

Weekly Word – For Sunday, August 1, 2021

Worship this week:

Food, glorious food! Who doesn't love it? Who doesn't need it! Jesus knew this. This Sunday he feeds us with his Word from John 6 and feeds us at his table as we celebrate communion. Worship is at 9:30 am in the sanctuary with Jamie and Dave leading music. Coffee Fellowship follows at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Come and be fed!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/hwSlecQnP6k>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

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| 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 |
| Tues., Aug 3 | 9:00 am | Vacation Bible School |
| | 9:00 am | Yoga in the Music Room and Zoom |
| Wed., Aug 4 | 9:00 am | Vacation Bible School |
| Thur., Aug 5 | 9:00 am | Vacation Bible School |
| | 9:00 am | Yoga in the Music Room and Zoom |
| Sun., Aug 8 | 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 at church or 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. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the 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. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Altar Table Flowers: Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

New Church Van: A new church van is ordered! Thank you for your support. Any extra funds will be used to purchase new booster seats for Wednesday School and detail the church name on the van. We hope to have a dedication in the fall.

Peaches: 450 boxes of sun-ripened Washington state peaches are ordered and soon should be on their way. We anticipate their arrival at church this coming Thursday with pickup times Thursday night, Friday and Saturday. We will send out an all church email when they arrive and will need helpers to unload the truck on Thursday when it arrives. Stay tuned and get ready!

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.

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**. Most needed items: backpacks, colored pencils (24 pack), dry erase markers (thin and wide), paper folders with clips inside, paper folders without clips inside, wide ruled notebooks, earbuds. 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 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.

Church Softball News: It was a hot steamy Monday evening, and we had our largest fan club this season. Thank you everyone for cheering us on and coming to support our team. The team raised our winning record to 5:1. Yes, our team is on top of the church league. There was even a couple of homeruns again at this game. Way to go team!! Come join in the fun and cheer us on in the future. Our remaining games are:

Aug 2 time – 7:45 PM at Hoffman Park against St. Bridget Church

Aug 9 Tournament, time - TBD

Aug 16 Tournament, time - TBD

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

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!

Adult Bible Study: Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall on **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm**. The first session is **September 15**. Presently the plan is to meet in-person in the Youth Room. Please indicate your interest by signing the list at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-adult>

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.

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 25, 2021 | Year to Date |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| General Fund Income* | \$ 5,202 | \$ 302,556 |
| General Fund Operational Needs | \$ 9,262 | \$ 277,860 |

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People:

- For the gift of bread that nourishes our bodies, and communion that feeds our souls
- For VBS and the way it brings together so many people in creative, intergenerational ways
- For not just one but two new Youth Ministers—Alex and Sarah Plum who begin in late August—thanks be to God!
- For Bailey Plackner who is recently engaged to Alex Boyer and are planning a July 2022 wedding, may you grow in love
- For successfully raising money for a new church van!
- 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 the nearly 190 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@firstchurchrf.org - 715-441-2497

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

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