

## Weekly Word – For Sunday, September 12, 2021

### Worship this week:

This Sunday is Rally Day, the beginning of the fall program year. Worship will move to 10:00 am and the choir will return to help lead music. A full schedule is listed below. Our worship theme this fall is ‘Come and Be Fed’ and we will celebrate communion each Sunday. This Sunday our focus is ‘Fed by Love’ and we explore the Great Commandment in Mark 12 and Paul’s call to love in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13. As a reminder, for now we are asking all people to mask when inside the church building and worship is in the Fellowship Hall. Come and be fed.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/9wYZ9oL1qXQ>

### Sunday Bulletin

**Rally Day & Parent Meeting:** All parents of children pre-school through Grade 12, are asked to attend a 30-minute orientation session on **Rally Day, September 12, at 11:30 am**, following worship and Sunday School. This is a very important meeting and required for all families of confirmands. Please be sure to attend. First Congregational Church takes its responsibility to educate children very seriously. There needs to be a strong connection between church education and family life. Please see the full Rally Day schedule below.

### This Week:

Sun., Sept 12		Rally Day
	8:45-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
	10:00-10:30 am	Children in Worship
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
	11:30-12:00 pm	All-Parent Meeting - Pre-School, Sunday School, Confirmation, and Interns in the Sanctuary
Tues., Sept 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Wed., Sept 15	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	All Confirmation Classes – College Packs at Mark & Laura Anderson’s House (W10382 – 880 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, River Falls)
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Sept 16	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	1:00-2:00 pm	Among Friends Board Meeting
Fri., Sept 17	11:00 am-5:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall
Sun., Sept 19	8:45-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and Livestream
	10:00-10:30 am	Children in Worship
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

**BRING SOME NEW WASHCLOTHS TO CHURCH!!!** - Severe flooding in the Biloxi and the Back Bay area of Mississippi from Hurricane Ida has displaced many from their homes and further impacted homeless people as well. Back Bay Mission, our long-time mission partner in Mississippi, needs washcloths! Lots of washcloths! The Mission provides washcloth showers for many displaced neighbors who also use wet washcloths to keep cool in unbearably hot and humid days as they recover from the hurricane. So... we'll be gathering new washcloths at church... boxes will be available in the gathering area and we'll ship washcloths out as soon as we can next week and the following week.

**College Packs:** Once again this year our confirmands and interns will be sending College Packs to all of our church college students. This is going to be another difficult year so we are inviting the WHOLE congregation to bring items to church to be packed by our church interns for our approximately 40 college freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors. We ask you to bring in fun and useful items that you might like to receive if you were in college – silly putty, play dough, prepacked snacks, detergent packs, Halloween décor, etc. Please buy identical items in groups of 5 or 10 and the church interns will pack them and send them off with a note and prayer for the year. **Items need to be at church by Wednesday, September 15.** Have fun with this and show some love to our college kids!

**Fall Worship Series: Come And Be Fed!** - One of the parts of Jesus' ministry that we do not think about is his ministry of feeding people. Put simply, Jesus fed people. He fed people with his teaching. He fed people by offering healing and welcome. He fed people by offering his own body and blood. As we begin the program year, our Fall Worship Series is 'Come and Be Fed!' Each Sunday, we will let Jesus feed us by focusing on one of the great themes in Jesus' ministry listed below:

Fed by his Love	Rally Day, Sunday, September 12
Fed by his Grace	Sunday, September 19
Fed by his Justice	Sunday September, 26
Fed by his Community	Sunday, October 3
Fed by his Healing	Sunday, October 10
Fed by this Generosity	Sunday, October 17
Fed by his Compassion	Sunday, October 24

This fall come and be fed at Christ's table and by his Word.

