

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

June 8, 2025



Pentecost Sunday

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

June 8, 2025

Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am

Gathering

O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully into my heart. Enlighten the dark corners
of this neglected dwelling and scatter there Thy cheerful beams.

- Saint Augustine

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

- Acts 1:8

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- 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.	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.- Please note our worship service is livestreamed.
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GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Silently waiting, expectantly hoping.

P: **Come, Holy Spirit. Come!**

L: Persistently watching, continually praying.

P: **Come, Holy Spirit. Come!**

L: Gathered in one place, hearts open and spirits ready.

P: **Come, Holy Spirit. Come!**

L: Singing and dancing, preaching and praying.

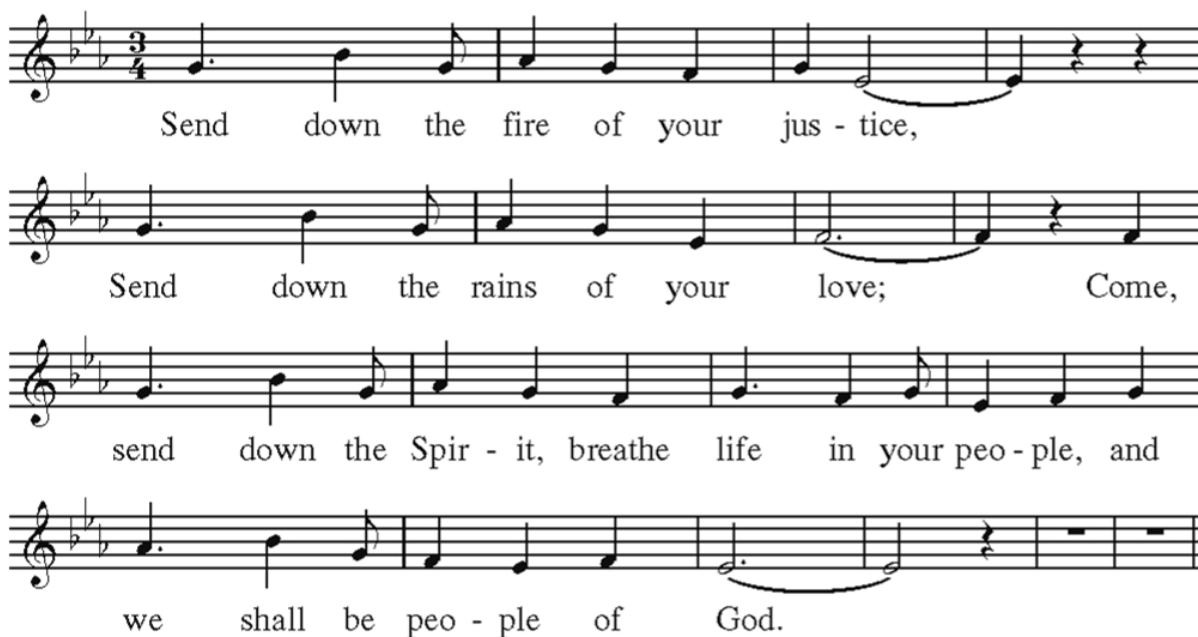
P: **Come, Holy Spirit. Come! Come, Holy Spirit. Come!**

