

# SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 10, 2026

**Welcome!** At First Congregational United Church of Christ, our mission 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. After worship, you are invited to join us for Fellowship Hour in the Community Room—there is a place for you there. A restroom for families and all bodies is next to the Chapel.

**Children are welcome in worship.** Children are not only welcome—they belong here. Activity bags are available next to the Sanctuary's doors, and a space near the front of the Sanctuary allows children to engage more closely in worship. Our staffed nursery (downstairs) is also available; all childcare 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.** To make worship accessible for all, we livestream our worship services on our YouTube channel (@firstcongolax). Your voice and/or image may be visible in the broadcast, which is publicly available. 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 need assistance, a large print or sensory-friendly bulletin, or directions—we are glad to help.

### Serving in Worship Today

Leading Worship & Preaching.....	Robert Lynn
Organist, Pianist, and Choir Director.....	Nancy Allen
Reading Scripture.....	Bill Ohm
Head Usher .....	Allan Beatty
Ushers .....	Cam & Carlene Roberts
Greeter .....	Joan Ohm
Nursery.....	Zali Stanton and Madison Rummel
Fellowship.....	Missions and Social Justice

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

# Gathering

*in the presence of God*

## Gathering Music

"He Leadeth Me"

Nancy Allen

Arr. Payne

## 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

"Little Toccata"

Colin Curtis

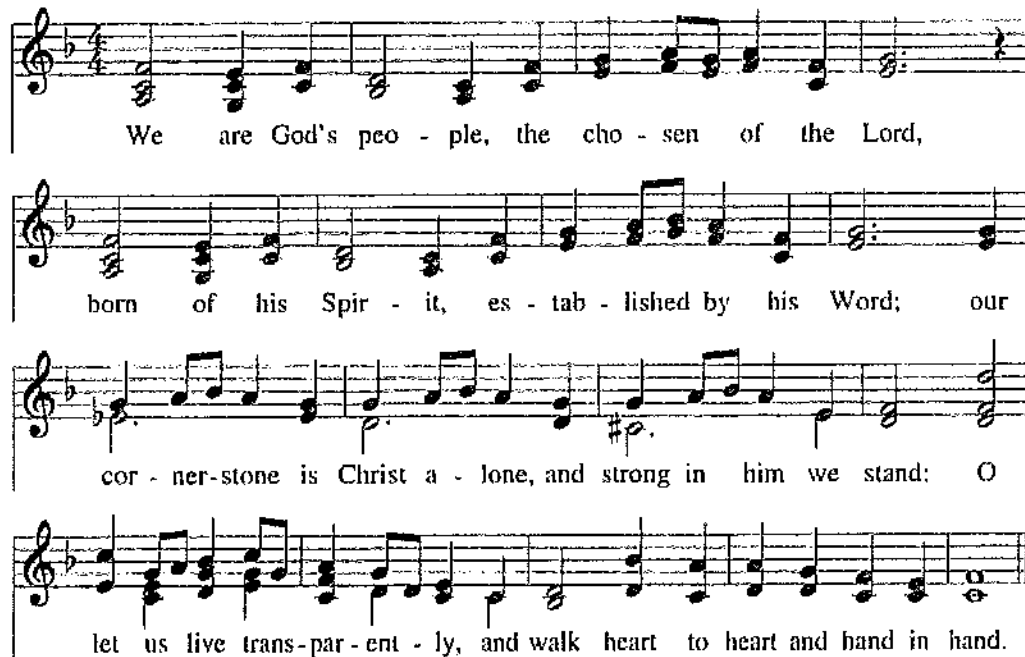
## \*Call to Worship

*One:* Beloved, we gather in the presence of the Living Christ—  
not abandoned, not alone, not forgotten.

*Many:* **We come, trusting your promise: we are not orphans.**

*One:* Jesus speaks with love: "If you love me, keep my commandments,"  
not as a burden, but as an invitation—  
to live with courage, to love with gentleness.

*Many:* **We come, ready to receive the Spirit of Love,  
who abides with us and within us.**



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 become still and attentive to the Holy One.*

### \*Hymn 358 *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

**"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"**

*Beecher*

### \*Sharing the Peace

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

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

*Share Christ's peace with one another with a wave or a bow and 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 minister in the center aisle as they walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids will go downstairs to their classes afterwards.*

### 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 image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the acclamation, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

### The First Lesson

Acts 17:16-32

*Bill Ohm*

### The Psalter

Psalm 66:8-20 *(Reading is based on The Common English Bible.)*

*One:* All nations, bless God!

Let the sound of God's praise be heard!

*Many:* **God preserved us among the living;  
God didn't let our feet slip a bit.**

*One:* But you, God, have tested us—  
you've refined us like silver.

*Many:* **We've been trapped in a net,**

**had burdens laid on our backs,**

*One:* other people ran right over our heads —  
we've been through fire and water.

*Many:* **But you've brought us out to freedom!**

*One:* So I'll enter your house with entirely burned offerings.

*Many:* **I'll keep the promises I made to you, the ones my lips uttered,  
the ones my mouth spoke when I was in deep trouble.**

*One:* I will offer the best burned offerings to you  
along with the smoke of sacrificed rams.

