

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

December 22, 2024



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

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:00 am

Gathering

It seems everyone wants at least 3-5 years' experience.

Except God, that is.

He looks for the one willing to try something new.

--Anonymous Pastor Poet

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: Into our world...

P: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Into forgotten and neglected places...

P: Come, Lord Jesus.

L: Into the lives of the poor, bring hope;

Into the lives of the powerful, bring caution and humility;

Into the lives of the weary, bring rest;

Into the lives of the wise, bring vision and restlessness;

Into our lives and our longings...

P: Come, Lord Jesus.

(Light the fourth Advent candle)

L: We light the fourth candle today,

P: To remind us of the LOVE Jesus brings to the world and we give to our neighbors.

L: Hear the good news: Christ is coming. Blessed are those who wait on the Lord.

P: Come quickly, Lord. Come quickly.

All: As we watch and wait, hope and pray, let us worship.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Compassionate God, we trespass on your mercy and take your favor for granted. There are many roads to choose; yet only one leads to your way and true, authentic life.

P: We are easily distracted, tempted by paths that seem to lead to good things—wealth, prosperity, power—and yet can never satisfy.

L: Place in us a deep desire to abide in you and your way. Turn us back when we take the wrong road.

P: When we forget the lessons of those who came before us, and ignore our responsibility to those who will follow us, turn us back to another road. When we fail to recognize actions that distance us from who you call us to be, turn us back to another road. When we grow faint, or feel alone, or are tempted to place hope and trust where they do not belong, turn us back to another road. When our imaginations are too small and we fail to see what you are doing in the world, turn us back to another road, Merciful God.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God forgives and bestows grace on each of us.

P: Thanks be to God!

L: Live as new people: forgiven, freed, and faithful to the way of God.

P: Amen.

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**

*He came down that we may have hope; He came down that we may have hope;
He came down that we may have hope; hallelujah forever more.*

*He came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may have peace;
He came down that we may have peace; hallelujah forever more.*

*He came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may have joy;
He came down that we may have joy; hallelujah forever more.*

*He came down that we may have love; He came down that we may have love;
He came down that we may have love; hallelujah forever more.*

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

PSALM 80:1-7 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R

Let your face shine up - on us, and
we shall be saved, and we shall be saved.

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

P: **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.**

L: Stir up your might, and come to save us!

P: **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.**

L: O LORD God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers?

P: **You have fed them with the bread of tears, and given them tears to drink in full measure.**

L: You make us the scorn of our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

P: **Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. R**

Engaging the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 1:39-55

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL: Remembering the First Christmas

Oh, Come, Little Children

Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all!

Oh, come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.

The bright star will guide us and show us the way

To Jesus, our Savior, asleep on the hay.

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem

Come see the baby lying in a manger.

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem

Come, see the newborn King!

Come, see the shining star guiding us from afar, helping to show us the way.

Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem

Come, see the newborn King!

*Oh, come, little children, oh, come, one and all!
Oh, come to the manger in Bethlehem's stall.
The bright star will guide us and show us the way
To Jesus, our Savior, asleep on the hay.
Oh, come! Oh, come! Oh, come, one and all!
Oh, come! Oh, come! Oh, come, one and all!
Come, little children, come, come to Bethlehem.*

Come, Come Emmanuel

*Come, come Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come O Promised One. Come Emmanuel.*

*Prophets of old have told of your coming; long we have waited, long have we prayed
Kingdoms and Kings will bow down before you. Come Emmanuel today.*

*Come, come Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come O Promised One. Come Emmanuel.*

*We are your children, you are our Savior. Lovingly guide us, guide us we pray.
Help us to follow, help us to listen. Come, Emmanuel today.*

*Come, come Messiah, come. Come, Emmanuel.
Come, come O Promised One. Come Emmanuel.
Come, Emmanuel!*

An Angel Came to Mary

*An angel came to Mary in shining robes of white,
The place wherein they met – was filled with radiant light.
The angel spoke to Mary, he spoke of God's decree,
How she was chosen woman, Christ's mother for to be.
The maid was lost in wonder, such heavenly news to hear;
That she was maiden chosen to mother Jesus dear.*

In a Little Stable

*In a little stable far across the sea
Was a little baby, just like you and me.
Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep,
But a lowly manger was His place to sleep,
Shepherds stood around Him, angels watched with care
For this babe was Jesus, lying, smiling there.
Oh, I love this Jesus, who was little then.
For he surely loves me, little though I am.*

Arise, Shine, Jesus Has Come!

