



SECOND SUNDAY OF STEWARDSHIP

NOVEMBER 9, 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 bodies and families 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, 2nd grade and younger, will go to their JAM classrooms. Our 3rd grader and older will stay in the sanctuary.

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

Preaching.....	Mary Runyon
Leading Worship.....	Laura Wright
Organist, Pianist, & Choir Director	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Diane Breaser
Head Usher	Randy Breaser
Ushers	Rich Pein, Tom Stolpa
Greeters.....	Judy & Tom Sleik
Nursery.....	Greta Runyon
Fellowship.....	Service & Worship

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

Gathering

in the presence of God

Gathering Music

"Just As I Am"

Nancy Allen

Arr. by Gordon Young

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

"Jesus Loves Me"

Nancy Allen

Arr. by McConnell

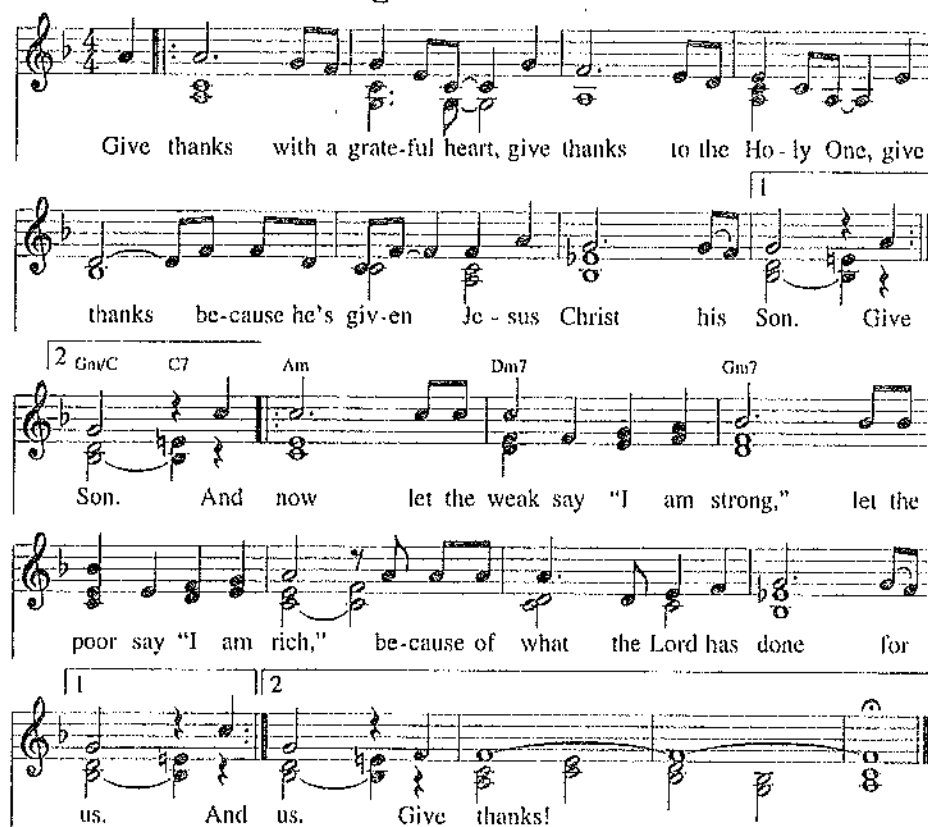
*Call to Worship

One: We gather as the body of Christ—many members,
many gifts, one Spirit moving among us.

Many: **Each of us has something holy to offer:
time, compassion, creativity, care.**

One: God calls us not only to be preachers and prophets,
but gardeners, bakers, builders, and quiet listeners.

Many: **We offer our time, our gifts, and our lives to God with thanks.**



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!

Chords: 2 GavC, C7, Am, Dm7, Gm7

Moment of Silence

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

*Hymn 559 *(All join in singing the hymns.)*

"Here I Am, Lord"

I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

*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, 2nd grade and younger, will then go to their JAM classes as the congregation sings.