I will offer both bulls and goats.

*Many:* **Come close and listen, all you who honor God;  
I will tell you what God has done for me.**

*One:* My mouth cried out to God with praise on my tongue.

*Many:* **If I have cherished evil in my heart,  
my Lord would not have listened.**

*One:* But God definitely listened.

God heard the sound of my prayer.

*Many:* **Bless God! God didn't reject my prayer;**

*One:* God didn't withhold God's faithful love from me.

## The Gospel

John 14:15-21

## Sermon

"Nothing Else Will Do"

Robert Lynn

## Responding

*with the voice of hope*

## Anthem

"You Raise Me Up"

The Sanctuary Choir

Arr. Fettke

## The Community Invited into 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

WISE Team

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

**"They'll Know We Are Christians"**

*We Are One in the Spirit*

**\*The Blessing**

**Postlude Music**

*"God, the Omnipotent"*

Nancy Allen  
Thygerson

**Acknowledgements:** Hymns and music reprinted and streamed with permission under Onelicense.net #A-728014. The image on the cover is entitled "Holy Spirit" (acrylic on canvas, 2021).

*Flowers today are given by Nancy Burgett in honor of all mothers.*

## First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members..... Ministers  
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright..... Senior Pastor  
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).

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, May 10**

##### **Mother's Day**

9:00 am Faith Forum: Tim Blumentritt  
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)

#### **Tuesday, May 12**

5:00 pm Creation Care Meeting (Zoom)  
7:15 pm Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

#### **Wednesday, May 13**

10:00 am Sip & Scripture  
(McDonald's, Losey & Ward Ave.)  
6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting (CR)

#### **Thursday, May 14**

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir (S)

#### **Friday, May 15**

##### **Office Closed**

10:30 am Bell Choir Rehearsal (S)

#### **Sunday, May 17**

##### **Graduation Celebration**

##### **JAM Teacher Recognition**

10:00 am Worship  
10:00 am Nursery  
10:20 am JAM  
11:00 am Fellowship (CR)  
11:15 am Finance Meeting (L)  
11:15 am WISE Committee Meeting (C)  
11:30 am End-of-Year Picnic (Weigent Park)  
2:30 pm OWL (J & L)

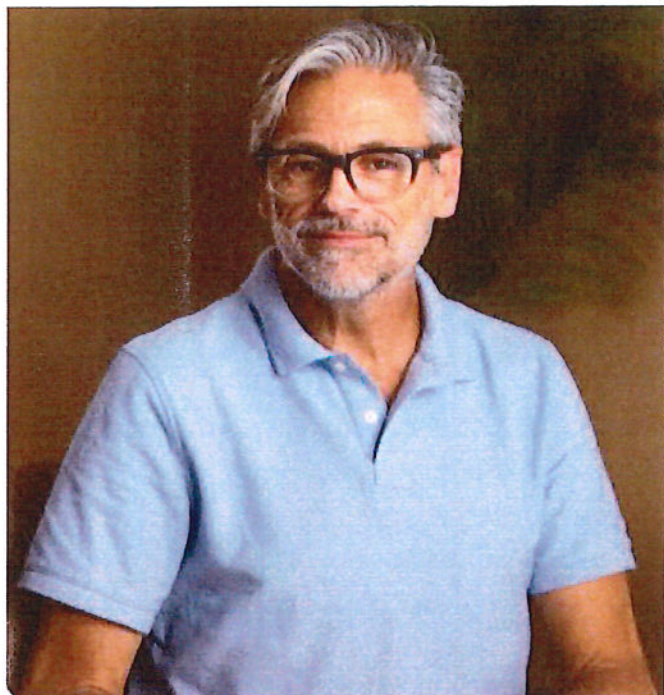
#### **CALENDAR KEY**

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

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# Join Us!

## FAITH FORUM: Tim Blumentritt Tellurian La Crosse Care Center



**When:** May 10<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 9:00 am

**Where:** Chapel

Tellurian La Crosse Care Center is a licensed community-based residential and emergency mental health service facility that provides a safe and supportive environment for those experiencing a mental health crisis.

The Care Center offers short-term crisis stabilization, respite, medication observation, and goal-oriented treatment

to assist individuals in regaining stability and safely transitioning back to the community.

The Care Center is designed for people experiencing:

- Mental Health Crisis
- Depression and mood disorders
- Anxiety, including obsessive-compulsive disorders (OCD)
- Trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
- Grief and loss
- Suicidal thoughts or behaviors

Please join us at the Faith Forum as we stand in solidarity, working to destigmatize mental health challenges that affect us all.

# *Great River Ringers and Friends*

*present*

## *Let's Dance*



Sunday, May 17, 2026

2:00 PM

Free admission

Black River Beach  
Neighborhood Center

1433 Rose Street  
La Crosse, WI

Refreshments following the concert



**Strengthen  
the Church**

SENT FORTH IN  
**LOVE**

## Supporting next generation leaders

Your gifts to Strengthen the Church help support ministries like the Service Learning Community Fellowship Program all across the United States. Thank you for your generosity!