Arise, shine, Jesus has come! Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come, come for you and me.

What joy we feel. As now we see the King we've waited for.

Arise and sing as praise we bring to worship and adore.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come! Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come, come for you and me.

What joy we know as we behold the angels as they sing

With heart and voice, we all rejoice and glorify the King.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come! Come, come, hurry and see.

Arise, shine, Jesus has come, come for you and me.

Jesus has come for you and me.

May My Light Shine

May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.

May the world see God's love through me.

May my light shine for my Jesus and my King.

May I shine so others see.

Star of wonder, star of light, shining down for all to see.

Star of wonder, star of light, shine your light through me

May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.

May the world see God's love through me.

May my light shine for my Jesus and my King.

May I shine so others see.

Star of wonder, star of light, may I keep my eyes on you.

Star of wonder, star of light, shine in all I do.

May my light shine like the star of Bethlehem.

May the world see God's love through me.

May my light shine for my Jesus and my King.

May I shine so others see.

May my light shine, like the star of Bethlehem.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH for Advent**

L: In quietness and darkness, in peace and confusion, Jesus Christ wants to make his home and meet his friends. He is the light of life:

P: He is the hope for the world.

L: In him there is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant;

P: All are one in Jesus Christ.

L: He is the light of life:

P: He is the hope of the world.

L: In him there is neither black nor white, neither north nor south;

P: All are one in Jesus Christ.

L: He is the light of life:

P: He is the hope of the world.

L: In him there is neither male nor female, neither master nor servant;

P: All are one in Jesus Christ.

L: He is the light of life:

P: He is the hope of the world.

L: He is the light of life:

P: He is the hope of the world. Amen.

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

Gracious God, we...

Wait for the Lord whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/2. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

...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.

***OFFERTORY**

Prepare the Way of the Lord

(Sung twice)

The musical notation is written on a single staff in G major (one flat) and 6/8 time. It is divided into four measures labeled I, II, III, and IV. Measure I: Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 6/8 time. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. Measure II: Continues with a quarter note C5, a quarter note B4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note G4. Measure III: Continues with a quarter note F4, a quarter note E4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note C4. Measure IV: Continues with a quarter note B3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note G3, and a quarter note F3. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre - pare the way of the Lord,
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God. Pre -

***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, as we await the arrival of your son. Amen.

Celebrating the Meal

All Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. The bread is gluten-free. The cup is alcohol-free. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.

The Invitation to the Meal

L: All who are waiting, hear!

P: **All who hope, listen!**

L: God's promise has been breathed into the fabric of history and its fulfillment is at hand: The lonely will be comforted. Vulnerable people will be protected. A light will shine in the darkness. The lost will be found.

P: **The path to righteousness will be clear.**

L: As we wait and hope, let us come to the table.

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 our greatest joy 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:

A Place at the Table

Blue #617

When God is a Child

Verse 1 – Solo, Verses 2, 3 and 4 – All

Blue #165

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.

Eat This Bread

Blue #697

Prayer of Thanksgiving

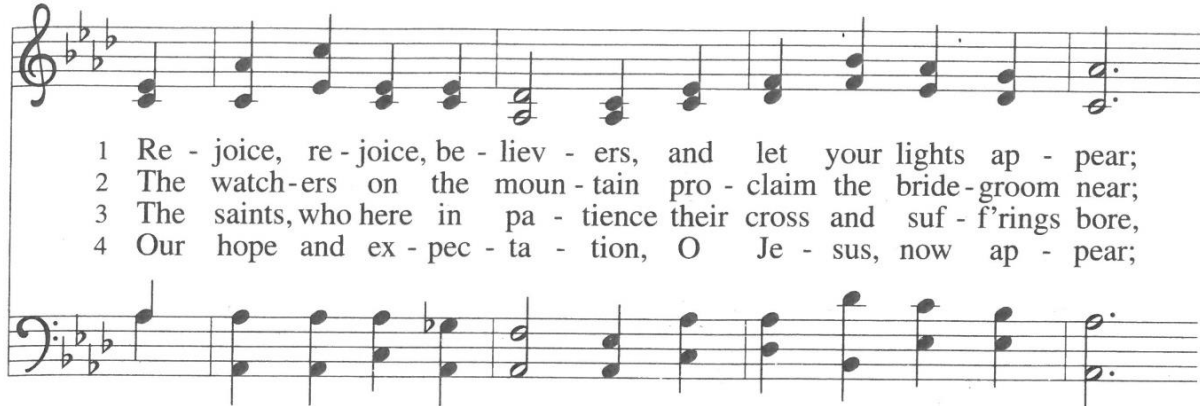
All: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

