

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ www.firstchurchrf.org

November 1, 2021

*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are
on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here!*

**As Jesus' courageous disciples,
living God's grace, we strive to:**

- Worship faithfully
- Welcome openly
- Grow spiritually
- Care passionately
- Serve generously

Pastor's Page

I was talking recently to a colleague of mine who was moving his daughter into her first apartment. He talked about the mental flip he had to do in his own mind. One, that he had a 24 year old daughter. Two, that she was moving out into her own place. And three, that he was old enough to have a 24 year old daughter! Then he talked a little bit about how this daughter struggled earlier in life in high school. But she had found her stride, in fact was taking a job teaching at an inner city school. Then he talked a little bit about her compassionate nature. She was always doing something for one of her friends in need. When she found out a local family was having financial difficulties she arranged to have Christmas tree anonymously delivered to their house. He was a proud father, but he attributed a lot of that

child's success to a decision their family made decades ago.

Twenty five years ago this dad heard a casual comment at conference that still resonates with him. The speaker wondered why parents aren't more explicit about defining what they want their children to be like as adults. She wasn't talking about preparing a child to be a successful doctor, a violin virtuoso, or a professional football player. Instead she was talking about values. She asked him to imagine his then infant daughter as a 24 year old adult. What kind of values did he hope would guide their decision making as parents? Then she suggested that if we parents cannot define those core values during our kid's earliest days, how could they possibly expect to nurture those values within them as they learn and grow.

So this dad and mom sat down and together they came up with three fundamental values they wanted their kids to hold most dear when they became adults: generous, compassionate, confident. They turned these three core values into active statements which were then framed and placed throughout their home, many of which still hang today. Those prints reminded their kids to be generous, compassionate and confident. They even have a sign that says Family=generosity+compassion+confidence. What they didn't anticipate was how

writing those values down, displaying them, so they would see those values day after day after day, those values not only influenced their kids, it influenced them as parents. If those three values are really the most important characteristics they want to nurture in their kids, then by definition everything else is a secondary consideration.

In practical terms, it meant those parents had to learn to accept that the bedroom of one of their girls will be messier than they would like because being neat, tidy and orderly is not on the list of three most cherished values. But that same sometimes messy daughter is the one who volunteered with special needs kids in high school (generosity). It meant they did not complain when one of their sons dyed his hair lime green, because appearance is not one of those central values. Yet when one of their other sons was experiencing a personal crisis, it was the boy with the lime green hair who became the rock and confidante that got the other sibling through his crisis (compassion).

So even if you don't have little kids at home anymore, if you had to pick three core values you'd like to see in your kids as they grow up, what would they be? Even better, since it is never too late to begin this process of living into your own values, what would you say are your three personal core values and how are you trying to live them out today?

Continued on next page

WORSHIP faithfully

A Note on Sunday Worship

We will move back to the sanctuary for Sunday worship

starting Sunday, November 14, our Giving Thanks Sunday.

We have moved to our new fall schedule with the resumption of fall programming and the reopening of the church nursery and Sunday School with worship at 10:00 am. See the Fall Sunday Schedule below. The livestream and radio options will continue.

For now, until we get through this current fourth wave of the COVID spike, we are asking all people to mask when they gather in groups, including Sunday Worship, confirmation and Sunday School events that are inside the church building.

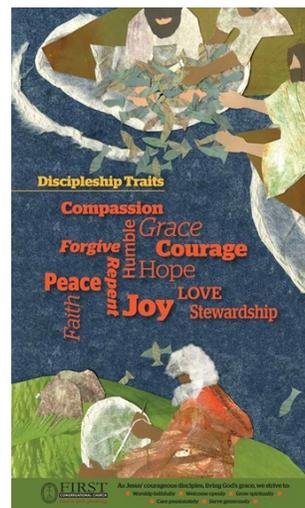
Pastor's Page *Continued from front page*

Just to get you thinking a bit of what some of those values might be, you could look at our church's discipleship traits. A few years ago our Christian Education committee came up with a list of 12 traits, discipleship traits, they hope to nurture in our young people. There are posters around the building with them. A big mural with them at the bottom of the steps going into the lower level: Grace, Courage, Stewardship, Joy, Faith, Peace, Hope, Humble, Repent, Love, Compassion, Forgive.

