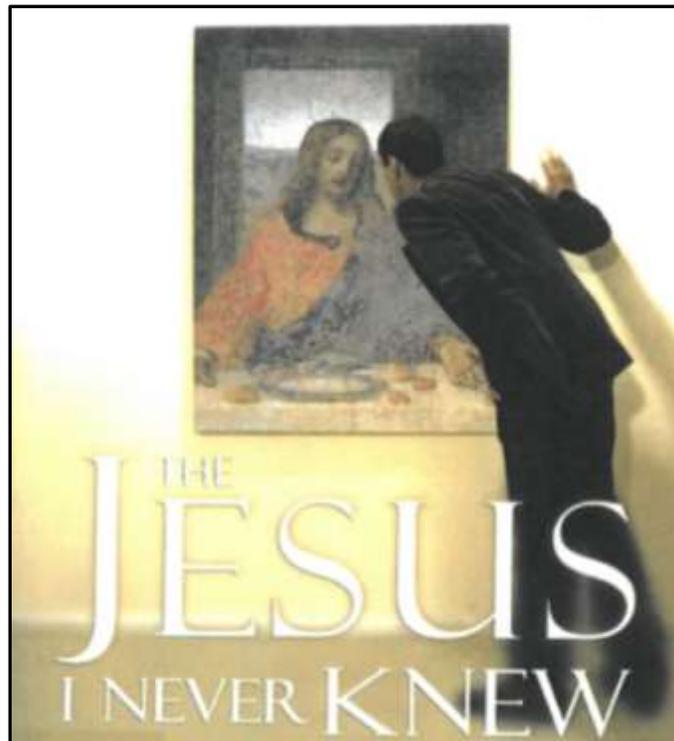


*First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin*

October 7, 2018



*The Jesus I Never Knew
Part Four: Who Jesus is For Me: Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers*

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

OCTOBER 7, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

"TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"

“...Jesus’ most basic intention was to enhance life—to save us *from* ‘death,’ understood symbolically and not only literally; to save us *for* life.”

Why Christian? Douglas John Hall

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today!</p> <p>Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall between the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.</p> <p>~The Nursery is available for young children. ~Church Mouse activity bags are available for children. ~Large print bulletins and hearing impaired devices are available from the ushers. ~Please stand when noted by the * ~Congregation responses are in bold.</p>	<p><i>No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!</i></p> <p><i>As Jesus’ courageous disciples, living God’s grace, we strive to:</i></p> <p>~ <i>Worship faithfully</i> ~ <i>Welcome openly</i> ~ <i>Grow spiritually</i> ~ <i>Care passionately</i> ~ <i>Serve generously</i></p>
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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To seek direction in the living of our lives.**

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To be still and hear what God would have us do.**

L: We gather as God's people:

P: **To be renewed, restored and recreated.**

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

***HYMN**

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

#436

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of the Banquet, we confess that too often we prefer junk food over the real food you provide. You offer us the bread of life, but we are content to waste our calories on things that do not satisfy us. Forgive our short sightedness. Feed us at your table this day that we may be satisfied. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: In Jesus Christ, God is in our world freeing us from the sins of the past.

P: **And by his grace, we are made new and whole again.**

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**

We are singing, for the Lord is our light, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, for the Lord is our light, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

We are singing, oh, we are singing for the Lord is our light.

BAPTISM OF LUELLE ROSE MILLS (10:30 am)

Welcome and Presentation

L: They were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant, and said to them.

P: **“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.**

L: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate God’s gift of grace in the baptism of Luella Rose Mills.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

Address

L: Baptism, the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given a part in Christ’s ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event, the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be a part of God’s people.

P: **This is the water of baptism. Out of this water, we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ, members of Christ’s body.**

Questions

L: As parents and sponsors of this child, will you encourage her to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Will you teach her that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by sharing with her the church's life, worship, and fellowship?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Christ will first be known to Luella Rose by the Christ seen in your home. By the grace of God, will you model the Christian life for her, provide instruction in the Christian faith and live with her in the covenant of baptism so that she may lead a godly life until the day of Jesus Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: We will, with the help of God.

L: Will you, the children of First Congregational United Church of Christ, welcome Luella Rose into the life of the church? Will you learn, play, and explore God's world with her?

Children: We will, with the help of God.

L: Jesus calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Will you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, nurture one another in the Christian faith and include Luella Rose in your love and prayer?

P: We promise our love and prayer.

Act of Baptism

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray. Gracious God, bless this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in your servant Luella Rose who will be baptized this day, that she too may rise with Christ. Glory to you, Eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit be upon you, Luella Rose, child of God, disciple of Christ, member of the church.

