

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

November 2, 2025



All Saints Sunday

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

November 2, 2025

*All Saints Sunday
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost*

10:00 am

Gathering

“I am not a saint, unless you think of a saint as a sinner who keeps on trying.”
- Nelson Mandela

Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! - Activity bags are available for children. - Large print bulletins are available. - Visitors please stop at the welcome booth. - Please stand when noted by the * - Congregation responses are in bold. - Please note our worship service is livestreamed.	Our Mission is to Love God and Serve People. Everyone is welcome because everyone matters.
--	--

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: For all the saints who have gone before us,

P: **We give thanks for our ancestors in the faith.**

L: For all the saints who have been beloved to us,

P: **We give thanks for our loved ones who have passed on.**

L: For all the saints who have left us too soon,

P: **We mourn their passing, and they remain in our hearts.**

L: For all the saints who have exemplified the faithful life,

P: **May we learn from their ways and follow you.**

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

***HYMN**

For All the Saints

Blue #529

Verses 1, 2, 3 & 4

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: If we fail to live our lives with integrity,

P: **Forgive us, Holy God.**

L: If we forget to reach out to the lost and lonely,

P: **Forgive us, Holy God.**

L: If we neglect to be a beacon of hope and joy in our world,
P: **Forgive us, Holy God.**
All: **Set us on your path, O God. Teach us anew what it means to be your disciples.**
Fill us with your Spirit that we may be your faithful servants, today and tomorrow. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Beloved in Christ, God's love for us is from everlasting to everlasting.
P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**
L: In God's love the sins of the past are swept away.
P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**
L: And by the Spirit's power we are empowered for new living here and now.
P: **In Christ we are forgiven.**
All: **Thanks be to God!**
L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.
P: **And also with you.**

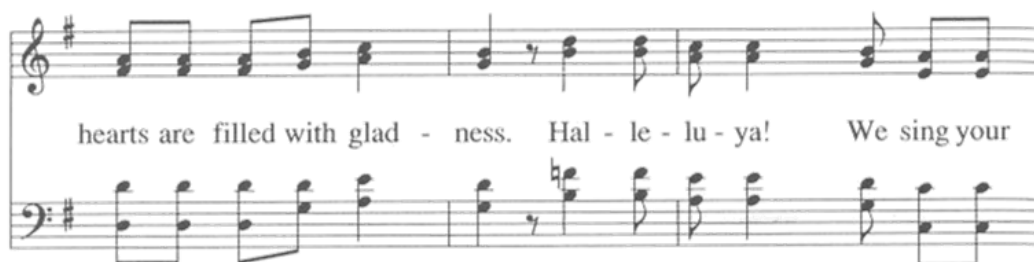
***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

***GLORIA (Sung twice)**



Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your prais-es, all our



hearts are filled with glad - ness. Hal - le - lu - ya! We sing your



prais-es, all our hearts are filled with glad - ness.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Ephesians 1:15-19

PSALM 24 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R *Lift up your heads, O mighty gates; behold the glorious Ruler waits!
The Sovereign One is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here.*

L: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for God has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.

P: **Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in God's holy place?**

L: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.

P: **They will receive blessing from the LORD, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek God, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

P: **Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.**

L: Lift up your heads, O gates! and be lifted up, O ancient doors! that the King of glory may come in.

P: **Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts is the King of glory. R**

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: Let us come to this table as all saints do, with love in our hearts, grace on our lips, memories buried deep in our souls, and a faith that holds it all together.

P: **Come let us join the long procession of men and women, young and old, who have gathered around this table longing to be fed with food that truly satisfies.**

All: **On this All Saints Sunday, let us take our place in the feast of life.**

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 proclaim 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:

Shall We Gather at the River

Blue #522

When Peace Like a River

Blue #428

Rejoice in God's Saints

Blue #531

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.

Proclaiming the Word

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

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

***Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory.
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory;
Children of the Lord.***

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 19:1-10

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – The Apostles Creed (A Litany)**

L: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth

P: And maker of black, brown, red, yellow, and white persons,

L: And in Jesus Christ – his only son, our Lord, conceived by the Holy Spirit

P: To live in eternity

L: Born of the virgin Mary,

P: To live on earth.

L: Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

P: And you and me

L: Was crucified, dead, and buried.

On the third day, he rose from the dead and ascended into heaven and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the living and dead –

P: Including you and me.

L: I believe in the Holy Spirit;

P: Present in five o'clock traffic, present in family discussions, present in the lives of those on welfare, present in the people of America and Afghanistan, Africa and Iraq, present in this congregation and present in myself.

L: I believe in the holy catholic church,

P: Which includes Baptists and Lutherans, Roman Catholics and Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and a lot of others.

L: I believe in the communion of saints,

P: And the communion of all people around one universal table.

L: I believe in the forgiveness of sin,

P: For community leaders apprehended by the law, for people who spread rumors, for those who slam down phones, for proud professors – for bullies – for murderers – for pastors and parents, and even for me.

L: I believe in the resurrection of the body –

P: For people I can't stand, for those who criticize my work, for my father and mother, for myself,

L: And the life everlasting,

P: I am trying Lord, but I need your help. Amen.