*The Strengthen the Church Offering furthers the work of our Conference and National Ministries as we work together to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership development, and provide exciting new programs for youth and young adults. The offering is divided between your Conference and the National Ministries.*

Learn more at [www.ucc.org/stc](http://www.ucc.org/stc)

***The 2026 Strengthen the Church Offering is May 24<sup>th</sup>.***



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Zali is inviting her entire church family  
to celebrate her high school  
graduation—what a wonderful  
milestone!



*Zaliana Tay Stanton*

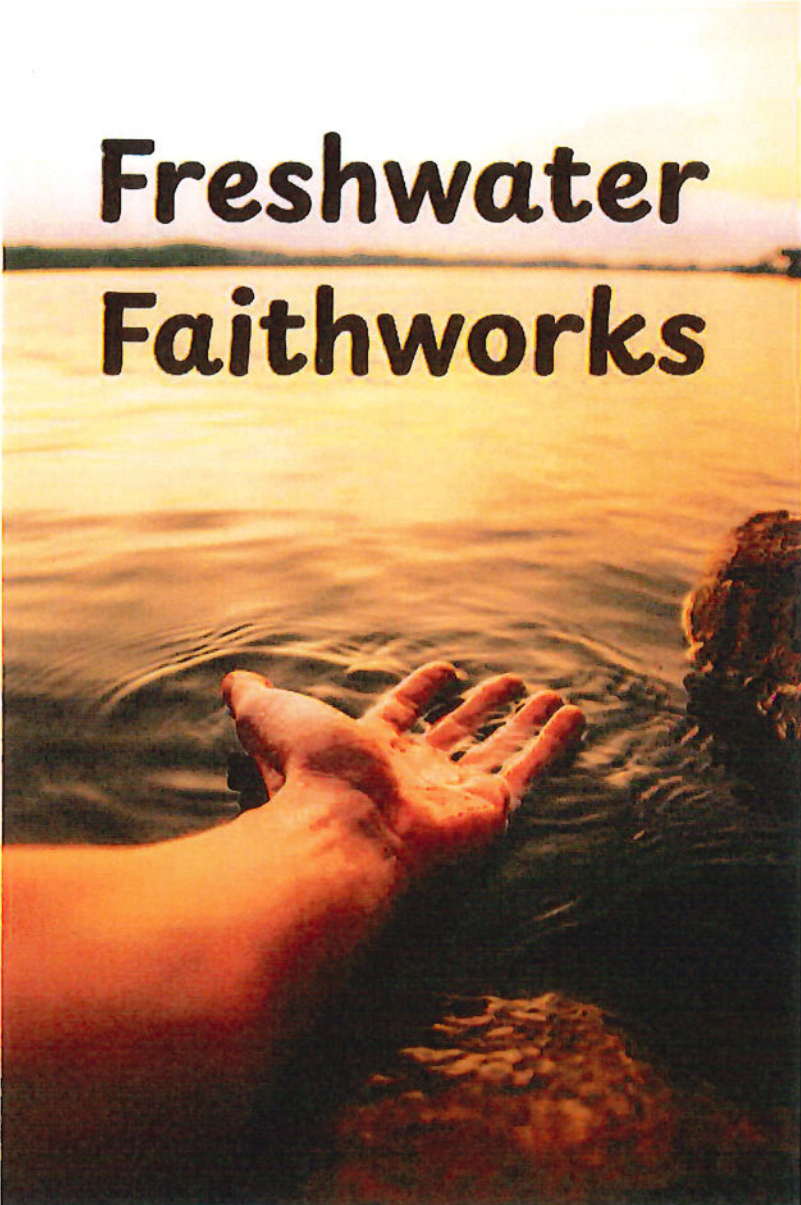
JOIN US TO CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATE!

SAT | 06 | JUN

1:00PM-4:00PM

N4550 MEADOW WOOD RD. ONALASKA



A photograph of a hand reaching out over a body of water at sunset. The water is dark with ripples, and the sky is a warm orange and yellow. The hand is in the foreground, palm up, with fingers slightly spread. The background shows a distant shoreline under a bright, low sun.

# Freshwater Faithworks

## Daychola UCC Camp

Join Pastor Laura and Elizabeth Janvrin for this three-night intergenerational camp.

**Freshwater Faithworks** is a new Wisconsin and Minnesota United Church of Christ program focusing on the intersection of freshwater ecology and faith. With a combination of hands-on service-learning, education, exploration, and reflection, participants will be given the opportunity to experience freshwater sources in a holistic way, inviting them to fall in love with water and empowering them to fight back against climate anxiety with tangible action.

\$400 for adults, \$250 for ages 12 – 17 and \$125 for ages 3 – 11. Cost should not deter anyone. Talk to

Pastor Laura ([laura@firstcongolax.org](mailto:laura@firstcongolax.org)) or Elizabeth ([eandjfamily@gmail.com](mailto:eandjfamily@gmail.com)) to register, for more info or financial assistance.

**Let's fill a van with FCC campers!**