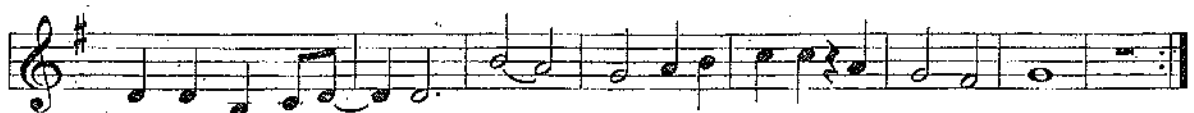
Acclamation *(Sung by all.)*

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

Diane Breeser

1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 12-27

The Psalter

Psalm 90:12-17 *(Read responsively from The Message.)*

One: Oh! Teach us to live well!

Many: Teach us to live wisely and well!

One: Come back, God — how long do we have to wait? —
and treat your servant with kindness for a change.

Many: **Surprise us with love at daybreak;
then we'll skip and dance all the day long.**

One: Make up for the bad times with some good times;
we've seen enough evil to last a lifetime.

Many: **Let your servants see what you're best at —
the ways you rule and bless your children.**

One: And let the loveliness of our Lord, our God, rest on us,
confirming the work that we do.

Many: **Yes, affirm the work that we do!**

The Gospel

Mark 10:42-45

Sermon

"Dreaming with God: Stewardship of our Lives"

Rev. Mary Runyon

Responding

with the voice of hope

Anthem

"The Prayer"

The Sanctuary Choir

Arr. by Teena Chinn

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,
forever 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

∞ Going

to be messengers of good news

*Hymn 466 *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

Hendon

*The Blessing

Postlude Music

"Triumphant Finale"

Thomas Bliss

Acknowledgements: “Here I Am, Lord,” words and music © 1981 Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music. “Take My Life and Let It Be,” 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 people in our church giving of their time to the work for justice in our community.

*Flowers today are given by Natalia Cañas Parra
in memory of her grandparents.*

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, 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)

4:00 pm Showing of 1946 Documentary (UCM, 1334 Pine St)

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Monday, November 10

7:15 pm Christian Ed Meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, November 11

5:00 pm Creation Care Meeting (Zoom)

Wednesday, November 12

5:00 pm Kid's Choir Practice (S)
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting (L)

Thursday, November 13

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (S)

Friday, November 14

Office Closed

10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)
5:30 pm Parents Night Out/Kids Night In

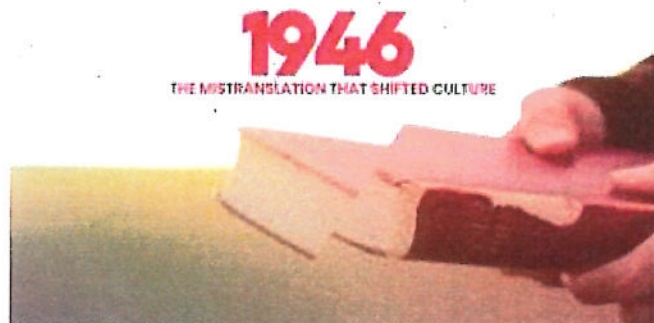
Sunday, November 16

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Nursery
10:20 am J.A.M.
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)
11:00 am WISE Committee Meeting (C)

CALENDAR KEY

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

****NOTE TIME CHANGE****



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: 4:00 PM

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

Come with curiosity—leave with insight.

How Can I Serve My Church?



During the sermon today, we invite you to write your name on a post-it note—or several!—and place it on the paper that matches your areas of interest. Feel free to post as many notes as you feel called to. This is a simple, visual way for us to see where our passions and callings connect as a congregation. Thank you for sharing your gifts and enthusiasm!

