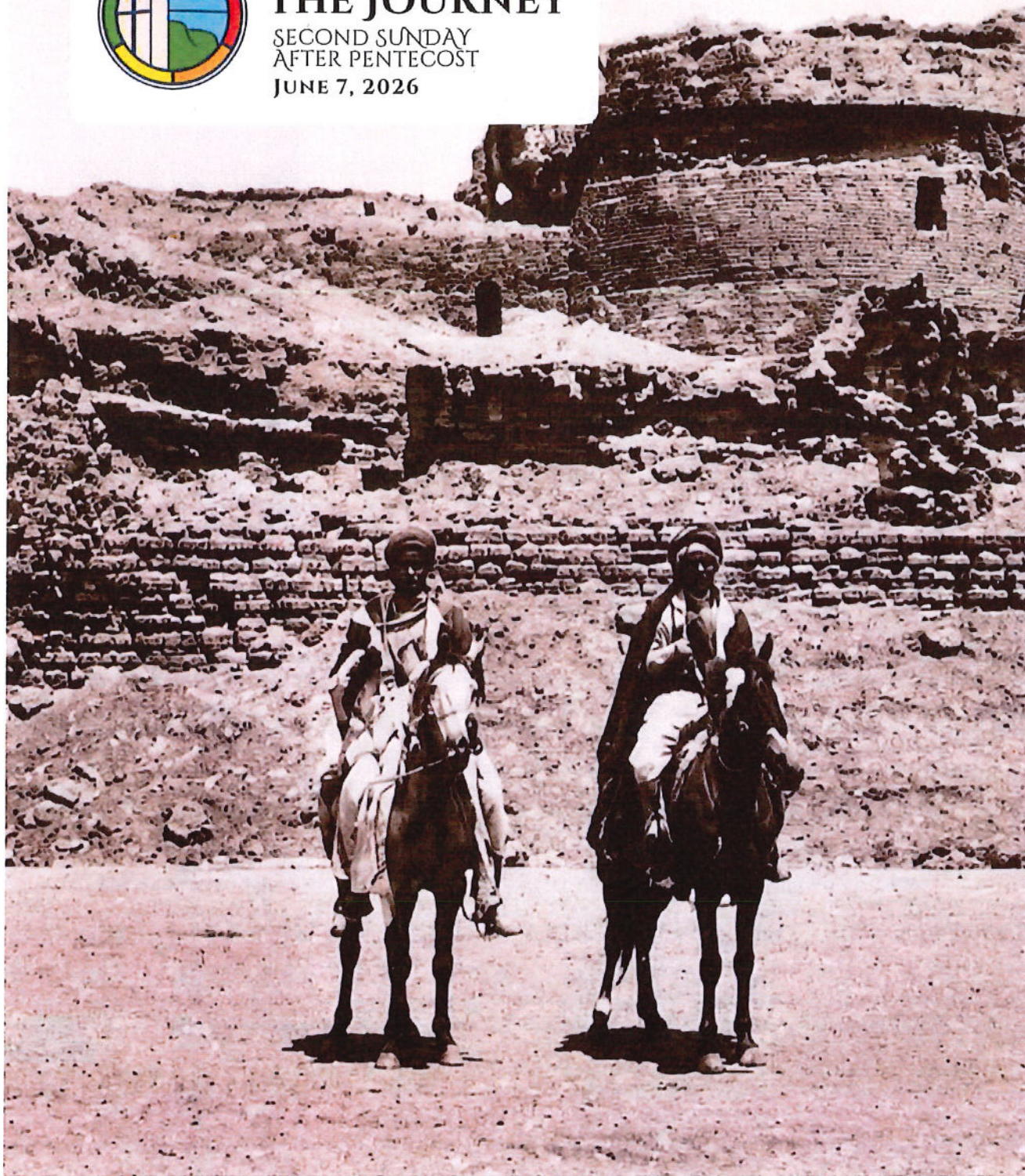




# THE GOD OF THE JOURNEY

SECOND SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST  
JUNE 7, 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. 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 3 will go to Summer JAM, and older children will remain in worship. A restroom for families and all bodies is next to the Chapel.

