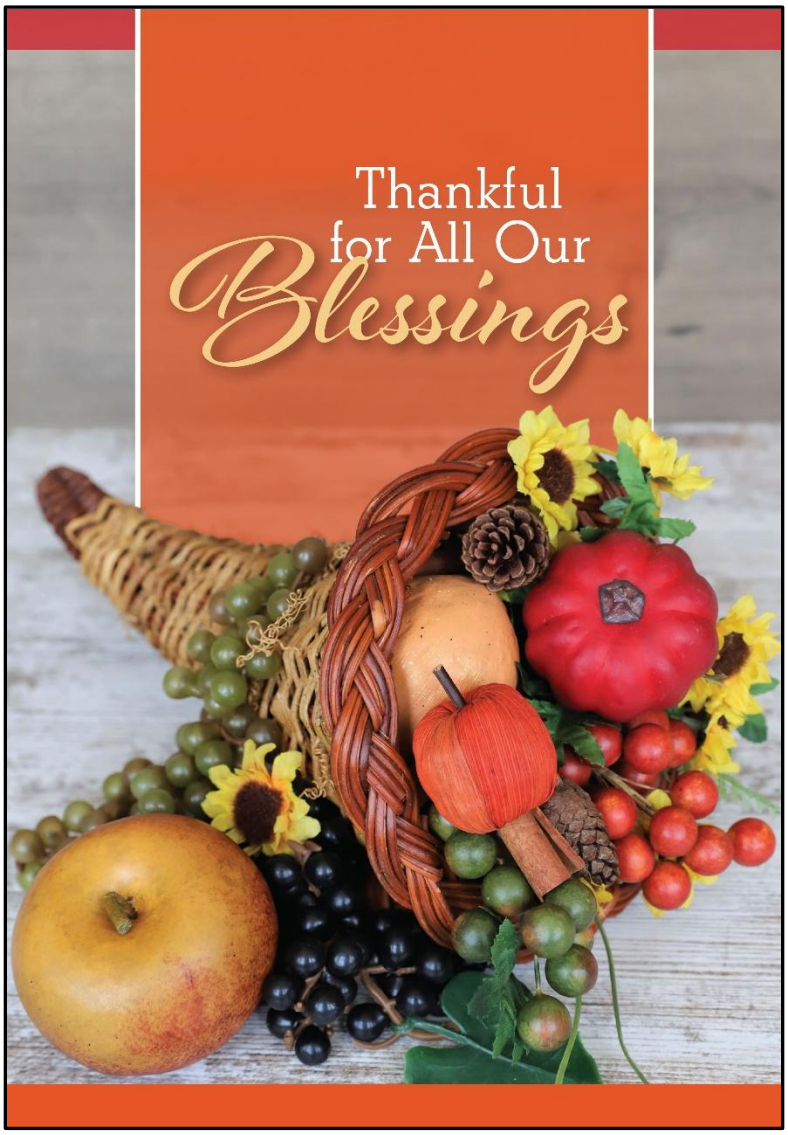
First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin

November 15, 2026



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

Giving Thanks Sunday

November 15, 2026 *Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost* 10:00 am

Gathering

If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough.
- Meister Eckhart

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 food to share and people to share it with,
P: We give thanks to you, O God!
L: For the hands that planted, harvested, prepared, and served,
P: We give thanks to you, O God!
L: For your love that meets us in our joys and carries us in our sorrows,
P: We give thanks to you, O God!
L: For this time to worship together and for the welcome you offer to all,
P: We give thanks to you, O God!
All: Come let us worship the God who leads us into life!

HYMN** ***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come **Blue #721**
(Verses 1, 2 and 4)

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Generous God, **we confess how easily we take your gifts for granted. We enjoy the meal yet forget the people whose work brought it to our table. We say grace over our own food yet too easily forget our neighbors who are hungry. We hurry past the people who care for us and leave our thanks unspoken. Forgive us. Help us notice the good we receive, thank the people who make our lives richer, and share what we have been given. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Friends, God knows what we carry today and welcomes us with grace and mercy.

P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and given a new beginning. We are free to receive God's gifts with joy and to share them with open hands.