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

*HYMN

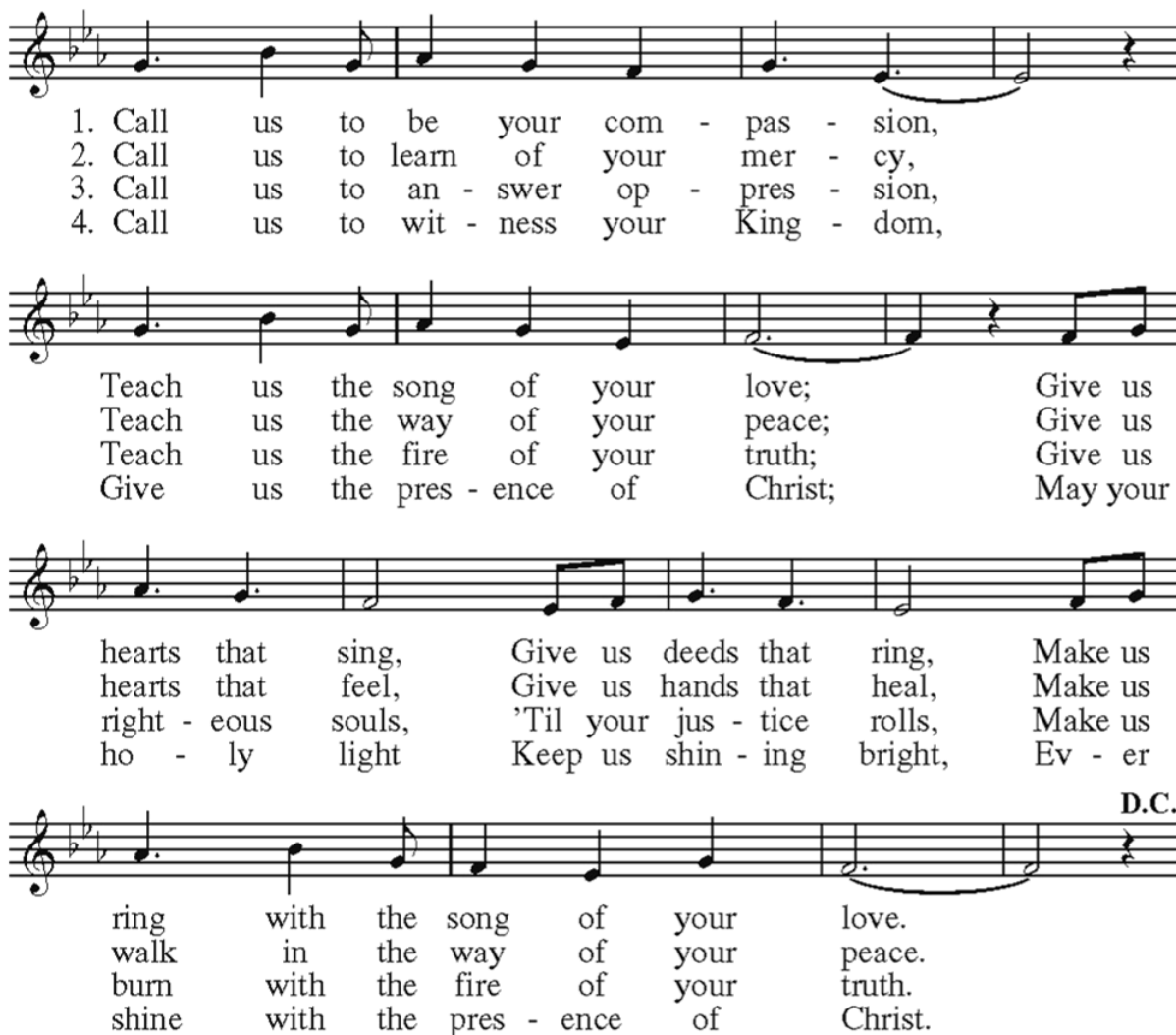
Send Down the Fire

Refrain



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,
Send down the rains of your love; Come,
send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and
we shall be peo - ple of God.

Verses



1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,

Teach us the song of your love; Give us
Teach us the way of your peace; Give us
Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us
Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your

hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us
hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us
right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us
ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er

ring with the song of your love.
walk in the way of your peace.
burn with the fire of your truth.
shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

D.C.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Spirit of God, you come to us as a powerful wind — but we have shut the door and bolted it, to try to keep you out. You descend on us as tongues of fire — but we run away, afraid of being consumed. You give us gifts beyond our ability — but we hide them, saying, “Not today,” or “How can one person make a difference?” or “No, Lord, not me.” O God, on this day of Pentecost, forgive our feebleness. Break open the doors of resistance. Let the fire of your Spirit dance within each of us. Give us courage and faith to claim your call for our lives. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Hear the good news!

P: **God’s Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one.**

L: Hear the good news!

P: **We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up God’s kingdom on this earth.**

L: This is good news!

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)**

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

Hearing the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Romans 8:22-27

PSALM 104:24-34 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation!*

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

P: **There is the sea, great and wide; creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great. There go the ships and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.**

- L:** These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.
- P:** **When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust. *R***
- L:** When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.
- P:** **May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works—who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.**
- L:** I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.
- P:** **May my meditation be pleasing to God, for I rejoice in the LORD. *R***

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-18

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
Verses 1, 2 and 4

Blue #326

***STATEMENT OF FAITH FOR PENTECOST - from the Presbyterian Church USA**

**We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
 everywhere the giver and renewer of life.
 The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
 sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
 and binds us together with all believers
 in the one body of Christ, the Church.
 The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
 rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
 engages us through the Word proclaimed,
 claims us in the waters of baptism,
 feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
 and calls women, men, and people to all ministries of the Church.
 In a broken and fearful world
 the Spirit gives us courage
 to pray without ceasing,**

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
Amen.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

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

Spirit of God Within Me

David Reilly

*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

Living God, send your Holy Spirit upon us. Use us for your work. Unite us in the bonds of community, that we may be the church today for others, and not only for ourselves. May the communion we know in you inspire us to be as faithful as the saints of the early church. In Jesus' name we pray. 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: Come, Holy Spirit, come! Come, bring rain upon our dry and dusty lives. Come, wash away our sin and heal our wounded spirits. Come, kindle in us and our world the fire of your love.

P: **Come, Holy Spirit, come!**

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.**

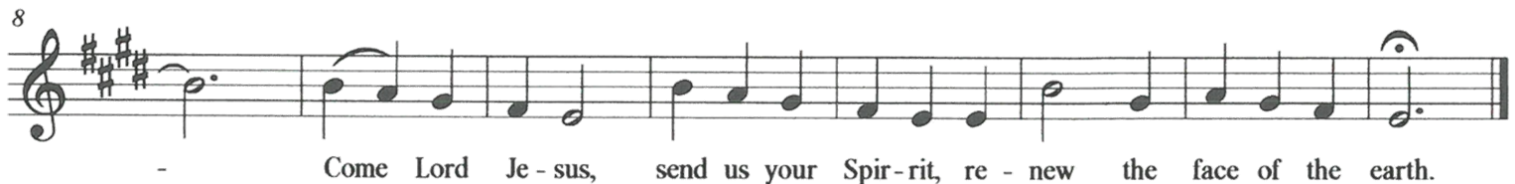
Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

Send Us Your Spirit

Congregation joins on refrain



Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Blue #461

Holy Spirit Come To Us

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, kin - dle in us the fire of your love.

