

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

November 3, 2024



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

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2024

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Gathering

“In the Christian sense, love is not primarily an emotion, but an act of will. When Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, he is not telling us to love them in the sense of responding to them with a cozy emotional feeling...he is telling us to love our neighbors in the sense of being willing to work for their well-being.”

Beyond Words, 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.

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 children of God.

P: As the faithful ones who have gone before us, let us stay focused on God and the life God calls us to live.

L: May our hearts be set on God's love and grace.

P: May our hands be ready to bind up the hurts of creation and people who suffer.

L: May our imaginations be eager to see beyond what is to what can be.

P: May our eyes see the light of your way shining into the darkest corners of our lives and our world.

L: Like your faithful people who have gone before us, let us follow you.

All: Come, let us worship.

***HYMN**

God is Here!

Blue #1

Verse 1: All; Verse 2: Women; Verse 3: Men; Verse 4: All

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Most merciful God,

P: We confess that we are held captive by sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. Have mercy on us, O God. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: In Jesus Christ, our sins of the past are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God! Let us live as new people: forgiven, freed, and faithful to the ways of God.

L: 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)

*Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah
Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

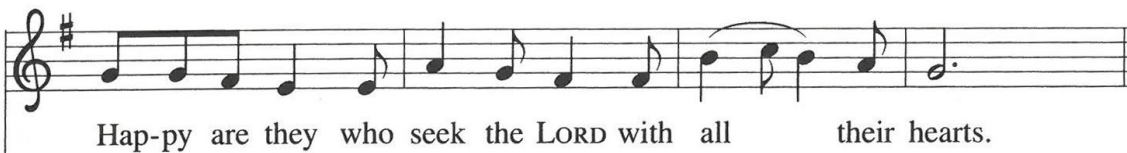
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 6:1-9

PSALM 119:1-8 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R



Hap-py are they who seek the LORD with all their hearts.

L: Happy are those whose way is blameless, who walk in the law of the LORD.

P: Happy are those who keep God's decrees, who seek God with their whole heart, who also do no wrong, but walk in God's ways.

L: You have commanded your precepts to be kept diligently.

P: O that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!

L: Then I shall not be put to shame, having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.

P: I will praise you with an upright heart, when I learn your righteous ordinances. I will observe your statutes; do not utterly forsake me. 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: The table is prepared as Jesus requested and we are invited to the meal.

P: **Come to the table...**

L: Like Peter, with more enthusiasm than resolve; like James and John, dismayed by the priorities of God's reign.

P: **Come to the table...**

L: Like Martha, hosting and leading with confidence; like Mary, full of love and attention.

P: **Come to the table...**

L: Like Judas, disillusioned and rebellious; like Mary Magdalene, faithful to the end.

P: **Come to the table...**

L: Jesus offers himself in the bread and the cup.

P: **Come to the table of Christ!**

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:

As the Grains of Wheat

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain



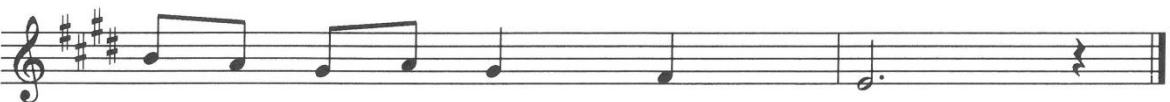
As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;



so may all your peo - ple from all the ends of earth be



gath - ered in - to one in you.

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.

