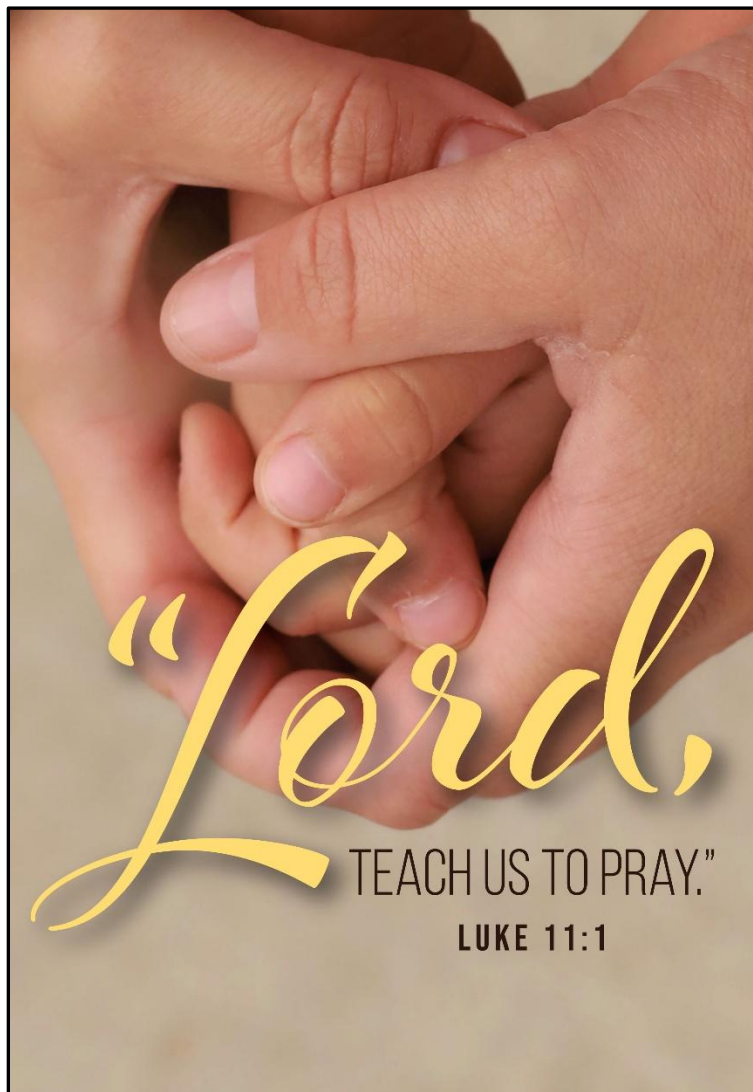


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

July 27, 2025



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

July 27, 2025

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

We all pray, whether we think of it as praying or not. The odd silence we fall into when something very beautiful is happening, or something very good or very bad. The aah that sometimes floats up out of us as the fireworks burst forth on July 4th. The stammer of pain at somebody else's pain. The stammer of joy at someone else's joy. Whatever words or sounds we use for sighing with, over and our own lives. These are all prayers in their own way. Spoken not just to ourselves but to something or someone even more familiar than ourselves.

Wishful Thinking by Frederick Buechner

<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: People of God, we are together to worship and pray.

P: **We do not know how to pray.**

L: Jesus Christ, our risen Savior, has taught us how to pray.

P: **But we do not know how to pray as we ought to pray.**

L: The Holy Spirit engages with our spirit to pray as we ought.

P: **But how can we have the Holy Spirit?**

L: Our Gracious God gives the Holy Spirit to all who ask.

P: **Then, in the power of the Holy Spirit, let us worship and pray.**

All: **Thanks be to God. Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!**

***HYMN**

Let Every Christian Pray

Blue #332

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Holy Teacher, we do not always pray as we ought.

P: **Help us to speak the truth and to listen for your forgiveness:**

L: When we pray, "Our Father in heaven,"

P: **But forget to embrace all people as your children...**

L: When we say, "Your kingdom come"

P: **Without working for your kingdom on earth...**

L: When we ask for our daily bread,

P: **But do not recognize it as your gift...**

L: When we request forgiveness for ourselves,

P: **But fail to pardon others...**

L: When we plead not to be led into times of trial,

P: **But walk willingly into temptation...**

L: When we honor you with our lips,

P: **But too often falter in our daily living...**

All: **Lord, forgive us. Help us to pray unceasingly, that we may be transformed by the renewing power of the Spirit. Create spaces in our prayer that we might hear and live out your words back to us, words of love and justice, grace and forgiveness. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Brothers and sisters in Christ, hear these words regarding prayer: "Ask and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock and the door will be opened for you."