Ho - ly Spir - it, come to us, ve - ni San - cte Spi - ri - tus.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The first system contains the first line of the hymn, and the second system contains the second line. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

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.

Sending

***HYMN**

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Blue #481

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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Scholarship Sunday was last week. Over \$40,000 was invested in our young people this year and over \$560,000 over the past 20 years. Here are some pictures from the day.



SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Chris Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Tom Oscanyan
Deacons: Cindy Gandrud, Paul Shepherd,
Laura Anderson, Brian Miller,
Loral Keil
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Sarah Meyer
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Jane Truesdill
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Marg Downing
Counters: Jane Truesdill, Scott Nelson
*Altar table flowers are given by Janice Healy
in celebration of Marge Faulks' 102nd
birthday on June 14.*

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: Marie Roe
Office Administrator: Missy Luedtke
Nursery Attendant: Kahla Fuller
Custodian: Farnum Fuller

Treasurer's Report

	<u>June 1, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,445	\$ 234,411
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 233,706

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'
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Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Barbara de Souza, Crissy (daughter of Brad Williams), Jeff Auchampach (nephew of Yvonne Benson), Janice Anderson (grandmother of Sarah Plum), Marc Otto, Judy Schierts (sister of JoAnn Lentz), Glen Corliss (brother of Raelle Jorae), Nigel (brother-in-law of Marshall Skule), Dave Mountain, Duane Church, Heather Williams, Tom Hall (brother of Rollie Hall)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For high school and college seniors graduating, may you be given strength and wisdom as you move toward your next steps
- For the 18 young folk who received scholarships last Sunday from our church Scholarship Fund, may you be blessed and be a blessing to others
- For Rose Rude who retired from UWRF and Rene Bylander who retired from Northwoods Technical School, may you enjoy retirement!
- For those who gave blood at our recent drive in the Fellowship Hall and who will give blood at the next one on July 23, God bless you for giving this precious gift
- For those who will receive diapers as part of our Mother's to Father's Day diaper drive, may God bless both those who receive them and those who give them
- For Louise Schmahl (sister of Becky Pajac) as she awaits a B+ kidney donor
- For Troy Zakrzewski who joins our church building team along with Farnum Fuller and Tim Bylander, God bless you for keeping our building so clean!

Prayers for our World:

- For the ways the Spirit of God is at work in our world today moving us to be people of grace, compassion and joy
- For all those whose small daily acts of courage slowly help change the world (and themselves)
- For the hope of peace in Gaza, Palestine, Israel, Sudan and Ukraine, 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 Katie Krueger and Hunter Pesik who will be married on June 14th, may you keep growing in love
- For Dick and Diane Jensen celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 15 with flowers for us, congratulations!
- For Rich and Shari Clymer celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary on June 22, may your love continue to grow
- For Bennett Roger Kearns born on May 8 to Sarah and Treavor Kearns, and grandparents Roger and Norma Veith, may he grow in wisdom and faith
- For the new River Falls Fire Chief, our own Justin Wilson, congratulations and thank you for pursuing this calling!
- For Marjorie Faulks who will celebrate her 102nd birthday on Saturday, June 14 with a party at St Croix Lanes from 1-3pm, you are an inspiration!

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Jan Hansen who died surrounded by family and whose Memorial Service will be Saturday, June 14 at 11am here at church with a lunch to follow and visitation an hour before, may her family be comforted
- For the family of Glenn Kees who died peacefully surrounded by his family in Oconomowoc and whose Memorial Gathering is 1pm on Thursday, June 12 with a reception to follow, may his wife Midge and family be comforted
- For the family of Dave Mountain, our former custodian, whose son Steve died in a car accident, may his family be given strength and faith as they gather Saturday, June 21 to remember his life
- For the family of Alex, nephew of Barb Stephens, son of David and Catherine, who died in a tragic house fire
- For those who mourn, especially the families of Leah Gavin, Peg Steinmetz, Brian Healy, Eunice (sister of Barb Stephens), Wayne Revels, Arlyn Koecher (father of Steve), Rollie Hall (husband of Joan), may they 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.



Diaper Drive

May 11 - June 15

We are collecting your donations from
Mother's Day to Father's Day.

We are in need of:

All Diaper Sizes
(especially sizes 4 and 5)

Baby Wipes

Donations will go to Our Neighbors' Place,
Turning Point and River Falls Food Pantry

First Congregational Church
110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI

GOSPEL LESSON: Romans 8:22-27

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 2:1-18

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, 'Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power.' All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?' But others sneered and said, 'They are filled with new wine.'

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

"In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.