Meeting and Greeting

- Outside Greeter
- Inside Greeter
- Usher or Head Usher
- Coordinating Fellowship after Worship

Worship

- Reading Scripture
- Serving Communion
- Sound or A/V Technician
- Livestreaming

Music

- Sanctuary (Adult) Choir
- Children's Choir
- Handbell Choir
- Vocal or Instrumental Music

Helping Members

- Visitation Team
- Rides to Church
- Flower Delivery
- Serving Luncheons
- Kitchen Organization & Supplies

Ministries & Committees

- Building & Grounds
- Christian Education
- Creation Care
- Finance/Memorial & Endowment
- Library
- Membership
- Mission & Social Justice
- Service & Worship
- Stewardship

Outreach to Others

- Mobile Meals Ministry
- Monday Meals
- Community Justice Work
- Open and Affirming (LGBTQ)
- Community Projects
- Sunday Visitor Follow-up
- Publicity / Website / Social Media
- Support For Immigrant Justice

Adult Faith Formation

- Class or Discussion Leader
- Host Connection Groups in Your Home
- Bible Study
- Book Club

Programs for Children & Youth

- JAM (Jesus & Me) Leader
- JAM Helper or Substitute
- Chaperone for Youth Activities
- Youth Activity Leader
- Nursery Care

Upkeep & Care

- Gardening
- Yard Clean-up
- Maintenance skills _____

Friendship & Community Building Activities

- organize attend

Other Ideas

THE FIRST CONGO THANKSGIVING MEAL



Church Family Thanksgiving Dinner

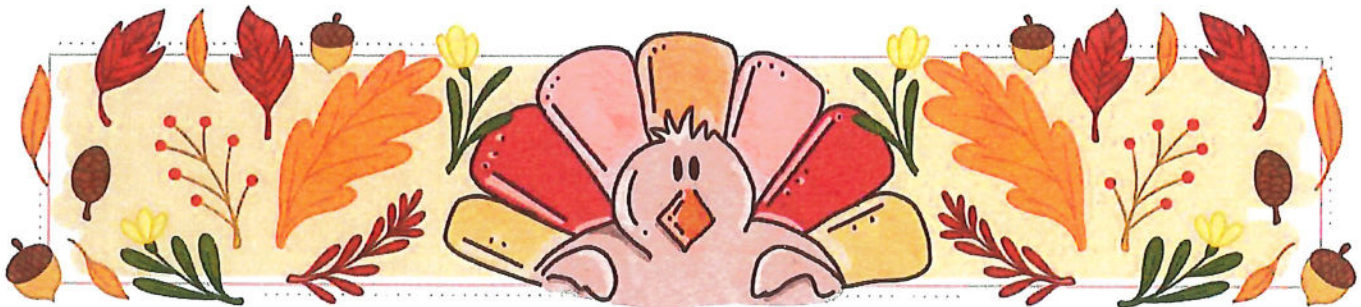
One of the beloved traditions at First Congregational is our Thanksgiving Meal, bringing our church family and community together to share food, gratitude, and fellowship. This year's meal will take place on **Sunday, November 23**. Julie Shelby has graciously agreed to coordinate this year's event,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

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.