Baptismal Song *“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”*

Child of blessing, child of promise, baptized with the Spirit's sign; with this water God has sealed you unto love and grace divine.

*Child of God your loving Parent, learn to know whose child you are.
Grow to laugh and sing and worship, trust and love God more than all.*

Prayer

- L:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, for this child and the grace acknowledged here in water and the Spirit. Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive and nurture this new member of the body of Christ.
- P:** **Give to the newly baptized: strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life: through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Luella Rose Mills
Born: March 27, 2018
Baptized: October 7, 2018

Luella's parents are Tim and Jamie Mills
Luella's sponsors are Mary Jane Langdon, Dustin DeGolier

SPECIAL MUSIC *“Meditations of My Heart”* **Chancel Choir**

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am) **Rev. Chris Myers**

SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am) (Today is an “All Worship Sunday” during which children worship with their parents. Sunday School resumes next week. Young children may return to the nursery. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

*Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine, Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

PSALM 26 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Response Antiphon: Elaine Kirkland, 1994

Your steadfast love is before my eyes.

- L: Vindicate me, O LORD, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- P: **Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and mind. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.**
- L: I do not sit with the worthless, nor do I consort with hypocrites; I hate the company of evildoers, and will not sit with the wicked.
- P: **I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O LORD, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.**
- L: O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell, and the place where your glory abides.
- P: **Do not sweep me away with sinners, nor my life with the bloodthirsty, those in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.**
- L: But as for me, I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- P: **My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the LORD. ℞**

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 10:13-16

SERMON

The Jesus I Never Knew

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

Part 4: Who Jesus is For Me: Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers

*HYMN

"You Are Salt for the Earth, O People"

#181

*STATEMENT OF FAITH - The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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

...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.

OFFERTORY

"With Our Voices We'll Tell"



*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Glorious God, above the noise of conflict, there is a song of peace. Above the world's weeping, there is a song of hope. Above the cries of hate, there is a song of love. Bless these gifts, O Lord, that we, too, might be singers of Your song. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord. When invited, please come forward down the center aisle. Receive a piece of bread (both wheat and gluten-free breads are available) and a cup from the tray (white is grape juice and red is wine). Children choosing not to commune are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. Return to your seat using the outside aisle. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you.

The Invitation to the Supper

L: At the Last Supper, Jesus, sharing bread and cup, invited his disciples to share his journey. Like many grains of wheat becoming one loaf of bread, the disciples were invited to become one body with him. Here in this meal, we are invited to become one with him. Here, we renew our journey with Jesus and his fellow disciples. So come, taste this bread, share this cup, that you may be strengthened in your walk with Jesus.

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: We offer you praise, ...

The Words of Institution

L: We rejoice in this holy meal 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:

"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart With



gift of fin - est wheat; Come give to us, O



sav - ing Lord, The bread of life to eat.

Verses



- | | | | | |
|---------|------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1. As | when the shep - | herd | calls his sheep, | They |
| 2. With | joy - ful lips | we | sing to you | Our |
| 3. Is | not the cup | we | bless and share | The |
| 4. The | mys - t'ry of | your | pres - ence, Lord, | No |
| 5. You | give your - self | to | us, O Lord; | Then |



know	and heed his voice;	So	when you call	your
praise	and grat - i - tude,	That	you should count	us
blood	of Christ out-poured?	Do	not one cup,	one
mor -	tal tongue can tell:	Whom	all the world	can -
self -	less let us be,	To	serve each oth -	er

D.C.



fam - 'ly, Lord,	We	fol - low	and re -	joice.
wor - thy, Lord,	To	share	this heav'n - ly	food.
loaf, de -	Our	one -	ness in the	Lord?
not con -	Comes	in	our hearts	to dwell.
tain in	In	truth	and char - i -	ty.

"Eat This Bread"

Two systems of musical notation for the hymn "Eat This Bread". Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry." and "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

"As We Gather at Your Table"

(Cantor sings verses; congregation join on refrain)

Three systems of musical notation for the hymn "As We Gather at Your Table". The key signature is three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "As we gath - er at your ta - ble", "earth and heav-en now em-brace; souls, u - nit-ed as one", and "bod - y, be - come your dwell - ing place."

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.

