



# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 5, 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. Join our Fellowship Hour after worship where everyone is invited to enjoy conversation and refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for all bodies and families is located next to the Chapel.

**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. Because the La Crosse Public Schools have a long weekend, our children will remain with their parents after the word for kids.

**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 and will remain accessible at the church's 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 in the livestream.



**Please ask an usher** if you need assistance or would like a large-print or sensory-friendly bulletin. A Hearing Loop system is available.

### Serving in Worship Today

|                                  |                    |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Leading Worship & Preaching..... | Laura Wright       |
| Leading Worship.....             | Mary Runyon        |
| Pianist .....                    | Nancy Allen        |
| Reading Scripture.....           | Emma Ledbetter     |
| Head Usher .....                 | Shelby Webb        |
| Ushers .....                     | Marilyn & Tom Nyre |
| Greeters.....                    | Gladys Mclenahan   |
| Communion Assistants .....       | Julie Mannion      |
| 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

"Toccata in C Major"

Pachelbel/ Arr. by Hopson

## 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

"Reflections on Thaxted"

Bell Choir & Tom Haag, Piano

Arr. by Kurt Meyer

## \*Call to Worship

*Lamentations 3*

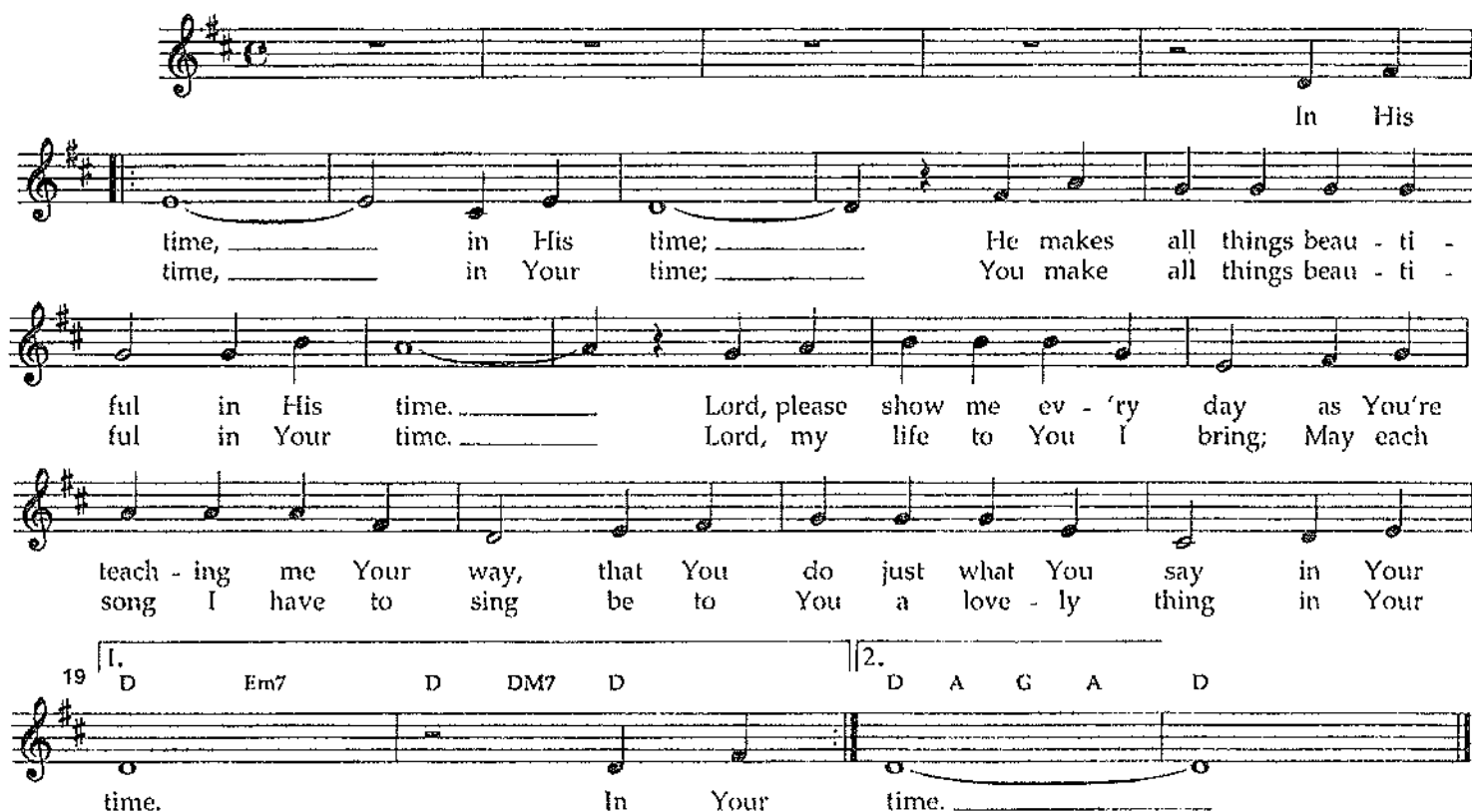
*One:* Our souls remember the weight of the world's sorrow,  
and we feel the heaviness of waiting for the world's salvation.

