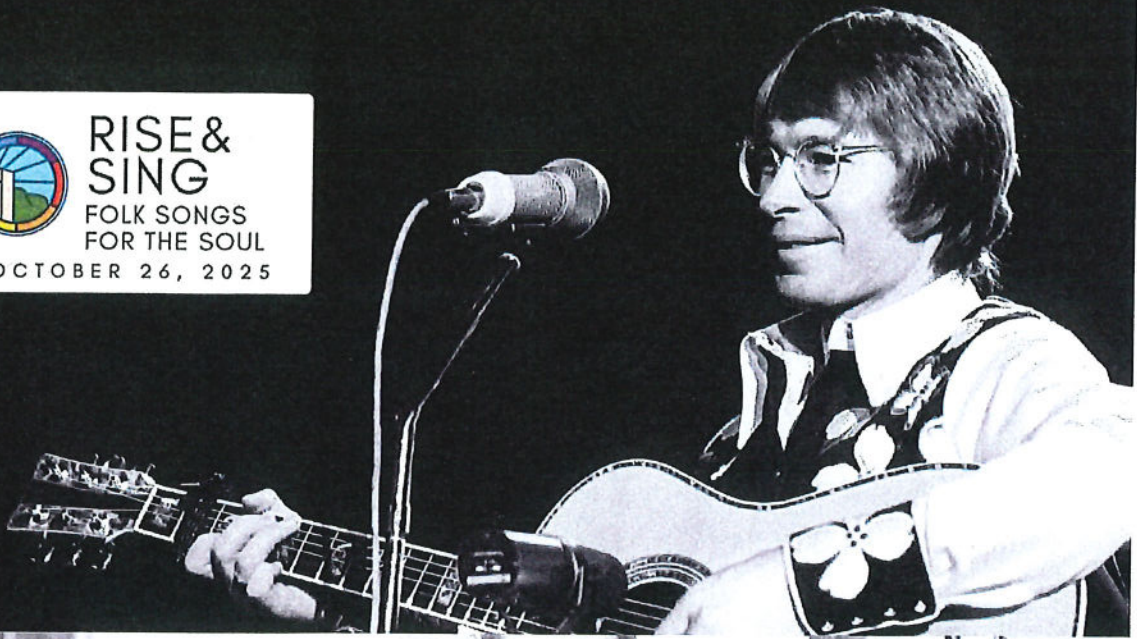




**RISE &
SING**
FOLK SONGS
FOR THE SOUL
OCTOBER 26, 2025



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 God's family. Join our Fellowship Hour after worship where everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for all families and everybody is in the narthex.

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. After the word for children, the kids will go to their JAM classrooms.

Livestreaming Notice for Worship. We strive for worship to be accessible for all, so we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel, First Congregational UCC, La Crosse. Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast. These recordings are publicly available at the church's discretion. If you prefer not to appear, we invite you to sit in the sanctuary's last six rows, which are not shown on camera.



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.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship & Faith Formation.....	Mary Runyon
Organist, Pianist, & Choir Director	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Beth Moore
Head Usher	Shelby Webb
Ushers	Cam & Carlene Roberts,
Greeters.....	Tom Stolpa
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship	WISE Committee

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Both Sides Now"

"Time in a Bottle"

Nancy Allen, Piano

Jonathan Mitchell

Jim Croce

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

"The Water is Wide"