These past 7 weeks during our Fall Worship Series, Come and Be Fed, we have talked about some other values, some of which overlap with the Discipleship Traits: Love, Grace, Justice, Community, Healing, Generosity, Compassion.

So what are your three personal core values?

In Gratitude, Pastor Chris *(From October 24th Sermon)*



Fall Sunday Schedule

8:30 am—Coffee ready!

8:45-9:45 am—Adult Forum

9:00-9:45 am—Music Practice

10:00 am—Worship and Sunday School

10:30 am—Kids Preschool thru 8th Grade leave for Sunday School

11:00-11:30 am—Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)

11:15 am—Sunday School Ends

11:30 am—12:30 pm—Middle or High School Youth Group

Our current fall schedule is above. We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall and asking people to mask when indoors following CDC guidelines. Please continue to pray for our church leadership as they seek to find ways for us to gather both safely and faithfully.

Inquirer's Class

Interested in learning more about our life and ministry at First Congregational? Wondering what membership of the church is all about? Come to the Inquirer's Class on **Tuesday, December 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.**

At this gathering you will meet church staff and leaders, meet other newcomers, and learn more about our life and ministry opportunities. Dessert and coffee are served and childcare is available. Please use the sign up sheet or contact the church office.

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum discusses the Sunday's texts prior to worship on Sunday mornings. Please come! All are welcome. The Forum meets in the Youth Room, Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:45 am.



October 31 Middle School Service Project - Rake and Run! - Please bring rakes and garden gloves! We will provide bags and rake yards in the neighborhood around us, ding-dong-ditch style! We will start right after church and finish by 12:30 pm.

Wed, November 3 - Middle School Youth Group, 6:30–7:30 pm

Sun, November 7 - High School Movie Night, Youth Room, 6:00 pm

Wed, November 10 - Interns

Sun, November 14 - Middle and High School, Giving Thanks Meal

Wed, November 17 - Middle School Youth Group

Sun, November 21 - High School Service Project

Sun, November 28 - Middle School Movie Night, Youth Room, 6:00 pm



The Advent Workshop

The annual Advent Workshop for families will be held following Sunday School on **December 5**.

The event will include a chance to make a variety of Christmas ornaments and simple snacks. This is a great family event. Please come and invite friends to join you! Please sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-advent3>

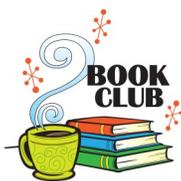
Church Van



Still no word on when the church van may be delivered. It has been ordered but with supply chain issues, chip shortages and the plant closing for 3 weeks, it is delayed. We will update you when we hear word on its arrival and dedication. Thanks to all who helped pay for it! Thank you also to the team (Tim Bylander, Bob Ferguson, Brad Williams and Pastor Chris) who took this project on.

Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group meets **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The group is finishing a study of Second Corinthians. All are welcome.



October Book Club

Come join us **Thursday, October 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.)

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 contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.



All Saints Day

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, October 31st is All Saints Sunday, the day in the life of the church when we remember those who have lived a life of faith and love, and who now rest from their labors secure in God's care. On All Saints Sunday we place a white rose on the communion table in memory of all those who have finished the race of life. This year we will remember the saints of our church who died this past year including:

Paul Anderson, John Hyland, Mark Mahoney, Phil Stewart, Bernice Larson, Jennie Sperling, Polly Wymer, Daniel Filkins, Ruth Reilly, Roy Zeman, Barbara Greub, Virginia Hilden, George Anderson

Families of our saints are invited to take the rose home with them after worship. May this time of worship be a time of healing and thanksgiving.

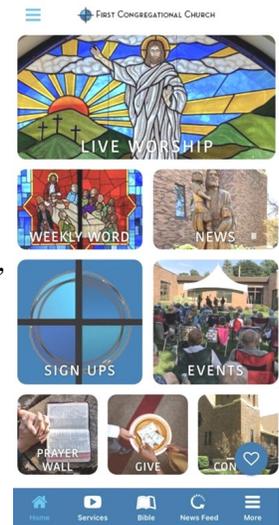


New Church App

The church has a new mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code to the left (directions below) which can also be found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook. The App includes: Live and Past Services, Weekly Word, Newsletters, Sign Up Sheets, Events Calendar, Prayer Wall, Giving, Bible, News Feed, Push Notifications. Call the church office with any questions or if you need help.

