

Welcome! The mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is to: Live by faith, embody love, proclaim hope, and seek justice. When the Friendship Folder is passed during the announcements, please sign it, and 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.

Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship	Laura Wright & Mary Runyon
Choir Director and Organist	Nancy Allen
Piano	Kristi Koch
Bass	Karyn Quinn
Guitar	Paul Leithold
Drums	Tammy Fisher
Flute	
Clarinet/ Alto Sax	Greg Balfany
Trumpet	Jeff Krauklis
Trombone	
Reading Scripture	_
Head Usher	
Ushers	Diane Schumacher
Greeter	Sue Heuer
Communion Assistants	Matea Braley, Sue Heuer
Nursery	
Fellowship Hour	

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

Gathering Music

"Out There"
"The Colors of the Wind"

Stephen Schwartz Stephen Schwartz

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

"All Good Gifts"

Vernon Shaw, Soloist Stephen Schwartz

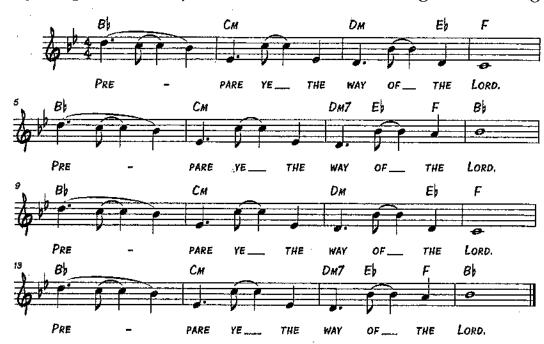
*Call to Worship

"Prepare Ye" from Godspell

One: A voice is calling out in the desert: Many: "Prepare the way for God to come."

One: May the path toward justice and our God be straight as we sing:

All:



Moment of Silence

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





*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."

Honoring Our Graduates

Anar Fynbu and Grace Guyer

& 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:





The First Lesson

Jill Pein

Genesis 15:1, 5-6

The Psalter

Psalm 37:3-5 (Read Responsively)

One: Trust in the LORD,

Many: and do good.

One: Live in the land,

Many: and enjoy security.

One: Take delight in the LORD,

Many: and God will give you the desires of your heart.

One: Commit your way to the LORD,

Many: and trust in God and God will act.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:14-16

The Word in Music

"The Spark of Creation" from *Children of Eden*

Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Huff

"Someday"

Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Huff

from The Hunchback of Notre Dame

"When You Believe" from *The Prince of Egypt*

Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Snyder Michelle Edge, Soloist

"Beautiful City" from Godspell

Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Huff

"Morning Glow" from Pippin

Stephen Schwartz, Arr. by Van Cleave Brad Seebach, Soloist

& Responding

with the voice of hope

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.

20 Thanksgiving

for the gifts of God

Stories of Generosity

Susan Oddsen, La Crescent Food Shelf

Music at the Offertory

"Children of Eden"

Stephen Schwartz

*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, One!



Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Open up your hearts.

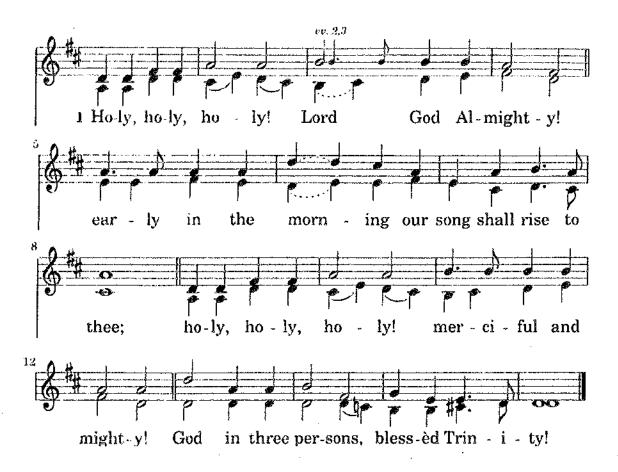
Many: We open them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy ... Therefore, we join our voices with

all the ancestors in the faith to sing forever:



The Congregation may be seated.

One:

On the night before Jesus was betrayed... Then Jesus said after supper, "This cup that is poured out for you—this is my new promise to you—my new covenant. So now we can proclaim,

All:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

One:

Jesus promised his disciples that though he was about to leave them in death—he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them ... Let us eat of this meal together—remembering that God has provided for all of us and God's Spirit is now with us.

Sharing Communion

This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless

of age or tradition, for it is this meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.

We will receive communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). All bread is gluten-free to welcome all at the table of Christ. Please come to the front of the church by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you need to receive communion where you are seated, please let an usher know.

