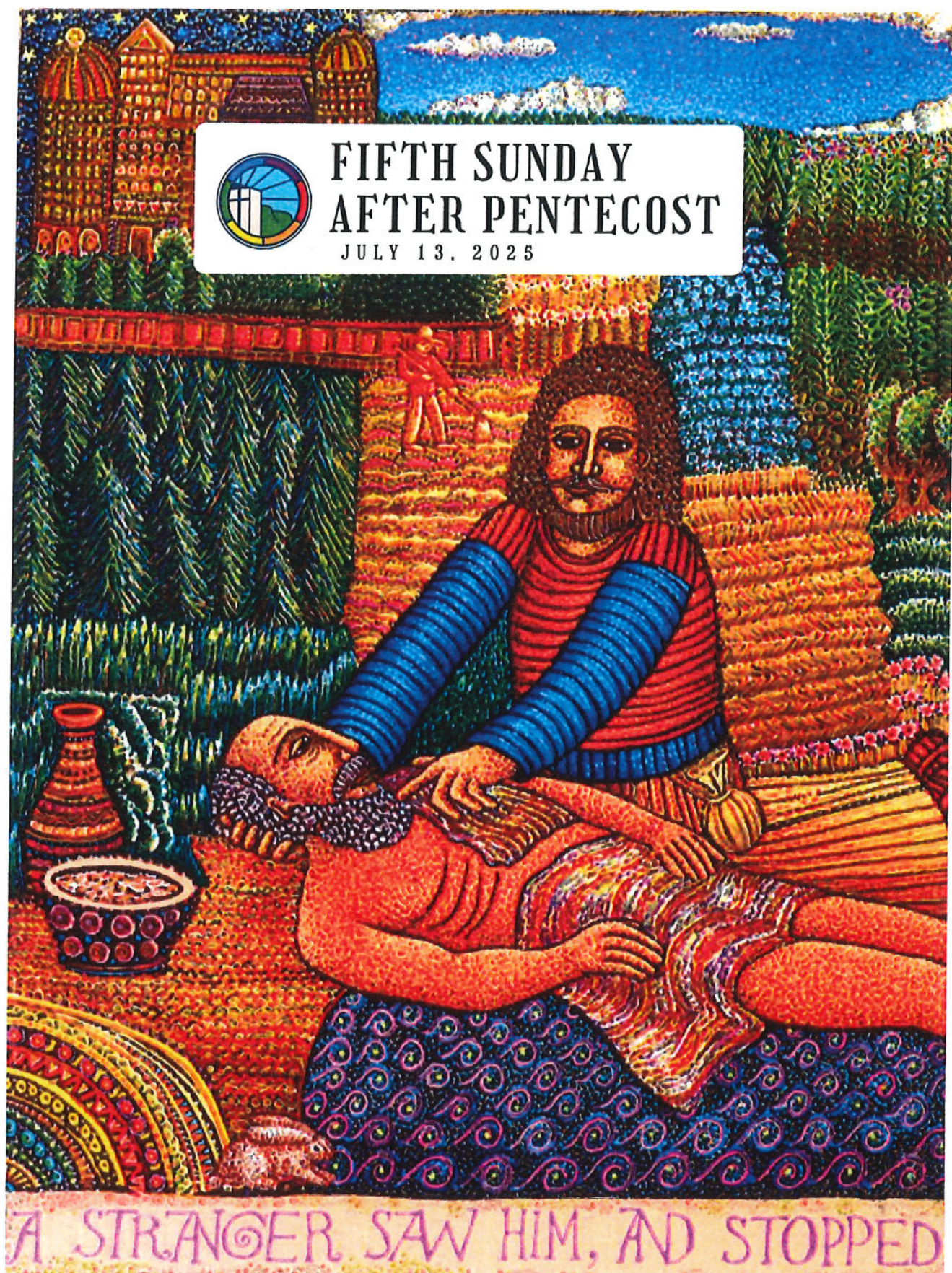




FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 13, 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.....	Stephen Minnema
Administering Baptism.....	Wayne Lura
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Sherry Sawle
Head Usher	Michael Feuerhelm
Ushers	Patty Leach
Greeters.....	Shelby Webb
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship Hour	Maury Weiland and Pat Lura

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Blessed Assurance"

"Jesus Loves Me"

Arr. by Mark Hayes

Arr. by Fred Bock

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

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Arr. by Shackley

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Luke 10

One: Who is our neighbor? Not just the one who looks like us, believes like us, or lives nearby—but the one by the side of the road.

Many: **We come to worship the God who calls us to radical compassion.**

One: In a world that draws lines and builds walls,
God invites us to cross the road, to bind wounds, to be neighbors.

Many: **Here, we find strength to choose to love again.**

One: We come with hands open to serve and souls longing to be neighbors:



Moment of Silence

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

***Hymn 680** (*All join in singing the hymns.*)
"Borning Cry"

Waterlife

Baptism of Ava Lynn Loken

Rev. Wayne Lura

***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

Sherry Sawle

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.

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

Amos 7:7-17

Sherry Sawle

The Psalter

Psalm 82 (*Read Responsively*)

One: God has taken God's place in the divine council;

Many: **in the midst of the gods, he holds judgement:**

One: "How long shall you judge unjustly

and show partiality to the wicked?"

Many: **Give justice to the weak and the orphan;
maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute.**

One: Rescue the weak and the needy;

Many: **deliver them from the hand of the wicked.**

One: They have neither knowledge nor understanding;
they walk around in darkness;
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.

Many: **I say, "You are gods, children of the Most High, all of you;**

One: nevertheless, you shall die like mortals and fall like any prince.

Many: **Rise up, O God, administer justice to the earth,
for all nations belong to you!**

The Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

Sermon

"Jesus the Prophet is still Speaking"

Rev. Stephen Minnema

Responding

with the voice of hope

***Hymn 391** *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Will You Let Me Be Your Servant"

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

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

Music at the Offertory

"I've Got Peace Like a River"

Arr. by Hayes

*As the Gifts Are Presented: Sing to the tune of Old 100th (Hymn 147).

(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 273 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love"

Chereponi

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Standing on the Promises"

Arr. by Bernadine Johnson

Acknowledgements: “Borning Cry,” words and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker. “Will You Let Me Be Your Servant,” words and music © 1977 Scripture In Song (a div. of Integrity Music). “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love,” words and music © 1969, 1997 Hope Publishing Company. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

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*Flowers today are given by John Hamilton
in honor of Linda Hamilton.*

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?

Can we share your gift to God with the congregation?
Yes_____ No_____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

Sunday, July 13

Clergy & Laity at General Synod

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

Monday, July 14

General Synod

7:15 pm Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, July 15

General Synod

6:00 pm Finance Team Meeting (L)

Friday, July 18

Office Closed

Sunday, July 20

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

11:00 am WISE Committee (C)

12:00 pm New Member Class

(La Crosse Distilling)

3:00 pm Sundaes on Sunday (CR)

CALENDAR KEY

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

BAPTISM



With joy and love, we welcome Ava Lynn Loken into the family of God through Baptism!

May her journey of faith be filled with grace, hope, and blessings.

Our Next All-Church Sunday Funday

Sundaes on Sunday

Sunday, July 20 | 3:00–5:00 PM

At the Church

Bring your favorite ice cream.

We'll provide the toppings!

Come enjoy sundaes and board games
with the whole church family!



Sundaes on Sunday