Nancy Allen, Piano

Traditional

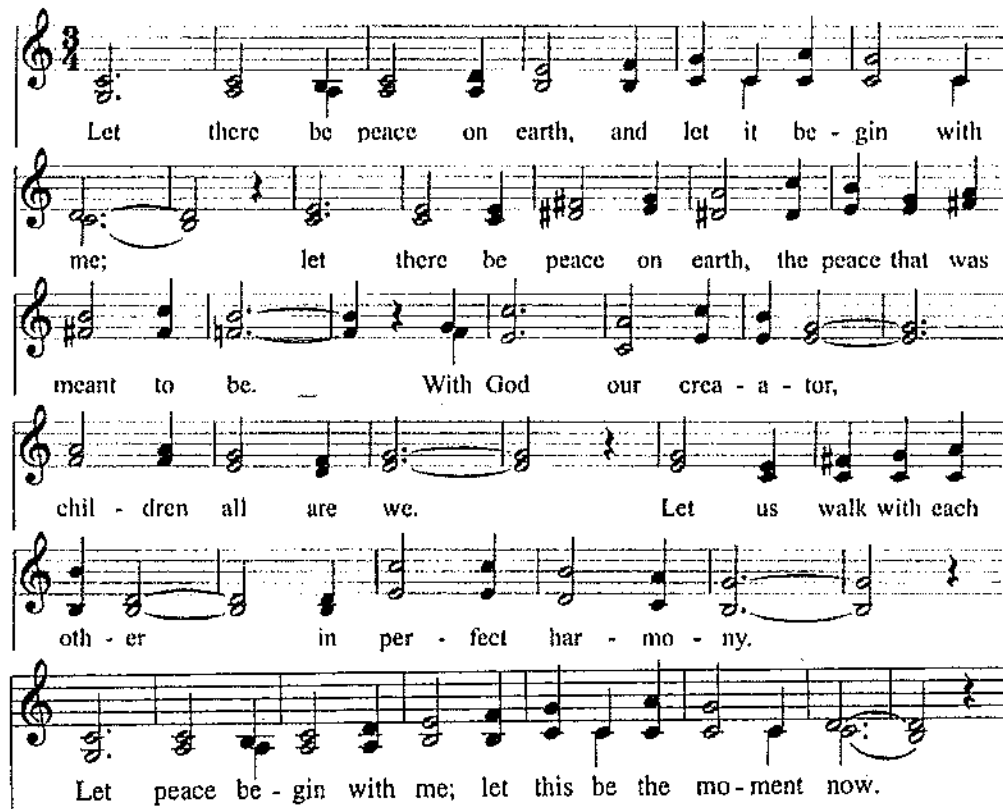
*Call to Worship

One: Come, friends—bring your stories, your songs, and your hopes.

Many: **We come with songs that rise from the fields and the rivers, from kitchen tables and anxious hearts.**

One: Let our voices join the chorus of creation: for God is among us—in the strum of guitars and the tapping of feet.

Many: **So let us sing the Spirit's steady rhythm of hope:**



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with
me; let there be peace on earth, the peace that was
meant to be. With God our crea - a - tor,
chil - dren all are we. Let us walk with each
oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.
Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.

With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:

to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn (All join in singing the hymns.)

"Blowin' in the Wind"

Bob Dylan

1. How man - y roads must a man walk down be - fore you
 2. How man - y times must a man look up be - fore he can
 3. How man - y years can a moun - tain ex - ist be - fore it's

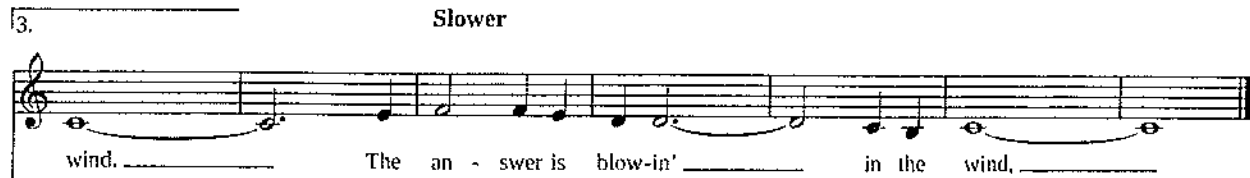
call him a man? Yes, 'n' How man - y seas must a
 see the sky? Yes, 'n' How man - y ears must
 washed to the sea? Yes, 'n' How man - y years can some

white dove sail be - fore she sleeps in the sand? Yes, 'n'
 one man have be - fore he can hear peo - ple cry? Yes, 'n'
 peo - ple ex - ist be - fore they're al - lowed to be free? Yes, 'n'

How man - y times must the can - non balls fly be - fore they're
 How man - y deaths will it take 'till he knows that too man - y
 How man - y times can a man turn his head pre - tend - ing he

for - ev - er banned? } The an - swer, my friend, is
 peo - ple have died? }
 just does - n't see? }

1, 2.
 blow-in' in the wind, The an - swer is blow-in' in the wind.



*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. Kids will then go to their JAM classes as the congregation sings.

Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

Halleluja



The First Lesson

Beth Moore

Micah 4:1-4

The Psalter

Psalm 133 *(Read responsively from The Message.)*

One: How wonderful, how beautiful,
when brothers and sisters get along!

Many: **It's like costly anointing oil,**
flowing down the head and the beard,

One: Oil flowing down Aaron's beard,

flowing down the collar of his priestly robes.

