



# SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 12, 2026



**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 toward the center aisle.

**All are welcome.** Jesus calls us to welcome all into God's family. You are invited to our Fellowship Hour after worship, where everyone is invited to enjoy refreshments in the Community Room. A restroom for families and all bodies is next to the Chapel.

**Children are welcome in worship and belong in this space.** Activity bags are available in the Narthex. There is an area for parents & children at the front of the Sanctuary which allows children to be close to the action in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is an option as well; all kids' workers have undergone a background check. Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 will go to their age-specific classrooms after the Word for Children.

**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 on camera, we invite you to sit in the Sanctuary's last six rows.

**Please ask an usher** if you would like a large print or sensory-friendly bulletin, or if you need directions or any other assistance.

### Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship and Preaching .....	Jesse Klosterboer
Organist, Pianist, and Choir Director.....	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Julie Nelson
Head Usher .....	Allan Beatty
Ushers .....	Scott Brouwer, Cam Roberts
Greeter .....	Carlene Roberts
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton and Madison Rummel
Fellowship .....	Visitation Team

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

# Easter Gathering

*in the presence of God*

## Gathering Music

"Thine Is the Glory"

Nancy Allen

Arr. Brunner

## Welcome and Announcements

*Thank you for joining us today. Please pass the Friendship Folder, fill out the information you wish to share, and note those worshipping in your pew so you can greet them by name.*

## Prelude Music

"Blessed Assurance"

Nancy Allen

Arr. Williams

## \*Call to Witness the Resurrection of Hope

*One:* After Easter morning, the followers of Jesus gathered in fear behind locked doors. Yet Jesus came and stood among them.

*Many:* **Christ comes and stands among us still, even when we are afraid.**

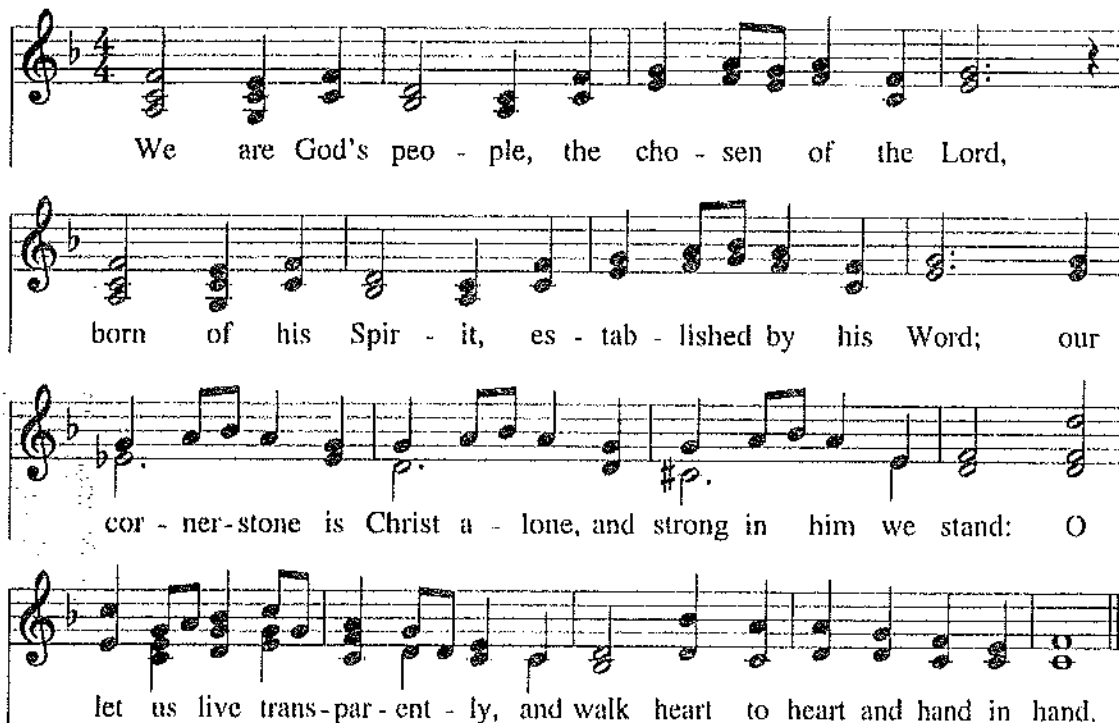
*One:* Look. See the Spirit moving where it will. See the light dancing through budding trees, a reminder that new life cannot be contained.

