



**PENTECOST  
SUNDAY**

MAY 24, 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 background checks. Children in Pre-K through Grade 5 will remain in worship this Sunday on this holiday weekend.

**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 ..... Laura Wright  
Director of Great River Ringers ..... Sue Retzlaff  
Great River Ringers ..... Kathy Bell, Patti Dockendorff, Bonny Fish, Mel Graff  
..... Molly Graff, Gail Quarberg, Emily Riley, Emily Speropulos  
..... Jeanne Swanson, Charmaine Uphaus, Tom Uphaus, Christi Ziems  
Organist, Pianist, and Choir Director..... Nancy Allen  
Reading Scripture..... Jill Pein  
Head Usher ..... Randy Breaser  
Ushers ..... Cam Roberts, Tom Stolpa  
Greeter ..... Carlene Roberts  
Nursery..... Zali Stanton  
Fellowship..... Missions and Social Justice

An asterisk (\*) in the order of service indicates all who are able may stand.

# Gathering

*in the presence of God*

## Gathering Music

"Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Nancy Allen  
Arr. Labenske

## 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 near you so you can greet them by name.*

## Prelude Music

"Pavane"

Great River Ringers  
Gabriel Fauré, Arr. K. McChesney

## \*Call to Worship

*One:* Come, friends – young and old, dreamers and truth-tellers,  
weary and hopeful.

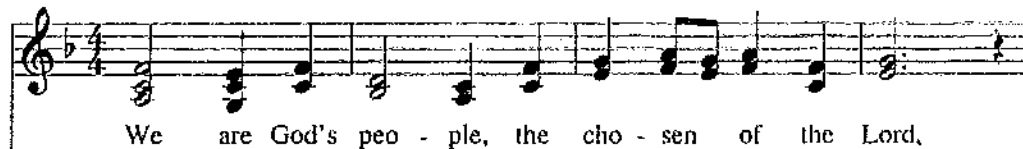
*Many:* **God is still pouring out the Spirit on all people.**

*One:* In days of uncertainty and anxiety, God speaks through the courage of  
the young who dare to name truths others fear to say.

*Many:* **Let us listen for the Spirit's voice of justice and hope.**

*One:* God stirs dreams in those who have lived long enough  
to know heartbreak and possibility – dreams of communities deeper  
than division, and a world more loving than the one we have known.

*Many:* **Come, Holy Spirit. Let us worship God.**



## A Moment for Silence

*Take this moment of silence to become still and attentive to God.*

## \*Hymn 1 *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

**"God Is Here!"**

*Abbot's Leigh*

## \*Sharing the Peace

*One:* The peace of 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 remain with their families during worship on this holiday weekend.*

## 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

*Jill Pein*

Acts 2:1-18

## The Psalter

Psalm 104:24-34 *(Reading is based on The Common English Bible.)*

*One:* LORD, you have done so many things!

You made them all so wisely!

*Many:* **The earth is full of your creations!**

*One:* And then there's the sea, wide and deep,  
with its countless creatures —

living things both small and large.

*Many:* **There go the ships on it,  
and Leviathan, which you made, plays in it!**

*One:* All your creations wait for you  
to give them their food on time.

*Many:* **When you give it to them, they gather it up;  
when you open your hand, they are filled completely full!**

*One:* But when you hide your face, they are terrified;  
when you take away their breath,  
they die and return to dust.

*Many:* **When you let loose your breath, they are created,  
and you make the surface of the ground brand-new again.**

*One:* Let the LORD'S glory last forever!  
Let the LORD rejoice in all God has made!

*Many:* **God has only to look at the earth, and it shakes.  
God touches the mountains, and they erupt in smoke.**

*One:* I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I'm still alive.

*Many:* **Let my praise be pleasing to God;  
I'm rejoicing in the LORD!**

## The Gospel

John 20:19-23

## Sermon

"Young Voices, Ancient Dreams"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

## Responding

*with the voice of hope*

## Anthem

"Calming Peace"

Great River Ringers

C. Moglebust

## 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. Pray using the language for God that is most meaningful to you.*)

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:** Strengthen the Church

Rev. Tom Uphaus

**Music at the Offertory**

Nancy Allen

"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"

Arr. House

**\*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 712** (*All join in singing the hymn.*)

"Sent Forth by God's Blessing"

Ash Grove

**\*The Blessing**

**Postlude Music**

Nancy Allen

"I'm Gonna Sing/ Ain't-a That Good News"

Arr. Shackley

**Acknowledgements:** Hymns and music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-728014. The image on the cover is used by permission with the church's subscriptions.