**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                      |
| Pianist .....                    | Nancy Allen                       |
| Reading Scripture.....           | Sue Heuer                         |
| Head Usher .....                 | Allan Beatty                      |
| Ushers .....                     | Kurt Schuldes, Tom Stolpa         |
| Greeter .....                    | Teresa Kocinski, Gladys McLenahan |
| Communion Assistant.....         | Sue Heuer, Emma Ledbetter         |
| Nursery.....                     | Zali Stanton                      |

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

# Gathering

*in the presence of God*

## Gathering Music

"Lord of the Dance"

Nancy Allen, Piano

Arr. Raney

## 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

"Amazing Grace"

Nancy Allen, Piano

Arr. Eithum

## \*Call to Worship

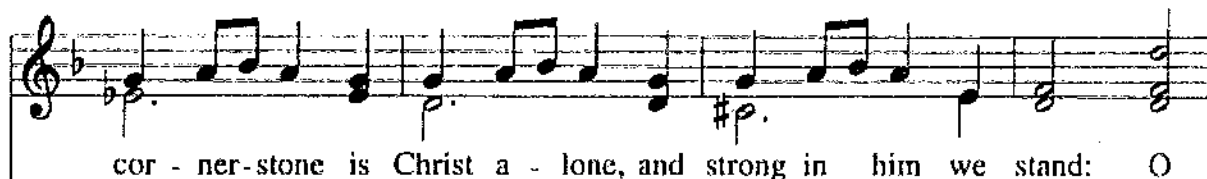
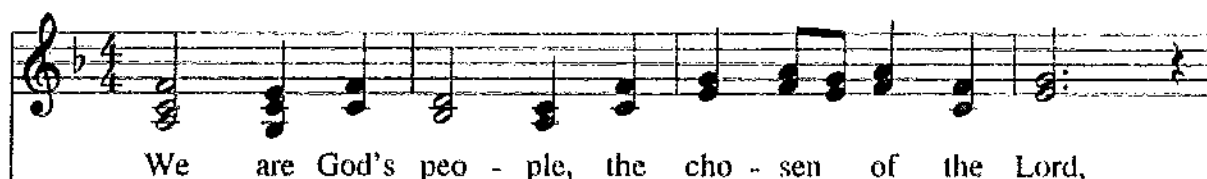
*One:* Come, all who are setting out on new journeys.

Come, all who are uncertain of the road ahead.

*Many:* **We come seeking the God who journeys with us.**

*One:* Abraham and Sarah were invited to leave what was familiar  
and travel toward a future they could not yet imagine.

*Many:* **Let us follow paths we cannot yet see and  
worship the God of promise, journey, and blessing.**



## A Moment for Silence

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

## \*Hymn 499 *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

*"He Leadeth Me"*

HE LEADETH ME

## \*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*

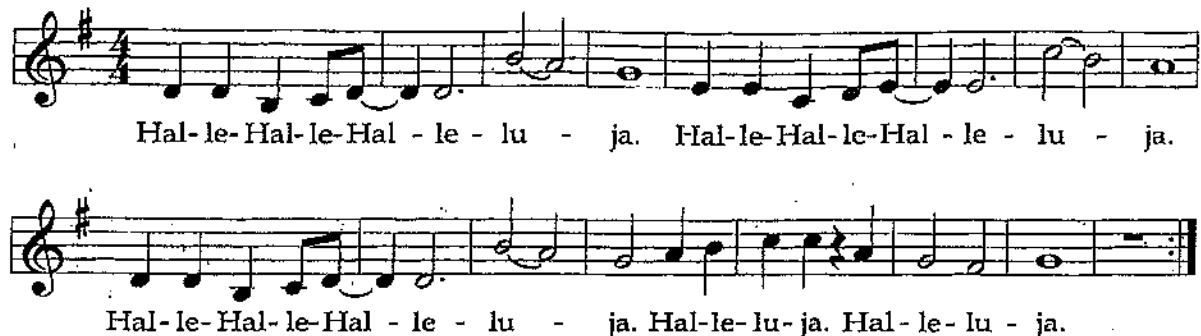
## The Word for Children

*Children will join the minister in the center aisle as they walk forward for the Word for Children. Kids from Pre-K through Grade 3 will go to Summer JAM. Older kids will remain in worship and assist Pastor Laura.*

## 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

Genesis 12:1-9

Sue Heuer

## The Psalter

Psalm 33:1-12 *(Reading is based on The Common English Bible.)*

*One:* All you who are righteous,  
shout joyfully to the LORD!