Five easy steps to get our church app on your mobile device:

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code above or visit: <https://bit.ly/FCCApp>
3. Click on the link that pops up
4. Install the Church App - Tithe.ly onto your device
5. Open the Church App (skip login if prompted) and get connected with our church



Altar Flowers

Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or on the church website:

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

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>

Coffee Fellowship Hosts and Liturgists Needed

Coffee Fellowship Hosts will be asked to serve Best Maid cookies which are in the church freezer, make lemonade and/or serve coffee. All the materials are provided, you will simply need to serve and clean up (at this point we are using disposable cups). Sign up at church or on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists will lead us in the Call to Worship and one of the Scripture Lessons. The material will be emailed out on Thursday to practice. Sign up at church or on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Please note church interns can receive credit for either of these activities. Thank you for volunteering in these important ministries as we continue our journey.



Family Meals

Each Wednesday night we are again offering our home cooked meals to be picked up between 5:15 and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$8 per person with a max per family of \$25. For now we are offering a limited number of seats in the Fellowship Hall geared to those already here for Wednesday programming. To go meals can be picked up in the church alley in back of the church (enter on Maple and exit on Elm Streets). We are thankful to Katy Kapaun, our church cook, our kitchen helpers and church interns, all of whom make this ministry possible. Please sign up on the church website by 4:00 pm Tuesday and indicate 'to go' or 'in person' in the comment section. Here is the upcoming menu:

Nov 3—Meatloaf, baked potato, macaroni and cheese, vegetable, and dinner roll

Nov 10—Roasted pork loin, baby red potatoes, sweet red cabbage, glazed carrots, and bread

Nov 17—Chicken marsala over rice, fruit, vegetable, and croissant

Nov 24—No Wednesday Programming/Meals—Thanksgiving

Boston Trip for Confirmands

We now have three years of confirmands who (hopefully) will be headed to Boston for their Big Trip at the end of their confirmation experience. We have tentatively set a date of April 21-24, the weekend after Easter, as the date for this trip. Later this fall we will set a meeting time with parents and confirmands to explore how this trip might take place. With kids sharing rooms and all the COVID uncertainty, there is lots of uncertainty, but please know we have not forgotten about this trip, its purpose and the hope that all of those who want to go, will be able to go. Stay tuned.

Spring Break Mission Trip

The Spring Break Mission Trip will (hopefully) be March 12-19, 2022 to UCC related Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Last's years trip was cancelled due to COVID and at this point we are still hoping to be able to go, but between record high airfares over spring break (over \$600 per person), record high car rentals (over \$1000 per vehicle), still not having our church van and then of course COVID and people sleeping in two giant rooms, there are lots of issues to consider. The need is great down South yet we want to make sure we can safely accomplish this trip. We will have a decision by Sunday, November 14. If we do not go in March, we are looking for a summer mission trip opportunity locally within a 10 hour ride. Please look to the newsletter for updates about this important ministry.



CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT 2021

For many years, the yoga group and members of First Congregational have supported a "Christmas Shoebox" for the men at the Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center in River Falls. Even though these are somewhat strange times, the NEED is still there, and we will again collect items, wrap and fill the boxes and bags and deliver them to the Kinnic Rehab to show that we all still care!

These shoeboxes contain socks, playing cards, puzzles, soap, toothpaste and many other items. The thick warm gloves have been a welcome addition as well as the nice warm hats!! The new cribbage boards are also a great item the guys really enjoy. The rest of October and November and part of December, we are highlighting this project. We will work with the Wednesday School group in decorating some Christmas bags as well as the older youth helping with wrapping the boxes.

A list of items is at the church, or you can request a list from the church office. Donations are most welcome. Please leave any items in the bin in the gathering area or in the office. Cash donations will be used to purchase any needed items. Thank you for anything that you can provide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jean Smith at jsmithler@yahoo.com or at 715-781-6880 or leave a message in the church office.