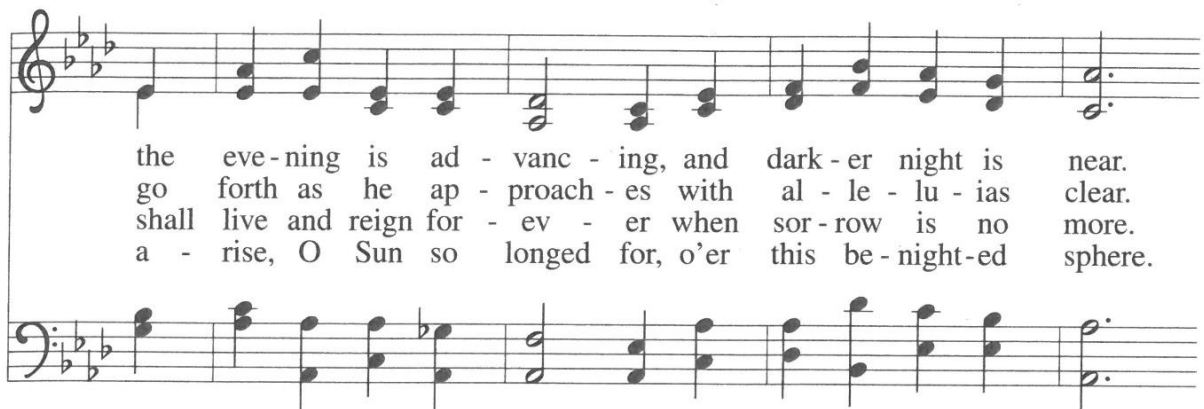
*HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

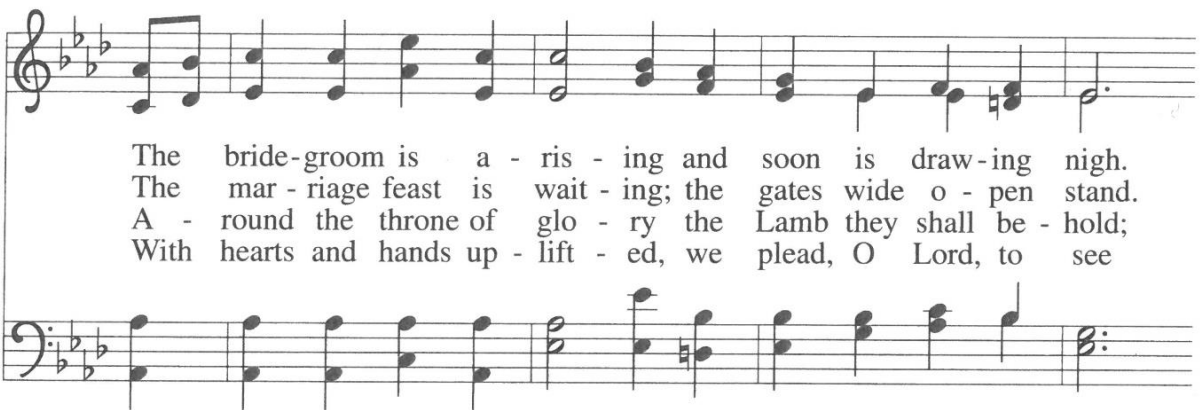
Verses 1 & 2 – All, Verse 3 – Quartet, Verse 4 - All



