

Weekly Word – For Sunday, July 25, 2021

Worship this week:

Jesus was a teacher. He taught people to see the world and themselves in a new way. This Sunday in John 6, he teaches us how to recognize those holy moments when God shows up in our world. Worship will be in the Sanctuary at 9:30 am, with Coffee Fellowship following in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 am. This is also the last Sunday to sign up for peaches. Plus, we will also provide exciting updates about our new church van and the search for a Youth Minister. Join us!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/j1s2S6m-m4o>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., July 25	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., July 26	6:30 pm	Softball Game at Hoffman Park
Tues., July 27	9:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Thur., July 29	9:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Aug 1	9:30 am	In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

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

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>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the 9:30 am worship service. One person is needed for at the bottom of the stairs at the 3rd Street Entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the Worship Service. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

New Church Van: THANK YOU! Thanks to a matching \$5000 grant from a church member and your incredible generosity, we have reached our goal of buying a new church van. A small team of church leaders is contacting area Ford dealers to price and order our new vehicle. We are overwhelmed by your gifts and look forward to dedicating it this fall.

Peaches: Our Peach Fundraiser is back! Enjoy some delicious Washington State Peaches and support our youth ministry fund. Single layer box \$22.00 or two or more single layer boxes for \$20.00 each box. The peaches should be arriving early August. **Order deadline is Sunday, July 25.** There are 3 ways to order:

1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org
2. Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-washington1>
3. Call: 715-425-2052 – order Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message

Thank you for your support!

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. 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>

Sunday School Teachers Needed: The present plan is for Sunday School to be in-person starting in fall, 2021. As always, we need teachers to volunteer to teach. As in years past, volunteers will not teach every Sunday but on a rotating basis with members of a team. To volunteer, please use the link on the church website (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-sunday>) or sign the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy.

Church Softball News: Come join in the kinship and cheer us on in the future. Our next games are:

July 26 - 6:30 pm at Hoffman Park

Aug 2 - Time to be TBD at Hoffman Park

If you have any questions please contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

Funeral Help Needed: One of the many important ways we as a church community support one another is by serving meals to families after a Funeral or Memorial Service. Two people who have been instrumental in this effort are Yvonne Benson and JoAnn Lentz. They are wishing to retire so we are hoping to have new people step up to fill their shoes. We are also in need of people to help work at funeral luncheons. Please consider being a part of this ministry by contacting the church office.

Summer Choir: Save the Date: With the easing of COVID, the move back to the sanctuary, and the hiring of our new Choir Director, Sarah Plum, we are hoping to have one Summer Choir session on **Sunday, August 22** at the one 9:30 am summer worship service. Open to everyone, whether you are in the chancel choir or not, we will rehearse a simple and familiar piece at 8:30 am and then help lead the congregation in song at the 9:30 am worship service. Save the date!

Tools for School: On **Monday, August 16, and Tuesday, August 17**, families in the River Falls School District can receive free school supplies for the upcoming year through the Tools for School Event. Please see the flyer for more information. The sorting and distribution of supplies will be here at our church. Please use the sign-up sheets if you can help sort and/or assist families during the give-away. Please bring your donated school supplies to our church **by Friday, August 13**. If you would like to give by check, please make a note “Tools for School” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Annual Historic Kinnickinnic Church Ice Cream Social: The Annual Historic Kinnickinnic Church Ice Cream Social will be held in the churchyard on **Sunday, August 1st, from 2:00—6:00 pm**. The church is located on County Road J, less than a mile off of Hwy. 65, near River Falls. Ice cream, homemade pies and root beer floats will be served, as well as other beverages. Music will also be provided. Educational tours of the nearby historic cemetery are scheduled at 2:30 and 4:00 during the social. Proceeds support the over 150 year old church, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. See our Facebook page at Kinnickinnic Historical Association for more information.

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.

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

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. There is also now an option to give online via our church website.

	July 18, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,642	\$ 285,914
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 268,598

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People:

- For the return to worship in the sanctuary!
- For VBS and the way it brings together so many people in creative, intergenerational ways
- For Roger and Joyce Kampstra who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary Sunday, July 11, may your love continue to grow
- For successfully raising money for a new church van!
- For healing from cancer for Megan (daughter of Janice Healy) and Jackie (sister of Marshall Skule), thanks be to God!
- For our church mowing team: Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke, Larry Peterson and Joel Larsen—hallelujah!
- For Jenna Lawrence 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 nearly 185 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 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

Church Office Hours:

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

Friday – Closed

Church Staff Contact:

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchr.org - 715-441-2497

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchr.org - 715-222-5427

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchr.org - 715-338-6406

Mission: Dave Ostendorf - dave@firstchurchr.org - 715-441-6559

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com - 715-419-0850

Building: Dave Mountain - focusfan2001@yahoo.com - 715-245-6854

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com - 715-808-2900