*Many:* **It's right for those who do right to praise God.**

*One:* Give thanks to the LORD with the lyre!

*Many:* **Sing praises to God with the ten-stringed harp!**

*One:* Sing to God a new song!

*Many:* **Play your best with joyful shouts!**

*One:* Because the LORD'S word is right,

*Many:* **God's every act is done in good faith.**

*One:* God loves righteousness and justice;

*Many:* **the LORD'S faithful love fills the whole earth.**

*One:* The skies were made by the LORD'S word,

*Many:* **all the starry multitude by the breath of God's mouth.**

*One:* God gathered the ocean waters into a heap.

*Many:* **God put the deep seas into storerooms.**

*One:* All the earth honors the LORD;

*Many:* **all the earth's inhabitants stand in awe of God.**

*One:* Because when God spoke, it happened!

*Many:* **When God commanded, there it was!**

*One:* The LORD overrules what the nations plan;

*Many:* **God frustrates what the peoples intend to do.**

*One:* But the LORD'S plan stands forever;

*Many:* **what God intends to do lasts from one generation to the next.**

*One:* The nation whose God is the LORD,

*Many:* **the people whom God has chosen as God's own, is truly  
happy!**

## **The Gospel**

Matthew 9:18b-26

## **Sermon**

"The God of the Journey"

Rev. Dr. Laura Wright

## **✠ Responding**

*with the voice of hope*

**\*Hymn 350** *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

"The Summons"

KELVINGROVE

## **The Community Invited into Prayer**

### **Prayers of the People**

*One:* 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**

### **Music at the Offertory**

*"Here I Am, Lord"*

Nancy Allen, Piano  
Arr. Vogt

**\*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:* May the Lord be with you.

*Many:* And also with you.

*One:* Lift your hearts.

*Many:* We lift them to God.

*One:* Let us give thanks to God.

*Many:* We freely give God thanks and praise.

*One:* It is truly right and our greatest joy to praise you, Risen Christ, for you meet us on the journey – in questions and in wonder... And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter, with the saints of every generation, and with all who are learning what it means to follow Jesus, we join in an unending song:

*All:*

1 Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al-might - y!

ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to

thee; ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and

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, Jesus knew the powers of this world would come for him. Still, he gathered with his friends – those who followed with deep faith and those who struggled to understand – and he shared a meal. ... And so, with all who have walked this journey of faith before us, with those who are certain and those who are still learning, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*One:* O God of Resurrection, pour out your Spirit on us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Meet us here, O God, in our questions and in

our faith. Transform us, O God, as you transformed the cross into life, as you transformed ordinary people into disciples. Make us a community that nurtures faith, that walks alongside one another, and that lives your love in the world – both now and forever. Amen.

## Sharing Communion

*This is the table of Jesus Christ, not of this church alone. 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 together, different as we are.*

*All bread is gluten-free to welcome all at the table of Christ. Please come to the front of the Sanctuary by way of the center aisle and return by the side aisles. Take the bread and then dip it in the cup. 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 501** *(All join in singing the hymn.)*

**"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

CWM RHONDDA

### **\*The Blessing**

### **Postlude Music**

**"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"**

Nancy Allen, Piano

Arr. Carter

**Acknowledgements:** Hymns and music reprinted and streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-728014. Lawrence, T.E. (End of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century). *View of Harran Castle at the end of the 19th century* [Photograph]. Source: <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Tarama0005.jpg>.