P: **We remember that God longs to hear our prayer, and longs to communicate back.**

L: Let us friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

P: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Let us live at peace as forgiven people.**

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)**

Amen

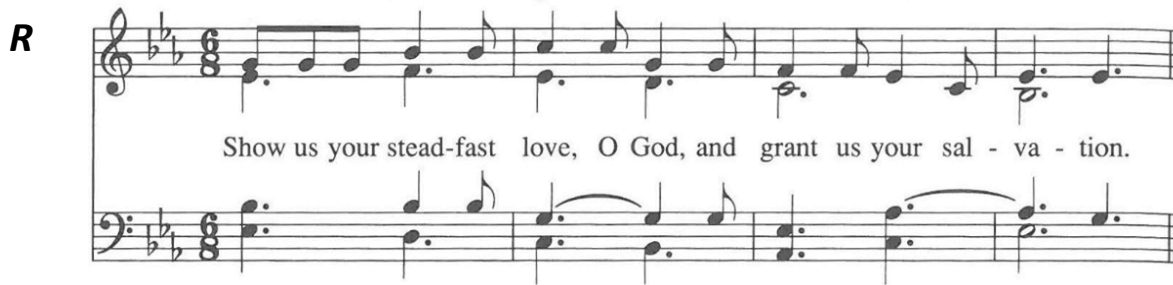
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Colossians 2:6-15

PSALM 85 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)



- L: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.
- P: **You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.**
- L: You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.
- P: **Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation towards us.**
- L: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?
- P: **Will you not revive us again, so that your people may rejoice in you? R**
- L: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.
- P: **Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for God will speak peace to God's people, to his faithful, to those who turn to God in their hearts.**
- L: Surely God's salvation is at hand for those who fear God, that his glory may dwell in our land.
- P: **Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**
- L: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.
- P: **The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase. Righteousness will go before God, and will make a path for God's steps. R**

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 11:1-13

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Over My Head

Refrain



O-ver my head, I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head,
I hear mu-sic in the air; o-ver my head, I hear
mu-sic in the air; there must be a God some - where.

Verses



Cantor:
1. Oh when the world is si - lent, oh
2. And when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu-sic in the air; and
3. Now when I think on Je - sus, now

Assembly:
when the world is si - lent, oh
when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu-sic in the air; and
when I think on Je - sus, now

Assembly:
when the world is si - lent,
when I'm feel - ing lone - ly, I hear mu-sic in the air;
when I think on Je - sus,

All: D.C.
there must be a God some - where.

*STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Canada

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

P: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

This is our prayer, O Lord...



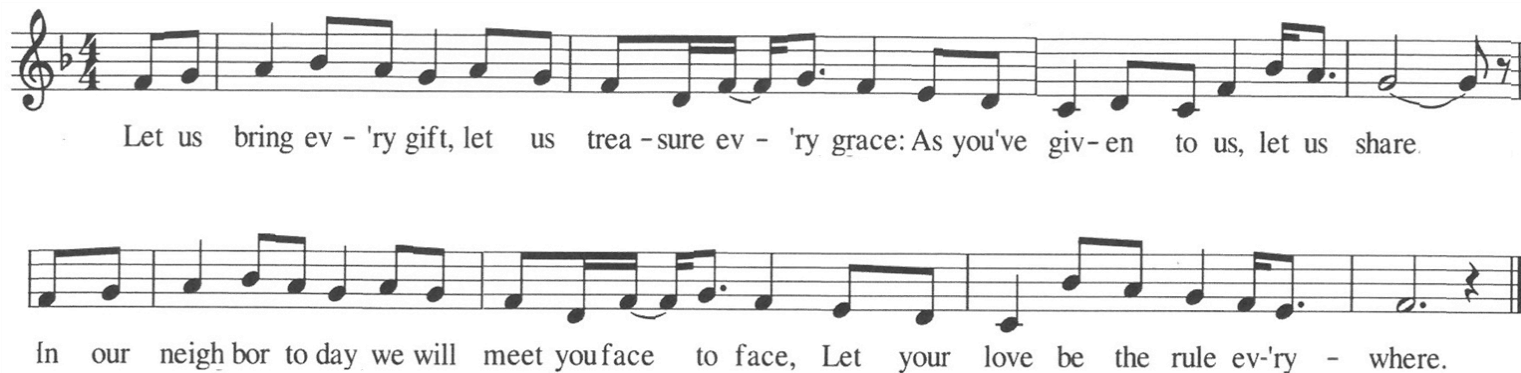
...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