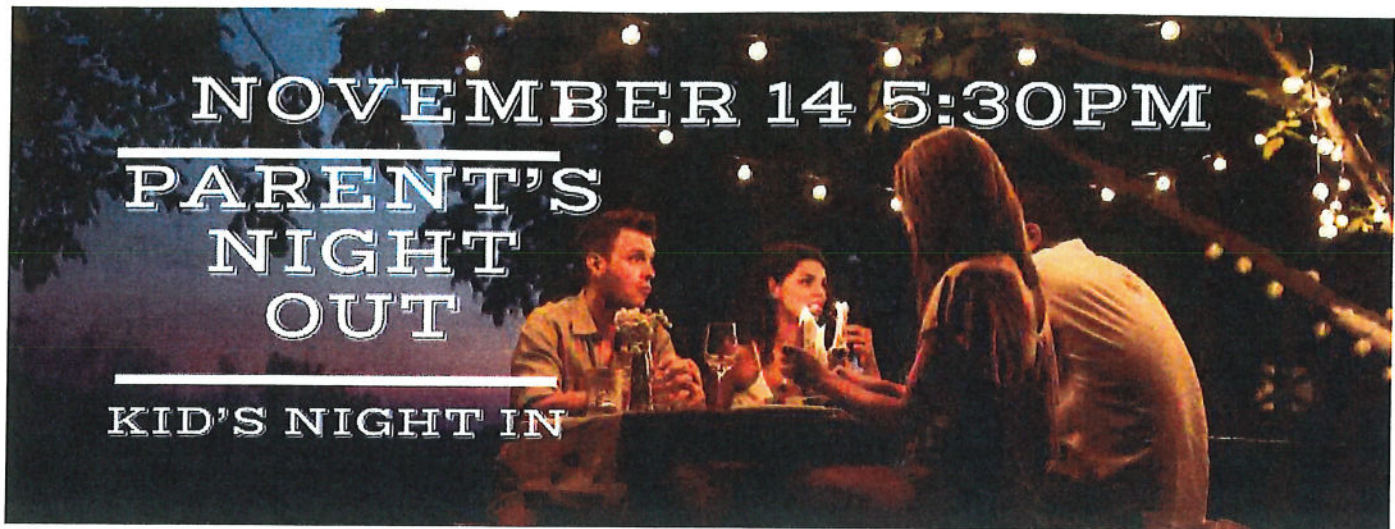
WARMING CENTER MEAL SIGN-UPS

Once again, we are partnering with others in our community to care for our unsheltered neighbors through the **La Crosse Warming Center**, which operates from November 1 through May 1. Our church is scheduled to provide meals on the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of each month. If you are able to help, please sign up in the narthex or contact Michelle in the church office (office@firstcongolax.org or (608) 784-8137). Providing a warm meal is one small way we can share Christ's love and compassion with those who need it most. Thank you for helping us make a difference this winter! Our open dates are:

Dec 21st (20 Meals)
Jan 11th (20 Meals)
Jan 11th (20 Meals)
Jan 18th (20 Meals)
Jan 18th (20 Meals)
Feb 8th (20 Meals)
Feb 8th (20 Meals)
Feb 15th (20 Meals)
Feb 15th (20 Meals)

March 8th (20 Meals)
March 8th (20 Meals)
March 15th (20 Meals)
March 15th (20 Meals)
April 12th (20 Meals)
April 12th (20 Meals)
April 18th (20 Meals)
April 18th (20 Meals)

1. Sign up in the narthex to provide an evening meal on the dates we have reserved:
 - The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of every month.
 - Prepare a meal for 20, or if you prefer, take both slots and prepare for 40.
 - A meal includes an entree, salad or veggies, and a dessert. There is no need to include milk as it is being provided by a congregation member each week.
 - When preparing a meal, items may be available for free from the Hunger Task Force. Tell them you are prepping a meal for the Warming Center.
 - It is best to deliver in disposable containers.
 - Please drop off the meal by 6:30 pm.
 - You would be welcome to stay and help serve the meal, but not required.
 - Be creative. Make it a potluck with others in your family or social group or sponsor a catered meal (think pizza, Festival favorites, or other, unlimited ideas).



PARENTS NIGHT OUT/KIDS NIGHT IN FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 AT 5:30 P.M.



Kids' Fort Night!

Get ready for an epic night of fun at church! We'll kick things off with dinner, play some awesome games, and then turn the whole place into a **blanket fort wonderland!**

Bring your favorite blankets, pillows, or anything else to help build the coolest fort ever. Once our forts are ready, we'll snuggle in and watch a movie together inside!



Parents' Night Out!

While the kids are having fun at church, parents will gather for a relaxed evening of **appetizers, laughter, and community** at the Brouwers' home. You never know what the night might bring — maybe some friendly board game competition!

Sign up today, so we make sure there is enough for everyone! Email **Pastor Mary** to reserve your spot: mary@firstcongolax.org