

## **Weekly Word – For Sunday, June 6, 2021**

### **Worship this week:**

This Sunday is Graduation Sunday! Join us as we bless our graduating high school seniors and award senior and continuing education scholarships. Our church Brass Group will be leading the music and communion will be celebrated. We end the day with lemonade and cake-pops from 3 Schweet Sisters. It all starts at 9:30 am out on the church lawn. Please bring a chair or blanket. Join us!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/8hfdWQu159U>

### **Sunday Bulletin**

### **This Week:**

Sun., June 6	9:30-10:30 am	In-Person Worship Service on the Church Lawn and Livestream
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., June 7	5:00-6:00 pm	Endowment Grant Committee Meeting
Tues., June 8	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Thur., June 10	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., June 13	9:30-10:30 am	In-Person Worship Service on the Church Lawn and Livestream
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

### **Upcoming Important Dates:**

Saturday, June 19 - Ruth Reilly Memorial Service

Sunday, June 20 - Sitz Baptism

Sunday, June 27 - Fuller Baptism

August 3-5 - Vacation Bible School

**Church Van Campaign:** The church is in need of a new 15 passenger van for its ministry. \$32,000 will be needed to purchase a slightly used (about 50,000 miles) van and have it lettered. Please see the recent newsletter for details. Checks can be made out to First Congregational Church with 'Church Van' in the memo line or you can give online through the website. We hope to buy the van at auction by August and have it ready by September, but we cannot purchase it until we have the full amount raised. We are halfway to our goal (\$16,135 raised so far). Thank you for your generous support!

**Projects Following Worship for Kids:** Calling kids and families! Come for a special, short craft project following worship on **June 13, July 11, and August 22.**

### **Register Now for VBS, 2021: Create! - August 3–5 from 9:00–11:00 am**

Children age 3 through completed Grade 5 are invited to participate in the 2021 VBS program, *Create!* The sessions will focus on *The Parable of Talents* and what it means to be made in the image of a creative (and still creating) God. Students will use their own creativity and work on a variety of art projects...including not one but TWO special wood "Marshall Projects." Please extend an invitation to friends and neighbors. All are welcome! Please register on the website: <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/vacation-bible-school>

**VBS Volunteers Needed:** Please consider volunteering to help with Vacation Bible School this year. We need teachers and craft volunteers for August 3–5, 9:00–11:00 am. Please help! To volunteer, please use the sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers>

**One Church Lawn Mower Needed!** - We REALLY need one more person to join the three-person church lawn mowing team. Training provided, we work with your schedule and the team signs up for weekly shifts making sure our church lawn looks its best for Sunday mornings. Interested? Want more info? Contact the church office 715-425-2052 or [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org)

**Church Softball** - The River Falls Church Softball league will happen this year! Practices have begun and games are Monday nights. For more info, contact Matthew Thurston at 715-781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at 612-308-4945. Please sign up if you are interested in playing:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-church1>

**Donations for Shut In Bags Needed:** One of the good things to come out the pandemic are the 25 shut in bags that are delivered each month by volunteers. We are looking for donations of small gifts or handmade items that can be put in these gift bags. Home baked cookies, small handmade items, even seasonal dollar store items are all great additions to this ministry, but there must be 25 of them. Contact the church office for more info.

**Looking to Fall: Family Conversations on the Lawn:** The Christian Education Committee and pastoral staff are making plans for Sunday School, Confirmation, and church interns in the fall. We need your input to help guide plans and decisions. We ask parents of students age 3 through church interns to come for a one-hour conversation in June. Issues to discuss include:

- What kind of Sunday morning schedule best meets families' needs?
- Should we move to a dedicated Sunday morning education hour?
- What about the confirmation program works well for your family? What else would you like to see? What do you recommend we adjust?
- What church music opportunities would interest your family?
- What concrete actions can the congregation take to support you as you raise your child(ren) in faith?

*Please come to one of these conversations:*

- Wednesday, June 16, 6:30–7:30 pm on the church lawn (Fellowship Hall if rainy)
- Tuesday, June 22, 6:30–7:30 pm on the church lawn (Fellowship Hall if rainy)

Please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-family>

**Church Yoga:** Jan Hansen's church yoga group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00-10:00 am and via Zoom. Please call the office to receive the Zoom link.

**Sign Up Sheets:** All current sign-up sheets are on the website. Click on “Connect” and then “Sign Ups/Forms.”

**Free Money for Church Ministries:** The church has created an Amazon Smile account through which the church can receive a portion of the price of each purchase you make through Amazon. It is important to know that you need to do two things for the church to receive this money. First, go to Amazon Smile by typing in [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and then add First Congregational Church River Falls to your Amazon Smile. Second, every time you order you must order through your Smile account by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once you do this, the church will receive 0.5% of each eligible order. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

**Paying It Forward:** Many have asked how they can help share their stimulus money to help bless others. Here are three concrete ways:

- **Compassion Fund** – All money stays in the River Falls area and benefits families hit hardest by COVID and the economic downturn.
- **Building Fund** – Each month the church still needs to pay the bank \$3300. The Building Fund enables us to pay our mortgage until we can hold a Building Fund Campaign after COVID.
- **Church Van** – Our church van transports kids to programs, groups for mission trips and adults for trips around the community. We need to raise \$32,000 to buy a used 15 passenger van soon.

**Finances:** THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. Soon there will be a way to give online via our new church website.

	May 30, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,598	\$ 250,518
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 203,764

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

### **People:**

- For the Memorial Garden Committee (Lu Lueck, Marshall Skule, Susan Walden, JoAnne Friedell and Pastor Chris) who took the idea of a beautiful place for the saints of our church to rest and made it a reality—God bless you
- For Catherine Engstrom and Steve Papp who are the proud parents of Margaret Jean Papp born April 29 at 7 pounds 5 ounces and 20.5 inches long in Hudson with happy siblings Brandon, Wes and Trudy—may she grow in love and trust
- For Sawyer Sitz, son of Heather and Dan Sitz to be baptized on June 20 and Weston Fuller, son Kahla and Farnum Fuller to be baptized on June 27—that they may grow in grace and years
- For Tim Bylander who is single handedly renovating the lower level bathroom—it looks mighty fine
- For the over 167 million people vaccinated so far in this country, thanks be to God

Do you have other upcoming news and celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthday and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org) by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

**Prayer:** Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. If ever there were a time we need connection, it is now. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org)

### **Church Office Hours:**

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – Closed

### **Church Staff Contact:**

Pastor: Chris Myers - [chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org) - 715-441-2497

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org) - 715-222-5427

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - [stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org) - 715-338-6406

Mission: Dave Ostendorf - [dave@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:dave@firstchurchrf.org) - 715-441-6559

Music: Jamie Mills - [degolierjamie@gmail.com](mailto:degolierjamie@gmail.com) - 715-419-0850

Building: Dave Mountain - [focusfan2001@yahoo.com](mailto:focusfan2001@yahoo.com) - 715-245-6854

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - [timthefixitguy@gmail.com](mailto:timthefixitguy@gmail.com) - 715-808-2900