

CELEBRATING GOD'S EARTH ON
CREATION SUNDAY

APRIL 27, 2025



Welcome! The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: **Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice.** If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and then pass it back across the pew to the inside aisle.

All are welcome. Jesus called us to welcome all into the family of God. We welcome you to our Fellowship Hour after worship in the Community Room where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments. A bathroom for all genders is located off the kitchen connected to the Community Room.

Children are welcome in worship! Activity bags are available in the narthex. There is an area for parents and children at the front of the nave which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well. Our kids are invited to go to their classrooms after the kids' message.



Please ask an usher if you would like a large print bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance. A Hearing Loop system is available. Turn your hearing device to the "T" setting.

Serving in Worship Today

Preaching.....	Eyon Biddle
Leading Worship.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship.....	Mary Runyon
Choir Director, Organist, & Pianist	Nancy Allen
Head Usher	Randy Breeser
Ushers	Diane Breeser, Diane Schumacher
Greeters.....	Veronica Fosu, Cam Roberts
Reading Scripture.....	Diane Breeser
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Visitation Team

* In the order of service indicates all who are able, please stand.

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Processional in C"

Arr. by Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. You are invited to pass the Friendship Folder through your row and share your name. Pass the folder back down the row and take note of those worshipping with you.

Prelude Music

"Air"

J. S. Bach

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Luke 24

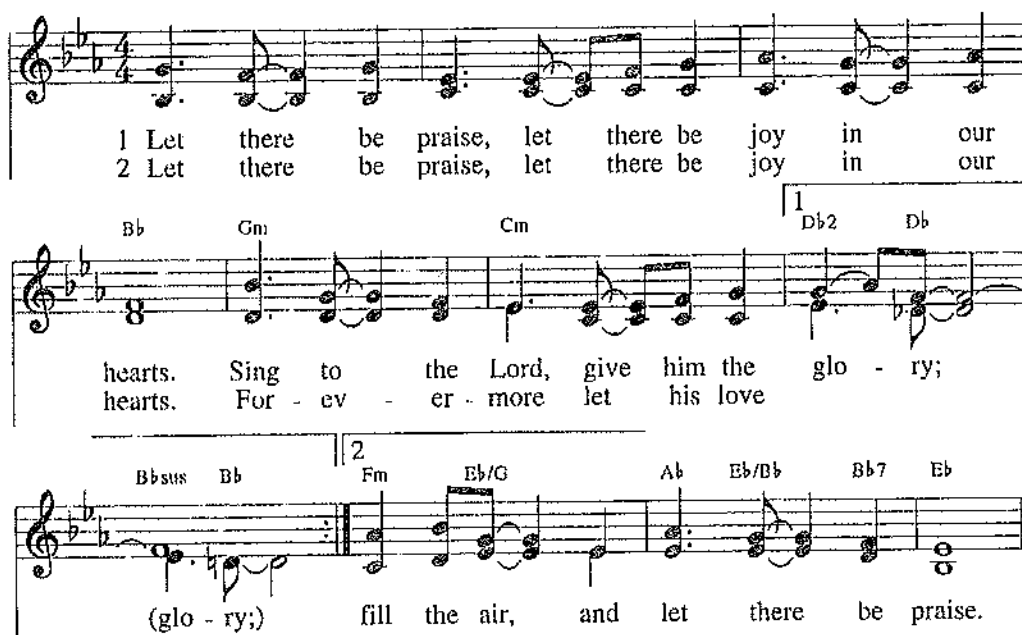
One: After Easter, we walk beneath the sun just as the disciples walked on the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ.

Many: **We witness Resurrection and New Life in all of creation around us.**

One: All of creation has joined us crying out in thankfulness for this new life.

Many: **We join our hearts, minds, and spirits and sing:**

All:



1 Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts. Sing to the Lord, give him the glo - ry;
2 Let there be praise, let there be joy in our hearts. For - ev - er - more let his love

(glo - ry;) fill the air, and let there be praise.

Moment of Silence

Take this moment of silence to be still and listen for God.

*Hymn 35 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Morning Has Broken"

Bunnesan

*Sharing the Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

Please greet those near you with a wave or bow and with words such as:

"Peace be with you. / And also with you."