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 *Amen* (Led by the Choir)**

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen

OFFERTORY (During the offertory, members of the church are invited to bring their tithes and pledges for the coming year as well as their weekly offering and place them on the communion table.)

Where Your Treasure Is

(Congregation join on refrain)



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Let us give God thanks…

P: For homes that are warm and the ability to be neighbors to others.

L: Let us give God thanks…

(Directions at end of bulletin)

P: For the people we love today and for those who now rest from their labors.

L: Let us give God thanks…

P: For opportunities to grow in faith, love and service.

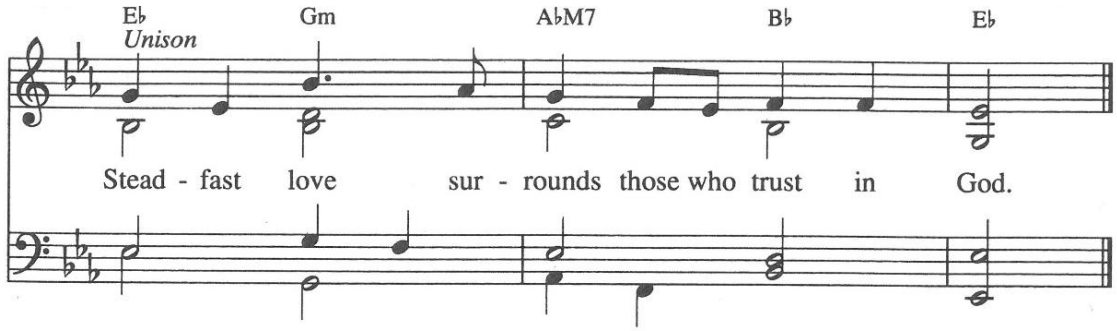
All: Bless, O God, the gifts we offer this day for the coming year. Together may we love God and serve God's people recognizing everyone is welcome here because everyone matters. Amen.

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON **2 Corinthians 9:6-15**

PSALM 136:1, 23-26 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join on refrain)

R



L: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good, God's steadfast love endures forever.

P: It is God who remembered us in our low estate, for God's steadfast love endures forever; and rescued us from our foes, for God's steadfast love endures forever;

L: Who gives food to all flesh, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

P: O give thanks to the God of heaven, for God's steadfast love endures forever. *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: Come you thankful people, come.

P: Come and eat the bread of life!

L: Come and drink the cup of blessing!

P: Come and gather around Christ's table as friends and family.

L: Together let us thank the God of abundance and let us take our place as God's thankful people.

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:

***Give Thanks* – Jubilee Ringers**

Arr. Geschke

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

Black #565

You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore

Black #173

How Can I Keep from Singing

Congregation join on refrain:

No storm can shake my in-most calm,
While to that rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

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

PRESENTATION OF SERVANT GIFTS TO 6th GRADERS & NEW MIDDLE SCHOOLERS

TIME WITH CHILDREN **Rev. Chris Myers**

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

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river.
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river.
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

GOSPEL LESSON **Matthew 25:14-30**

SERMON **Rev. Chris Myers**

SPECIAL MUSIC** ***Come Flood This Heart of Mine **Chancel Choir**
Arr. Lantz III

***STATEMENT OF FAITH (World Council of Churches)**

I believe in the living God, the Maker of all humankind who creates and sustains the universe in power and in love.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God incarnate on earth, who showed us by his words and work, suffering with others, conquest of death, what human life ought to be and what God is like.

I believe that the Spirit of God is present with us now and always, and can be experienced in prayer, in forgiveness, in the Word, the Sacraments, the community of the Church and all that we do. 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.