*Many:* **Let that peace breathe through us.**

*One:* To those who doubt, Jesus says: "Come and see."

To those who wonder, Jesus says: "Do not be afraid."

*Many:* **May God's peace surround us as we sing:**



We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,  
born of his Spir - it, es - tab - lished by his Word; our  
cor - ner-stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: O  
let us live trans - par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.

## Silence at Resurrection's Dawn

*Take this moment of silence to grow still and attentive to the Holy One.*

### \*Hymn 312 (All join in singing the hymn.)

"Christ Is Alive!"

Truro

### \*Sharing the Peace

*One:* The peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

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

*Please greet those near you with a wave or a bow, and with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you."*

## Listening

*for the Risen God*

### The Word for Children

*Children will join Jesse Klosterboer in the center aisle as they walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will then go to their age-specific classes.*

### Acclamation (Sung by all.)

*All:*



### The First Lesson

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

Julie Nelson

### Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11 (Read responsively from the Common English Bible.)

*One:* Protect me, God, because I take refuge in you.

I say to the LORD, "You are my LORD,  
apart from you, I have nothing good."

*Many:* **You, LORD, are my portion, my cup;  
you control my destiny.**

*One:* Give thanks to the LORD.

This is God's gate.

*Many:* **The property lines have fallen beautifully for me;  
yes, I have a lovely home.**

*One:* I will bless the LORD who advises me;  
even at night I am instructed in the depths of my mind.

*Many:* **I always put the LORD in front of me;  
I will not stumble because God is on my right side.**

*One:* That's why my heart celebrates and my mood is joyous;

*Many:* **yes, my whole body will rest in safety  
because you won't abandon my life to the grave.**

*One:* You won't let your faithful follower see the Pit.

*Many:* **You teach me the way of life.  
In your presence is total celebration.**

*One:* Beautiful things are always in your right hand.

## The Gospel

John 20:19-31

## Sermon

"Meeting Jesus in the Here and Now"

Jesse Klosterboer,  
Executive Director of Sugar Creek Camp

## Responding

*with the voice of hope*

### \*Anthem

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

The Sanctuary Choir  
Arr. Helvey

## 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. You are invited to use language for God that reflects your faith.)*

**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

Scott Brouwer

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

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"**

*Houston*

\*The Blessing

Postlude Music

Nancy Allen

**"Triumphant Finale"**

Thomas Bliss

**Acknowledgements:** "We Are God's People," words & music arr. © 1976 by Fred Bock Music Company. "Christ Is Alive!" words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company and music in the public domain. "Halle- Halle- Hallelujah," words and music © GIA Publications, Inc. "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light," words and music © 1970 Celebration (Admin. The Copyright Company). Hymns and music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014.

**Cover Image:** This image of kids from our church with Jesse Klosterboer, Executive Director of Sugar Creek Camp, comes from the beautiful images produced by the camp.

## First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members.....Ministers  
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright.....Senior Pastor  
Nancy Allen.....Organist and 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, April 12

10:00 am Worship  
10:00 am Nursery  
10:20 am JAM  
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)  
11:00 am Missions & Social Justice Meeting (L)  
2:30 pm OWL (J & L)  
4:30 pm Congo Crew (L)

##### Tuesday, April 14

5:00 pm Creation Care Meeting (Zoom)  
7:15 pm C.E Meeting (Zoom)

##### Thursday, April 16

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir (S)



##### Friday, April 17

#### Office Closed

10:00 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (CR)  
5:30 pm Parents' Night Out (Brouwer Home)  
5:30 pm Kids' Night In (L)

##### Saturday, April 18

10:00 am Bill Blank Visitation  
11:00 am Celebration of Life for Bill Blank

##### Sunday, April 19

10:00 am Worship  
10:00 am Nursery  
10:20 am JAM  
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)  
11:00 am Finance Meeting (L)  
11:00 am WISE Meeting (C)  
12:00 pm New Member Class (Java Vino)  
2:30 pm OWL (J & L)

#### CALENDAR KEY

C = Chapel, J = JAM Rooms, L = Lounge, N = Narthex, CR = Community Room, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary

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Thank you to all who helped with the Rummage Sale! This is truly a HUGE undertaking, and it takes many hands to make it happen. We are so grateful to everyone who generously shared their time and talents to make this fundraiser a success. Your dedication and willingness to serve are such a blessing to our community!

# WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY UNWANTED CLOTHES NOW THAT THE RUMMAGE SALE IS OVER?

## DONATE

- The Salvation Army Store
- New Horizons Domestic Violence Shelter
- Good Steward Resale Shop
- The Woman's Clothes Closet
- The Warming Center (Nov. thru April)
- Catholic Charities (Men's Clothes)
- The Humane Society (Fabric for Bedding)

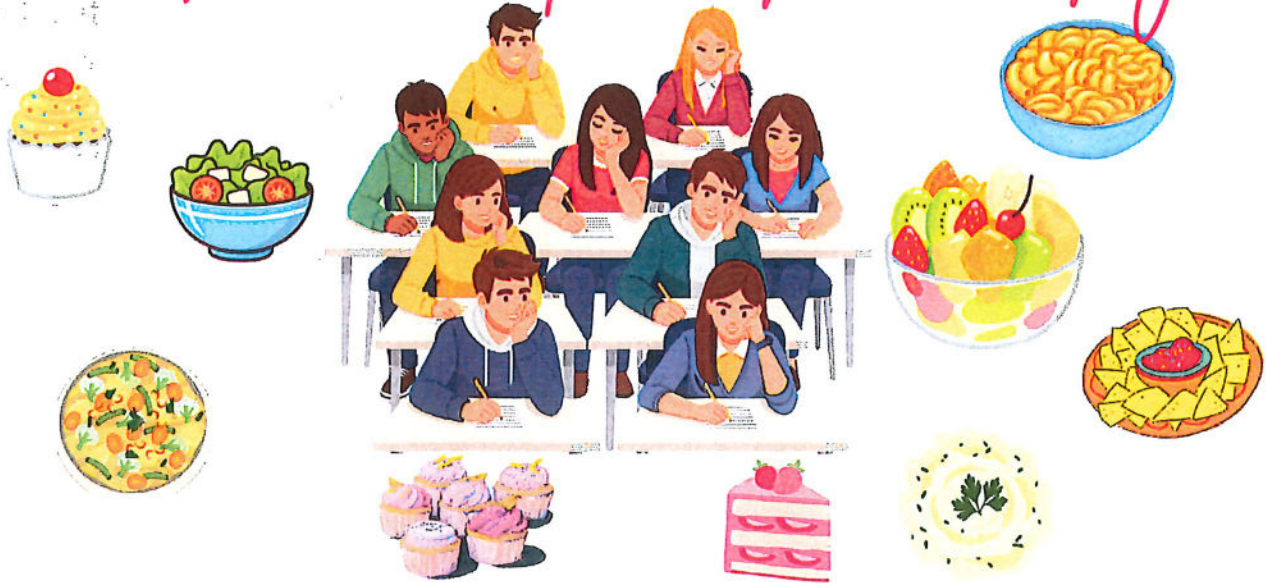
## REPURPOSE/ UPCYCLE

- Halloween Costumes
- Fabric for craft projects
  - Rugs
  - Tote Bags
  - Bookmarks
  - etc.

**Always look for something to do with your clothing before you put it in the dumpster!**



# United Campus Ministry



## Summer is almost here & Hungry Students need our Help!

Jill Pein is looking for help with a meal on April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup> for United Campus Ministry.

On **April 21st** if you're able, a salad, side dish, or dessert we would appreciate it so much!

On **May 5<sup>th</sup> it's FINALS FEAST**, and we would love you to bring any dish you wish!

Please let Jill know if you're willing to help. She would be so grateful — and the college students will appreciate it even more. Don't have time to cook? A donation to United Campus Ministry to help purchase prepared items is also warmly welcomed.

Thank you for supporting our students in such a meaningful way!



