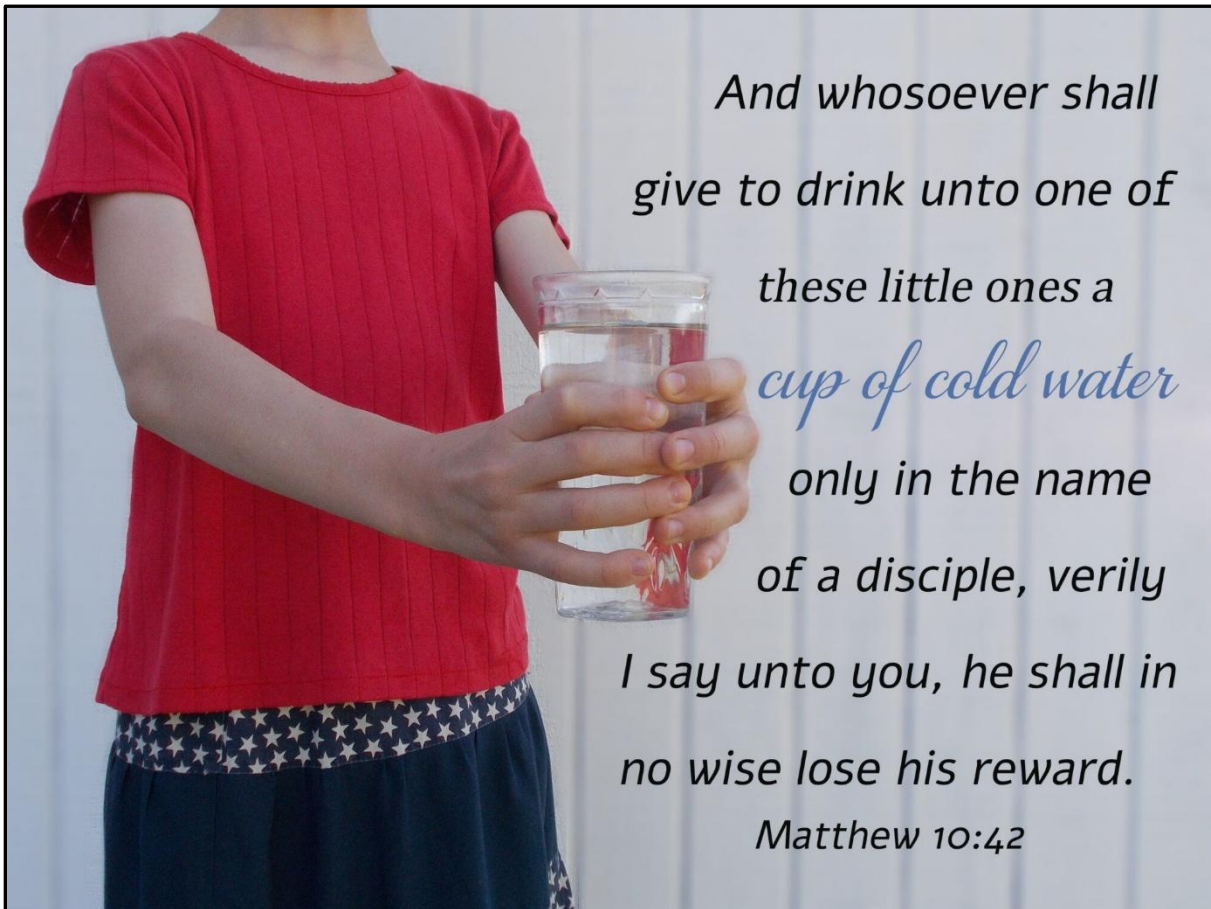


**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

June 28, 2026



*And whosoever shall
give to drink unto one of
these little ones a
cup of cold water
only in the name
of a disciple, verily
I say unto you, he shall in
no wise lose his reward.
Matthew 10:42*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

June 28, 2026

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 am

Gathering

But you're gonna have to serve somebody, yes indeed
You're gonna have to serve somebody
Well, it may be the devil or it may be the Lord
But you're gonna have to serve somebody.

Album: Slow Train Coming
Artist: Bob Dylan, 1979

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: Are any among us weary? Do we carry heavy burdens?

P: Here is a place of rest. Here we encounter Christ's healing and grace.

L: Are any among us frantic and scattered, breathless in our busyness?

P: Here is a place of deep peace. In our worship, we meet the unhurried God.

L: Are any among us feeling brittle and broken, thirst for the gospel?

P: Here we encounter Jesus, the living water – tranquil and ever-present.

L: Are any among us feeling hollow and empty, hungry for truth?

P: Here we encounter Christ, the bread of life – nourishment for the journey.

