

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 bodies and families is in the narthex, 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. 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 & Preaching.....	Laura Wright
Leading Worship & Faith Formation.....	Mary Runyon
Organist, Pianist, & Choir Director	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Emma Ledbetter
Head Usher	Allan Beatty
Greeters.....	Sue Heuer
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton
Fellowship.....	Service & Worship

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"

Nancy Allen
Arr. by Holstein

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

"Flourish on 'Lobe den Herren'"

Nancy Allen
Arr. by Wagner

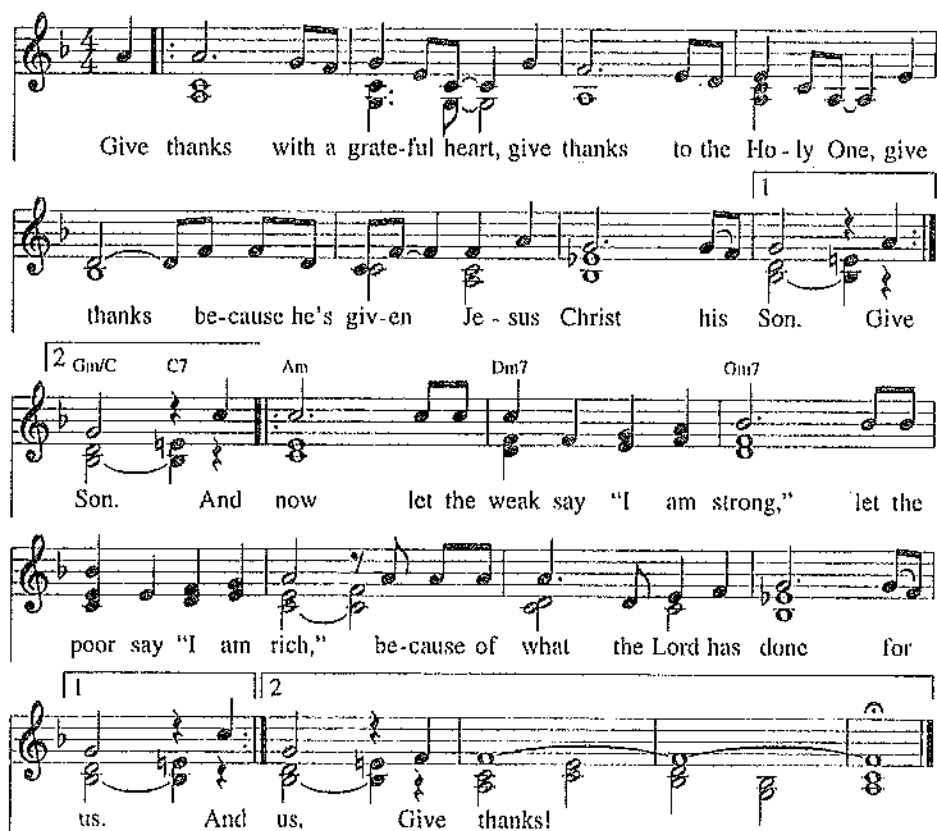
*Call to Worship

One: We gather this morning among the saints—
those who came before us and those who walk beside us still.

Many: **Blessed are the peacemakers and prophets,
the ordinary saints who show us the way of love.**

One: We come to remember those who loved their enemies,
who forgave even when it was hard.

Many: **Let us sing to the Spirit who is among the saints and within us:**



Give thanks with a grate-ful heart, give thanks to the Ho-ly One, give
thanks be-cause he's giv-en Je-sus Christ his Son. Give
Son. And now let the weak say "I am strong," let the
poor say "I am rich," be-cause of what the Lord has done for
us. And us, Give thanks!

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

*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.

Baptism of God's Beloved Child, Alden River Tomashek

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

Emma Ledbetter

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18

The Psalter

Psalm 149 (Read responsively from The Message.)

One: Hallelujah!

Many: **Sing to God a brand-new song,
praise God in the company of all who love God.**

One: Let all Israel celebrate their Sovereign Creator,

Zion's children exult in their King.

Many: **Let them praise God's name in dance;
strike up the band and make great music!**

One: And why? Because God delights in God's people,
adorns plain folks with salvation garlands!

Many: **Let true lovers break out in praise,
sing out from wherever they're sitting.**

One: Shout the high praises of God,
brandish their swords in the wild sword-dance —
a portent of vengeance on the God-defying nations,
a signal that punishment's coming.

Many: **Their kings chained and hauled off to jail,
their leaders behind bars for good.**

One: The judgement on them carried out to the letter —
and all who love God in the seat of honor!

Many: **Hallelujah!**

The Gospel

Luke 6:20-31

Sermon

"The Love of our Great Cloud of Witnesses"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

Responding

with the voice of hope

Anthem

"Ubi Caritas"

The Sanctuary Choir
Durufle

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

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 hearts and minds.

Many: We open them to God, who unites us across time and space.

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

the saints who served this church and whose hearts still shine with your glory. We join with their voices to sing forever:

All:

ev. 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 the new covenant poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, remember me. And so, with the saints before us and the saints beside us, we proclaim:

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

One: Holy Spirit, come—fill this bread and cup with your presence, and fill us with the faith of those who came before us, that we might live as your people of love and courage.

Bind us, O God, to all your saints —
those who feast now at your heavenly table,
and those who still journey in hope upon the earth —
until we all meet again in the joy of your eternal realm.

Let us eat and drink with gratitude,
remembering that God provides for all,
and that the Spirit of Christ and all the saints
is here among 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 529 (*All join in singing the hymn.*)

"For All the Saints"

Sine Nomine

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Tocatta in D"

Anonymous

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"Borning Cry," words and music © 1985 John C. Ylvisaker, Box 321, Waverly, IA 50677. "For All the Saints," words and music in the public domain. Hymns and service music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

Cover Image: The cover image is a compilation of the saints who have gone on before us from our church.

*Flowers today are given by Rev. Nancy Johnson Russell
& Monte Johnson & their families in memory of Joyce & Arthur Johnson,
Melanie Johnson, & Tim Johnson.*

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_____



White Rose on the
Altar in Memory of
Joan Schultz who
passed away on
October 21st



The Yellow Rose
on the Altar is in
Honor of Alden
River Tomashek's
Baptism

ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Week in our Church:

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)
3:00 pm Chamber Chorale Concert (S)

Thursday, November 6

5:45 pm Service & Worship Meeting (CR)
7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, November 7

Office Closed

10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)

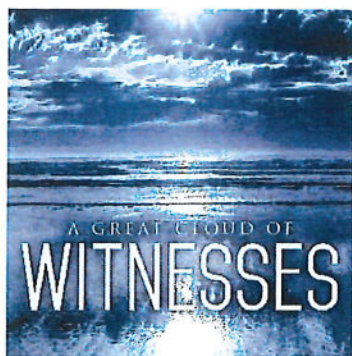
Sunday, November 9

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Nursery
10:20 am J.A.M.
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am Missions & Social Justice Meeting (L)
6:00 pm Showing of 1946 Documentary
(UCM, 1334 Pine St, La Crosse,)

nkk

CALENDAR KEY

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



All Saints' Day

As we worship today among this cloud of witnesses we remember our recently departed. Along the windowsill you will see portraits of those who have passed since All Saints Day 2024. We remember:

Carolyn Udell ~ 11-1-24
Joyce Hafermann ~ 12-16-24
Lorraine McIlraith ~ 12-19-24
Wanda Swanson ~ 1-17-25
Melissa Miller ~ 1-27-25
Janet Ring ~ 1-30-25
Janice Sawle ~ 2-8-25
Gerald "Jerry" Soffa ~ 3-8-25

Colleen "Rusti" Hoeth ~ 4-21-25
Sakura Ikeyama ~ 5-22-25
Charles "Chuck" Hoeth ~ 6-7-25
Colleen Shaw ~ 6-10-25
Keith Laue ~ 7-31-25
Cheryl Hanson ~ 8-28-25
Joshua Buzzell ~ 9-26-25
Joan Schultz ~ 10-21-25



Thank You Sue Retzlaff!!

This week, as Michelle was putting together all the pictures for All Saints' Day, Sue Retzlaff offered to help. Many of the photos we had were copies of copies, and the quality wasn't the best — but Sue made them look amazing. Michelle kept sending her pictures, and she kept

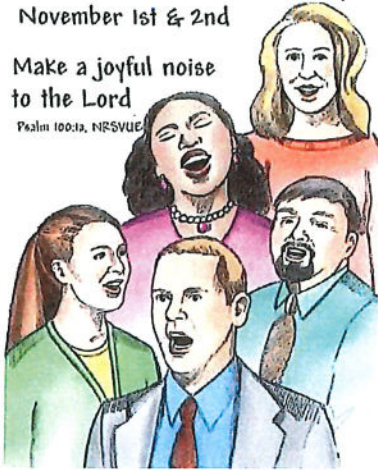
returning them in beautiful condition.

Thank you, Sue! We would not be surrounded by such a beautiful cloud of witnesses without your expertise and hard work.

Chamber Chorale's 40th Anniversary Concert

Join The Chamber Chorale as they
Celebrate their 40th Anniversary
November 1st & 2nd

Make a joyful noise
to the Lord
Psalm 100:1b, NRSVUE



The La Crosse Chamber Chorale will be performing at First Congregational United Church of Christ this Saturday, November 1st at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, November 2nd at 3:00 p.m. Their program is titled *"The Stories We Weave"*. The concerts are in celebration of the Chorale's 40th anniversary! Former directors Paul Rusterholz and JoAnn Miller will conduct pieces in the program and alumni singers will return to sing. There will be a reception in the community room following the Sunday concert. Tickets will be available at the door. The Sunday concert is hosted by our church with donations from several church

members.



Screening of the Documentary 1946 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.

THE FIRST CONGO THANKSGIVING MEAL



One of the beloved traditions at First Congregational is our Thanksgiving Meal, bringing our church family and community together to share food, gratitude, and fellowship. This year's meal will take place on **Sunday, November 23**. Julie Shelby has graciously agreed to coordinate this year's event, and she will need plenty of help to ensure this wonderful tradition continues.

Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the following:

- Saturday afternoon setup
- Sunday morning setup
 - Meal service
- Post-meal cleanup

Many hands make light work, and every bit of help truly makes a difference. If each of us does a little, no one must do too much. Please consider how you can support this meaningful ministry.

To volunteer, sign up on the stone ledge in the narthex, contact Michelle in the office, office@firstcongolax.org or (608) 784-8137, or contact Julie Shelby mamashelbs2@gmail.com or (608) 386-8697.