# NEIGHBORS DAY 2026

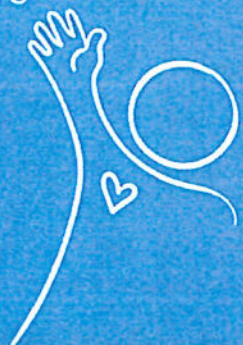
**DATE: APRIL 25, 2026**

**TIME: 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM**

**WHERE: THE NATURE PLACE**

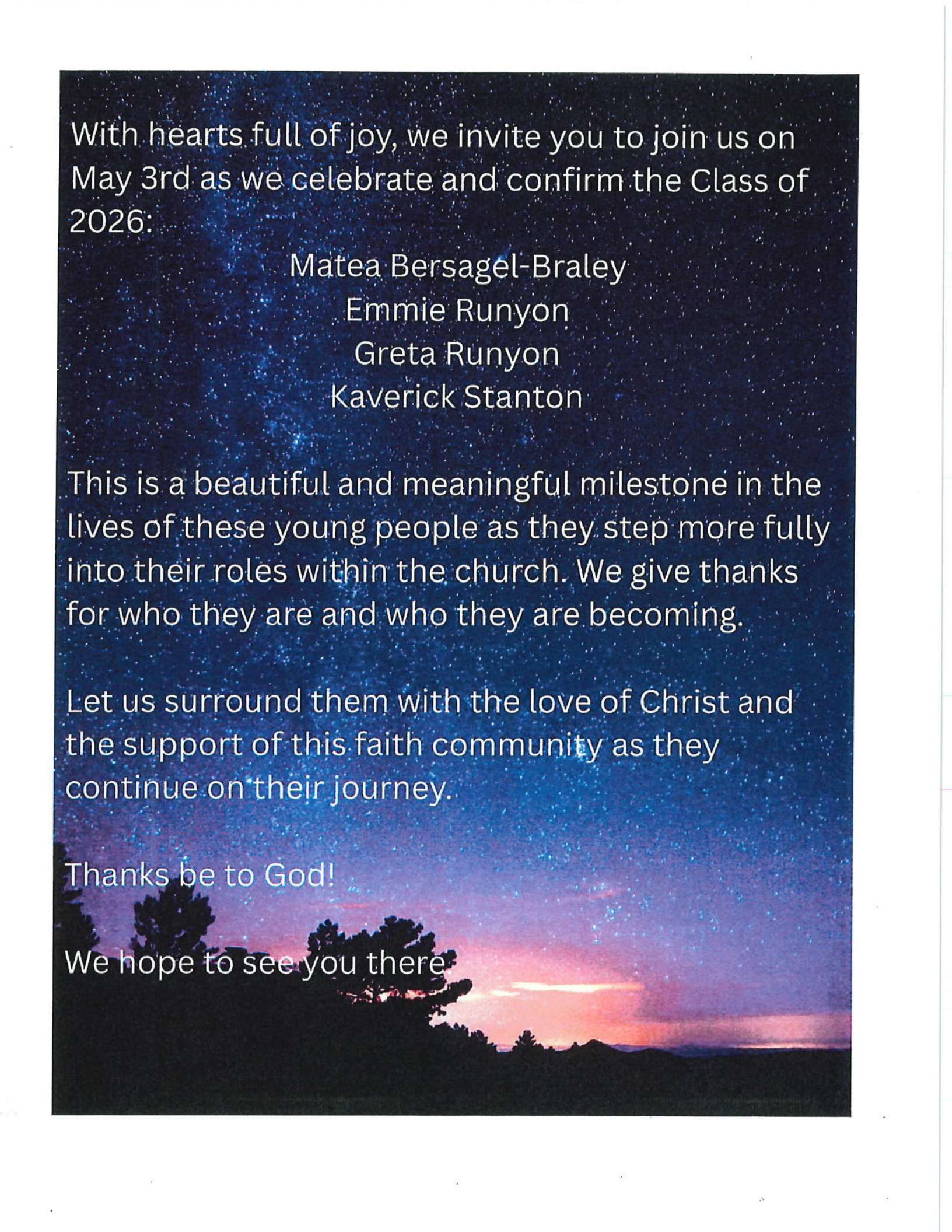
**789 MYRICK PARK DRIVE, LA CROSSE**

This annual community event is dedicated to helping elderly and disabled neighbors prepare their yards for spring. Volunteers come together to rake leaves and trim shrubs. Since its inception in 1996, Neighbors Day has become a beloved tradition in La Crosse. Celebrate 30 years of community spirit by volunteering! It's truly a transformative day for the community.



Contact Tom Uphaus for  
more information





With hearts full of joy, we invite you to join us on May 3rd as we celebrate and confirm the Class of 2026:

Matea Bersagel-Braleay

Emmie Runyon

Greta Runyon

Kaverick Stanton

This is a beautiful and meaningful milestone in the lives of these young people as they step more fully into their roles within the church. We give thanks for who they are and who they are becoming.

Let us surround them with the love of Christ and the support of this faith community as they continue on their journey.

Thanks be to God!

We hope to see you there