

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

*November 11, 2018*



**We Believe: Where Your Story and God's Story Come Together**

October 21: God Creates

October 28: God Saves

November 4: God Judges

**November 11: God Gives**

November 18: God Comes

November 25: God Calls

December 2: God Promises

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

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

9:00 & 10:30 AM

*“DEDICATION SUNDAY”  
“TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”*

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*“No one has become poor by giving.”  
~Anne Frank*

Welcome to our guests who are visiting  
with us today!

Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall  
between the 9:00 & 10:30 worship services.

- ~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.

*No matter who you are. No matter where  
you are on your spiritual journey, you are  
welcome here!*

*As Jesus' courageous disciples,  
living God's grace, we strive to:*

- ~ *Worship faithfully*
- ~ *Welcome openly*
- ~ *Grow spiritually*
- ~ *Care passionately*
- ~ *Serve generously*

**PRELUDE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Day after day, an abundance of God's love,

**P: Morning by morning, new signs of blessing:**

L: A gentle rain, an awesome sunset,

**P: A friend's embrace, a child's smile,**

L: A new insight, a sense of peace,

**P: A shared meal, a treasured moment.**

L: All around us and deep within us are signs of God's presence.

**P: How can we not sing of God's faithfulness?**

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

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Caring God, in our anxiousness, we cling tightly to familiar people.

**P: Afraid to extend our hand, we bind up our gifts, fearing we won't have enough for ourselves.**

**All: Forgive us, Caring God.**

L: Loving Jesus, lacking trust in you, we clutch our possessions as if they are the meaning of life.

**P: Our hesitancy to share stops the flow of your compassion.**

**All: Renew us, Loving Jesus.**

L: Gracious Spirit, when we discount our ability and talents, we miss what is possible when Christ blesses our offering.

**P: Loosen our closed hands and tight hearts that we may offer the gift we are and the gifts we have, to touch the bruised world.**

**All: Release us, Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Our God is a living God who seeks to bless us and send us forth to bless others.

**P: With faith in this truth, let us live as God's forgiven people called to be a blessing to others.**

L: This is good news!

**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

"Alleluia! Give the Glory"

REFRAIN: (♩. = 76-80) All

Capo 3: (C/D)

(G)

(Bm7)

(C)

(Cm)

E♭/F

B♭

Dm7

E♭

E♭m

Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le - lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le -

(G)

(Bm7)

(C)

(Cm)

1

(G/D)

(Em7)

B♭

Dm7

E♭

E♭m

B♭/F

Gm7

lu - ia! \_\_\_\_\_ Give the glo - ry \_\_\_\_\_ and the

(A7)

(D)

(A7)

(D)

(D7)

(C/D)

C7

F

C7

F

F7

E♭/F

hon - or \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_ Al - le -

Final

(G/D)

(Em7)

(A7)

(C/D)

(G)

(C/G)

(G)

B♭/F

Gm7

C7

E♭/F

B♭

E♭/B♭

B♭

Fine

glo - ry \_\_\_\_\_ and the hon - or \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord! \_\_\_\_\_

**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"*

Where your treas - ure is, there your  
heart shall be. All that you pos - sess will nev - er set you  
free. Seek the things that last; come and  
learn from me. Where your  
treas - ure is, your heart shall be.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The score includes a key signature change to 2/4 time for the final phrase.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

**L:** Let us give God thanks...

**P:** For homes that are warm and bellies that are full.

**L:** Let us give God thanks...

**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 be your courageous disciples who worship faithfully, welcome openly, grow spiritually, care passionately and serve generously. We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF SERVANT GIFTS TO YR 1 CONFIRMANDS (10:30 am)

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING (10:30 am) (Children preschool through grade 8 may go to Sunday School. Worship bags and children's bulletins are available in the back.)

*Jesus loves me! This I know, as he loved so long ago,  
Taking children on his knee, saying, "Let them come to me."*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

*Jesus loves me! Still today, walking with me on my way,  
Wanting as a friend to give light and love to all who live.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:21-27

PSALM 126 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)



The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

**L:** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

**P:** Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

**L:** The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

**P:** Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

**L:** May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**P:** Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. ℞

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 6:22-23,25-33

\*HYMN

*"I Thank You, Jesus"*

#41

*(Verse 1 cantors will introduce; then all sing verses 1 and 2)*

\*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)

...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.

\*HYMN

*"Let All Things Now Living"*



1. Let all things now liv-ing A song of thanks-giv-ing  
2. His law he en-forc-es, The stars in their cours-es,



To God our Cre-a-tor tri-um-phant-ly raise;  
The sun in its or-bit o-be-dient-ly shine,



Who fash-ioned and made us, Pro-TECT-ed and stayed us,  
The hills and the moun-tains, The riv-ers and foun-tains,



By guid-ing us on to the end of our days.  
The depths of the o-cean pro-claim God di-vine.



God's ban-ners are o'er us, Pure light goes be-fore us,  
We, too, should be voic-ing Our love and re-joic-ing



A pil-lar of fire shin-ing forth in the night:  
With glad ad-o-ra-tion, a song let us raise:



Till shad-ows have van-ish-ed And dark-ness is ban-ish-ed,  
Till all things now liv-ing U-nite in thanks-giv-ing,



As for-ward we trav-el from light in-to Light.  
To God in the high-est, ho-san-na and praise.

