

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

September 8, 2019

**Fall Worship Series:
Tools for Living the Gospel Today**

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|----------------|--|
| Sept 8 | Faith: Trusting the Living God |
| Sept 15 | Courage: Living the Unafraid Life |
| Sept 22 | Prayer: More Than Our Thoughts |
| Sept 29 | Love: How Can I Love Them? |
| Oct 6 | Grace: A Way Forward |
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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN**

SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

9:00 & 10:30 AM

"THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST"

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.
~Hebrews 11:1

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: We are gathered here for worship

**P: There is much to do in this world, for the hungry cry to be fed, the
homeless to be housed. We live in the midst of a world in need of peace
and people in need of hope.**

L: We are gathered here for worship.

**P: There is much to do in our lives. There are commitments to fulfill, jobs
to do. We must care for our children, our parents, our homes and
ourselves.**

L: We are gathered here for worship.

**P: In worship we seek God's vision of hope and wholeness. Here we pray
for the Spirit to give strength to the weary and guidance to the confused.**

L: In our worship here today may our spirits be renewed by God's grace,

P: And our souls be strengthened for the work that is set before us.

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

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we try to save the world by ourselves, ending up only tired and frustrated. We try to do everything, even that which You have not called us to do. Busy, fatigued and impatient, we are unable to respond when You do call us to action. Forgive us, Lord. Help us to see the good we can do, the grace we can offer, and the love we can spread. Grant us your wisdom, courage and power we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Hear the good news: God does not want us to wallow in the sins of the past.

P: In Christ we are forgiven!

L: Instead, through the Holy Spirit, God is at work creating a new future, unburdened by the sins of the past.

P: In Christ we are forgiven!

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

"Gloria!"



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!_____



Glo - ri - a! Glo - ri - a! High - est glor - y to You!



O - pen now our lips and our mouths shall give praise.
O Lord, rush to help to de - liv - er Your world.
Mak - er, Spir - it, Friend, You are Great My - ster - y!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Waiting for the Light”

Chancel Choir

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.)

*He’s got the whole world in his hands, He’s got the whole wide world in his hands,
He’s got the whole world in his hands, He’s got the whole world in his hands.
He’s got you and me, sister, in his hands, He’s got you and me, brother, in his hands,
He’s got everybody in his hands, He’s got the whole world in his hands.*

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

PSALM 84:1-9 (Cantor will introduce; congregation, please join in when directed)

Response Antiphon: Peter Niedmann, 1994

Unison

Hap-py are those who live in your house, ev - er sing-ing your praise.

- L: How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!
- P: **My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD;**
- L: My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.
- P: **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**
- L: Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.
- P: **Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.**
- L: As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.
- P: **They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.**
- L: O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!
- P: **Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. ℞**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Hebrews 11:1-3

SERMON

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

"We Are Called"

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!

***STATEMENT OF FAITH - African Creed**

We believe in the one High God, who out of love created the beautiful world and everything good in it. God created the human person for happiness in the world. God loves the world and every nation and tribe on the earth. We have known this High God in the darkness, and now we know God in the light.

God promised in the Scriptures he would save the world and all the nations and tribes. We believe that God kept all promises by sending Jesus Christ, a person in the flesh, a Jew by tribe, born poor in a little village, who left his home and was always on safari doing good, curing people by the power of God, teaching about God and humankind, showing that the meaning of religion is love. Jesus was rejected by his people, tortured and nailed hands and feet to a cross, and died. He lay buried in the grave, but the hyenas did not touch him, and on the third day, he rose from the grave.

We believe that all our sins are forgiven by God. We accept the gift of baptism and in the community of faith we live in ways of love and share the bread of life. We announce the good news to all people so long as God gives us breath. We believe that the Spirit is in the world and that God cares for us in life and in death. We believe that God gives new life to that which is dead.

