

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

June 15, 2025



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

June 15, 2025

*Father's Day
Trinity Sunday*

9:30 am

Gathering

It is an image of the Trinity as a plant, with the Father as a deep root,
the Son as the shoot that breaks forth into the world, and the Spirit
as that which spreads beauty and fragrance.

- Tertullian, Early Church Father (c. 155–230)

By the time a man realizes that maybe his father was right,
he usually has a son who thinks he's wrong.

- Charles Wadsworth

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: Let us worship God!

P: **Creator, Holy One, Sovereign God, Maker of heaven and earth.**

L: Let us worship God!

P: **Jesus Christ, God-with-us, Savior, Brother, Lord.**

L: Let us worship God!

P: **Holy Spirit, tongues of fire, a rushing wind, a still, small voice.**

L: God is holy, three-in-one!

All: **Come let us worship the Triune God!**

***HYMN**

All You Works of God

(Sing odd verses only)

Refrain

All you works of God, ev-'ry moun - tain, star and tree, bless the One
who shapes your beau-ty, who has caused you all to be one great
song of love and grace, ev - er an - cient, ev - er new. Raise your
voic - es, all you works of God!

Verses

1. Sun and moon:		Stars of heav-en:
2. Winds of God:		Cold and win-ter:
3. Night and day:		Light and dark-ness:
4. All the earth:	Bless your Mak - er!	Hills and moun-tains:
5. Wells and springs:		Seas and riv - ers:
6. Fly - ing birds:		Beasts and cat - tle:
7. All who live:		Men and wom-en:

Chant your praise!	Show - ers	and	dew:
	Snow - storms	and	ice:
	Light - nings	and	clouds:
	Green things	that	grow:
	Whales in	the	deep:
	Chil - dren	at	play:
	Ser - vants	of	God:

Raise up your joy - ful song. **D.C.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: All of us have fallen short of God's call. As those made in the image of the Creator, we have not been good stewards of God's creation.

P: **Have mercy on us, O Triune God.**

L: As those called to follow in the path of Christ, we have not loved others as he loves each of us.

P: **Have mercy on us, O Triune God.**

L: As those equipped by the Spirit, we have been too timid and lack passion.

P: **Have mercy on us, O Triune God.**

All: **Restore us. Renew us. Revive us, for your sake. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: God our Creator can make new ways out of the dead ends in our lives.

P: **God our Savior brings hope to the most hopeless corners of our lives.**

L: God the Spirit offers a peace we cannot find on our own.

P: **Let us embrace the good news of God's grace known to us in Jesus Christ.**

L: In Christ we are forgiven.

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**

Love is Flowing

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.

Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring from the fountain of life.

Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring from the fountain of life.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 5:1-5

PSALM 8 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R *Great is your faithfulness! Great is your faithfulness!*

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed your hand has provided,

Great is your faithfulness, God, unto me!

L: O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

- P: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.**
- L: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?**
- P: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor.**
- L: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**
- P: O LORD, our God, how majestic is your name in all the earth! R**

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

John 6:12-15

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

Blue #136

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – The Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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.

MISSION MOMENT – Our Neighbors' Place (ONP)

Rebecca Ferguson

***DOXOLOGY**

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

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Holy God, for all that we have received, may we be thankful. For all that we hold dear, may we be grateful. For all that we are called to give, may we answer with glad and generous hearts. Bless those in our community who will receive these gifts. May they be signs of your grace. 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: Beloved in Christ, this is the joyful feast of the people of God!
P: **Come let us gather to celebrate a feast for all time.**
L: Come let us join with Jesus and his disciples in an upper room.
P: **Come let us join the saints of all ages who have come in faith all along the way.**
L: Come let us let God feed us with the bread of life and be sent with the power of the Holy Spirit to be the body of Christ for the world.