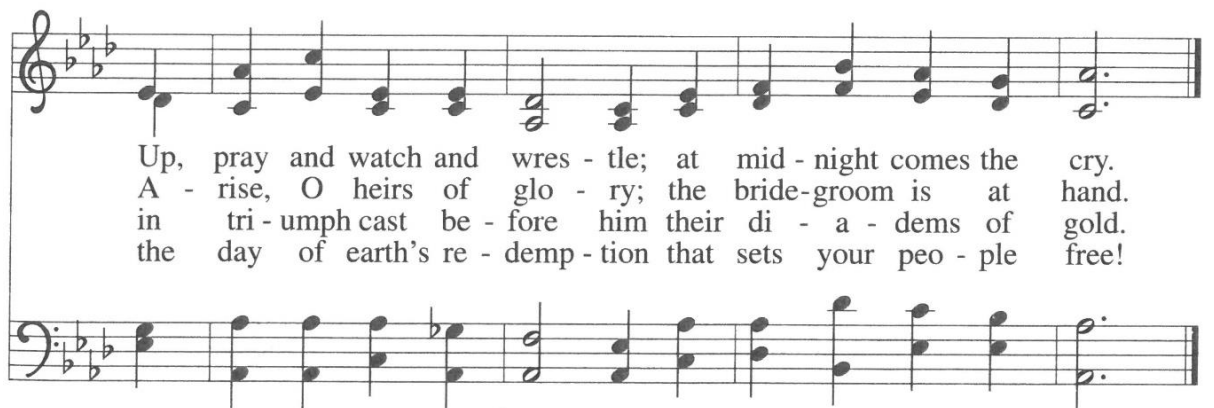
1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

*BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

L: God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones,
God of the angels in heaven,
the child about to come to the world...

P: Give us your peace and your good news, that we might rest and rise in you.

L: The blessing of God: Father, Son, and Spirit, be with you all.
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Christmas Card for Barb de Souza

Please take a brief minute to write a Christmas card to our retired healthcare missionary who served in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil for decades. She fell, has a concussion and is recovering but a card from her home church will cheer her! Simply wish her well and a Merry Christmas. Cards are provided!



Christmas Eve Worship Services

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Worship with Communion

10:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Choir and Communion

Please join us as we welcome the Christ child into our world
and lives and consider inviting a friend to join you.

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Jean Smith
Deacons: Tanya Larsen, Becky Pajac,
Cindy Gandrud, Loral Keil,
Brian Miller
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: JP Okal
Welcomers: Bob and Rebecca Ferguson
Coffee Fellowship:
Counters: Trish Graves, Mark Anderson
*Altar table flowers are given by Karri Van Dell
in memory of Peg Thompson.*

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Christopher Myers
Education Pastor: Stacy Johnson Myers
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>Dec 15, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,471	\$ 539,326
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 523,150

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), Barbara de Souza, Mike (friend of Mark Hudnall), Larry Bauer, Kevin (friend of Tanya Larsen), Crissy (daughter of Brad Williams), Fred and Mary Ross (Beth Rausch's parents)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our Sunday School kids presenting their Christmas program on today, may it kindle faith in them and us
- For those who received gifts from the Giving Tree, may they be tangible signs of God's presence
- For those receiving amaryllis plants, may they kindle joy in all who receive them
- For those who will receive food as part of the Reverse Advent Calendar, may it bless givers and receivers
- For our Discipleship Team as they work to secure pledges to fully fund our church ministry for 2025 as we dedicated our financial pledges on Sunday, November 17, may we be blessed with generous hearts

Prayers for our World:

- For those travelling over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, may you travel safely
- For students gearing up for end of term exams, may your diligence be rewarded
- For lasting peace in the Middle East that brings justice and security to all people, may God's Spirit be present
- 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

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For all who helped cook, serve and clean up after the Christmas Luncheon, which was enjoyed by over 140 people this year, it was delicious!
- For the River Falls High School Costumed Carolers who graced our annual Christmas Luncheon under the direction of Tanner Pietz who sings in our choir, you brought smiles to all of us
- For the \$1198.23 that was donated to the River Falls Food Pantry as the proceeds from our annual Giving Thanks meal in November, that you for your generosity!
- For our own Matt Cernohous who was recently appointed acting Fire Chief for the River Falls Fire Department, God bless you in your service to our community

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Tanya Larsen as she mourns her mother Gloria who died recently, may her family mourn in hope
- For the Paulson family as they mourn Richard, and the Hector family as they mourn Jean, may their families be strengthened at this difficult time

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

Announcements

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

Loving God

New to Church: Are you a first-time visitor? Please stop at the welcome table in the gathering area to receive a special welcome gift from us!

Christmas Eve Worship Changes: This year, we will again offer our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve family worship with candlelight, communion & a story for children of all ages. The late service this Christmas Eve will move to 10:00 pm, an hour earlier than previous years. It will again include the choir, communion & candlelight. Please join us as we again welcome the Christ child into our world & lives and consider inviting a friend to join you.