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

All Are Welcome

Verses 1, 3, 4 & 5



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell And
 2. Let us build a house where proph - ets speak, And
 3. Let us build a house where love is found In
 4. Let us build a house where hands will reach Be -
 5. Let us build a house where all are named, Their



all can safe - ly live, A place where saints and
 words are strong and true, Where all God's chil - dren
 wa - ter, wine and wheat: A ban - quet hall on
 yond the wood and stone To heal and strength - en,
 songs and vi - sions heard And loved and treas - ured,



chil - dren tell How hearts learn to for -
 dare to seek To dream God's reign a -
 ho - ly ground, Where peace and jus - tice
 serve and teach, And live the Word they've
 taught and claimed As words with - in the



give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions,
 new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness
 meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus,
 known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter,



Rock of faith and vault of grace; Here the
 And as sym - bol of God's grace; Here as
 Is re - vealed in time and space; As we
 Bear the im - age of God's face; Let us
 Prayers of faith and songs of grace, Let this



love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro - claim from floor to raft - er:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know what is right – to love God and love neighbor – but we do not do it. We know what is wrong – injustice, oppression, self-centeredness, greed – but we persist in doing it. We have become ensnared by our own petty desires; and when we try to free ourselves, we become tangled in our own good intentions. You alone can break the bonds of our sin, O God. You alone have the grace to free us from these knots that hold us captive. Free us, loving God. Liberate us for authentic living and obedient service in your name. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Our sin can tie us up in knots,

P: **But Jesus came to proclaim release to the captives!**

L: In Him, we are freed from the bonds of sin, by the grace of God.

P: **Let us believe the good news! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free for service in his name.**

All: **Thanks be to God.**

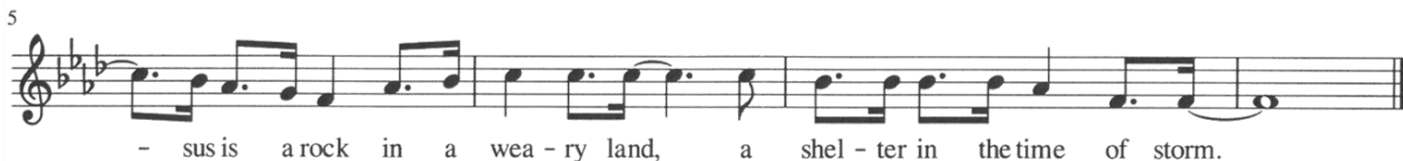
L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: **And also with you.**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

*GLORIA



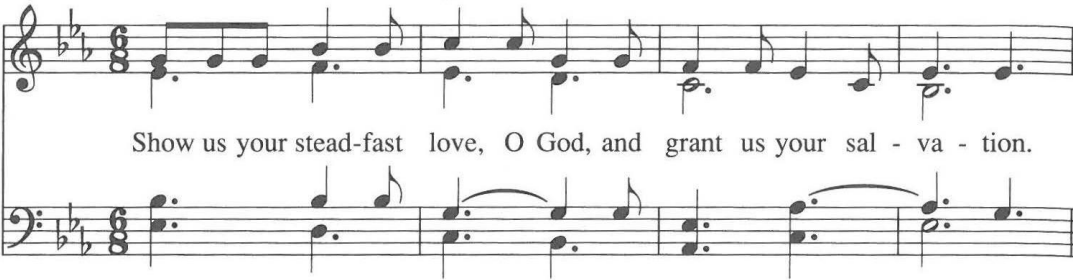
Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 6:12-14

PSALM 13 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R



Show us your stead-fast love, O God, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

- L:** How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?
- P:** **How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?**
- L:** Consider and answer me, O LORD my God! Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death, and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed'; my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
- P:** **But I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. I will sing to the LORD, because he has dealt bountifully with me. R**

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 10:40-42

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

***HYMN**

Christ, You Call Us All to Service

Blue #571

***STATEMENT OF FAITH – 20th Century South African Creed**

Jesus taught us to speak of hope as the coming of God's kingdom.

We believe that God is at work in our world

turning hopeless and evil situations into good.

We believe that goodness and justice will triumph in the end

and that tyranny and oppression cannot last forever.

One day all tears will be wiped away;

the lamb will lie down with the lion,

and justice will roll down like a mighty stream.

True peace and true reconciliation are not only desired,

they are assured and guaranteed in Christ.

This is our faith.

This is our hope. 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.

GATHERING OUR GIFTS – Emma Cruciani

Let it be a Hallelujah

By Lauren Daigle



(Directions at end of bulletin)

*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

O God, we bring our gifts with joy and with gratitude for the opportunity you provide us to share generously, that the work of your community of faith might continue and grow. Speed these gifts to fulfill your call to us to serve one another, to serve your peoples, to serve your world. With hearts full of thanksgiving we offer these gifts of our labor and our lives! Amen and 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, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death and appeared to Mary Magdalene. In the evening on the same day, he walked and talked with two disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: **This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, young and old, come from the east and the west, the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

L: This table is for all people who desire to know the power and presence of Jesus Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

P: **We are ready to come to the table to be fed.**

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:

Here Is Bread

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain

In this bread there is heal - ing, in this cup is life for - ev - er.
In this mo - ment, by the Spir - it, Christ is with us here.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord

Blue #291

Be Not Afraid

Blue #430

Congregation join on refrain:

Refrain

Be not a - afraid. I go be - fore you al - ways. Come, fol - low
me, and I will give you rest.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major. The first staff is labeled 'Refrain' and contains the melody for the first line of the hymn. The second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes. Chord symbols are provided above the notes: G, Gsus, G, D, Am7, D, G6, C, G/B, Bm, Em, Am, D, G, Gsus, G, Gsus, G, C/G, G.