He Never Failed Me Yet
by Robert Ray

Summer Choir

*OFFERTORY



***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Generous God, **you have been so bountiful with us, and we thank you for the chance to be generous as well. You have given us the beauty of this earth and taught us to be good stewards. You have brought us to faith and given us companions who have helped us along the way. Most of all, you have given us your Son. We praise you for all your blessings, and ask that we may learn to respond by sharing our good fortune with others. 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: Jesus prayed. Over and over and over.
P: He prayed before meals, thanking God for the abundance given to him.
L: He prayed for the little children as he welcomed them into his presence.
P: He prayed as he healed the sick and injured.
L: He prayed before raising Lazarus from the dead.
P: He prayed for strength in the Garden of Gethsemane.
L: And he prayed at this table as he fed those who would deny and betray him.
All: Let us come to Christ's table as people of prayer.

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:

Lord's Prayer

The musical score is written for a two-part setting (Soprano/Alto and Bass) in F major, 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music. The first system contains the first six lines of the prayer. The second system contains the next six lines. The third system contains the final two lines and ends with a double bar line and repeat sign, marked 'Fine'. Chord markings are placed above the treble staff: F, C, F, C, F, Dm, Bb, C in the first system; F, C, F, C7, F, C in the second system; and F, Bb, C, F in the third system.

1. Our Fa-ther, which art in heav-en,
2. Done on earth as it is in heav-en,
3. And for-give all our debts, hal-low-ed - a be thy
4. Lead us not in - to temp-ta-tion,
5. Thine is the king-dom, pow-er, and glo-ry,
6. A - men, a - men, a - men,

name. Thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
Give us this day our dai - ly bread,
As we for - give our debt - ors,
But de - liv - er us from e - vil,
For - ev - er and ev - er,
A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men,

hal - low - ed - a be thy name. Fine

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

Blue #473

In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful

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

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**

Standing in the Need of Prayer

Black #519

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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VBS starts on Monday! Please pray for our kids, parents, volunteers and all who make this week great. Let Your Light Shine!



SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Tanya Larsen
Deacons: Kathy Tomlinson, Karen Lloyd,
Loral Keil, Brian Miller,
Cindy Gandrud
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Nursery: Rebecca Ferguson
Welcomers: Art Rice, Elaine Diken
Trustee: Tim Bylander
Coffee
Fellowship: Myers Family
Counters: Jane Truesdill, Allen Barnes
*Altar table flowers are given by Lillian Tan in
thanksgiving.*

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>July 20, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,755	\$ 307,406
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 308,067

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, 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), Tom Hall (brother of Rollie Hall), Julie (mother of Kit Luedtke), Amy (friend of Barb and Larry Peterson), Anna (granddaughter of Barb Stephens)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those participating in the Tuesday/Wednesday morning Summer Youth Bible Study with Alex, may it be a time of connection
- For the Tools for School Drive that begins this week as we seek to provide school supplies to local kids, may generosity flow
- For those who cooked and served the meal at the Simpson Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis, may all be blessed by these efforts
- For those gearing up for the Kids Youth Musical on August 18-21 and VBS on July 28-31, may it be a time of faith-filled fun for all
- For those who gave blood at our recent drive in the Fellowship Hall, 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 those killed in the flooding in Texas, especially the young campers at Camp Mystic, our hearts ache with their families
- For those cleaning up the flooding in Texas and North Carolina, may neighbors help bare the load
- For vulnerable people across the country and around the world affected by cuts in government programs
- For the hope of peace in Iran, Gaza, Palestine, Israel and Ukraine, may God's Spirit be present and may the innocent be protected
- 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 our Trustees who recently repainted the Fireplace Room, bless you!
- For the joy of peaches and supporting our Youth Fund!
- For those who served the funeral receptions this week for the White and Faulks family, you are a blessing
- For our AWESOME VBS teachers and volunteers, God bless you all!
- For Tools for School, a local ministry that helps local families with school supplies, what a gift to our community
- For the gift of summer and all that accompanies this special time of year
- For our Garden Geeks who weed and water at church each week, you are a blessing

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Marjorie Faulks who died after celebrating her 102nd birthday and whose funeral service will be at church this Sunday, July 27th at 2pm with visitation an hour before and a reception to follow, may her family including daughter Janice Healy be comforted
- For those who mourn, especially the families of Chuck White, Marc Otto, Glenn Kees, Jan Hansen, Brian Healy, 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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Colossians 2:6-15

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 11:1-13

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them, 'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'