Sunday Morning Text Study: Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets from **9:00–9:50** Sunday mornings in the Youth Room. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Adult Bible Study: The Adult Bible Study group meets on **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm** and is currently reading and discussing *Signs and Wonders* by Amy-Jill Levine. In mid-January, the group will begin a new discussion book. That would be a particularly good time to join the Adult Bible Study. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Loving Neighbor

The Christmas Fund: The Christmas Fund has been caring for active & retired clergy & lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities & health premiums, & Christmas “Thank You” gift each December to our lower income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank You! There are envelopes on the gathering table or you can put a check in the offering plate with “Christmas Fund” on the memo line.

Reverse Advent Calendars: “Reverse” reminds us Advent is a season of giving. Rather than getting a toy or candy each day, we will be adding a food item to the grocery bag. Each bag has a list of a suggested daily donation, but you can use your imagination and add whatever you want. When the bag is full, bring it in and leave it in the gathering area. The Mission Ed Committee will bring all the bags to the Food Pantry at the end of December.

Sharing Families Giving Tree Thank You: On behalf of the Sharing Families Giving Tree program, I would like to thank our congregation for their extreme generosity. We were able to brighten the Christmas of 10 families with 28 children! Thank you! - Diane Welsh

Thank you from the Christmas Shoebox Project: Another successful Christmas Shoebox year has been completed. The gentleman at the Kinnic Rehabilitation and Alcohol Center were once again so appreciative for what they received. A truly humbling and amazing experience and it would not be possible without your support, donations of items or cash. Thank you to the after-school program for decorating the bags, to the yoga group that helped fill our boxes and bags, to the Among Friends that helped carry boxes and bags upstairs. Once again we pulled together as a community of faith and served those less fortunate. Bless you all. - Marie Roe and Jean Smith, Co-Chairs

Red Cross Blood Drive: Join us **Fri, Jan 10, 2025**, for the **Red Cross Blood Drive** held here at church from **11am–5pm**. Donations will help ensure patients continue receiving lifesaving blood products. Sign up at redcrossblood.org

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce & St. Croix Counties. For more information, call (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com & Facebook page. It is held at the church **Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 3pm**.

Loving Self

Blue Christmas Rescheduled: Join us **TODAY at 4:00 pm** for a service of blessing for those who are low in spirit, grieving, lonely, dealing with physical or mental trauma. If you are looking for comfort, hope, wholeness and renewal, join us.

Cribbage Night: The cribbage group meets the second Monday. Players are asked to donate \$2 & the group decides which charity. Playing time is **7:00 pm**. All players & abilities welcome. The next game is **Jan 13**.

Men's Group: Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts and lively conversation. Our next gatherings are **Jan 7 & 21**.

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a sack lunch. The next meetings will be **Jan 14 & 28**.

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Let's Knit/Craft Together: Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am**. We meet at **The Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month & the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays**. We have a great time sharing our projects and enjoying each other's company. Any questions, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or firstroe@gmail.com

WISE Corner: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group is held the **2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at the River Falls Public Library**. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Annual Reports Due: All Committees, please submit your Annual Reports by **Mon, Jan 13** to Missy at missy@firstchurchrf.org. Annual Reports will be available on Sun, Jan 19 for the Sun, Feb 2 Annual Meeting.

Learning Community: Conflict in the Middle East: Please mark your calendars for a Learning Community focused on the Israel/Hamas conflict. Dr. Andrew Latham, Professor of Political Science at Macalester College, will provide a balanced presentation that captures the complexity of the situation in Israel and Palestine. Dr. Latham will include a perspective on the role of the US in the conflict as well as imagine components in a lasting peace for the region. The event will be **Tues, Jan 28, 6:30–8:30 pm**. Please register.

Youth Events

Youth Mission Trip Survey: We are reaching out to gauge interest and availability for mission opportunities for the Summer of 2025 and Spring of 2026. We hope to find areas of mission work that youth and families would be interested in and provide spiritual and personal growth. Please take time to take the survey that was emailed to all families of those in grades 6-12. This survey is not a commitment to any trip or date, but rather to gauge group interest for further discussion and planning. Ask Alex for the link if you did not receive it.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Micah 5:2-5

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.'