Engaging the Word, Engaging the World...

Upcoming

Thursday, November 10–Saturday, November 13, Veterans and Military Build Week, New Richmond: In honor of Veterans Day on November 11 Habitat for Humanity is hosting a special build on a 4-bedroom home for the five members of the Flores family. While Veterans and members of the military are especially invited to participate the event is open to everyone. Habitat seeks to complete this special project by the end of the year and your help is needed! Contact Rose Rude, Chair of Mission Education Committee for more information (715-781-7032 or rose.rude@uwrf.edu) or sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da9a922a5f4c25-military>

Monday, November 15, 6:00 pm, Sustainability, Water, Energy, & Industry: Join the founder of Kairos Indoor Agriculture and representatives of the innovative wastewater treatment system in Roberts as they discuss innovative, sustainable, and successful solutions to environmental challenges. Attend at the River Falls Public Library or via its Facebook or YouTube channel. Sponsored by the Library, Hope for Creation, the University, and Powerful Choices.

Updating

Afghan Resettlement in Wisconsin and Minnesota: We are continuing to monitor the Afghan resettlement process in Wisconsin and in the Twin Cities to identify specific needs or steps that we might support as a congregation in the days ahead. Mission Education Committee and pastoral staff are taking the lead on this, with important help from several members of the congregation and in communication with area churches and knowledgeable veterans and military members. As Pastor Bryan Simon of First Congregational UCC in Tomah, has said, “The hard part is figuring out what the need is. It changes day to day, hour to hour, minute to minute.” With other churches near Fort McCoy, the Tomah congregation has engaged in important outreach to families at the base.

Unfolding

The Mission Education Committee is exploring ways to respond to the prevalence of Mental Health issues in our community: Recent statistics from the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), tell us that one in five adults in the U.S. experience mental illnesses each year. One in six youths ages 6-17 experience a mental health disorder each year. In February 2021, 36.4% of adults in Wisconsin reported symptoms of anxiety or depression. With support from the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and NAMI, the Mission Ed Committee will seek to reduce the stigma around Mental Illness, through education and through support of individuals dealing with Mental Health challenges. Look for more information and helpful resources in upcoming newsletters. For more information or to join this initiative, contact Sally Steneman at stenesal9@gmail.com

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thursday, Nov 11, 1:00–7:00 pm

Friday, Nov 12, 8:30 am–2:30 pm

American Legion Post 121

701 N Main St, River Falls

Appointments: Call Judy at 715-760-1144
or through the Red Cross at
redcrossblood.org, enter code: riverfallswi

As COVID-19 cases spiked in August, the Red Cross reports blood donations took a dive, decreasing by 10%. The end-of-summer blood inventory is the lowest it's been since 2015. Blood donations are desperately needed.



Among Friends Has Returned!

Among Friends is now meeting every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the church. This innovative, locally-run social respite program for older adults with memory loss or physical frailties and their caregivers in Pierce and St. Croix Counties is a true gift for many.

More information about the program and the Board can be found at <https://amongfriendsrf.wordpress.com/>, by calling 715-293-2561, or emailing amongfriendsrf@gmail.com.

Giving Thanks Meal—November 14

Each year our church serves a huge Thanksgiving Meal in the Fellowship hall in mid-November, complete with turkey, potatoes, dressing, pie and amazing sides. This is also the day we hold our Youth Dessert Auction. Last year and again this year, due to COVID, we have moved the meal to a take-out format. The date of the meal will be Sunday, November 14th. And meals can be ordered with pumpkin or apple pie. Pick up hours are 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. You can pick it up after church to take home or drive by on Third Street and our church interns and confirmands will take them out to you. Cost is \$8 per meal with any profits going to the River Falls Food Pantry.



Giving Thanks Meal 2019

Please sign up online, by calling the church office or the sign up table by Thursday, November 11 so we can have enough food. And please pray that next year we can enjoy a full, in-person meal in the Fellowship Hall!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-giving1>

amazon smile 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.

Last quarter the church received over \$75 for this account, but that amount could grow greatly if you add the church to your Amazon account. Do it today!