Bread for the Journey



1,5 Give us bread for the jour - ney give us bread. Give us
2 Guide our way as we trav - el guide our way. Guide our
3 Make us one with each oth - er make us one. Make us
4 Lead us home to the gar - den, lead us home. Lead us



bread for the jour - ney give us bread. When our legs are get - ting
way as we trav - el guide our way. With so ma - ny roads be -
one with each oth - er make us one. All the walls we've built a -
home to the gar - den, lead us home; where we'll live with all cre -



12 heav - y, and we're hang - ing down our heads, give us bread for the
fore us where to go is hard to say. Guide our way as we
round us: may we learn to tear them down. Make us one with each
a - tion find our place and nev - er roam. Lead us home to the



jour - ney, give us bread.
trav - el guide our way.
oth - er, make us one.
gar - den, lead us home.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Proclaiming the Word

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

*Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.
Every color, every race, all are covered by His grace.
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 12:28-34

SERMON

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

***HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

Blue #569

Verses 1 & 2: All; Verse 3: Choir; Verse 4: All

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

Let us pray and sing:



In the Lord I'll be ev-er thank-ful, in the Lord I will re-joice! Look to God, do not be a-
fine
fraid; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near; lift up your voic-es, the Lord is near. In the

***Susan Koosmann, Bill Olson, Fred Volkmann, Sheila Peterson, Dahn Carrison,
Dorothy Sorenson, Dick Alexander, Neal Prochnow, Harold Fosmo,
Richard Wells, Ron Truesdill, Janice Charpentier***

...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.

DISCIPLESHIP MOMENT – Choir

Sarah Plum

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

Give Me Jesus

Chancel Choir

Arr. by Hal Hopson

*OFFERTORY



For the life that you have giv-en, for the love in Christ made known,
with these fruits of time and la-bor, with these gifts that are your own:
here we of-fer, Lord, our prais-es; heart and mind and strength we bring;
give us grace to love and serve you, liv-ing what we pray and sing.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, to feed the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Sending

*HYMN

When the Saints Go Marching In

1. O when the saints go march - ing in, O when the
2. O when the sun re - fused to shine, O when the
3. O when they crown Him Lord of all, O when they

E A⁷ D/A A⁷ D D⁷

saints go march - ing in,
sun re - fused to shine, O Lord, I want to be in that
crown Him Lord of all,

G D/A E A⁷ D

num - ber when the saints go march - ing in.
when the sun re - fused to shine.
when they crown Him Lord of all.

WHEN THE SAINTS

*BLESSING

L: What is the greatest commandment?

P: **Love the Lord our God with heart, soul and mind.**

L: And the second?

P: **Love our neighbor as ourselves.**

L: Let us go out from this place and serve the world — set free by the grace of Jesus Christ, committed to live in the love of God, and sustained by the Holy Spirit.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Stacy Johnson Myers
Celebrant: Chris Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Alan Tuchtenhagen
Deacons: Karen Lloyd, Cindy Gandrud,
Laura Anderson, Becky Pajac,
Marshall Skule
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Steve Koecher
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Barb Mahoney
Coffee
Fellowship: Merry Widows – St. B's Donuts
Counters: Marie Roe, Allen Barnes
*Altar table flowers are given by Marie and
Roland Roe in memory of James DeLuca.*

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 27, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 10,684	\$ 425,732
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 449,909

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, Jeff (brother-in-law of Janice Healy), Rev. Kurt Katzmar, Barbara de Souza, Mike (friend of Mark Hudnall), Larry Bauer, Kevin (friend of Tanya Larsen)

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 (see worship bulletin for the names of this year's saints)
- 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 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 likely in January, 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 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 gift of our choir, its director Sarah, and our musicians Marsha and Terry, thank you for sharing your gifts
- For all those who will help cook, serve, set up and enjoy our big all church Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 17th, God bless you!
- For our Wednesday School helpers, may God bless you as much as you bless our young folks
- 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Deuteronomy 6:1-9

Now this is the commandment—the statutes and the ordinances—that the LORD your God charged me to teach you to observe in the land that you are about to cross into and occupy, so that you and your children and your children’s children may fear the LORD your God all the days of your life, and keep all his decrees and his commandments that I am commanding you, so that your days may be long. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe them diligently, so that it may go well with you, and so that you may multiply greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, has promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD alone. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 12:28-34

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength”, and “to love one’s neighbor as oneself”,—this is much more important than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, ‘You are not far from the kingdom of God.’ After that no one dared to ask him any question.