Many: It's like the dew on Mount Hermon,
flowing down the slopes of Zion.

One: Yes, that's where God commands the blessing, ordains eternal life.

The Gospel

Luke 4:16-21

The Word through Song

The Sanctuary Choir

"Turn, Turn, Turn"

Arr. by Roger Emerson

"The Time They Are A-Changin'"

Bob Dylan, Arr. by Adam Podd

"Hallelujah"

Cohen, Arr. by Emerson

"Bridge Over Troubled Waters"

Simon, Arr. by Shaw

Responding

with the voice of hope

The Community Invited into Prayer

Prayers of the People

Leader: God, in your love,

All: Hear our prayer.

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

Rick Rux, Salvation Army

Music at the Offertory

Nancy Allen

"Swing Low, Sweet Chariot"

arr. Schrader

*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 *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

"If I Had a Hammer"

Lee Hays and Pete Seeger

A musical score for the hymn 'If I Had a Hammer' in 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second and third staves have a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff ends with the lyrics 'IF I HAD A'. The second staff has the lyrics 'HAM - MER, ___' and 'BELL, ___' on the first line, and 'I'D HAM - MER IN THE MORN - ING, ___' and 'I'D RING IT IN THE MORN - ING, ___' on the second line. The third staff has the lyrics 'I'D HAM - MER IN THE EVE - NING ___' and 'I'D RING IT IN THE EVE - NING ___' on the first line, and 'ALL O - VER THIS' and 'ALL O - VER THIS' on the second line.

IF I HAD A

HAM - MER, ___
BELL, ___

I'D HAM - MER IN THE MORN - ING, ___
I'D RING IT IN THE MORN - ING, ___

I'D HAM - MER IN THE EVE - NING ___
I'D RING IT IN THE EVE - NING ___

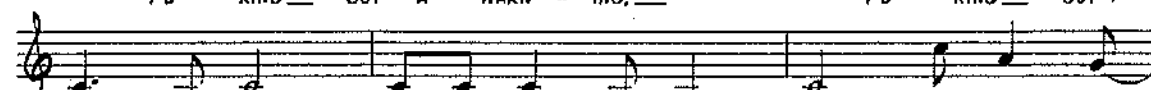
ALL O - VER THIS
ALL O - VER THIS



LAND; I'D HAM - MER OUT DAN - GER, —
LAND; I'D RING — OUT DAN - GER, —



I'D HAM - MER OUT A WARN - ING, — I'D HAM - MER OUT }
I'D RING — OUT A WARN - ING, — I'D RING — OUT }



LOVE BE - TWEEN ALL OF MY BROTH - ERS. ALL



O - VER THIS LAND. IF I HAD A



LAND. IF I HAD A SONG, HAM - MER, —



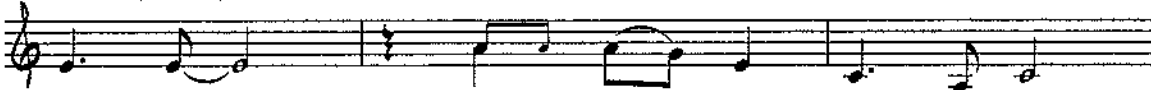
I'D SING IT IN THE MORN - ING, — I'D SING IT IN THE
AND I'VE GOT A BELL, — AND I'VE GOT A



EVE - NING — ALL O - VER THIS LAND;
SONG — ALL O - VER THIS LAND;



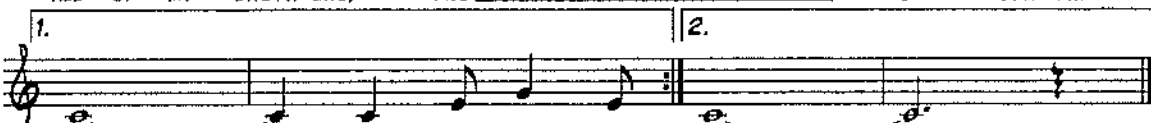
I'D SING — OUT DAN - GER, — I'D SING — OUT A
IT'S THE HAM - MER OF HIS - TICE IT'S THE BELL OF



WARN - ING, — I'D SING — OUT } LOVE BE - TWEEN
FREE - DOM, — IT'S THE SONG A - BOUT }



ALL OF MY BROTH - ERS, ALL O - VER THIS



LAND. WELL, I GOT A LAND.

