

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

August 25, 2019



Visioning a 2020 Community of Faith

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

AUGUST 25, 2019

9:30 AM

“ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST”

...in the world, but not of the world...

<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">~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><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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">~ <i>Worship faithfully</i>~ <i>Welcome openly</i>~ <i>Grow spiritually</i>~ <i>Care passionately</i>~ <i>Serve generously</i>
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PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENCE AND RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Sing to the Lord a new song. Praise God from the depths of your hearts.

P: **Let us rejoice in the name of the Holy God!**

L: And give glory to God's Holy Name.

P: **Praise be given this day to the Living God, who is among us even now and always.**

L: We lift our hearts and our voices in great joy and thanksgiving.

P: **We honor and adore you, great and mighty God of all creation, the Holy One who sent Jesus among us to show us the way of life.**

***HYMN**

"He Came Down"

1. He came down that we may have love; He
2. He came down that we may have peace; He
3. He came down that we may have joy; He

came down that we may have love; He came down that we may
came down that we may have peace; He came down that we may
came down that we may have joy; He came down that we may

Cantor: Why did he come?
have love, Hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.
have peace, Hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.
have joy; Hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God, we get so caught up in worldly ways and concerns that we simply forget about living our lives in your way. You have cared for us always, kept us close to you, and called us back when we wandered away. We need you in our lives once again. We need your embrace to make it back home to you once again. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: God is so good to us. God welcomes our desire to live in God's way.

P: **We are so thankful for this gift of God's love.**

L: God forgives us. Let us forgive one another and let us forgive ourselves.

P: **And let us do our best this day and all our days to live as God asks us to live.**

L: Let us with thanksgiving offer our lives to God.

P: **And let us with joy embrace the God of love and the love of God!**

L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

P: **And also with you!**

*PASSING OF THE PEACE (Please greet one another with signs of peace)

*GLORIA *"Love is Flowing"*

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life;

Love is flowing: love is flowing, love is flowing from the fountain of life.

Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring from the fountain of life.

Peace is pouring: peace is pouring, peace is pouring from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

Grace is flooding: grace is flooding, grace is flooding from the fountain of life.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

PSALM 103:1-8 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join when directed)

Response Antiphon: Carolyn Jennings, 1994

Unison

The righ - teous shall en - ter the gate of God.

- L: Bless God, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- P: Bless God, O my soul, and do not forget all God's benefits**
- L: Who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- P: God works vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- L: God made known God's ways to Moses, and God's acts to the people of Israel.
- P: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. *℞***

SCRIPTURE LESSON

1 John 2:15-17

SERMON

Rev. Dave Ostendorf

*HYMN

"The Summons"



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
 2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
 3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
 4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
 5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where you don't
 call your name? Will you care for cruel and
 call your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 call your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 call my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know And nev - er be the same? Will you
 kind And nev - er be the same? Will you
 free And nev - er be the same? Will you
 side And nev - er be the same? Will you
 you And nev - er be the same. In your



let my love be shown, Will you let my
 risk the hos - tile stare Should your life at -
 kiss the lep - er clean, And do such as
 use the faith you've found To re - shape the
 com - pa - ny I'll go Where your love and



name be known, Will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, And ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, Through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown In you and you in me?
 pray'r In you and you in me?
 mean In you and you in me?
 sound In you and you in me?
 grow In you and you in me.

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - United Church of Canada**

L: We are not alone, we live in God's world.

P: We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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 *"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"* David Reilly

DOXOLOGY *"We Praise You, O God"* #420

*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**

God, giver of all life, we offer these gifts and we offer lives to you, with deepest thanks. Bless all our gifts to you and to your realm of hope and love and the uplifting of all peoples. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us the way of life that you call us to live. Amen.

HYMN *"Take My Life, God, Let It Be"* #448

*COMMISSIONING

Go into the world in peace and with great joy, yet live fully in the ways of God, this day, all your days, all your lives. And with great love in your heart, give thanks to God always! **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>Jean Smith</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Lee and Lu Lueck</i>
Ushers:	<i>Peter Rayne, Traci Hagberg, Evelyn Purdy, Dan Herum</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Susan Walden, Lou Greub</i>
Nursery:	<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Organist:	<i>Terry Mithun</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matt Herum</i>
Counters:	<i>Kris Roen, 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 Jean Smith in memory of her parents
Marlyn and Bernice Mohr.*

Altar table flowers are in celebration of Lee and Lu Lueck's 50th Anniversary.

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

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

Sun., Aug 25	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
Mon., Aug 26	6:30 pm - Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., Aug 27	9:00 am - Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
Thurs., Aug 29	9:00 am - Yoga
Fri., Aug 30	3:00-6:00 pm - Farewell to Heidi in Fellowship Hall
Sun., Sept 1	9:30 am - Worship Service
	10:30 am - Coffee Fellowship
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
Mon., Sept 2	- Labor Day – Church Office Closed
Tues., Sept 3	9:00 am - Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
Wed., Sept 4	6:30 pm - Church Intern Draft
Thurs., Sept 5	9:00 am - Yoga
Sun., Sept 8	- Rally Day
	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
	10:30 am - Sunday School
	11:00 am - WEVR Broadcast
	11:30 am - Parent Meeting for Confirmation and Sunday School Families

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- 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), Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), Barb Miller (sister of Susan Walden), Arlene (mother of Ann Jameson), Linda (friend of Barbara Stephens), Jack (father of Juli Okal), Barb Larrabee (sister in law of Carolyn Larrabee), Al Wochomurka, Mary Jane Caster (Roz Ostendorf's sister), Betty Church, Bonnie (cousin of Don Larson), Elaine Dixen, Bill Olson

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For all those people stepping up and filling in while Pastor Chris is on sabbatical
- For our Yoga group and their leader, Jan Hansen, that their bodies and minds may be strengthened

Prayers for our world:

- For college students getting ready for school and new roommates!
- For teachers getting classrooms ready
- For all those who are traveling this summer, that their journeys may be safe and joyful
- 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
- For all those approaching death and for their families who stand vigil with them in love

Prayers of thanksgiving:

- For all who made the Tools for School give away a big success
- For all who volunteered for Vacation Bible School, for those who provided fresh baked cookies and the 74 children who enjoyed the program
- For staff and volunteers who make Among Friends a dynamic program
- For our Garden Geeks who maintain our beautiful church garden
- For our church softball team as they enjoy a wonderful season of fun and fellowship
- For all Church Interns who staff our nursery over the summer months
- 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 family and friends of Warner Hirstein, brother of Roger Hirstein, who passed away last week
- For family and friends of Kara, sister of Tanya Larsen, who passed away recently
- For family and friends of Avis Thompson, sister of Alice Hanson, who passed away recently

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: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

For you are a people holy to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

It was not because you were more numerous than any other people that the LORD set his heart on you and chose you—for you were the fewest of all peoples. It was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath that he swore to your ancestors, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who maintains covenant loyalty with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: 1 John 2:15-17

Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for God. Practically everything that goes on in the world - wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important - has nothing to do with God. It just isolates you from God. The world and all its wanting, wanting, wanting is on the way out - but whoever does what God wants is set for eternity.