*Many:* **God's love never ends.**

*One:* God's love is new every morning — for God is faithful.

*Many:* **God's love never ends.**

*One:* Come, people of God, bring your laments and your longing, as we sing:



In His  
time, \_\_\_\_\_ in His time; \_\_\_\_\_ He makes all things beau - ti -  
time, \_\_\_\_\_ in Your time; \_\_\_\_\_ You make all things beau - ti -  
ful in His time. \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, please show me ev - 'ry day as You're  
ful in Your time. \_\_\_\_\_ Lord, my life to You I bring; May each  
teach - ing me Your way, that You do just what You say in Your  
song I have to sing be to You a love - ly thing in Your  
19 | 1. D Em7 D DM7 D | 2. D A G A D  
time. In Your time. \_\_\_\_\_

## Moment of Silence

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

## \*Hymn 631 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

**"There Is a Balm in Gilead"**

*Balm in Gilead*

## \*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 join their families during worship.*

## Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

*Halleluja*

*All:*



## The First Lesson

Emma Ledbetter

Lamentations 1:1-2, 3:19-26

## The Psalter

Psalm 137 *(Read responsively from The Message.)*

*One:* By the rivers of Babylon—

there we sat down and there we wept,

remembering the good old days in Zion.

*Many:* **On the willows there  
we hung our unplayed harps.**

*One:* For there our captors  
demanded songs,  
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,  
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

*Many:* **How could we sing God's song  
in a foreign land?**

*One:* If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
let my right-hand wither!

*Many:* **Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,  
if I do not remember you,  
if I do not set Jerusalem  
above my highest joy.**

*One:* Remember, O God, those Edomites  
on the day of Jerusalem's fall,

*Many:* **how they said, "Wreck it! Smash it to bits!  
Destroy it to its foundations!"**

*One:* O daughter Babylon, you devastator!

*Many:* **Happy shall they be who pay you back  
what you have done to us!**

*One:* Happy shall they be who take your little ones  
and dash them against the rock!

## The Gospel

Luke 17:5-10

## Sermon

"When Silence Is the Sermon"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

## Responding

*with the voice of hope*

## Anthem

"Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land"

*The Bell Choir & Tom Haag, Piano*

Arr. by Anna Laura Page

## The Community Invited into Prayer

### Prayers of the Church

*The petitions end with: God, in your love,  
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

\*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

### \*The Great Thanksgiving

*One:* God be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*One:* Open up your minds.

*Many:* **We open them to God.**

*One:* Let us say thank you to God.

*Many:* **It is right and our greatest joy to give God thanks and praise.**

*One:* It is truly right and our greatest joy ... Therefore, we join our voices with all the ancestors in the faith to sing forever:

*All:*

ec. 2,3

1 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!

5 ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to

8 thee; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and

12 might-y! God in three per-sons, bless-èd Trin - i - ty!

*The Congregation may be seated.*

*One:* On the night before Jesus was betrayed... Then Jesus said after supper, "This cup that is poured out for you — this is my new promise to you — my new covenant. So now we can proclaim,

*All:* **Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

*One:* Jesus promised his disciples that though he was about to leave them in death—he would send the Holy Spirit to be with them ... Let us eat

of this meal together — remembering that God has provided for all of us and God's Spirit is now with us.

## Sharing Communion

*This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless of age or tradition, for it is this meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.*

*We will receive communion by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). All bread is gluten-free to welcome all at the table of Christ. Please come to the front of the church by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisles. If you need to receive communion where you are seated, please let an usher know.*

## Thanksgiving after Communion

## Going

to be messengers of good news

\*Hymn 426 (*All join in singing the hymns.*)

"Blessed Assurance"

*Assurance*

## \*The Blessing

## Postlude Music

"Festivity on 'Come Thou Fount'"

Arr. by Wagner

**Acknowledgements:** "In His Time," words and music © 1978 Maranatha! Music (ASCAP)/CCCM Music (ASCAP)(both admin. by Music Services). "There Is a Balm in Gilead," words and music in the public domain. "Blessed Assurance," words and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

**Cover Image:** The image on the cover is from the Ishtar Gate of the city of Babylon. The gate and its art were constructed during the time when Judah's powerful elite were living near Babylon after having been exiled from their homes. The elite of Judah would not return to their homes until the Persian Empire overcomes the Babylonians in 612 BCE. This gate is housed at the Vorderasiatisches Museum in Berlin.