**Adult Forum Resumes:** The Sunday Adult Forum will resume on **September 12, from 8:45–9:45 am** in the Youth Room.

**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>

**New Committees and Church Council Terms Begin:** Our church committee structure works on a program year from September through August. Committees generally meet the third Tuesday of each month. The new program year will begin on **Tuesday, September 21**, when all committees will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm for a brief orientation before heading to their small group meetings from 6:45 to 7:45 pm, followed by Church Council from 7:45 to 8:45 pm. Please pray for our church leaders as they seek to guide us in these difficult times.

**Church Book Club:** Enjoy reading? Enjoy chatting about books? Enjoy just chatting sometimes? Well, you are warmly welcome to become part of the First Congregational Church Book Club. The Book Club reads a wide variety of books, sometimes deeply profound books and other times just fun books. Read the whole book? Great. Not quite finished with the book? Great. Come be together and puzzle together some gleanings from the book. The Book Club will meet at on **Thurs, Sept 23, at 3:00 pm at the church**. The September book is *Lake of Tears* by Mary Logue. Copies are available in the church office. Questions? Please contact Jan Johnson, Rebecca Ferguson, or Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn.

**October Book Club:** Come join us **Thurs, Oct 28, 3:00 pm**, for what promises to be a very lively discussion of the most recent Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Night Watchman*, by our Twin Cities' neighbor, Louise Erdrich. Based on the life of her grandfather and the very real treaty issues of 1953, the novel also explores the lives of a whole community struggling with "the worst and best impulses of human nature." You can pick up a copy of the book at the church office (including 2 large-print copies). Come whether you've finished (or not yet even begun!) the novel, and enjoy time with thoughtful readers and a wise and gifted author. For more info, call Rebecca Ferguson, Jan Johnson, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn or Suzanne Hagen. (We'll make adjustments to our plan as Covid dictates at the time, but we're wearing masks inside the church building now.)

**Wednesday School Workers Needed:** Wednesday School begins on **October 6**. We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. Please sign the list at church or use the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday18>. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy.

**Wednesday School Registrations:** All children who will be in kindergarten through Grade 5 in the fall of 2021, are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Registration and permission forms are available on the church website (<https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/sunday-school>) and in the church office. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students. Wednesday School begins October 6. For COVID-mitigation, all participants will wear masks. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

**American Red Cross Blood Drive:** Held at **First Congregational Church on Friday, September 17, from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: [firstcongregationalrf](http://firstcongregationalrf) to schedule an appointment.

**Memorial Service:** Virginia (Ginny) Hilden Memorial Service has been scheduled for **Sunday, October 3** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Glen Park Pavilion. A light lunch will be served and RSVPs to Laura Rau at [laurasuerau@gmail.com](mailto:laurasuerau@gmail.com) are very much appreciated. Please join us to celebrate Ginny and her life.

**AAUW Book Sale:** The annual American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Book Sale will be the **last three weeks of October** - Thursdays from 10am to 7pm, Fridays from 10am to 7pm and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm at the former Global Made, 120 N. Main Street, RF. Bring donations to the bins at Family Fresh and Dick's Market, River Falls or to County Market, Hudson. Drop off large quantities at the sale site on Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm and Saturdays from 10am to 12pm now through October 9. Proceeds will be used for scholarships. Thank you for your support.

**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.

**New Church App:** The church has a new mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

**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 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.

	Sept 5, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,450	\$ 329,965
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 333,432

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

### **People:**

- For a return of choir and bells, may they make beautiful music together
- For the birth of Thomas Jay Crosby first grandson to Allen and Dianne Barnes (11pounds!), may he bring great joy
- For the weekly Mini Farmers Market in our Fellowship Hall when people (Roland Roe and others) bring in their fresh veggies for us to enjoy, bless you
- For the birth of Ella Suzanne Middlestaedt, new and first grandchild to Ann and Scott Jameson
- For Bailey Plackner who is recently engaged to Alex Boyer and planning a July 2022 wedding, may you grow in love
- For the nearly 205 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. 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)

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

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

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

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)

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

Choir: Sarah Plum – [sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com)

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

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