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

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our prayer.**

*Jean Hector, Rollie Hall, Brian Healy, Peg Steinmetz, Glenn Kees, Jan Hansen,
Marc Otto, Chuck White, Marge Faulks, John Fuller, Steve Hove*

...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

Diane Olson

GATHERING OUR GIFTS

***Variations on Zacchaeus
Was a Wee Little Man
Arr. by Tammy Waldrop***

Jubilee Ringers

*OFFERTORY

We Praise You, O God

Blue #726

***We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
In grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
We bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.***

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Eternal God, you gather all your people as one in the body of Christ. Unite us with all the people of every time and place who have lived by your Word and died by your love. Reassure us when we grieve that our loved ones are not lost to you. Prepare us for the day when we, too, join the grand celebration of life everlasting. Bless the gifts we offer this day and empower them to be good news for your people. 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
8.8.10.7

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
Celebrant: Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn
Deacons: Jena Most, Becky Pajac,
Liz Swank, Laura Anderson
Organist: Terry Mithun
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers: Carole Mottaz, Jan Johnson
Trustee: Matt Bastien
Coffee
Fellowship: Among Friends
Counters: Jane Truesdill, Scott Anderson
*Altar table flowers are given by Marie and
Roland Roe in memory of their parents James
and Louella DeLuca and Rosemary Roe.*

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
Custodians: Farnum Fuller,
Troy Zakrzewski

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Oct 26, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 17,683	\$ 448,422
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 456,789

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), Judy Schierts (sister of JoAnn Lentz), Glen Corliss (brother of Raelle Jorae), Amy (friend of Barb and Larry Peterson), Chuck Kamorowski, Gayle (friend of Barb Stephens), Eric (friend of Liz Swank), Deb Larson

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- On All Saints Sunday we remember the saints of First Congregational Church who this year include: *Jean Hector, Rollie Hall, Brian Healy, Peg Steinmetz, Glenn Kees, Jan Hansen, Marc Otto, Chuck White, Marge Faulks, John Fuller, Steve Hove*
- For the new Among Friends director who starts in mid-November, Brittany Myer, may she lead with grace and be welcomed with joy
- For our 6th graders who recently received their Bibles, may they use them to gain knowledge of themselves, their world and the God who loves them
- For the Rudolph Bostic art exhibit in our Fellowship Hall which ends next Sunday, may it kindle faith and curiosity
- For our Conference Minister the Rev. Franz Rigert who will be preaching here next Sunday, may he travel safely
- For those who are joining the church as members on Sunday, November 16th, may they find their place
- For Louise Schmahl (sister of Becky Pajac) as she continues dialysis

Prayers for our World:

- For food pantries and hungry families affected by the loss of SNAP benefits, may they be funded and people fed
- For folks cleaning up after Hurricane Melissa, may you be given strength and help from others
- For the tentative peace in Gaza, may it lead to a just and lasting peace
- For the people of Ukraine as they battle for their freedom, may they be given strength and courage
- 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 10 years of generating clean solar energy with our church solar panels, thanks be to God!
- For those battling cancer, may they be given strength and support
- For the dementia event held in our Fellowship Hall this past Tuesday
- For the gift of this beautiful fall with all its pleasures, may we bask in it (because we know what follows!)
- For all those working at and preparing for the annual Giving Thanks Meal, may it be a thankful time

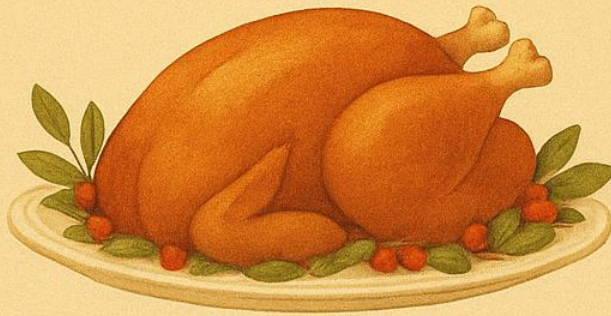
For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Steve Hove who died recently and whose funeral was here last Friday, may they be comforted
- For those who mourn, especially the families of Tom Hall, Hing Man, Kent Tomlinson, Marjorie Faulks, Chuck White, Marc Otto, 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.

Giving Thanks Meal

HOSTED BY
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



Join us for a warm meal and grateful hearts!
Celebrate God's goodness and the blessings of community
as we share food, fellowship, and thanksgiving together.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 AM WORSHIP

11:00 AM MEAL

All are welcome – bring family,
friends, and neighbors!

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 1:15-19

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 19:1-10

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'

**Our Conference Minister the Rev. Franz Rigert will be preaching here next Sunday, November 9th. Please join us!**

Franz Rigert grew up in Delavan, Wisconsin, where his father served the Congregational UCC church for more than 30 years. He attended UW Eau Claire and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice with a minor in religious studies. In 1989 Franz enrolled in graduate school at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois. In 1991 he married his spouse Trinn, and in 1992 earned a Masters of Divinity Degree. Franz then served as Associate Minister at Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove, IL from 1992 to 1995. Following that, Franz was called to Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Grafton, Wisconsin, where he served for nearly 20 years. During that tenure the congregation grew significantly in membership and mission, eventually taking on a major building project that would provide a beautiful new sanctuary, several classrooms and much needed gathering space. In fall of 2014, Franz was called by the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ, to serve as Conference Minister. Franz and Trinn make their home in Cedarburg, Wisconsin, where Trinn has taught Early Childhood Special Education for 27 years. They share three twenty-something children – Mitchell, Jordan and Marianna. Franz enjoys mountain hiking, travel, music and nature.