Sending

HYMN** ***For the Fruit of All Creation **Blue #723**

*** BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

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SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Traci Hagberg
Deacons:	Heidi Cavaness, Paul Shepherd, Anna Morrison, Steve Koecher, Kam Ross
Organist:	Terry Mithun
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Trustee:	Matt Bastien
Welcomers:	Rene Bylander
Coffee Fellowship:	Giving Thanks Meal
Counters:	Jane Truesdill, Mark Anderson

Altar table flowers are given by Tanner and Madeline Pietz in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:	Christopher Myers
Education Pastor:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Community & Outreach Pastor:	Bob Wang
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

	Nov 8, 2026	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	$ 3,956	$ 479,204
General Fund Operational Needs	$ 11,308	$ 508,860

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), Bruce (father of Melissa Oscanyan), Diana (friend of Janice Healy), Kelly (sister-in-law of Cindy Gandrud), Dave Woeste, Joan Hyland, Samantha Church (granddaughter of Duane Church), Kevin (son-in-law of Pat Anderson), Helen Stoltz-Wood, Diane Olsen and Faye (friends of Helen Stoltz-Wood), Mary Yaeger, Sharon Monroe, Logan Kiel, Luca, Cindy and Chris Marek (friends of Sue Simonet), Pat Anderson, Raelle Jorae, Aamon Johnson (nephew of Tanya Larsen), Christina Krueger, Mike Bates

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For those preparing for and enjoying the November 15th Giving Thanks Meal, may it help us feed on gratitude
- For our church committees and council who will meet this Tuesday, may they help us live into our mission statement of loving God and serving people, everyone is welcome because everyone matters
- For those who joined us at the Inquirer's Class and those who will be received as members on Sunday, November 22, may we make room for their gifts
- For those who received College Packs this fall, may they bring God's love close to them
- On All Saints Sunday, November 1st, we remembered all those who have died this past year and those who have been welcomed home to the church Memorial Garden as we dedicated a plaque with their names, may we remember them with gratitude

Prayers for our World:

- For a safe and fruitful hunting season
- 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
- For farmers, especially small family farms, struggling to stay viable with so many economic challenges
- For veterans especially those who are homeless or suffering from PTSD, may they be helped
- For stability and peace in Iran, Israel, Gaza and Ukraine

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the gift of this church and its ministry as we dedicate our financial pledges on Giving Thanks Sunday, November 15th
- For our trustees who recently painted classroom 101 downstairs (they are trying to repaint one classroom a year), it looks brand new!
- For our latest Learning Community 'Churches of River Falls' this past Tuesday and for its presenter Mark Anderson, thank you for helping us learn more about our community's history
- For Tanner and Madeline Pietz who celebrated their 3rd wedding anniversary on Nov 10, may your love grow
- For the safe arrival of Lainey daughter of Katie Krueger and Hunter Pesik born October 20th, may they all rest and grow in love
- For Alyssa Larsen (daughter of Joel and Tanya) and Jaron Duitsman who were married on October 31 in Maiden Rock, WI with pastor Chris officiating (yes, they got married on Halloween!), may their love continue to grow
- For Darlene Sumption & Lyle Wood who both celebrated their 100th birthdays recently, you are inspirations!
- For those who will give blood at our next blood drive on Wed, Nov 25 (the day before Thanksgiving), may it be a time of true thanksgiving and may it bring life to others

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the families of Matthew Drinkwine (son of Katy Kapaun our Wednesday Meal Church Cook), Bernie Schmahl (brother of Marilee and Becky Pajac), Lynn Merriman, Neil Williams, Connie Pajac (sister of Jeff Pajac), may they be remembered with thanksgiving

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

Announcements

Loving God

New to Church: Are you a first-time visitor? Please stop at the welcome table in the gathering area to receive a special welcome gift from us!

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets from **9:00–9:50** in the Youth Room. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The group is discussing Revelation. Copies of the book are available in the church office for $20. The group meets in the library on **Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30 pm.** If you have questions, contact Pastor Stacy.

Advent Evening Prayer Returns: Each Wednesday in Advent, we gather for worship using the Holden Evening Prayer Service of simple songs, scripture and stories. Join us on **Wed, Dec 2, 9 and 16 at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary for the absolutely lovely thirty-minute worship service.

Christmas Eve Worship: This year, we will again offer our 4:00 pm Christmas Eve family worship with candlelight, communion and a story for children of all ages. The late service will be at 10:00 pm. It will again include the choir, communion and candlelight. It is beautiful, and it is not as full as the 4:00 pm family service. Please join us at either service this Christmas Eve as we again welcome the Christ child into our world and lives and consider inviting a friend to join you.