Simpson Shelter Supply Needs

- Twin, full, and queen size blankets and sheet sets—new
- Pillows—new
- White t-shirts—new, sizes small & medium
- Large tubs of Country Time Lemonade and Kool Aid mixes (we use these in Igloo containers for meals)
- Hot sauce
- Coffee—ground, caffeinated
- Products for textured and natural hair
- New shower curtains and shower rings

There is a box at the church for donations. Thank you!

Treasurer's Report

	Week of Oct 17, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income *	\$ 11,510	\$ 392,369
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 389,004

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

Church Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Chris Myers—chris@firstchurchrf.org
 Office: Missy Luedtke—missy@firstchurchrf.org
 Education: Stacy Myers—stacy@firstchurchrf.org
 Mission: Dave Ostendorf—dave@firstchurchrf.org
 Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum—rfyouthgroup@gmail.com
 Music: Jamie Mills—degolierjamie@gmail.com
 Choir: Sarah Plum—sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com
 Building: Dave Mountain—focusfan2001@yahoo.com
 Maintenance: Tim Bylander—timthefixitguy@gmail.com

People in the Pews: Diane Crist

1. *Where did you grow up/hometown?* I grew up in Owen-Withee, WI area. I lived there until I went to college at University of Wisconsin River Falls.
2. *Where do you live now?* I came to school at UWRF many years ago and basically never left. I commuted to St. Paul for 26 years for work and considered moving there when my kids were grown, but am happy I stayed in RF. Since retirement is when I have reconnected with many old friends in River Falls.
3. *How long have you been attending First Congregational Church, UCC?* About 10-12 years continuous. I started as a visitor, but eventually became a member. I grew up attending a Danish Lutheran Church back in Withee and attended Lutheran Churches in RF. I didn't go to church for a while after visiting local Lutheran churches, then found the UCC. I was one of Ruth Riley's recruits.
4. *What keeps you coming back to church at UCC?* The Myers family. They and the rest of the congregation make me feel comfortable. The way Chris & Stacy and the rest of the congregation interprets the Christian message is very creative. I was especially impressed at all the ways our community stayed connected during COVID.
5. *What is your favorite bible passage or quote or hymn and why?* I don't have a favorite passage. Whatever the message is for the week always seems to be my favorite.
6. *What is your favorite childhood memory?* Christmas, everything about it. Big extended family, lots of gatherings, and the food.
7. *What is your favorite hobby or pastime?* I generally enjoy being outdoors, especially walking along the Kinney. I also enjoy reading historical novels and participating in book clubs as an opportunity to be social. Being social is important to me so I also enjoy having lunch with friends and other gatherings. Yoga is also one of my hobbies.
8. *Tell us something about you or your family that may surprise us?* I am fascinated by cargo ships, especially on Lake Superior, Duluth. My favorite is the Paul R. Tregurtha, a Great Lakes-based bulk carrier freighter. Watching cargo ships going under a lift bridge is mesmerizing. If possible I would like to spend 2 nights on one, preferably in summer when the weather is nice.
9. *What gives you comfort or joy during these COVID-19 days?* Staying connected with my family, especially my granddaughter. Even though it was different than years past with social distancing being able to spend Christmas Day with family last year brought me comfort. Sunday morning online church services and reading also bring me comfort during these COVID-19 days.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the supply box! I am so thankful for the goodies! I think my favorite was the banana jerky! My roommate and I have been eating away at the snacks as well! School is going great and I am learning a lot! I have also met some great people this semester.

Thanks, Alex Martin

Assistance & Resource Center Needs Assistance

ARC is the primary resource in our River Falls and Ellsworth communities providing financial assistance in a timely manner. Now in its 13th year, ARC continues to provide dollars for rent, utilities, gas and vehicle repair, work boots and uniforms, childcare and more. The goal is to keep the client as an active participant in the solution while relieving the immediate stress of the situation. Working with the provider/vendor, a plan is formulated to provide financial assistance within the 24-48 hours or documentation of need on how best to support the client with a “hands-up” rather than a “hand-out.”