*Flowers today are given in honor of Nancy Burgett  
for her dedication and commitment to our church family  
by Kathy and John Storlie.*

### 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

## This Week in Our Church:

**Sunday, May 24**

**Pentecost**

**Strengthen the Church Offering**

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

**Monday, May 25**

**Office Closed for Memorial Day**

**Tuesday, May 26**

11:00 am Koffee Klatch @ Havenwood

**Wednesday, May 27**

7:30 pm Church Council Meeting (CR)

**Friday, May 29**

**Office Closed**

**Sunday, May 31**

**Holy Trinity Sunday**

**Loud Offering**

10:00 am Worship

10:00 am Nursery

11:00 am Fellowship (CR)

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

JOIN US FOR A  
*Celebration of Freedom,  
Culture & Community!*

# JUNETEENTH

• HONORING THE PAST • CELEBRATING THE PRESENT • INSPIRING THE FUTURE •

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2026**

**12PM - 8PM**

**RIVERSIDE PARK**  
100 STATE STREET  
LACROSSE, WISCONSIN

*A Day of Unity. A Future of Possibility.*

**FOOD**  
Delicious food  
for everyone!

**FREE**  
FAMILY GAMES  
& ACTIVITIES

**MUSIC  
DANCING**  
Live music &  
good vibes all day!

**ALL ARE  
WELCOME!**  
Come as you are.  
Everyone belongs.

*Our History. Our Freedom. Our Future.*

LAXJUNETEENTH@GMAIL.COM | 608-881-6418

## Juneteenth, June 20, 2026, 12 PM-8 PM

Join us as we gather once more in Riverside Park to celebrate Juneteenth, a day when freedom rang out, even if delayed, and the long arc of justice bent a little closer to God's dream for the world. This year, La Crosse will celebrate on June 20<sup>th</sup>, and we'll be there! Our Ministry of Missions and Social Justice will be hosting a table, and we would love to have people join us to help staff the table and/or attend the event. To volunteer, please see the signup sheet in the church Narthex or contact Marilyn Nyre at: [mgnyre@gmail.com](mailto:mgnyre@gmail.com).





**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 Today.***



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# MEMORIAL DAY

★ ★ ★ MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> ★ ★ ★

**THE OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED.**

PLEASE ENJOY A DAY OF REST  
AND REMEBERANCE WITH  
YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Together we will talk,  
laugh, and enjoy the  
fellowship of being the  
church together!

# CHURCH CLEAN-UP

PITCH IN AND KEEP OUR GROUNDS BEAUTIFUL .  
You are needed - young and old - to help with  
the spring clean-up of the church campus.  
Help prepare the yard, garden and parking lot  
for the growing season.

Invite your church  
friends and family!

*Many hands &  
helpers will make for  
fun and fast clean-up  
of our grounds.*

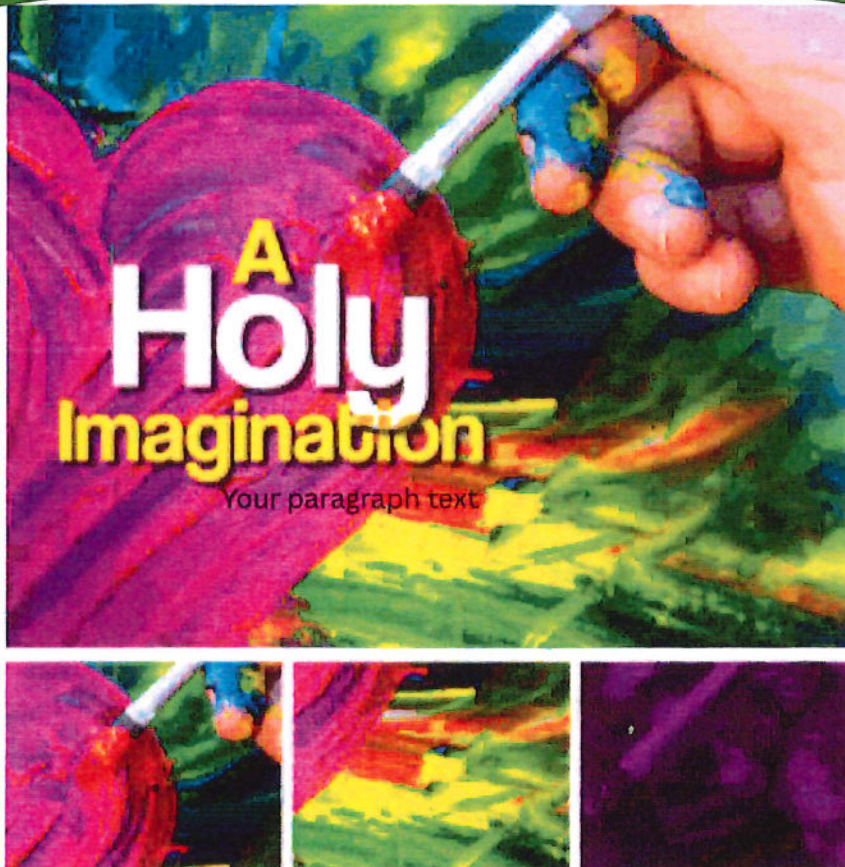
What to bring:

Gloves  
Rake  
Shears  
Saws  
Yard Tools

**Rescheduled  
MAY 31<sup>st</sup>  
After Worship**



Looking for a Creative Partner for  
our 175th Anniversary Logo



We're reaching out with a special invitation to share your creative gifts. As our church prepares to celebrate its 175th anniversary, the anniversary committee is seeking a talented graphic artist who might be willing to donate their skills to design a unique commemorative logo. This design would stand apart from our current church logo and capture the spirit of our theme: "Covenant, Courage, and Community: 175 Years of Faith in Action." If you have a passion for meaningful design and would enjoy contributing to a project that honors both our history and our faith, we would be grateful to connect with you. If interested, please contact Anita Doering at [abdeoring@gmail.com](mailto:abdeoring@gmail.com).