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:

This Is My Father's World

Blue #21

Blest Are They

Gsus Leader or All *G* *D* *C*



1 Blest are they, the poor in spir - it; theirs is the
2 Blest are they, the low - ly ones; they shall in -
3 Blest are they who show mer - cy; mer - cy
4 Blest are they who seek peace; they are the
5 Blest are you who suf - fer hate, all be -

Dsus *D7* *Gsus* *G* *Gsus* *G*



king - dom of God. Blest are they,
her - it the earth. Blest are they who
shall be theirs. Blest are they, the
chil - dren of God. Blest are they who
cause of me. Re - jice, be glad;

D *C* *Dsus* *D* *Gsus* *G*



full of sor - row; they shall be con - soled.
hun - ger and thirst; they shall have their fill.
pure of heart; they shall see God.
suf - fer in faith; the glo - ry of God is theirs.
yours is the king - dom; shine for all to see.

Refrain All *C* *D7* *G* *D* *Em* *G* *C* *G*



Re - jice and be glad! Bless - ed are you;

Am *A* *D* *C* *D7* *Em* *Em7*



ho - ly are you! Re - jice and be glad!

C *Dsus* *D* *C* *G*



Yours is the king - dom of God!

Congregation joins on refrain

Congregation joins on refrain

Refrain

Be not a - fraid. I go be - fore you al - ways. Come, fol - low

me, and I will give you rest.

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**

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

Blue #496

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:
OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021

Graduation and Scholarship Sunday was June 1. Over \$40,000 was invested in our young people this year and over \$560,000 over the past 20 years. Here are some pictures.



SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Marie Roe
Deacons: Becky Pajac, Tanya Larsen,
Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule,
Laura Anderson
Organist: Terry Mithun
Nursery: Evan Luedtke
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Matt Bastien
Welcomers: Lu Lueck, Marg Downing
Coffee
Fellowship: Marie Roe
Counters: Jane Truesdill, Mark Anderson
*Altar table flowers are given by Dick and
Diane Jensen in celebration of their 60th
wedding anniversary.*
*Altar table flowers are given by the Mission
Ed Committee in thanks for the Diaper Drive
donations.*

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 8, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 11,542	\$ 245,953
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 244,329

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:

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

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- 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 those gearing up for our River Falls Days Bluegrass Concert on the church front lawn on Thursday, July 10th from 6-8pm, may we all rest, relax and enjoy music together
- 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!
- For the 18 young folk who received scholarships from our church Scholarship Fund, may you be blessed and be a blessing to others
- 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 Louise Schmahl (sister of Becky Pajac) as she awaits a B+ kidney donor

Prayers for our World:

- For all who are called to be fathers as we celebrate Father's Day this Sunday, may you grow in grace, love, strength and compassion
- For vulnerable people across the country and around the world affected by cuts in government programs
- 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 the gift of summer and all that accompanies this special time of year
- For Katie Krueger and Hunter Pesik who were married on June 14, may you continue to grow in love
- For Dick and Diane Jensen celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12th 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 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 Marc Otto who died recently & whose Memorial Service will be here at church on Thurs, June 26 at 2pm with visitation an hour before and a reception to follow, may his wife Lori and his family be comforted
- For the family of Jan Hansen whose Memorial Service was Saturday, June 14 at 11am here at church, may her family be comforted
- For the family of Glenn Kees whose Memorial Gathering was Thursday, June 12, 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 at 1pm to remember his life
- 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.

Join us for a **FREE** concert
on the lawn
at 110 N. 3rd St. River Falls

Thur. July 10th
from 6-8 pm

featuring

Slapdash
Bluegrass Band
& Rollin' River
Mobile Hospitality
Food Truck

First Congregational UCC
firstchurchrf.org | 715-425-2052



SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 5:1-5

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 16:12-15

'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Mother's Day and Father's Day Diaper Drive

Today is the last day of our Diaper Drive as a way of honoring our Mothers and Fathers. Diapers will be given to local families through Our Neighbors' Place, Turning Point and the River Falls Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity!