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 - Neighbors in Need

Dave Ostendorf

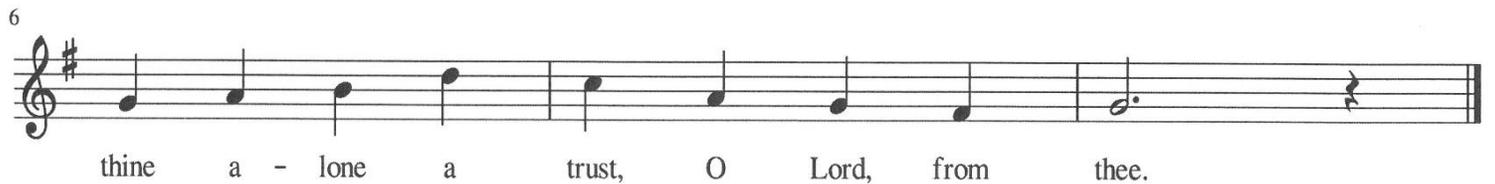
OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be; all that we have is



6 thine a - lone a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, let us praise you, not just with our voices, but with our actions. Not just with our hearts, but with our hands. Even by our giving, may we praise you, O God. Accept these gifts and use them for your glory. Amen.

*HYMN

"Morning Has Broken"

Unison

1 Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird.
like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
born of the one light E - den saw play!

Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

*COMMISSIONING

As agents of God's love, go to be disciples of Jesus, carrying his good news to all you encounter. Go in faith 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>Traci Hagberg</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Evan Luedtke</i>
Coffee Fellowship:		<i>Larry and Barb Peterson</i>
Ushers:	9:00 am	<i>Traci Hagberg, Peter Rayne, Kathy Rausch</i>
	10:30 am	<i>Beth Rausch, Linn Lawrence, Karen Lloyd</i>
Welcomers:		<i>JaNae Westrich</i>
Nursery:		<i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Organist:		<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Trustee:		<i>Deb Hoffman</i>
Counters:		<i>Allen Barnes, Jean Smith</i>
Among Friends Coordinator:		<i>Norma Revels</i>
Music Coordinator:		<i>Jamie Mills</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>

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

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

- 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
- Mon., Sept 9 7:00 pm - Cribbage
- Tues., Sept 10 9:00 am - Yoga
9:00 am-3:00 pm - Among Friends
- Wed., Sept 11 6:00 pm - Bells
6:30 pm - Confirmation Bonfires
7:00 pm - Choir
- Thurs., Sept 12 9:00 am - Yoga
- Sun., Sept 15 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

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

- Emma (daughter of Geoff and Tammy, friend of Paul Shepherd), John and Joan (parents of Jolene Sullivan), Rosalie Harper (cousin of JoAnn Lentz), 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, Hannah Mercer (step-granddaughter of JoAnn Lentz), Gary Gustafson (brother in law of Ann Gustafson), Wayne Revels, Rich Lloyd (husband of Karen)

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For all those who are beginning their service on boards and committees this program year that they may help us to grow in faith and love – All Committee Meeting night is Tuesday, September 17 at 6:30 pm!
- For Alivia Schmahl, daughter of Catherine, to be baptized on Sunday, September 15 and Wade Peck, son of Megan (Larson) and Lucas Peck to be baptized on Sunday, September 22, that they may grow in faith
- For our church interns (grades 10-12) who gathering this past Wednesday for the Intern Draft, that they may find a place to use their gifts and grow in service
- For those recently married or soon to be married, that they may grow in love for each other
 - For Dan (son of Steve and Lara Koecher) and Mari who were married Saturday, August 24
 - For Sara Veith (daughter of Norma and Roger Veith) and Trevor Kearns who will be married on Saturday, September 28
 - For Peter Rayne and Natasha Macnack who will be married on Saturday, November 16

Prayers for our world:

- For those affected by Dorian, especially the people of the Bahamas, that many people may reach out to help heal and rebuild
- 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 this gift of the fall season with all of its joys (apples! football! cool nights!)
- For our church lawn mowers who keep our grass looking mighty fine!
- For Kahla Fuller, our new church nursery person, may God help her create a warm and welcoming nursery environment
- For our Confirmands that they may grow in faith as they meet for bonfires this week
- 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 those in mourning including the family of Roger Hirstein whose brother Warner died, Tanya Larsen's sister Kara, and Alice Hanson's sister Avis. May God wrap arms of comfort around you

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear, but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 11:1-3

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.