

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

November 22, 2020

"Reign of Christ"

10:00 am

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME

SONG

"God Will See Us Through"

*In times of brokenness, in ev'ry wilderness, God has seen us through.
Times when our strength was gone, somehow we carried on, God has seen us through.
Look behind and see throughout history, God has never let us down.
Lean ahead and trust God is guiding us, God is with us here right now.
God will see me though, God will see you through, God will see us through somehow.
Step by step we'll be, given all we need, God will see us through this now.*

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Myers

SCRIPTURE READING

Galatians 3:23-29

HOMILY

The Gift of Faith: Identity

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG

"In Christ There Is No East Or West"

*In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,
But one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be!
Who serves my Father as his child is surely kin to me.*

***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.

SONG

"God Be With You Til We Meet Again"

*God be with you till we meet again; By good counsel guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.*

Till we meet, till we meet, till we meet at Jesus' feet;

Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Gary (Ann Gustafson's brother in law), Dan Filkins, Bernice Larson, Megan (daughter of Steve and Janice Healy), Teddi (friend of Janice Healy), Grace (mother of Lori Larson), Chuck (Jan Hansen's brother in law), Logan (friend of Juli Okal), Nancy Hove (Pierce County Sheriff diagnosed with brain cancer), Mark and Caroline Ferry (friends of Joy Anderson), Jason Kuhl (cousin of Rose Rude), Darren (friends of Trautmillers), Jennie Sperling, Peg Thompson, Fred Roethlisberger, Nancy Giske (mother of Gina Larson), Jean Hagberg, Ginny Larson, Miles Voster (friend of Grisars), Irene Field

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For the 200 people who enjoyed last Sunday's Giving Thanks Meal and for the many hands that made it possible!
- For the Welcoming Committee who stepped up and stepped out to deliver meals to our shut-ins last week
- For our church as we conduct our 2021 Discipleship Campaign, that we may prayerfully reflect on our blessings and generously support the mission and ministry of our church
- For the nearly 100 people who joined us for the online Learning Community this past Thursday where we learned about River Falls native and past church member, James Laue and his work with the Rev. Martin Luther King for peace and justice
- For our Sunday School families who are enjoying the November Faith At Home bags (pick yours up today!)
- For our yoga group who had their last in-person gathering this week and will now hibernate until after New Year's (you can still access their YouTube channel with past sessions)
- For those seeking to support our community outreach programs to the Kinnic Rehab (Shoebox ministry), shut-ins (Amaryllis bulbs), families in need (Angels on Earth), that they may be a blessing to both the giver and those to whom we give
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings and gifts, bless you!

Prayers for our World:

- For our community as we seek to gather safely for the Thanksgiving holiday
- For a safe and successful hunting season
- For students, families and teachers trying to manage online learning
- For healthcare workers who are on the frontlines of the COVID crisis, that they may be given God's strength and that we may all do our part to enable them to treat the virus
- For the 250,000 people who have died from COVID in our country in the past 8 months, may they not have died in vain
- For those at RFHS who have switched to distance learning, that we may all stay safe and do our part so that we may soon return to in-person learning
- For those quarantining due to COVID-19, may they stay home and find ways to stay busy
- For those working for a vaccine for COVID-19, that God may speed their work

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For Andy and Christina Krueger, Laura Miller, JaNae and the Church Interns and many others who made our Annual Giving Thanks meal happen safely, even in the middle of a pandemic!
- For Eunice Filkins who made pocket prayer quilts for shut-ins and Joan Hyland who made yet more quilts to be given at baptisms
- For Zac Johnson who signed to play basketball at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD. Go Augies!
- For those who helped make our fall Wednesday Night meal program a success!
- For Virginia and Don Larson who celebrated their 67th anniversary on November 20—wow!
- For Dan and Eunice Filkins who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, November 13, may you enjoy many more years together! (922 Fairchild Drive, River Falls, WI 54022 for cards)

For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Roy Zeman who died peacefully at Wellhaven and whose graveside service was this past Tuesday. Please keep his daughter Stephanie in your prayers (cards may be sent to her at 3534 Sterling Heights Drive, Unit D, River Falls, WI 54022)
- For the family of Barb Greub, wife of Lou Greub, who died recently and whose Memorial Service will be in the spring (cards may be sent to him at 304 North Winter St, River Falls, WI 54022).
- For those in mourning, including Wiskerchen, Hilden, Anderson and Veith families as well as all those who have died from Covid-19

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

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Galatians 3:23-29

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, John Sullivan

Music: Jamie Mills, David Reilly, Terry Mithun

Counters: Marie Roe, Diane Welsh

Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers

Treasurer’s Report

| | <u>Week of</u> <u>Nov 15, 2020</u> | <u>Year to Date</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Income* | \$ 6,240 | \$ 431,660 |
| General Fund Operational Needs | \$ 9,582 | \$ 440,772 |

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.