Loving Neighbor

Christmas Shoebox: The drive for donations for the gentlemen at Kinnic Falls Alcohol & Drug Abuse Services has begun. If you would rather donate cash, designate it for Christmas Shoebox. Donations are due by Dec 10. The list of items is on the table.

Sharing Families Giving Tree: If you would like to help some children have a better Christmas this year, please select an ornament from the tree and purchase a gift from their wish list. **The unwrapped gift with the ornament needs to be at the church no later than noon Thurs, Dec 10.** Please give the gift cards to someone in the church office. If you would like to a make a cash donation instead, please make out to First Congregational Church with "Sharing Families" in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Diane Welsh at 651-334-3128 or the church office.

Reverse Advent Calendars: "Reverse" reminds us Advent is a season of giving. Rather than getting a toy or candy each day, we will be adding a food item to the bag. Each bag has a list of a suggested daily donation, but you can use your imagination and add whatever you want. The Mission Ed Committee will bring the bags to the Food Pantry at the end of December. Thank you!

Bring Christmas Joy! - We invite the church family to deliver an amaryllis plant to one of our shut-ins or special church friends. This is a wonderful, family-friendly activity that brings joy to both the giver & recipient. Simply sign up at church, prepare the amaryllis plant & deliver it. Feel free to add a card or some cookies if you wish. Thank you for being part of this ministry.

Basics for Local Kids (BLK): BLK is a non-profit organization that provides winterwear to local kids in need from infant to 18 years old. Please consider making a donation of gently used or new coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, or socks. Donations can be placed in the bin. Volunteers are needed to help families shop or to sort & restock items. To volunteer go to www.BasicsforLocalKids.org or call Kim Johnson at 715-821-1623. Other questions contact Renee Whipple 715-307-5074.

Grace Place Donations: Needed items: 55-gallon garbage bags, 13-gallon garbage bags, paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, Ziploc bags, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, light bulbs, batteries: AA, AAA, and 9-volt, cleaning supplies: Fabuloso, window cleaner, disinfectant wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brushes, cleaning scrubbers, good buys.

Empty Pill Bottles (Prescription Only): The River Falls Lions Club is collecting empty pill bottles, only the clear prescription bottles that are filled by our pharmacists, to send to Africa where there is an urgent need. The bottles will be washed, and the labels soaked off before they are shipped. A tub is in the gathering area.

First Church Companions: Are you interested in being a companion to someone in our church connecting with them at least once a month with a call or visit? Or would you like to have someone for a companion. Please use the sign-up sheet to be a companion or request someone to visit you.

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce & St. Croix Counties. For more information, call (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com & Facebook. It is held at church **Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 3pm.**

Loving Self

Let's Knit/Craft Together: Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am. We meet at Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month & the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays**. We have a great time sharing our projects & enjoying each other's company. For more info, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or firstroe@gmail.com

New Members Received – Sun, Nov 22: New members will be received at the 10:00 am worship service. If you wish to join, please make sure the church office has your information by Sun, Nov 15. Please see Pastor Chris for more information.

Men's Group: Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts & lively conversation. Our next meetings are **Nov 24 & Dec 8.**

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **Nov 24 & Dec 8.**

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, Nov 18 at 1:00 pm at Eunice Filkins' home**. Lunch will be provided. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

Game Day Sunday: Game Day is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next date is **Nov 22 at 11:45 am.**

WISE Team: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at 113 East Elm St. & Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at the church at 6:30 pm. For mental health issues, please call 988. For info, call Marg Downing at 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Wednesday Meals: On Wednesday nights, we offer a home-cooked meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is $9 per person with a family max of $30. **Meals are served from 5:15 to 6:00 pm.** You can get your meal to go if you go through the line (indicate when you sign up). **Reservations must be placed by noon on Tuesdays.** We also need people to sign up to help clean up. The menu for Nov 18 is bruschetta chicken over pasta, asparagus salad, garlic toast.

Winter Evergreen Porch Pots – Sun, Nov 22 at 1:00 pm: Come to church to make a winter evergreen porch pot. All needed materials will be provided. Bring a garden pruner (if you have one) & work gloves. While you don't need to pay for the materials, please give an offering of $25 which will be given to the River Falls Food Pantry. Space is limited to 12 participants.

