

## Weekly Word – For Sunday, June 20, 2021

### Worship this week:

On this Father's Day Weekend the Gospel lesson from Mark 4:35-41 reminds us that Jesus wants to take us some place. When the disciples are out on the lake and a storm rocks their boat, he calms the chaos. Some might call this the gospel in a nutshell—calming the chaos. Jesus wants to take people on a journey from fear to faith. It is a journey that will change them and us for the better. Join us for the one summer 9:30 am worship service as we baptize into the Christian faith, Sawyer Sitz, son of Heather and Dan Sitz.

Note: Starting this Sunday we are moving worship back inside to the Fellowship Hall for the foreseeable future. Coffee Fellowship will follow in the Fellowship Hall. You do not need to register for worship and masks are optional, but chairs are spaced out and our new bipolar ionic HVAC system treats the air.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/YwpgVqxBUx8>

### Sunday Bulletin

#### This Week:

Sat., June 19	10:00-11:00 am	Visitation for Ruth Reilly
	11:00 am-12:00 pm	Memorial Service for Ruth Reilly (Interment and Luncheon Following)
Sun., June 20	9:30-10:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., June 21	4:00-6:00 pm	Celebration of Life for Phil Stewart
	6:30-7:30 pm	Among Friends Meeting
Tues., June 22	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	6:30-7:30 pm	Family Conversations
Thur., June 24	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., June 27	9:30-10:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

#### Upcoming Important Dates:

Saturday, June 19 - Ruth Reilly Memorial Service  
Sunday, June 20 - Sawyer Sitz Baptism  
Sunday, June 27 - Weston Fuller Baptism, Jenna Lawrence Confirmed  
August 3-5 - Vacation Bible School

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed:** Coffee Fellowship is back! Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

**Liturgists Needed:** Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

**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. 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>

**Church Softball News:** Church softball is back and what a great feeling it was to be back on the field with friends and family. The season began on June 14 at Hoffman Park and **we won our first game.** It was good to see familiar faces from other teams too. Church softball is the bringing together of new and old friends while we play a fun game. **Way to go team.** Come join in the kinship and cheer us on in the future. Our next three games are:

June 21 at 7:45 pm at Hoffman Park

June 28 at 7:45 pm at Hoffman Park

Skip the week of July 5

July 12 at 7:45 pm at Hoffman Park

Come join in the fun and laughs. If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

**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:** 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 sign up and come to join the conversation:***

- Tuesday, June 22, 6:30–7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-family>

**Church Yoga:** Jan Hansen's church yoga group meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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.

	June 13, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,080	\$ 255,477
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 222,288

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

### **People:**

- For a win in the first church softball league match of the year—go team!
- For Marjorie Faulks who turned 98 on June 14—congratulations!
- For Dave Mountain who polished our communion table candles—they look brand new!
- For Carole Mottaz who has been nominated as this year's UWRF distinguished alumnus—what an honor!
- For healing from cancer for Megan (daughter of Janice Healy) and Jackie (sister of Marshall Skule), thanks be to God!
- 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 our church mowing team: Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Joel Larsen—hallelujah!
- 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 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 Jenna Lawrence to be confirmed on June 27 and Cheyenne Wilson to be confirmed on August 15 (due to Covid), that they may grow in the faith and love of Jesus
- For Tim Bylander who is single handedly renovating the lower level bathroom and tiling the serving counter in the Fellowship Hall—it looks mighty fine!
- For the over 176 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:**

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

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