

Weekly Word – For Sunday, November 14, 2021

Worship this week:

Give Thanks! This Sunday is our annual Giving Thanks Sunday. There is a lot going on this Sunday.

*Our 7th and 8th graders receive their Servant of Christ Aprons

*We dedicate our financial pledges for 2022

*We enjoy a full Thanksgiving Meal in to go format (sign up below)

Join us at the 10 am worship service in the sanctuary (masked) as together we give God thanks and enjoy the fruits of the fall season as the choir leads us in song and communion is celebrated. Come ye Thankful People Come!

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

This Week:

Sun., Nov 14	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	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
Mon., Nov 15	5:00-6:00 pm	Building Finance Committee Meeting
Tues., Nov 16	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	6:30-7:30 pm	Boards and Committees Meetings
	7:30-8:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wed., Nov 17	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 Year 3 (Grade 9)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Nov 18	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Nov 21	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal
	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

Giving Thanks Meal—November 14: This year's Giving Thanks Meal will again be in to-go format. The cost is \$8 per person. Meals can be picked up in person after worship or you can drive by on Third Street between 11:30 am and 1:00 pm and a confirmand/intern will run it out to your car. And please pray that next year we can enjoy a fun, in person meal in a packed Fellowship Hall!

Dedication of 2022 Financial Pledges: This Sunday we dedicate our financial pledges for 2022. Please bring your completed pledges to worship or drop them off in the church office.

Memorial Service for Barb Wall: A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, November 13, at 12:00 pm** at Spirit of Grace Methodist Church (127 S 2nd Street) in River Falls. Face masks will be required. Pastor Chris will be preaching. Visitation will also be Saturday from 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the church and a luncheon will follow off site. Please continue to keep Barb's adult daughters Janet and JoEllen in your prayers.

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. To go meals can be picked up in the church alley in back of the church (enter on Maple and exit on Elm Streets). Here is the upcoming menu and sign-up link:

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday25>

Nov 24—No Wednesday Programming/Meals—Thanksgiving

Youth Group Gatherings:

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

Wed, November 17 - Middle School Youth Group

Sun, November 21 - High School Youth Group Service Project

Sun, November 28 - Middle School Youth Group 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: 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. We are collecting items and will fill the boxes and bags and deliver them to the Kinnic Rehab to show that we all 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. 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 call the church office. Please leave items in the bin or the office. Cash donations will be used to purchase any needed items. If you have questions, please contact Jean Smith at jsmithler@yahoo.com or at 715-781-6880 or call the church office.

Angels on Earth Giving Tree: If you would like to help some children have a better Christmas this year, please select an ornament from the tree and purchase a gift from their wish list. The unwrapped gift with the ornament needs to be at the church **no later than Thursday, December 9th**. Please give the Gift Cards to someone in the church office. If you would like to make a cash donation instead, please send the check (made out to First Congregational Church with “AOE” in the memo line) or cash to the church office. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Diane Welsh (651-334-3128 or 715-386-6620) or 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>

Advent Evening Prayer: Once again this Advent we will gather for Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights using our beloved Holden Evening Prayer. Join us on Wednesday December 1, 8 and 15 at 6:30 pm for this half hour worship service. Confirmation, church intern and youth groups will join us for worship then go to class or youth group. Wednesday meals will be served in both ‘in person’ and ‘to go’ formats. There will be no Wednesday service on Wednesday, December 22. Our Wednesday Schedule in Advent will be:

3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
5:15-6:00 pm	Family Meals
5:45-6:30 pm	Bell Practice
6:30-7:00 pm	Evening Prayer and beginning of Confirmation/Interns/Youth Group
7:00-7:30 pm	Second half of Confirmation/Interns/Youth Group
7:00-8:00pm	Choir Practice

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.

	Nov 7, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,050	\$ 400,534
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 416,190

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 gift of our Giving Thanks Meal, that it may kindle generosity and gratefulness in each of us
- For Mason Meyer who celebrates his first communion today, that he may grow in faith
- For the gift of the Giving Tree and the families it will bless
- 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