

NOW FAITH
IS THE ASSURANCE
OF THINGS HOPED
FOR, THE CONVICTION
OF THINGS NOT
SEEN
HEBREWS 11



NINTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 10, 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. A bathroom for all genders is located off the kitchen connected to the Community Room.

Children are welcome in worship! 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 are invited to pick up a book and an activity bag as they enter the sanctuary and remain with their families throughout worship.

Worship Service Live Stream Notice. Please be advised that all worship services held in the sanctuary of First Congregational UCC are live streamed on YouTube. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available on the First Congregational United Church of Christ YouTube page and will remain accessible at the church's sole discretion. If you prefer not to appear on camera, we invite you to sit in the last six rows of the sanctuary, which are not shown during the live stream. Thank you for your understanding.



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	Mary Runyon
Pianist.....	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Brad Seebach
Head Usher.....	Allan Beatty
Ushers.....	Tom Nyre
Greeters	Patty Leach
Nursery	Zali Stanton

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Come Thou Fount"

"I Want Jesus to Walk With Me"

Arr. by Keveren

Arr. by Hayes

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

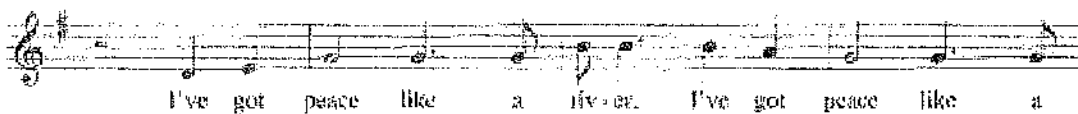
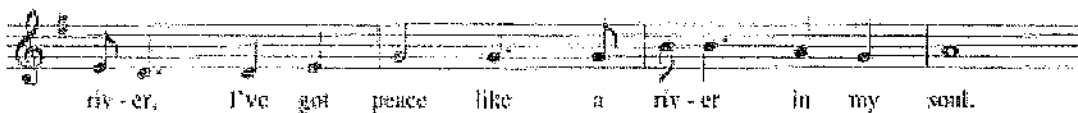
"This is my Father's World"

Arr. by Hayes

*Call to Worship

inspired by Hebrews 11-12

- One:** God has called us like Moses in the wilderness,
the prophets in the hills, and the disciples in the cities.
- Many:** **They shared their blessings so that we might know God's presence here.**
- One:** Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely.
- Many:** **Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.**



Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 96 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

AZMON

*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.

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja

All:



The First Lesson

Genesis 15:1-6

Brad Seebach

The Psalter

Psalm 33:12-22 *(Read responsively)*

One: Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.

Many: The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.

From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth —

One: he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.

Many: **A king is not saved by his great army;
a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.
The war horse is a vain hope for victory,
and by its great might it cannot save.**

One: Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,
to deliver their soul from death
and to keep them alive in famine.

Many: **Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.
Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.**

One: Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.

The Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Sermon

"Faith cannot be severed from Hope"

Rev. Mary Runyon

☞ Responding

with the voice of hope

*Hymn 84 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Verses 1-3

St. Anne

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

Maury Weiland

Music at the Offertory

"Praise to the Lord."

Arr. by House

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

"We Are Called to Be God's People"

Austrian Hymn

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"This Little Light of Mine"

Arr. by Hayes

Acknowledgements: Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

Flowers today are given in memory of Loved Ones, by Diane & David Schumacher.

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, August 10

10:00 am Worship w/Nursery (No JAM)
11:00 am Missions & Social Justice Meeting
(L)

Monday, August 11

Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, August 12

8:00 am Alternative Energy Meeting (L)
5:00 pm Creation Care Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 13

3:30 pm Buildings & Grounds Meeting (CR)

Thursday, August 14

1:00 pm Jail Ministries Meeting (C)

Friday, August 15

Office Closed

Deadline for Fall Greeting Articles

Sunday, August 17

10:00 am Worship w/Nursery (No JAM)
11:00 am Wise Committee Meeting (C)

CALENDAR KEY

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

Another Grant for Solar Awarded!



Our church has been awarded a \$1000 Kairos Call to Action Creation Care Grant for our solar project! Thank you to the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC and to the State Creation Care Team for your support. In the following months, we will be sharing our journey and how we are making our church "shine" at a conference level. Thank you also to everyone who has given so far to the solar project. With your generous donations and the two grants, we have raised almost \$157,000.

In caring for the Earth, we care for one another and future generations. Let the Earth rejoice!

Will you help us keep up the momentum?

Pledge forms are available in the narthex or you can make your pledge [online](#).



The Roses on the Altar are placed in loving memory of:

Caroline Swenson, daughter-in-law of Randy and Dawn Swenson, who passed away on July 22nd,

and

Keith Laue, father of Kristi Koch, who passed away on July 31st.

Please keep both families in your prayers.