*Flowers today are given in memory of  
Christopher McMahon Jordan by his family.*

# Juneteenth Community Celebration

June 20, 2026

12:00–8:00 PM

A vibrant poster for the Juneteenth Community Celebration. The top features the text "JOIN US FOR A Celebration of Freedom, Culture & Community!" in a mix of fonts, with a raised fist icon to the right. Below this, the word "JUNETEENTH" is written in large, bold, multi-colored letters. A banner reads "HONORING THE PAST • CELEBRATING THE PRESENT • INSPIRING THE FUTURE". The event details are listed with icons: a calendar for "SATURDAY JUNE 20TH, 2026", a clock for "12PM - 8PM", and a location pin for "RIVERSIDE PARK 100 STATE STREET LACROSSE, WISCONSIN". A silhouette of a person wearing a headwrap is on the right. A red banner with white text says "A Day of Unity. A Future of Possibility.". Below this are four icons with text: a fork and spoon for "FOOD Delicious food for everyone!", a family for "FREE FAMILY GAMES & ACTIVITIES", a musical note for "MUSIC DANCING Live music & good vibes all day!", and a group of people for "ALL ARE WELCOME! Come as you are. Everyone belongs.". The bottom features the slogan "Our History. Our Freedom. Our Future." with a heart icon, and contact information: an envelope icon for "LAXJUNETEENTH@GMAIL.COM" and a phone icon for "608-881-6418". The bottom edge has a colorful geometric pattern.

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**

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, 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).

*Worship in God's  
Open Cathedral*  
**SUNDAY**  
*Outdoor Worship*  
**JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup>, 10:00 AM**  
**RED CLOUD PARK**

**520 Powell St. La Crosse**

*Sing, rejoice, pray, and play together under the trees and open sky.*

The Creation Care Team will provide the main dish.

If your last name begins with:

- A-L: Please bring a side dish or salad
- M-Z: Please bring a dessert

We will have a kiddie pool filled with ice to help keep dishes cool.

Please bring a lawn chair and a hat for shade.

In case of rain or other inclement weather, an all-church email will be sent with updates.

First Congregational United Church of Christ

# Upcoming Events

June

2026

JUNE

7

## Summer JAM

Began June 7, ending August 2,

JUNE

8-12

## Office Closed

Michelle will be on vacation, June 8<sup>th</sup> - June 12<sup>th</sup>,

JUNE

14

## Outdoor Worship @ 10:00 am

Worship with us at Red Cloud Park, 502 Powell St., La Crosse  
(No Summer JAM),

JUNE

20

## Juneteenth Celebration Noon - 8:00 pm

Join our Missions & Social Justice Ministry for this fun & important  
celebration,

JUNE

22

## Woman's Book Club @ 1:30 pm

We meet at the Blarney Bar, Eagle Crest South. We will read: "The  
Heaven and Earth Grocery Store," by James McBride,

JUNE

24

## Church Council Meeting

Church Council meets at 7:00 pm in our Community Room,

JUNE

26

## Parents' Night Out @ 5:30 pm

2 ½ Hours of free childcare. A fundraiser for the confirmands'  
South Africa Trip,

FIRSTCONGOLAX.ORG

(608) 784-8137

OFFICE@FIRSTCONGOLAX.ORG

## First Congregational UCC Ministry Team

All the Members ..... Ministers  
Rev. Dr. Laura Wright ..... Senior Pastor  
Nancy Allen ..... Organist, Pianist & 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, June 7

##### Second Sunday after Pentecost

##### WAFER Offering

10:00 am Worship w/Holy Communion  
10:00 am Nursery  
10:20 am Summer JAM  
12:30 pm South Africa Trip Lunch  
(Taqueria Monarca, 1200 CR-PH, Onalaska)  
5:00 pm OWL Celebration (CR)

##### Tuesday, June 9

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

##### Wednesday, June 10

6:30 pm Building & Grounds Meeting (CR)

##### Thursday, June 11

4:30 pm Membership Meeting (L)

##### Friday, June 12

Office Closed

##### Sunday, June 14

##### Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am Outdoor Worship  
(Red Cloud Park, 520 Powell St., La Crosse)

##### CALENDAR KEY

C = Chapel, CR = Community Room, J = JAM Rooms, K = Kitchen,

L = Lounge, N = Narthex, P = Pastor's Office, S = Sanctuary

---