Listening

for the Still-speaking God

The Word for Children

Children will join the pastor in the center aisle as we walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will go to their JAM classrooms after the kids' message concludes and the congregation sings.

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja

All:



Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja.



Hal-le-Hal-le-Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le-lu-ja. Hal - le - lu - ja.

The First Lesson

Diane Breeser

Job 12:7-13

The Psalter

Psalm 104:1-4, 10-13 *(Read Responsively)*

One: Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

Many: **You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.**

One: You stretch out the heavens like a tent;

Many: **you set the beams of your chambers on the waters;**

One: you make the clouds your chariot;

Many: **you ride on the wings of the wind;**

One: you make the winds your messengers,

Many: **and the fire and flames your ministers.**

One: You make springs gush forth in the valleys;

Many: **they flow between the hills,**

One: giving drink to every wild animal;

Many: **the wild asses quench their thirst.**

One: By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation;

Many: **they sing among the branches.**

One: From your lofty abode you water the mountains;

Many: **the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.**

The Gospel

Galatians 5:13-14

Sermon

"Do what you can and then..." Eyon Biddle, Wisconsin Council of Churches

Responding

with the voice of hope

*Anthem

"Refuge"

The Sanctuary Choir
Brahms, Arr. by Fettke

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the Church

The petitions end with: God, in our stillness,
The people respond: **hear our prayers.**

The Prayer of Jesus (*Said by all. Use language that reflects your view of God.*)

Our (Father / Mother / Creator) 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Kerri Parker

Music at the Offertory

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 34).

(All who are able are invited to stand and sing.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, for all that love has done,

Creator, Christ, and Spirit,^a One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 30 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Royal Oak

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Joyful Noise"

Franklin Ritter

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*Today's flowers are given by Emma Ledbetter
in honor of her wonderful church family.*

First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members.....	Ministers
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright.....	Senior Pastor
Rev. Mary Runyon.....	Associate Minister of Faith Formation
Nancy Allen	Organist & Choir Director
Sue Retzlaff	Bell Choir Director
Michelle Logan	Office Manager

Contact Information: First Congregational UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, 608-784-8137 or office@firstcongolax.org, or visit us on the web at www.firstcongolax.org.

What gifts did you give God this week?

Do you mind if we share your gift to God with the congregation? Yes_____ No_____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, April 27

Noisy Offering

Faith Forum: Eyon Biddle (L)	9:00 am
JAM Breakfast (CR)	9:00 am
Worship w/JAM & Nursery	10:00 am
MS/HS Donuts & discussions (L)	10:40 am
Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
New Member Gathering	Noon
(La Crosse Distillery)	

Monday, April 28

Woman's Book Club (L)	1:30 pm
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Tuesday, April 29

Alternative Energy Task Force (L)	8:00 am
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Wednesday, April 30

Sip & Scripture (Ardie's Flipside)	10:00 am
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CALENDAR KEY

CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge,
N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms

Thursday, May 1

Service & Worship (CR)	5:45 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm

Friday, May 2

Office Closed

Bell Choir (CR)	10:30 am
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Saturday, May 3

Missions & Social Justice (CR)	9:00 am
Preschool Rummage Sale	9:00 am
End-of-School Picnic	11:00 am

Sunday, May 4

WAFER Sunday

Faith Forum: Susan Oddsen (C)	9:00 am
Worship w/Communion	10:00 am
JAM & Nursery	10:00 am
Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
Confirmation (L)	11:00 am
Love Out Loud (State & Losey)	1:00 pm

Today, Following 10 am Worship



Pitch In and Keep Our Church & Grounds Beautiful!

All hands—young and old—are needed for our **Spring Cleanup Day** as we get our church campus ready for the growing season! We'll be tackling:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| ✓ Raking leaves | ✓ Sweeping walkways |
| ✓ Cutting back weeds and dead perennials | ✓ Trimming shrubs and bushes |
| ✓ Washing windows | |

Most importantly, we'll enjoy the fellowship of being a caring, connected community.

Come ready to **work, laugh, and make a difference!**

Bring your own gloves, rakes, shovels, and tools if you have them. We'll provide all the window cleaning supplies.

Let's beautify our space together—see you there!