

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

June 9, 2019



Visioning a 2020 Community of Faith

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

JUNE 9, 2019

9:30 AM

“PENTECOST SUNDAY”

“A dream is the bearer of a new possibility, the enlarged horizon, the great hope.”
~Howard Thurman

<p>Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the 9:30 worship service.</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.</p> <p>~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: Long, long ago God you sent your Spirit among a people gathered to celebrate your holy word.

P: **Like the rush of a mighty wind your Spirit fell upon them!**

L: Like tongues of fire your Spirit rested on each of them! What an incredible gift of life and living!

P: **And so we gather this day seeking your Holy Spirit, and worshipping you with the fullness of our hearts.**

L: Be with us and among us, God. May your Spirit stir through us and through this place and through this time of worship and through our lives every day.

P: **It's the day of Pentecost! Let us with great joy and thanksgiving celebrate God with us! Amen.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God our Creator, even on this day of great joy and wonder we confess that we too easily fall into doubt about your presence. Why don't you fix the world? Why don't you fix my body and my spirit? Why don't you fix the problems of our families? Why don't you help us live together in peace? Help us, God, to know that you are with us. Help us feel the breeze, the wind, the fire of your Holy Spirit in our lives this day and all our days! Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Even in our emptiness God is with us. God knows our doubts and God embraces us in spite of them.

P: **Thanks be to God!**

L: God gives us strength even for the most challenging and difficult days of our lives.

P: **Thanks be to God, who is with us always and who welcomes us in spite of ourselves.**

L: With thanksgiving we receive God's forgiveness, God's strength, God's Holy Spirit!

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** (Sung twice) (#236)

*Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah
Halle, Halle, Halle - lu - jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Joel 2:28-32a

PSALM 104:24-34 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join when directed)

Response Antiphon: Emma Lou Diemer, 1994

Unison Eb Gm AbM7 Bb Eb

Stead - fast love sur - rounds those who trust in God.

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works!

P: In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

L: Yonder is the sea, great and wide, creeping things innumerable are there, living things both small and great.

P: There go the ships, and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.

L: These all look to you to give them their food in due season; when you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are filled with good things.

P: When you hide your face, they are dismayed; when you take away their breath, they die and return to their dust.

L: When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of the ground.

P: May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works – who looks on the earth and it trembles, who touches the mountains and they smoke.

L: I will sing to the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

P: May my meditation be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. ℣

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Acts 2:1-21

SERMON

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

*HYMN

"Send Down the Fire"

Refrain



Send down the fire of your jus - tice,



Send down the rains of your love; Come,

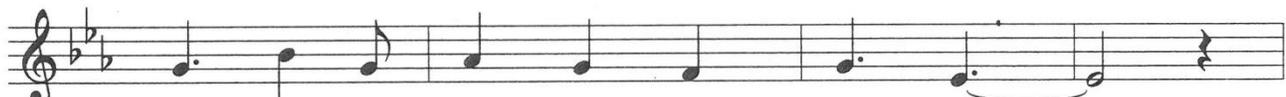


send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple, and

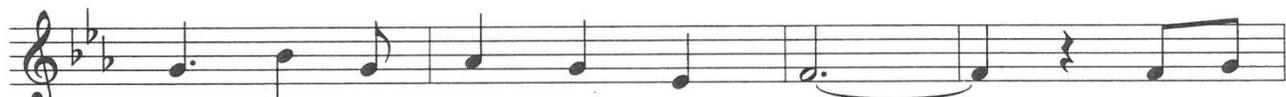


we shall be peo - ple of God.

Verses



1. Call us to be your com - pas - sion,
2. Call us to learn of your mer - cy,
3. Call us to an - swer op - pres - sion,
4. Call us to wit - ness your King - dom,



Teach us the song of your love; Give us
Teach us the way of your peace; Give us
Teach us the fire of your truth; Give us
Give us the pres - ence of Christ; May your



hearts that sing, Give us deeds that ring, Make us
hearts that feel, Give us hands that heal, Make us
right - eous souls, 'Til your jus - tice rolls, Make us
ho - ly light Keep us shin - ing bright, Ev - er



ring with the song of your love.
walk in the way of your peace.
burn with the fire of your truth.
shine with the pres - ence of Christ.

D.C.

***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)

...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.

MISSION MOMENT - Strengthen the Church

Rebecca Ferguson

OFFERTORY

Summer Choir

DOXOLOGY

"We Praise You, O God"

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.*

*We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

We praise you indeed, O God! We give you thanks for the countless blessings you have showered on us and all creation. We thank you for the beauty of the earth, the wonders of life, the joy of community. May these gifts spread your love and your living Word in countless places. Amen.

