

Weekly Word – For Sunday, November 7, 2021

Worship this week:

Throughout all generations God has been with the human family, especially when life and living was so difficult and so challenging. As we come into a season of thanks and anticipation we consider this Sunday the powerful, life-changing, life-giving presence of God--even in our own day. Come share the joy and the hope!!

This is our last worship service in the Fellowship Hall before we transition back to the Sanctuary. Worship is at 10:00 am, the choir leads us in song and we are still masking. Also, the Discipleship Committee is doing a special outdoor Coffee Fellowship this Sunday following worship with s'mores, apple donuts and apple cider (cold and hot). Join us out on the lawn for a fall treat!

The High School Youth Group meets for a movie at 6:00 pm in the Youth Room (popcorn provided!)

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/pHYKIh0f1LI>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Nov 7	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
	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 Outside on the Lawn
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Tues., Nov 9	6:00-8:00 pm	High School Youth Group Movie Night in the Youth Room
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., Nov 10	11:30 am-12:30 pm	Personnel Meeting
	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:15-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Years 1 & 2 (Grades 7 & 8)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Church Interns
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Nov 11	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Nov 14	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary 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 am-1:00 pm	Giving Thanks Meal To Go

Giving Thanks Meal—November 14: This year's Giving Thanks Meal will again be in to-go format. Sign up to enjoy turkey, potatoes, dressing, pie and sides. The cost is \$8 per person. Meals can be picked up in person after worship or you can drive by on Third Street between 11:30am and 1pm and a confirmand/intern will run it out to your car. Please sign up on the sign up table or online and indicate pie choice (pumpkin or apple) and pick up or drive thru. And please pray that next year we can enjoy a fun, in person meal in a packed Fellowship Hall!

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

Wednesday Family Meals: Each Wednesday night we are 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 and you must sign up by 4:00 pm Tuesday. 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. Here is the upcoming menu and sign-up link:

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday24>

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

Nov 24—No Wednesday Programming/Meals—Thanksgiving

Youth Group Gatherings:

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

Adult Forum: The Adult Forum is held **Sundays from 8:45–9:45 am** in the Youth Room.

Adult Bible Study: The group meets on **Wednesday afternoons from 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Youth Room.

Christmas Shoebox Project: 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.

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>

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 sign up:

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

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.

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>

Sign Up Sheets: All current sign-up sheets are on the website. Click on “Connect” and then “Sign Ups/Forms.”

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.

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.

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.

	Oct 31, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,555	\$ 395,984
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 407,528

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Building Fund Update:

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$546,538
Remaining Amount of Church Endowment Loan	\$300,000
Cash on Hand in the Building Fund	\$110,654
Interest Rate	4.725%
Monthly Payment	\$3,300

People:

- For the River Falls Varsity Soccer team advancing to the state tournament including our church interns Evan Luedtke and Justin Elsesser -- Go Wildcats!
- For our Sunday School and Wednesday School teachers and volunteers—you rock!
- For our choir helping to lead worship today—may your notes kindle joy in our hearts
- For the nearly 212 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. 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 – 8:30 am to Noon

Church Staff Contact:

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson 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