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

I'll Fly Away

1 Some glad morn-ing when this life is o'er, I'll fly a-way;
2 When the shad-ows of this life have gone, fly a-way, fly a-way;
3 Just a few more wea-ry days and then,

to a home on God's ce-les-tial shore, I'll fly a-way.
Like a bird from pris-on bars has flown, fly a-way, fly a-way.
To a land where joys shall nev-er end,

Refrain

I'll fly a-way, O glo-ry, I'll fly a-way;
fly a-way, fly a-way, in the morn-ing;

When I die, hal-le-lu-jah, by and by, I'll fly a-way.
fly a-way, fly a-way.

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You

Cruciani Family

By Meredith Wilson

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher: Chris Myers
 Celebrant: Chris Myers
 Cantor: David Reilly
 Liturgist: Traci Hagberg
 Deacons: Laura Anderson, Liz Swank,
 Heidi Cavaness, Paul Shepherd,
 Kathy Tomlinson
 Organist: Terry Mithun
 Nursery: Diane Olson
 Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
 Welcomers: Rebecca Ferguson
 Trustee: Mike Danielson
 Coffee Fellowship: Carole Mottaz
 Counters: Marie Roe, Trish Graves
*Altar table flowers are given by Chuck and
 Judy Sams in celebration of their 60th
 wedding anniversary.*

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>June 21, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 3,250	\$ 269,970
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 282,700

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:

Eric (friend of Liz Swank), Steve and Janice Withers (father and mother of Erik Withers), Sam Morrissette, Nathaniel (friend of the Kruegers), Sharon (sister of JoAnne Friedell), Bruce (father of Melissa Oscanyan), Marlene (friend of Lu Lueck)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the 10,936 (yes, we counted them!) diapers given to local families by our church community to the River Falls Food Pantry, Our Neighbors' Place and Turningpoint, may they be signs of God's love
- For those who sang in our summer choir last Sunday and those who will on their next date, July 26, thank you for sharing your gifts!
- For our previous pastor the Rev. Del Permann and his family who will be in worship next Sunday, July 5, may he be warmly welcomed
- For Lyle Woods who turned 100 on June 17th, congratulations on this amazing accomplishment!
- For our Music Team gearing up for the River Falls Days Bluegrass concert on Thursday, July 9th from 6-8pm, may music bring us together
- For our church softball team as they gather each Monday at Hoffman Park, have a fun and fan filled year!

Prayers for our World:

- As teams are gathering for the World Cup, may the 'beautiful game' unite us on this one earth
- For those affected by recent devastating earthquakes in Venezuela, may help come quickly
- For those struggling to afford basic necessities - food, rent, childcare, healthcare - that God would provide for them through caring communities, compassionate assistance, meaningful work, and generous hearts
- For those in our armed forces and their families, may we support them and may God watch over them
- As we approach the 250th anniversary of our nation's founding, may we be given courage on the quest to become a more perfect union
- For farmers, especially small family farms, struggling to stay viable with so many economic challenges
- For stability and peace in 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 our Garden Geeks who tend our church garden and keep everything looking great, God bless you all!
- For our church mowing team who this year includes Laura and Mark Anderson, Randy Welsh, Roger Kapping and Lee Lueck, thanks for keeping our church lawn looking so great!
- For all those who have been given the gift of fatherhood, may you continue to grow into this wonderful gift
- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- For those giving blood at our next blood drive on Wednesday, July 22, may it bring life

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Ann Gustafson who died peacefully after a long battle with dementia and whose Memorial Service will be Monday, June 29 at 11am here at church with a visitation an hour before and lunch to follow, may her family be comforted
- For the families of Gary Pieffer (cousin of Rose Rude), Joyce Kampstra, Ally Fox, Seth Piphon and Karsten Greenchurch, may they grieve in hope

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

JUNE 28, 2026

(A) GREEN

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Romans 6:12-14

Therefore, do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 10:40-42

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

JOIN US FOR A
FREE CONCERT
on the lawn

THURSDAY, JULY 9TH
FROM 6-8 PM

featuring
**SLAPDASH
BLUEGRASS BAND**

and food for purchase
FROM 5:30-7:30 PM

by
**ROLLIN' RIVER
FOOD TRUCK**

at
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC
110 N 3rd St.
RIVER FALLS, WI

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