

Sunday, August 31st, 2025



COMBINED LABOR DAY WEEKEND WORSHIP

RIPPLE CREEK PARK, PORT EDWARDS – 10:00 AM



WELCOME:



Members & guests of
First Congregational Church of Wisconsin Rapids,
 Nekoosa United Church of Christ, *and*
 Port Edwards United Methodist Church,
friends of our communities, and every Child of God!



WORDS OF WELCOME

Pastor Caleb

A LABOR DAY CALL TO WORSHIP Leo Thomasgard (PEUMC)

L: The farmer's field, the teacher's pen,
the builder's beam, the nurse's ken –

**P: each task, a thread in common cloth,
woven with pride, not fear or sloth.**

L: The picket line, the meeting hall,
each echo tells of workers' call:

**P: for fairer wage and safer ground,
in unity, our strength is found.**

L: No power will break the will we bear,
no silence dims the truths we share;

**P: with courage deep and hearts aligned,
we shape this world for humankind.**

L: Raise high the song of labored grace,
of calloused hands and weathered face;

**P: for every soul who dared to strive:
their work has kept this world alive.**

L: Let not the proud dismiss the poor,
for Christ has walked our fact'ry floor,

**P: and lifts the low, the weary soul,
and makes the broken spirit whole.** (con't)

**ALL: O Christ who labors, lead us still,
to shape the world to fit Your will.
In ev'ry union, may You reign –
our hope, our justice, and our gain.
Together strong, we rise and say:
we work with God – this Labor Day!**

HYMN OF PRAISE: *The Spangled Heavens*

- 1. God, whose stretched the *spangled heavens:
infinite in time and place, **starry*
flung the suns in burning radiance /
through the silent fields of space!
We, Your children, in Your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with You.
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**
- 2. We have ventured worlds undreamed of /
since the childhood of our race;
known the thrill of flight and orbit /
through uncharted realms of space,
probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow'r:
facing us with life's destruction,
or our most triumphant hour.**
- 3. As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring You.
May our dreams prove rich with promise,
each endeavor well begun.
Great Creator, give us guidance
'til our goals and Yours are one.**

(Words: Catherine Cameron, 1967 / Music: William Moore, 1825 /
UMH: 150; TNCH: 556 / Words © 1967 Hope Publishing Co.)

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor Caleb

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Lynette Hilgers (NUCC)

Luke 14:1, 7-14

Lay Reader (FCC – UCC)

“THE GREATEST SERMON EVER PREACHED” Pastor Kate

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Wanda

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Pastor Caleb

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Caleb

ALL: O God, our Creator:

**On this Labor Day weekend, we confess the times
we have turned a blind eye to unsafe conditions,
unfair wages, and silenced voices.**

**We have benefited from the sweat of others
without seeking their well-being or protection.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have valued
profit over people, efficiency over empathy,
and silence over solidarity.**

**Forgive us for ignoring the cries of workers
who are brow-beaten, endangered, or dismissed.
Forgive us when we have failed to advocate for
the rights of those whose labor sustains our lives.**

**Forgive us for exploiting our migrant workers,
doing work nobody else wants to do,
at wages below the dignity-line,
yet we fail to protect them from
forces that seek to remove them.**

**May we never forget that Christ labored
with His hands, and stands with every worker still.
Free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord: AMEN!**

(moment of silence)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor Caleb
Pastors Kate
& Wanda

M: The Lord be with you!

P: And also with you!

M: Lift up your hearts!

P: We lift them up to God!

M: Let us give thanks!

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise!

M: It is right and good to give You thanks, Almighty God,
for You are the Source of Light and Life. You made us
in Your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ.
In all times and places,
Your people proclaim Your glory in unending praise:

**ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power & might,
heaven and earth are full of Your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.**

Hosanna in the Highest!

M: We remember with joy . . .

[The Lord's Supper is recalled . . .]

M: Gracious God, we celebrate with joy the liberation won
for us in Jesus Christ. Grant that, in praise & thanksgiving,
we may be a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable in Your
sight, that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

**ALL: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

[The Holy Spirit is invoked on our gathering . . .]

M: Through Your Son, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in Your Holy Church,
all glory and honor are Yours, Almighty God,
now and forevermore:

ALL: AMEN!

THE PRAYER OF JESUS

(use this version OR the version nearest & dearest to your heart)

ALL: Our Abba, in heaven, holy is Your Name!
Your kin'dom come!
Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven!
Give us each day our daily bread!
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us!
Let us not fall into temptation
and deliver us from evil!
For Yours is the kin'dom, the power,
and the glory forever: AMEN!

BREAKING THE BREAD

Pastor Kate

M: May our breaking of bread become a breaking of barriers,

ALL: where no one eats alone,
and all are fed with dignity.

THE CUP IS LIFTED

Pastor Wanda

M: May the sharing of this cup become a sharing of toil & sweat

ALL: with all who work unpaid or underpaid,
unseen or broken, at a Table we share together.

YOU ARE INVITED FORWARD TO RECEIVE

(Our denominations practice Open Communion!

All are invited to come forward,

no matter your beliefs or disbeliefs, affiliations or associations.

It's the Lord's Table; we do not set the guest list!)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor Caleb

ALL: Bountiful God,
thank You for refreshing us at Your Table
in the presence of our siblings in one faith
and of Your Son, in Whom we find our unity.
Strengthen our faith,
increase our love for one another,
and send us out into this world
in courage and justice,
by the power of Your Holy Spirit: AMEN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(all churches)*

HYMN OF MISSION

Rule of Life

Do all the good you can, _____ by all the
means you can, _____ in all the ways you can, _____
_____ in all the plac - es you can, _____ at all the
times you can, _____ to all the peo - ple you can, _____ as long as
ev - er _____ you can. _____

(Words: John Wesley / Music: Edward Bonnemere; arrangement by Cynthia Wilson)

BENEDICTION

Pastors Caleb, Kate, and Wanda

Our musician for today is Sue Mitchell (PEUMC).

Find the basket of your church for your offering today.

Details for next year's service:

Alexander-Edwards Memorial Park in Port Edwards, WI –
Sunday, September 6th – Nekoosa UCC hosting

INVITATION TO ALL OUR CHURCHES:



Couple's Night Out **{Dinner & a Game}**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH / 5:30P - 7:30P

Port Edwards UMC's Fellowship Hall

Calling all not-so-newlyweds for a night of food
and live entertainment!

The dinner begins at 5:30P - catered buffet by Chat-R-Box.

A live performance of The Not-So-Newlywed Game
will commence around 6:00P

GAME: Couples will compete against each other in a series of fun
question rounds to determine how well spouses know each other.

*NOTE: Our version will be a PG-rated version;
there will be no *"making whoopee"* content.

"I would be going alone, can I still attend?" Singles are welcome,
too! If you want to participate in the game, we will have a few rounds
where singles can pair up for some funny (not-so-wedded) questions.

\$18.50 per person – due at the start of the event

Last day to sign-up: **Monday, September 15th**

Call PEUMC's church office: 715-887-3011

Email the church office: office@peumc.org

Use our online form: peumc.org/office

or scan this QR code:

