

TRINITY SUNDAY

JUNE 15, 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. Kids Pre-K through rising 3rd grade will have Summer JAM this Sunday. They will go down to their classes after the kids' message. Kids rising 4th grade and above are invited to pick-up a book as they enter the sanctuary and remain with their families throughout worship.



Please ask an usher if you would like a large print or sensory friendly 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

Leading Worship & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship.....	Mary Runyon
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Sue Heuer
Head Usher	Michael Feuerhelm
Ushers	Jean Feeney, Tom Stolpa
Greeters.....	Patty Leach
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Maury Weiland & Beth Moore

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Arr. by Brian Chung

"Praise to the Lord"

Arr. by Keveren

Welcome and Announcements

Thank you for joining us this Sunday where all are welcome. Please pass the Friendship Folder, share your name, and take note of those worshipping with you.

Prelude Music

"Peace Like a River"

Arr. by Vogt

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Proverbs 8

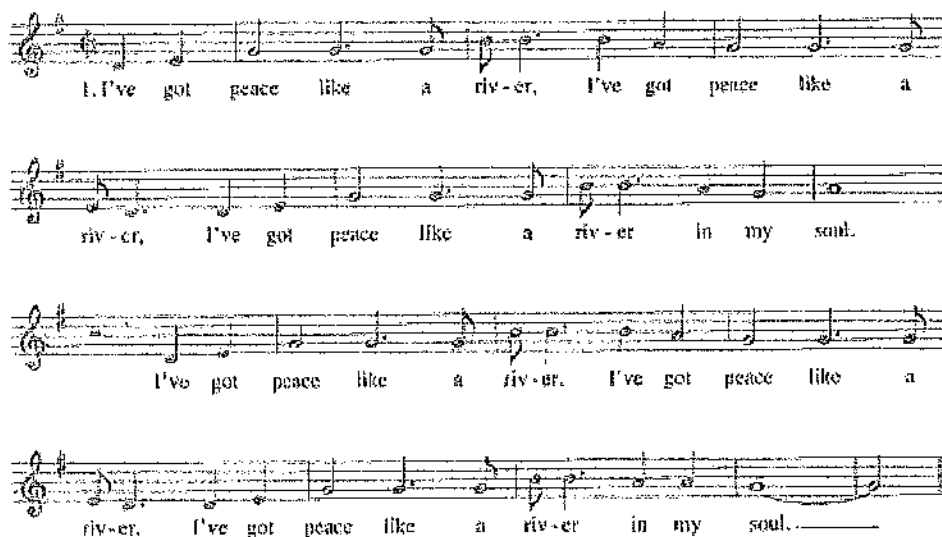
One: Wisdom is calling — not from a distant temple,
but from the streets, the gates, and the crossroads of our lives.

Many: **Wisdom raises her voice to all people —
young and old, seeker and skeptic, stranger and friend.**

One: Before the foundations of the earth, she was there —
dancing with delight, rejoicing with creation.

All: **She invites us to listen, to learn,
to live with compassion, justice, and joy.**

One: Come, let us listen as Lady Wisdom calls us to live lives of peace:



Moment of Silence

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

***Hymn 138** (*All join in singing the hymns.*)
"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Grosser Gott

***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. Younger Kids (rising Pre-K through rising 3rd grade) will go down to Summer JAM following the Kids' Message.

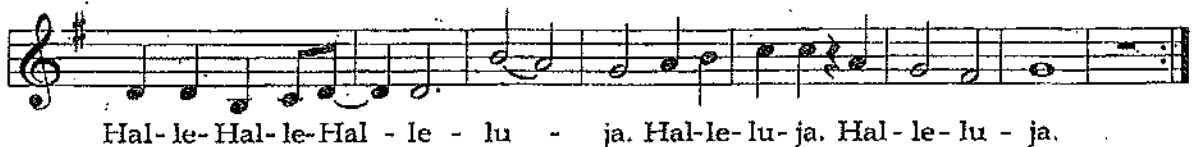
Blessing Kids for Worship in Nature at Sugar Creek Camp

*Oliver Runyon, Peter White, Blaire Boorn-Nederloe, Reece Boorn-Nederloe,
Annabelle Brouwer, August Kemp, Hazel Kemp, Tatum Mitchell,
Abe Ronsman, Juliper Ronsman, Ruby Ronsman, Autum White*

Acclamation (*Sung by all.*)

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Sue Heuer

Proverbs 8:1-4; 22-31

The Psalter

Psalm 8 (*Read Responsively*)

One: O LORD, our lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Many: **You have set your glory above the heavens.**

One: Out of the mouth of babes and infants, you founded ramparts
because of your enemies to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Many: **When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you established,**

One: what are humans that you remember them,
children that you care for them?

Many: **Yet you have made them a little lower than God.**

One: You crowned them with glory and honor.

Many: **Yet you made them to rule over the works of your hands.**

One: You put all things under their feet—

Many: **all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field,**

One: the birds of the air and the fish of the sea,

Many: **whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

One: O LORD, our lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.

The Gospel

John 16:12-15

Sermon through Conversation

"Before the Beginning: The Ancient Path of Wisdom"

Rev. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

***Hymn 40** *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Dix

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

Emma Ledbetter

Music at the Offertory

"Be Thou My Vision"

Arr. by Brian Chung

*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

☞ Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 48 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

St. Denio

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"I'm Gonna Sing/ Ain't a That Good News"

Arr. by Shackley

Acknowledgements: “Holy God, We Praise You,” words & music in the public domain. “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise,” words & music in the public domain. “For the Beauty of the Earth” words and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

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*Flowers today are given by Julie Larson
in memory of her husband, Tom.*

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, June 15

Trinity Sunday

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am WISE Committee Meeting (C)

Tuesday, June 17

6:00 pm Finance Meeting (L)

Thursday, June 19

Juneteenth

2:00 pm Membership Meeting (CR)

Saturday, June 21

10:00 am Chuck Hosler's Visitation
11:00 am Chuck Hosler's Funeral
12:00 pm Church Hosler's Memorial Meal
12:00 pm Juneteenth Celebration (Riverside)

Sunday, June 22

Trinity Sunday

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery
11:00 am Special Congregational Meeting

CALENDAR KEY

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

Hospital Visitation

Gundersen Health System has recently implemented a new computer system, and they will no longer share with us when a church member is admitted—even if the patient has previously given permission to share that information with us.

To ensure that our Visitation Team can continue to provide care and support, we kindly ask that you contact the church office directly whenever a member is hospitalized. Our phone number is (608) 784-8137.

Thank you for helping us stay connected and care for one another.



Where: Riverside Park

When: June 21, 2025

Time: 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Join us to honor June 19, 1865 – the day the last enslaved people were freed. Enjoy food, games, entertainment, and community for all ages!

Thank you for helping us care for one another.