Red Cross Blood Drive: The next Red Cross Blood Drive held at the church is on **Wed, Nov 25, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter: firstcongregationalrf to schedule an appointment.

Side by Side Choir: For those living with memory or thinking changes, their care partners, family, friends & community volunteers who enjoy helping others. It is a welcoming choir where people gather to connect & thrive by sharing music, joy & laughter! Join us **Mondays at 10:00 am** for our fall season. Rehearsals will conclude with a **concert on Sat, Dec 5 at 10:30 am.** To learn more contact: Norma Revels at 651-416-9530 or sidebysidechoir@gmail.com

The Advent Workshop: The Advent Workshop for families will be in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday School on **Dec 6**, the Second Sunday in Advent. The event includes making a variety of Christmas ornaments. If you have friends or neighbors considering participation in a church family, invite them to join you! Please sign up at church or online.

Cookie Exchange: The WISE team has a Cookie Exchange planned for **Sun, Dec 6, 11:30 am** in the Youth Room. Please bring four dozen cookies. Divide into 8 bags of 6 cookies each and include the recipe. You will go home with eight different types of cookies. For more info, contact Rose Rude at 715-781-7032. Please sign up at church.

Annual Christmas Luncheon: You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on **Tues, Dec 8, at 12:00 noon**. The menu features Norwegian meatballs and a large collection of Christmas cookies. The River Falls High School Costumed Carolers will sing. Please come! The cost is $10.00 per person. Please make a reservation.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve: Poinsettia sales in honor or memory of someone special have begun. The order forms are on the table. The cost is $15 each. Please return the form with payment by **Dec 13.** The plants will be on display for the Christmas Eve services. You may pick your plants up after the 10pm service on Christmas Eve. Proceeds of the sales go toward youth activities.

Journey House Events: All young adults are invited to Journey House (143 Cascade Ave) for the following: 1. Overstimulated & Overwhelmed – Sun, Nov 29, 6:00-8:00 pm; 2. A Night of Prayer – Making Space for the Sacred – Thurs, Dec 17, 6:00-8:30 pm

Name Tags: We encourage you to wear your name tags so that everyone can call you by name. It would also help the deacons when you take communion. If you do not have one, please let the church office know at missy@firstchurchrf.org.

Youth

Children's Advent Musical: Sunday School children in pre-school through grade 5 have begun working on the Advent musical, *The Christmas Guest*. It is important for the children to have consistent attendance so they are able to learns lines and songs. The dress rehearsal will be on Sat, Dec 19, 10:00–12:00 noon, for children in kindergarten through grade 5. The musical will be presented during worship on Sun, Dec 20.

16 Ways to Get Ready for the Birth of the Christ Child this Christmas

1. Enjoy the beautiful sung Wednesday Night Evening Prayer services on Wednesdays December 2, 9 and 16
2. Pick an ornament off the Giving Tree and help a local family
3. Volunteer as Christmas Eve liturgist or luminary lighter
4. Enjoy the Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8
5. Join us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 or 10:00 pm as we welcome the Christ child!
6. Donate items for the Christmas Shoebox Ministry given to men in rehab at the Kinnic Falls Center
7. Enjoy the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20
8. Cheer the choir on Sundays December 6 and 13 and on Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm
9. Participate in the Christmas Fund special offering benefiting those who have served the church
10. Do crafts and community at the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 6
11. Revel in the bell choir as they lend their gifts on Sunday, December 6
12. Sponsor a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service that can be taken home or given to a shut-in
13. Deliver an Amaryllis plant to one of our shut-ins or special friends
14. Bake some cookies and give them away or trade them at the Cookie Exchange on December 6
15. Attend the Longest Night Winter Soulstice Christmas Service on Sunday, December 20 at 4:30 pm
16. Pray that in your busyness, boredom or distraction, you may find time to welcome the Christ child into your life

NOVEMBER 15, 2026 (A) GREEN TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written,

'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.'

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 25:14-30

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, "Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, "Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents." His master said to him, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master." Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, "Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." But his master replied, "You wicked and lazy servant! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless servant, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."