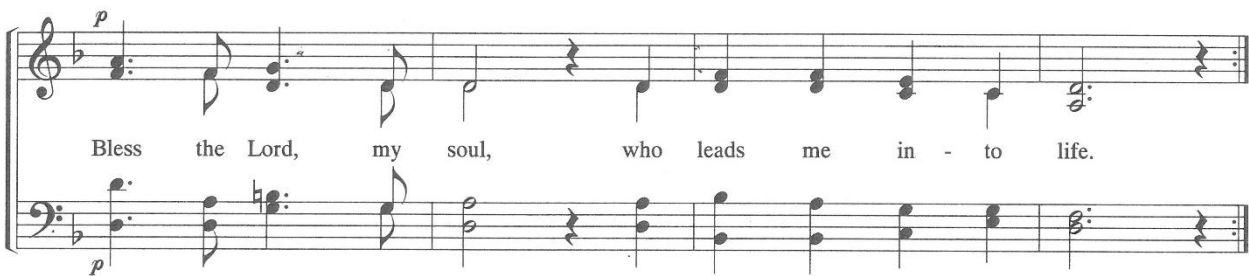
Jeremiah 31:7-9

PSALM 34:1-8 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

L: I will bless the LORD at all times; God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.

P: **My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad.**

- L: O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt God's name together.
- P: I sought the LORD, and God answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.**
- L: Look to God, and be radiant; so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- P: This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD, and was saved from every trouble.**
- L: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who trust God, and delivers them.
- P: O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in the Lord their God. 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: 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:

I Say Yes

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. ____

Let Us Break Bread Together

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees;

**Refrain: *When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun,
O Lord, have mercy on me.***

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees; Refrain

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees; Refrain

Be Thou My Vision

Blue #502

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

BIBLES PRESENTED TO CONFIRMANDS

Revs. Chris and Stacy

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

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



For health and strength and dai - ly food we praise your name, O Lord.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:46-52

SERMON


Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**


The Healing Hand of Jesus




I know the heal-ing hand of Je - sus;
Ly-ing bro - ken in my dark-est hour,
As he knelt be - side me in my sor - row



I have felt his mer - cy and his grace.
bruised and beat - en, left with-out a prayer,
I could see the scars there in his hands,



I have heard his words of com - pas - sion
then I felt that heal-ing hand of pow - er
And I re - a - lized this wound-ed heal - er,



and I know that he is in this place
when the Sav - ior came and found me there.
all my pain, he tru - ly un - der - stands.



So I will raise my voice in praise to God, I will



kneel be - fore the Lamb; I will give my heart as an



of - fer - ing, I will give you, God, what I am.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – The Apostles Creed (A Litany)**

L: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth

P: And maker of black, brown, red, yellow, and white persons,

L: And in Jesus Christ – his only son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit

P: To live in eternity

L: Born of the virgin Mary,

P: To live on earth.

L: Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

P: And you and me

L: Was crucified, dead, and buried.

On the third day, he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and dead –

P: Including you and me.

L: I believe in the Holy Spirit;

P: Present in five o'clock traffic, present in family discussions, present in the lives of those on welfare, present in the people of America and Afghanistan, Africa and Iraq, present in this congregation and present in myself.

L: I believe in the holy catholic church,

P: Which includes Baptists and Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and a lot of others.

L: I believe in the communion of saints,

P: And the communion of all people around one universal table.

L: I believe in the forgiveness of sin,

P: For community leaders apprehended by the law, for people who spread rumors, for those who slam down phones, for proud professors – for bullies – for murderers – for pastors and parents, and even for me.

L: I believe in the resurrection of the body –

P: For people I can't stand, for those who criticize my work, for my father and mother, for myself,

L: And the life everlasting,

P: I am trying Lord, but I need your help. 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

Pie Jesu

Sarah Plum, David Reilly

Arr. by Andrew Lloyd Webber

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Come, Holy Spirit, come and make all things new. Receive these offerings of our lives and labor, and use them to spread the Good News of the abundant life in Jesus Christ throughout the earth, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Sending

*HYMN

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Blue #496

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Chris Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Tanya Larsen
Deacons: Cindy Gandrud, Tanya Larsen,
Marshall Skule, Jena Most
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Rick Price
Welcomers: Roger and Joyce Kampstra
Coffee
Fellowship: Mission Ed Committee
Counters: Marie Roe, Dennis Linder
*Altar table flowers are given by Norma Revels
in memory of her parents David & Donna Ray.*

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

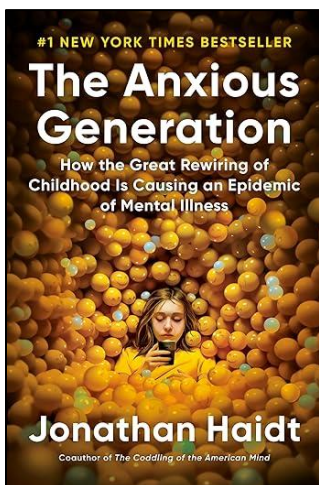
A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*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'



Kids (and adults) are struggling today with mental health often caused by technology and social media. Based on *The Anxious Generation* by Jonathan Haidt, Pastor Chris will share insights from the book about how we got to this point as well as strategies and best practices to help all of us toward better mental health and appropriate use of technology and social media. Joining us will be our Youth Minister (and teacher) Alex Plum and church member and veteran teacher Jenny Luedtke. This is a REALLY important issue, and we hope you can join us and invite friends and family to join you. Join us on Tuesday, November 12th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee and treats will be served.

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Sue Taylor, Jeff (brother-in-law of Janice Healy), Rev. Kurt Katzmar, Barbara de Souza, Mike (friend of Mark Hudnall), Rose Rude, Larry Bauer

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the families of all those who have died this past year as we celebrate All Saints Sunday on November 3, may God bless them with strength and faith
- 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 our Discipleship Team as they work to secure pledges to fully fund our church ministry for 2025 as we dedicate our financial pledges on Sunday, November 17th, may we be blessed with generous hearts
- For those who gathered for the recent Conversation on Women's Health this past Thursday, may it feed you on the journey to health and wellness
- For those who enjoyed the Silent Movie on Sunday, October 20, it was wonderful
- 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) on their 26th win at the state Marching Band competition in Whitewater this past weekend, wow!
- 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 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 those helping at the funeral lunch on Saturday, November 9, you are angels in disguise
- For the fun and joy of college packs which went out recently to our college kids, 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 (Chuck 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.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Jeremiah 31:7-9

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10:46-52

They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

12 Discipleship Traits