

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

May 24, 2026



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am

Gathering

“I love the Holy Spirit. She is like the wild child of the Trinity, anywhere and everywhere moving, calling forth, and stirring things up. She is wonderfully illusive yet also fully present. She is untamable, full of possibilities and creative potential...She is wisdom.”

Latina Evangelicas: A Survey From the Margins, Zaida Maldonado Perez

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: Powerful Spirit, strong Wind:

P: Stirring us to life, breathing hope into despair.

L: Warming Spirit, dancing Flame:

P: Kindling joy and filling us with courage.

L: Comforting Spirit, gentle Breeze:

P: Refreshing our weariness, softening our grief.

L: Wise Spirit, blazing Fire:

P: Illuminating our path, casting out the darkness.

L: Holy Spirit, soaring Dove:

All: Calling us to worship, filling us with love.

*HYMN

God Is Here

Blue #1

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Too often we do not stop to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

Silence

L: Together, let us confess our sin: Spirit of God, you come to us as a powerful wind...

P: ...but we have shut the door and bolted it, to try to keep you out.

L: You descend on us as tongues of fire...

P: ...but we run away, afraid of being consumed.

L: You give us gifts beyond our ability...

P: ...but we squander them, we hide them, we say, "Not today," or "How can one person make a difference?" or "No, Lord, not me."

L: On this day of Pentecost, forgive our feebleness.

P: Break open the doors of resistance. Let the fire of your Spirit dance within each of us. And give us courage and faith to claim your call for our lives.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Hear the good news! God's Spirit has been poured out upon all flesh, and we have been made one. We are freed from the relentless power of sin. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up God's kingdom on this earth.

P: Thanks be to God!

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

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

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

R



Lord, send out your Spir-it, and re - new the face of the earth!

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works!

P: **In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.**

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

P: **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 him, for I rejoice in the LORD. R**

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

GOSPEL LESSON

John 20:19-23

SERMON

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

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.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – United Church of Christ**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

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

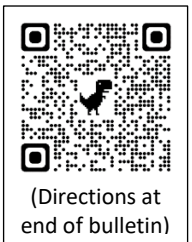
Lord in your mercy... Hear our prayer.

...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 – WISE and Mental Health Month – Marg Downing

GATHERING OUR GIFTS – Calpurnia Bastien

***OFFERTORY**



Let us bring ev - 'ry gift, let us trea - sure ev - 'ry grace: As you've giv - en to us, let us share.



In our neigh bor to day we will meet you face to face, Let your love be the rule ev - 'ry - where.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. **Through your goodness you have bless 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, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. 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 and everywhere 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:

One Bread, One Body

Refrain: *One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.*

*And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man no more. Refrain

Many the gifts, many the works, one in the Lord of all. Refrain

Grain for the fields, scattered and grown, gathered to one for all. Refrain

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Blue #326

They'll Know We Are Christians

Blue #595

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**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Blue #712

***BLESSING**

L: As you go forth from this place, remember who you are.

Remember your call.

Remember that Christ has placed his hope in you.

Go with boldness. Go with grace. Go with confidence.

Go now, knowing that Christ goes with you.

May the world be changed because the church is offering life and love to the world.

P: Amen!

L: The God of all grace bless you now and forever. Go from here in peace and serve the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Stacy Johnson Myers
Celebrant: Chris Myers
Cantor: David Reilly
Liturgist: Marie Roe
Deacons: Becky Pajac, Ann Nelson,
Melissa Oscanyan,
Lance Lueck
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Marg Downing
Trustee: Tim Bylander
Coffee
Fellowship: Welcoming Committee
Counters: Trish Graves, Mark Anderson

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>May 17, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 10,162	\$ 233,582**
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 226,160

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Now also includes annual gifts given at the beginning of the year.

**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), Glen Corliss (brother of Raelle Jorae), Eric (friend of Liz Swank), Lynn Merriman, Galen (brother of Sue Danielson), Steve and Janice Withers (father and mother of Erik Withers), Sam Morrissette, Jeff Johnson (brother of Jenny Luedtke), Nathaniel (friend of the Kruegers), Larry Bauer, Sharon (sister of JoAnne Friedell)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Leo Anthony Plum who was baptized on Sunday, May 17, may he grow in faith and love and may his parents Sarah and Alex, and big brother Anderson be given wisdom, courage and sleep 😊
- For those who worked at Moon Beach our UCC Church Camp (Rose and Dan Rude, Tim Bylander, Carol Merriman, Lu Lueck, Jane Wakefield, Chuck and Judy Sams) getting it ready for the season
- For Maddie Giordana and Eric Sayre who were married in Minneapolis on May 16, may they grow into the promises they make to each other
- For housing insecure folks in our community and those organizing Wellspring Village, a community of Tiny Homes to meet housing insecurity needs in our community, may God grace them with vision and courage
- For Louise Schmahl (sister of Becky Pajac) as she continues dialysis

Prayers for our World:

- On Memorial Day Weekend we remember those who died serving our country, may their sacrifice be treasured and their families comforted
- For those graduating from high school, college and grad school, may your next chapter unfold fully
- For the people across the Middle East living through war, may a lasting peace soon come
- For those in our armed forces and their families, may we support them and may God watch over them
- On Mental Health Sunday, we are thankful for our WISE Team (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) who seek to keep good mental health in the forefront of our minds and actions
- For farmers, especially small family farms, struggling to stay viable with so many economic challenges
- For stability and peace in Venezuela, Sudan, Iran, Gaza and Ukraine
- For those living with dementia and families trying to care for them, may they all be given strength, grace and help along the way

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- On this Pentecost Sunday, let us give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit that renews and recreates
- For the gift of our choir and bell choirs and their leaders Jamie and Sarah, thank you for sharing your gifts
- For our wonderful Sunday School teachers as the Sunday School season ends, God bless you all!
- For Kahla Fuller our faithful nursery worker during the program year and for those faithful volunteers who staff the nursery over the summer, thank you
- For those who received Pre-School scrapbooks last Sunday, may they help you grow in faith and joy
- For those who donated and those who will receive blood from our recent blood drive, may it bring life
- For Hope Lutheran Church who celebrates their 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 7th, may they grow in love, faith and service to their community

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Joyce Kampstra who died peacefully at home, may her husband Roger, three adult children and three grandchildren be comforted as they prepare for her Memorial Service on Monday, June 8th at 11am
- For the family of Keith Traynor (brother of Diane Welsh), Carol Cameron (sister of Joyce Kampstra), Terry Smith (sister of Tom Smith), JoAnn Lentz, Ronald Gandrud (father of Cindy), Loral Keil (wife of Brian)

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 10 - June 21

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

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. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'