ARC is 100% volunteer and in order to keep helping the hundreds of households in our communities, we are looking for more intake volunteers. These volunteers are trained to take down information from prospective clients over the phone and pass on information to the coordinator who makes the decisions. Two-hour shifts go by quickly and you are left with the wonderful feeling of truly being of service to your neighbor. For assistance, to learn about volunteer opportunities or for more information, contact ARC at arcofriverfalls@hotmail.com or 715-222-6133.



First Congregational Friends and UCC Youth,

Thank you for the care package, I've already eaten all the candy that was in it. I apologize for the late thank you. College life is pretty busy and the Blugold Marching Band of course is always a blast to play in. Again, thank you for all your support during my time at college. I hope to see you guys at one of our BMB shows. **GO BLUGOLDS!**

Thank you, Derick Graves

Among Friends Fundraiser Brunch

A full brunch will be hosted for Among Friends on **Sunday, November 14, from 9:00 am till 1:00 pm** at the Moose Lodge on 620 N. Clark in River Falls. Enjoy all you care to eat pancakes, French toast, eggs, hashbrowns, sausage & bacon, biscuits & gravy, juice, milk, and coffee for \$10. All in support of the good work of Among Friends, the respite care program that gathers weekly at the church.

Tickets can be purchased that day at the Lodge or contact Mike Danielson or another Among Friends staff or Board member.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN River Falls
Fall 2021 Frances Cohler Coffee Concerts
Fridays at Noon | University of Wisconsin - River Falls Campus

September 10 | Evren Ouzel, piano - 2021 Chopin Foundation Finalist
September 23 | Natalia Moiseeva, violin & Ivan Konev, piano
October 8 | Jeffrey Jaworski, guitar and Namji Kim, piano
October 22 | Paul Cohen, saxophone & Anna Kaiserman, piano
November 19 | Dan Chouinard, accordion (Prairie Home Companion) & Bill Chouinard, organ
December 3 | Mark Billy, MN Opera Vocalist & Ivan Konev, piano
December 10 | St. Croix Trio: Natalia Moiseeva, violin
Tanya Remenikova, cello & Ivan Konev, piano

In the event of COVID shut-downs at UWRF, alternate locations include Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI and/or Shepherd of the Valley Church in Afton, MN

Join us for coffee, cookies & conversation after the concert.
Questions? Please contact series coordinator Kris Tjornehoj at 715.410.7416
Visit www.uwrf.edu/mus for information about additional events!



FIRST
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RIVER FALLS

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STAFF

Chris Myers, Pastor
Dave Ostendorf, Minister for Community and Outreach
Stacy Johnson, CE Minister
Missy Luedtke, Office Administrator
Joel Larsen, Moderator
Alex and Sarah Plum, Youth Ministers
Jamie Mills, Music Coordinator and Bell Choir Director
Sarah Plum, Choir Director
Marsha Pearson, Organist
Terry Mithun, Organist
Tim Bylander, Building Supervisor
Dave Mountain, Custodian

Pastor's home phone number:
Chris Myers 715-426-2075
chris@firstchurchrf.org

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

110 N. Third Street
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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NOVEMBER 1, 2021



First Communion Information for Parents

When do children at First Congregational Church begin taking Communion?

There is no uniform age at First Congregational Church when children begin participating in the Lord's Supper. Some children are pre-school age, others are in elementary school, and some wait until confirmation to begin taking Communion. The Bible and church history do not give decisive guidelines about the age to begin celebrating the Lord's Supper. The decision about when people are welcome at the Lord's Table has largely been made by local worshipping communities. Our practice is to include children when they and their parents think they are ready to participate.

How will I know when my child is ready?

Some parents choose infant communion for their children. Many parents wait until their children express an interest. Typically, children are ready to participate in Communion when they start asking questions about this sacrament. One important theme of Communion is inclusion: All are welcome at the table of the Lord. If a child feels excluded, it is a good time for that child to begin participating.

My child does not yet receive Communion. Should she/he still come forward?

Yes, all people are invited to come forward to the servers at the Communion distribution time. Children who will not be communing should keep their hands folded (as opposed to reaching out). This is a signal to the pastor and deacons that the child desires a blessing.

Sign Up Sheets: All of the current sign-up sheets are on the church website. Click on the "Connect" button at the top of the page and then select "Sign Ups/Forms."