

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 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. 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
Pianist	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Katie Clements
Head Usher	Allan Beatty
Ushers	Brad Seebach & Tom Sleik
Greeters.....	Barbara Strohm
Nursery	Zali Stanton
Fellowship	Maury Weiland

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Kelvingrove"

"Swinging with the Eighties"

Erin Hussey & Betsy Knowles

Arr. by Kolodner & Knowles

Arr. by Kolodner

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

"Gentle Eily"

Erin Hussey & Betsy Knowles

Arr. by Kolodner

*Call to Worship

Inspired by Luke 11

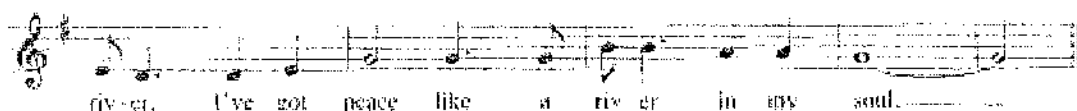
One: Come, you who long to speak with God—
you who wonder what words to say,
you who fear your prayers are too big.

Many: **We come to remember how to pray,
trusting that our simple words are heard.**

One: Ask, and it will be given. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door
will be opened.

Many: **We come with our questions, our fears, and our requests.**

One: For our God hears and brings peace:



Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 349 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first

*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.

Baptism into the Family of God

Reaffirming Our Baptismal Promises: Welcoming New Members

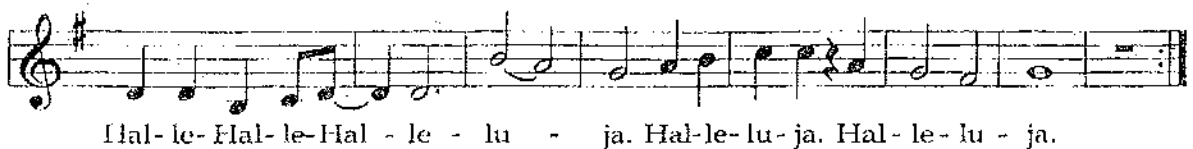
Loud Offering

Jonah's Fund at the Parent Place

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Colossians 2:6-15

Katie Clements

The Psalter

Psalm 138 (*Read responsively from The Message.*)

One: Thank you! Everything in me says, "Thank you!"

Many: **Angels listen as I sing my thanks.**

One: I kneel in worship facing your holy temple,
and say it again: "Thank you!"

Many: **Thank you for your love,
thank you for your faithfulness.**

One: Most holy is your name,
most holy is your word.

Many: **The moment I called out, you stepped in;
you made my life large with strength.**

One: When they hear what you have to say, God,
all earth's kings will say, "Thank you."

Many: **They'll sing of what you've done:
"How great the glory of God!"**

One: And here's why: God, high above, sees far below;
no matter the distance, God knows everything about us.

Many: **When I walk into the thick of trouble,
keep me alive in the angry turmoil.**

One: With one hand stop my foes,
with your other hand, save me.

Many: **Finish what you started in me, God.**

One: Your love is eternal—don't quit on me now.

The Gospel

Luke 11:1-13

Sermon

"Prayer for the Spiritually Awkward"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

*Hymn 461 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"Breath on Me, Breath of God"

Trentham

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

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Arr. by Riley

*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 473 (All join in singing the hymns.)
"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Converse

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

Arr. by Martha Mier

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*Flowers today are given in honor of Nancy Burgett's birthday
by John and Kathy Storlie.*

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 27

New Member Sunday

Noisy Offering

10:00 am Worship w/JAM & Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

Monday, July 28

1:30 pm Woman's Book Club (L)

Thursday, July 31

2:00 pm Membership Meeting (CR)

Friday, August 1

Office Closed

12:30 pm Visitation Team Meeting (CR)

Sunday, August 3

WAFER Sunday

10:00 am Outdoor Worship w/Communion
(Red Cloud Park)

11:00 am Lunch (Red Cloud Park)

11:00 am Confirmation (Red Cloud Park)

CALENDAR KEY

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

Worship in God's Creation - August 3rd at 10 am

Come be renewed in body and spirit as we worship outdoors under the trees at Red Cloud Park (520 Powell Street). The Creation Care & WISE Teams will provide the main dish. If your last name begins with:

- A-L, please bring a side dish or salad
- M-Z, please bring a dessert

We'll have a kiddie pool of ice available to keep dishes cool.

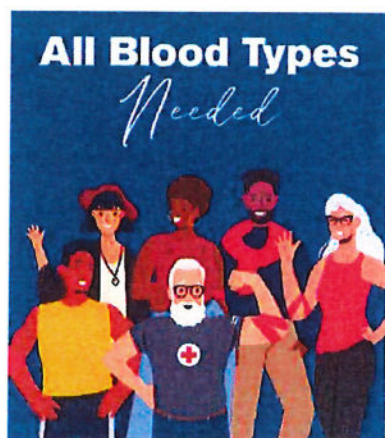
Don't forget to bring:

- A lawn chair
- A hat for shade
- And your joy for worship in God's creation!



In case of rain, an all-church email will go out with updates. We can't wait to gather with you in the beauty of the outdoors!

Blood Drive @ the UU - Friday, August 1st



Blood Drive **Unitarian Universalist** **Fellowship of La** **Crosse**

401 West Ave S

Friday, August 1, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.