*COMMISSIONING

Go to be the body of Christ for the world. Be of good courage. Do not return evil for evil but in love live out the grace of Jesus Christ. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	9:00 am	<i>Rebecca Ferguson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>Dan & Eunice Filkins, The Sippel Family</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Peter Rayne, Gloria Gardner, Lee Lueck,</i> <i>Traci Hagberg, Martha Olson</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Evelyn Purdy, Kathy Rausch, Beth Rausch,</i> <i>Colin Richter, Aspen Richter</i>
Welcomers:		<i>JaNae Westrich, Kathy Wochomurka</i>
Nursery:		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Rover:		<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
Trustee:		<i>Scott Elsesser</i>
Counters:		<i>Diane Welsh, Midge Kees</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:		<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Choir Director:		<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Church Moderator:		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
Church Secretary:		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastor:		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Minister for Community:		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Peg Thompson
in memory of Wayne's Birthday.*

First Congregational UCC, 110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

Tel: 425-2052 Email: office@firstchurchrf.org Fax: 425-9800

Sun., Oct 7	8:00 am - Choir Practice
	9:00 am - Worship Service
	9:00 am - Adult Forum
	10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am - Worship Service
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
	11:30 am - Youth Corn Maze Event (6 th -9 th Grades)
Mon., Oct 8	7:00 pm - Cribbage
Tues., Oct 9	9:00 am - Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
	1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study
Wed., Oct 10	3:45-5:00 pm - Wednesday School
	5:15-6:15 pm - Family Meal
	6:00 pm - Jubilee Ringers
	7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
	6:30 pm - Pre-Confirmation (6 th Grade)
	6:30 pm - Confirmation Year 2 (8 th Grade)
	- Newsletter Deadline
Thurs., Oct 11	9:00 am - Yoga
Sun., Oct 14	8:00 am - Music Practice
	9:00 am - Worship Service
	9:00 am - Adult Forum
	10:00 am - Coffee Fellowship
	10:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Sunday School
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
	2:00-5:00 pm - Birthday Celebration for Chuck White at the American Legion

New Fall Worship Series: The Jesus I Never Knew

Jesus is the foundation of the Christian faith. But what do you really know about him and why is he important to us today in our day to day living? Based on the book of the same title by Philip Yancey, this new 6 part worship series will explore why Jesus is important, in not only our Christian tradition, but also how he can shape and mold us today.

September 9 - Jesus: Who He Was

September 16 - Jesus: Why He Came

September 23 - Jesus: What He Leaves Behind

September 30 - Who Jesus Is For Me: Chris

October 7 - Who Jesus Is For Me: Stacy

October 15 - Who Jesus Is For Me: Dave

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Janine Schulze (Dale Olson's sister), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Rae Farley, Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Peg Thompson, Roger Becker (nephew of Sonny Miner), Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Nancy (sister of Ruth Reilly), Finley (daughter of Sheila Peterson's friend), Brad (son-in-law of Midge and Glenn Kees)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Luella Rose Mills, daughter of Tim and Jamie Mills, who is to be baptized today
- For Pastor Stacy who is preaching this Sunday as part of our "The Jesus I Never Knew" worship series
- For our choir sharing their gifts this Sunday
- For Church Council and committees meeting next Tuesday
- For our 26 10th-12th graders participating in the Church Intern program this year
- For those who will receive the Neighbors In Need Offering to be received today (envelopes in pews)
- For Pastor Dave who will be preaching next week as we end the "The Jesus I Never Knew" worship services
- For those who attend and volunteer at our Wednesday School which began this past Wednesday
- For those newcomers to our church community who attended the Inquirer's Class held last week

Prayers for our world:

- For those affected by the earthquake and tsunami in Indonesia
- For victims of sexual violence, that their brokenness can be mended
- For those who are struggling with their aging bodies and minds that in faith their spirit may remain strong
- For teenagers wondering where they fit in the world, that God might shelter them
- For parents struggling with balance and self-care that God might grace them with wisdom, courage & strength
- For our political leaders that our nation might work justly and for the common good
- For those working to care for our delicate creation and the daily decisions we make to help do this

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For Glenn Kees and Tim Bylander who are up at our UCC Moon Beach Camp in Eagle River doing fall work
- For the gift of triplets coming in the form of the first grandchildren to Kurt and Jodi Helmrick
- For the beauty of the fall season – apples, football, leaves, and cooler weather
- For the return of Wednesday Family Meal – Join us!
- For our twice weekly yoga group who now number 28 participants!
- For those who weed, water and tend our church garden (the season will soon end, bless you!)
- For those who serve Coffee Fellowship each week (there are openings in October, hint, hint)

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the Petersen, Sporer and Farley families who are mourning

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please see the pastor
or use the blue prayer cards in the pews or on the back sign-up table.

Wednesday School and Wednesday Meals Resume!

Thanks to all our helpers and participants. Please join us for dinner on Wednesday nights from 5:15-6:15 pm. Sign up on the sign-up sheet or call the church office by noon on Tuesday. This week's menus is: BBQ ribs, mac 'n cheese, potatoes, veggies, rolls.



NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honor,
subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.