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"This Little Light of Mine"

arr. Hayes

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

Cover Image: The cover image was created through images that were used with permission from our subscriptions.

*Flowers today are given by Jill and Rich Pein
in memory of our sisters and parents.*

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, October 26

Noisy Offering

- 9:00 am Faith Forum: Rick Rux - Salvation Army (C)
- 9:00 am J.A.M. Breakfast (CR)
- 10:00 am Folk Songs for the Soul Worship
- 10:00 am Nursery
- 10:20 am J.A.M.
- 11:00 am Sweet Street Fellowship (CR)
- 2:00 pm Curiosity Corner (CR)

Monday, October 27

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

Tuesday, October 28

- 11:00 am Koffee Klatch @ Havenwood

Wednesday, October 29

- 5:00 pm Kid's Choir Practice (S)

Thursday, October 30

- 10:30 am Gathering of Fellowship & Conversation Over Coffee!
At Diane Stoffregen's Place,
3522 East Ave. S., La Crosse
- 1:00 pm Visitation Committee (L)
- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, October 31

Happy Halloween

Office Closed

- 10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)

Sunday, November 2

Daylight Savings Time Ends

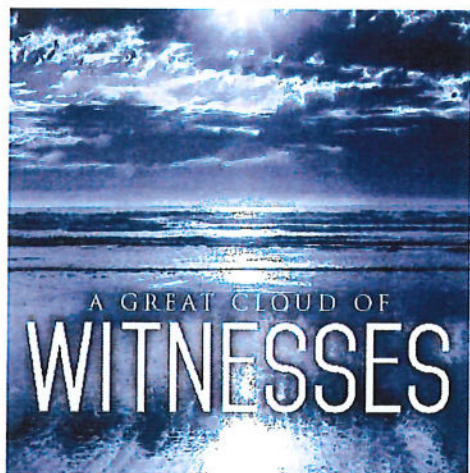
WAFER Sunday

All Saints' Day

- 10:00 am Worship W/Communion
- 10:00 am Nursery
- 10:20 am J.A.M.
- 11:00 am Confirmation (L)
- 11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

CALENDAR KEY

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



PHOTOS NEEDED

All Saints' Day is a sacred time to honor those who have gone before us — not only those who have passed this year, but also the loved ones from years past who continue to live in our hearts. As we gather in worship, we do so surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. If you would like to participate, please bring a snapshot of your loved ones to the church by **Wednesday, October 29th**. We will make a

copy of your photo and display the images during the **All Saints' Day service on Sunday, November 2nd**, as a visual reminder of the saints who continue to bless our lives.

During the service, we will also take time to honor and remember all members of our church family who have passed within the last year.

Join us for A Screening of
1946
A Documentary
Homosexuality: Did the Bible Really
Say That?



What if the word "*homosexuality*" was never meant to appear in the Bible? Join us for a thought-provoking evening as we explore the history of Bible translation, uncover a pivotal mistranslation, and consider how it shaped harmful theology. This event highlights the ongoing work of scholars who are challenging long-held assumptions and advocating for full LGBTQ+ inclusion in faith communities.

When: November 9

Time: 6:00 PM

Where: United Campus Ministry, 1334 Pine Street, La Crosse

Come with curiosity—leave with insight.

JOIN US AS WE START A NEW TIME OF
BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY!



Our first meet-up will be on Wednesday, October 30th at 10:30 am in Seminary Park at:

Diane Stoffregen's place
3522 East Avenue South, Apt A,
La Crosse

Come and enjoy a relaxed time of connection, community, stories, and laughing together.

2026 Altar Flower Calendar



The **2026 Altar Flower Calendar** is now a work in progress. Dates have been reserved for those who regularly request them. If you would like to make changes to your reservation, please contact me.

All arrangements are **\$45**, payable to the church (**please note "Altar Flowers" on your check**).

Available dates for early 2026:

- **January:** 4, 11, 18
- **February:** 8, 22
- **March:** 1, 8, 15, 22
- **April:** 19, 26
- **May:** 3, 24, 31
- **June:** 14, 28

With *The Greeting* now being published quarterly, please submit your flower information as early as possible.

Remember, these flowers not only beautify our worship services but are also shared by our **Visitation Team** with those in the hospital, homebound, or in need of encouragement and love.

To reserve a date, please contact **Sue Heuer** at 608-526-9397, 608-769-3209, or **fredsue45@gmail.com**, or reach out to **Michelle** in the church office.