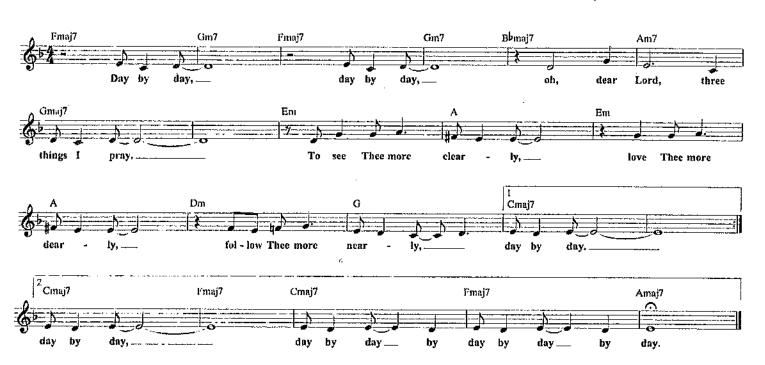
Thanksgiving after Communion

80 Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn (All join in singing the hymns.)
"Day by Day"

Stephen Schwartz



*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Corner of the Sky"

Stephen Schwartz

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Cover Image: Stephen Schwartz has composed numerous musical theatrical compositions that reflect a beautiful sense of ethics and commitment to religious and biblical narratives. The cover of the bulletin is of Notre Dame in Paris where his musical "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" was set. The image was used with permission based on our subscription to canva.com.

In memory of Kathryn Schnur Witzke and Gertrude and Leo Schnur given by Terry Witzke.

First Congregation	nal 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
	Bell Choir Director
Michelle Logan	Office Manager
Contact Information: First Congregation	nal UCC, 2503 Main Street, La Crosse, WI 54601, or visit us on the web at <u>www.firstcongolax.org</u> .
What gifts did you give God	this week?
Do you mind if we share you congregation? Yes N	O

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:			
Sunday, May 4		Thursday, May 8	
WAFER Sunday		Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
Faith Forum: Susan Oddsen (C)	9:00 am		
Worship w/Communion	10:00 am	Friday, May 9	
JAM & Nursery	10:00 am	Office Closed	10.00
Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am	Bell Choir (CR)	10:30 am
Confirmation (L)	11:00 am	Sunday, May 11	
Special Council Meeting (L)	11:10 am	Mother's Day	
Love Out Loud (State Rd & Losey)	1:00 pm	New Member Sunday	
Monday May E		Worship w/JAM & Nursery	10:00 am
Monday, May 5 Office Closed		MS/HS JAM "Donuts & Discussion"	10:40 am
Office Closed		Fellowship (CR)	11:00 am
Wednesday, May 7			
Sip & Scripture(Cancelled Due to Pastors Conti	nuing Education)		
f. 1881 S	•		

CALENDAR KEY

CR = Community Room, C = Chapel, L = Lounge,

N = Narthex, S = Sanctuary, J = JAM Rooms



Thank You, Sanctuary Choir!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our Sanctuary Choir for the beautiful music you shared with us today. Your voices lift our spirits and bring deeper meaning to our worship experience. We are so grateful for your time, talent, and dedication. Today's Choir Members:

Barbara Strohm	Julie Nelson	Richard Gilbert
Beth Moore	Kari Bersagel-Braley	Rick Waniger
Brad Seebach	Katie Berkedal	Roger Popelka
Bridget Hill	Kristi Koch	Roy Campbell
Chuck Hanson	Laurie Berdedal	Sanna Yoder
David McDowell	Mark Koch	Steven Fulton
Donna Christianson	Mary Sacia Jaeger	Tom Berkedal
Eli Carr	Matthew Bersagel-Braley	Tom Uphaus
Ellen Ullsvik	McKayla Fogarty	Vernon Shaw
Jessica Seebach	Michelle Edge	Victoria Ratsch
Joan Waniger	Randy Swenson	

Your music is a blessing—thank you for helping to lead our worship with such joy and grace!

Celebrating OUR GRADUATES

GRACE GUYER



Congratulations to Grace!

Grace is graduating from UW–La Crosse with a Bachelor of Arts in English and minors in Economics and Legal Studies. She will be attending Marquette Law School this fall.

ANAR FYNBU



Congratulations to Anar!

Anar is graduating from UW–La Crosse with a Bachelor of Science in Biology, with a focus on Pre-Med. He is moving to Milwaukee to prepare for the MCAT

We celebrate your achievements and the exciting journeys ahead!

May God bless you both in all you do in your futures!