*Flowers today are given by John Hamilton  
in loving memory 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](mailto:office@firstcongolax.org), or visit us on the web at [www.firstcongolax.org](http://www.firstcongolax.org).

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What gifts did you give God this week?

Can we share your gift to God with the congregation?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### This Week in our Church:

#### Sunday, October 5

#### Neighbors in Need Offering

#### WAFER Sunday

- 9:00 am Faith Forum: Pathways Home
- 10:00 am Worship w/Communion
- 10:00 am Nursery & JAM
- 11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
- 11:00 am Communion (CR)
- 1:30 pm Under The Bridge Screening  
(Lax Public Library)

#### Tuesday, October 7

- 6:00 pm Finance Meeting (CR)

#### Wednesday, October 8

- 10:00 am Sip & Scripture (P)
- 6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting (CR)

#### Thursday, October 9

- 7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S)

#### Friday, October 10

#### Office Closed

- 10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)
- 5:30 pm Bake-Off & Bingo (CR)

#### Saturday, October 11

- 10:00 am Anniversary Ideas Session (L)

#### Sunday, October 12

- 9:00 am Faith Forum:  
Prayer, Meditation, & Mindfulness
- 10:00 am Worship w/Nursery & JAM
- 11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
- 11:00 am Missions & Social Justice  
Meeting (L)
- 12:00 pm New Member Class  
(La Crosse Distillery)

#### CALENDAR KEY

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

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## JOIN US FOR BAKE-OFF AND BINGO NIGHT!



**Friday, October 10th | 5:30 PM | At the Church**

Bake up your best treat and bring it to the church for a night full of delicious fun and friendly competition! A panel of judges will score entries on presentation and taste, and we'll also crown a People's Choice Award—so bring your best and dazzle us with your baking talent! After judging, we'll sample the sweet creations while enjoying a lively evening of Bingo. Not a Bingo fan? No worries—kids will have their own fun downstairs! All are welcome. Don't miss the fun!



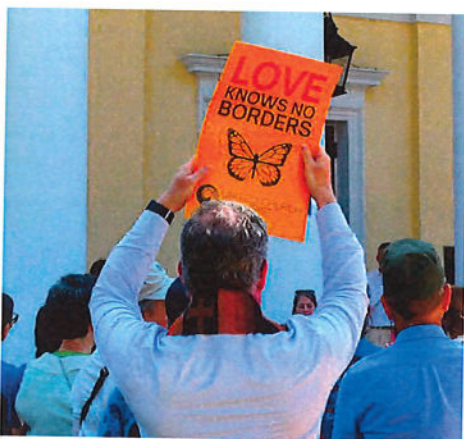
# Neighbors in Need

*Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

—Galatians 6:2

**Advocacy is essential to participating in  
God's mission in the world.**

**G**ifts to the **Neighbors in Need** offering support ministries of justice and compassion in the United Church of Christ, including the UCC Office of Public Policy & Advocacy in Washington D.C.



The UCC Washington D.C. Office was called into being by a resolution at General Synod 10 in 1975. The office was assigned to identify, analyze, and forecast social issues which called for the attention of the church. The work has always been guided by the discernment of the UCC through General Synod gatherings and resolutions that collectively witness to God's call.

Each week the Washington D.C. Office creates an action alert to help give church members the opportunity to contact legislators simply and easily. In 2025 these weekly alerts have encouraged church members to fight for disability housing accommodations, to stop the gun violence epidemic, and to support environmental justice for all.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

# First Congo is turning 175 Years Old!

## Would you like to help us plan?



Did you know that in 2027 our church will be celebrating its 175th anniversary? A group of 12 souls came together to charter our church four years before La Crosse became a city. Anita Doering is organizing an initial meeting to brainstorm ideas of activities throughout the year, although the big day is January 22, 2027.

The theme will be focused on how First Congregational has served the La Crosse community.

Whether you want to come and contribute ideas or if you are interested in working on one or more events or elements related to this historic anniversary, please come to the church on October 11 at 10am. We will meet in the lounge.

If you have any questions please contact Anita at 608-780-1044 or [abdoering@gmail.com](mailto:abdoering@gmail.com)