## \*COMMISSIONING

As thankful people, leave this place to be Christ's disciples. Using all the gifts God has given you, go to be God's servant people. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord your God. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

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### Assisting in today's worship service are:

<b>Liturgist:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Sue Danielson</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<i>Ginny Larson</i>
<b>Coffee Fellowship:</b>		<i>Thanksgiving Meal</i>
<b>Ushers:</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<i>Lee Lueck, Martha Olson, Traci Hagberg</i>
	<b>10:30 am</b>	<i>Evelyn Purdy, Linn Lawrence, Nathan Lawrence</i>
<b>Welcomers:</b>		<i>Sam and Barb Chapin</i>
<b>Nursery:</b>		<i>Sheila Peterson</i>
<b>Organist:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Trustee:</b>		<i>Matt Herum</i>
<b>Counters:</b>		<i>Allen Barnes, Bob Ferguson</i>
<b>Among Friends Coordinator:</b>		<i>Norma Revels</i>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b>		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
<b>Choir Director:</b>		<i>Scott Perau</i>
<b>Bell Choir Director:</b>		<i>Jamie Mills</i>
<b>Church Moderator:</b>		<i>Neal Prochnow</i>
<b>Church Secretary:</b>		<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
<b>Youth Pastor:</b>		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
<b>Minister for Community:</b>		<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
<b>CE Minister:</b>		<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
<b>Senior Pastor:</b>		<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

*Altar table flowers are given by Mark and Bernice Larson  
in memory of Adeline Peskar.*

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

**Tel: 425-2052 Email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) Fax: 425-9800**

- Sun., Nov 11      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  
                      10:45 am - Sunday School  
                      11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast  
                      11:30 am - Giving Thanks Meal
- Mon., Nov 12      7:00 pm - Cribbage
- Tues., Nov 13      8:00 am - Men's Group  
                      9:00 am - Yoga  
                      9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends  
                      11:30 am - Personnel Meeting  
                      1:00-2:30 pm - Bible Study
- Wed., Nov 14      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<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
                      6:30 pm - Confirmation Year 2 (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)  
                      7:00 pm - Church Interns Outing to UWRF Climbing Wall
- Thurs., Nov 15     9:00 am - Yoga
- Sat., Nov 17      2:00-5:00 pm - Don and Ginny Larson's 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Open House
- Sun., Nov 18      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  
                      10:45 am - Sunday School  
                      11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

**Please remember the following in your prayers this week:**

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Audrey Johnson (mother of Linn Lawrence), Steve (brother in law of Carole Mottaz), Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Peg Thompson, Barb (sister of Sue Simonet), Lana Tiede, Jens (friend of Lori Otto), Jared (relative of John and Joan Hyland), Chris (brother of Dawn Follstad), Jack Husak (father of Juli Okal)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- On this Giving Thanks Sunday when we dedicate our pledges, we pray for the mission and ministry of our church that it may be a community of grace, love and service to our community
- For all those who make our Giving Thanks Meal possible through their work
- For the Mission Committee who met yesterday for a planning retreat
- For Nora Grace Ballweg, daughter of Anne (Kapping) and Alex Ballweg who is baptized last Sunday, that she may grow in faith and love and her parents and sponsors may be given courage and strength
- For our choir performing this Sunday, that they may bless us with their music
- For our Personnel Committee during their annual staff reviews, that together we may do the things God is calling our church to do
- For our faithful nursery worker, Sheila Peterson, that she may enjoy a Sunday off

Prayers for our world:

- For veterans as we remember Veterans Day on November 12
- For those victims of another mass shooting, that God may cure us of this madness
- For the three girl scouts and one parent killed in Chippewa Falls last week
- For the people of Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, that God may strengthen them
- For those living with medical uncertainty, may God walk with them in the unknown
- For a safe hunting season
- For our newly elected 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 Don and Ginny Larson as they celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with an open house at church on Saturday, November 17 from 2-5 pm. You are invited!
- For the gift, blessing and challenges of retirement
- For all who work so hard to make our Giving Thanks meal a success, bless you!
- For new born triplets, Cailynn, Carmyn and Camden, born to parents Jacob and Karysa, and new grandparents Kurt and Jodi Helmrick, who are now all safely home from the hospital
- For all those who set tables, serve and clean up after our Wednesday Night Meals
- For those who serve Coffee Fellowship each week (there are openings in December, hint, hint)

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the Huppert, Wilson and Hoffman families in mourning, that God may comfort them
- 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.

**SCRIPTURE LESSON: Joel 2:21-27**

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the LORD has done great things!

Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;  
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.

O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the LORD your God;

for he has given the early rain for your vindication,

he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.

The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,

the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,

my great army, which I sent against you.

You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the LORD your God,  
who has dealt wondrously with you.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,

and that I, the LORD, am your God and there is no other.

And my people shall never again be put to shame.

**GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 6:22-23,25-33**

“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.