Verses



1. Come! Live in the light!
 2. Come! O - pen your heart!
 3. Sing! Sing a new song!



Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord! We are
 Show your mer - cy to all those in fear! We are
 Sing of that great day when all will be one! God will



called to be light for the king - dom, to
 called to be hope for the hope - less so all
 reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as



live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God!
 ha - tred and blind - ness will be no more!
 sis - ters and broth - ers u - ni - ted in love!

Refrain



We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to



love ten - der - ly, we are called to serve one an - oth - er;



to walk hum - bly with God!

*COMMISSIONING

Go into the world filled with the Holy Spirit! Let tongues of the Spirit's fire singe your soul. Envision a new world and make that world real. Dream amazing dreams and give them life. And may God bless you and keep you. May the peace of Christ shine on you. And may the power of the Holy Spirit give you courage and hope forever! **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Visioning a 2020 Community of Faith is a Summer of looking forward in light of the Church's ancient stories and our own call into God's world today and in the future.

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Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	<i>Midge Kees</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Bob and Rebecca Ferguson</i>
Ushers:	<i>Gloria Gardner, Dan Herum, Evelyn Purdy Traci Hagberg</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Gary and Judy Grimm</i>
Nursery:	<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Trustee:	<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
Counters:	<i>Bob Ferguson, Roz Ostendorf</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:	<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Scott Perau</i>
Bell Choir Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Brad Williams</i>
Office Coordinator:	<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 Bob and Rebecca Ferguson
in celebration of their wedding anniversary.*

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

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

Mon., June 10	6:30 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park - Newsletter Deadline
Tues., June 11	8:00 am - Men's Group 9:00 am - Yoga 9:00-3:00 pm - Among Friends
Thurs., June 13	9:00 am - Yoga 9:00-12:00 pm - Among Friends
Sun., June 16	9:30 am - Worship Service 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
Mon., June 17	7:45 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., June 18	9:00 am - Yoga 9:00-3:00 pm - Among Friends 6:30 pm - Boards and Committees Meetings 7:30 pm - Church Council Meeting
Thurs., June 19	9:00 am - Yoga 9:00-12:00 pm - Among Friends
Sun., June 23	9:30 am - Worship Service Meyer and Morsch Baptisms 10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Nancy (sister of Bobbie Kuhn), Pam Creydt (friend of Sue Grisar), Carol Merriman, Emma (daughter of Geoff and Tammy, friend of Paul Shepherd), Sara (friend of Cheryl Zakrzewski), John and Joan (parents of Jolene Sullivan), Gary (brother of Mike Gardner), Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), Rich Hirstein, Barb Miller (sister of Susan Walden), Arlene (mother of Ann Jameson), Logan (friend of Okals), Kara (sister of Tanya Larsen), Julia Abbot, Linda (friend of Barbara Stephens)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For Rebecca and Bob Ferguson as they prepare to volunteer at the upcoming General Synod of the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee
- For our graduating high school seniors, that they may love God and serve their neighbors as they move toward the next chapter in their living
- For our summer choir
- For all those people stepping up and filling in while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical, especially Pastor Dave Ostendorf who will be leading worship
- For Duane Church who will share his faith story during the next Tell Me A Story Sunday, June 16
- For our Yoga group and their leader, Jan Hansen, that their bodies and minds may be strengthened

Prayers for our world:

- For the thousands of members and leaders of the United Church of Christ gathering in Milwaukee for our national General Synod later this month, that they may be inspired to carry the church creatively forward into this twenty-first century
- For flooding victims in the Midwest, that many people will respond generously
- For those waiting for medical diagnoses, that they may not wait alone
- For those dealing with memory issues and those trying to help them, especially those at Among Friends
- For all those who struggle in their faith lives that they may grow
- For hospice workers who act as agents of God's grace and love

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For our Garden Geeks who maintain our beautiful church gardens (you could be one too, sign up!)
- For our Church Interns (10th-12th graders) who provided more than 2,200 hours of ministry so far this year
- For our men's group who put together new arm chairs for the Among Friends program
- For our church softball team that they may have a wonderful season of fun and fellowship
- For all Church Interns who staff our nursery over the summer months
- For the Meyer and Morsch families who will baptize their children on Sunday, June 23rd
- For our Confirmands that they may grow in faith
- For deacons, trustees, coffee fellowship hosts, welcomers and all who strive to make this a welcoming place

Those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For Ann Gustafson and all the Gustafson family mourning the passing of Bob, who was remembered by our congregation and the River Falls community Friday
- For the Matzek/Danielson, Anderson, and Mahoney families in mourning, that healing may occur

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 sign-up table.

NOTES

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Joel 2:28-32a

Then afterward I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female slaves, in those days, I will pour out my spirit.

I will show portents in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and terrible day of the LORD comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.

Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.

And I will show portents in the heaven above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and smoky mist.

The sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.

Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'