

Weekly Word – For Sunday, January 16, 2022

Worship this week:

Beyond the cold and Covid, is joy. This Sunday the gospel lesson from John 2 talks about the joy of a wedding when Jesus shows up and transforms water into wine. More than a miracle, it is sign that when Jesus shows up, there is enough, more than enough. Join us for worship this Sunday at 10am either in person, online or on the radio.

Link to Livestream Worship: https://youtu.be/VNH_o100TNI

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Jan 16	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 Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
Tues., Jan 18	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	6:30-7:30 pm	Boards and Committees Meetings
Wed., Jan 19	7:30-8:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Years 1 & 2 (Grades 7 & 8)
Thurs., Jan 20	6:30-7:30 pm	High School Youth Group
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sat., Jan 21	10:00-11:00 am	Judie Henning Visitation
	11:00-12:00 pm	Judie Henning Funeral
Sun., Jan 23	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	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

Annual Reports Due: All Committees, please submit your Annual Reports, preferably electronically, **as soon as possible** to Missy Luedtke at missy@firstchurchrf.org. Thank you!

Annual Meeting: Sunday, February 6: The 2021 Annual Meeting of the church will be Sunday, February 6 in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:00 am worship service. The Annual Meeting is the time the congregation receives updates from key committees and teams, passes budgets, received reports and elects officers. As we go through another COVID year, many of our key committees will provide updates on how they have pivoted and adjusted their ministries. We will also hear some good news about our Building Fund and the refinancing of our church Building loan at a significantly lower rate. Finally there will be a proposal to switch our electricity to a carbon free source thereby helping us better care for God's awesome, yet delicate creation. Because of the pandemic we cannot serve a lunch, so we expect the meeting to begin at 11:15 and run for slightly more than an hour. We hope to livestream the meeting, though voting will be done in person. Please pray for our current church leaders including moderator Joel Larsen and vice-moderator Kathy Rausch.

New Members to be Received on February 6: Thanks to our deacons who recently hosted the Inquirer's Class to those interested in church membership. We will be receiving new members on **Sunday, February 6 at the 10:00 am worship service**. Please contact the church office if you wish to join us as members.

Monday, January 31, 6:30 pm—“Climate Change and Sustainability: Pathways Ahead” - With climatologist Dr. Mark Seeley of the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Public Radio. This Learning Community is cosponsored by First Congregational UCC, Hope for Creation communities of faith, UWRF, the RF Municipal Utility, the River Falls Library and our community partners. It will be held at the River Falls Library with Dr. Seeley and 50 in-person participants (registration is required) and will also be available via YouTube or Facebook. To register to participate in person or to join the evening with Dr. Seeley on YouTube or Facebook go to <https://www.riverfallspubliclibrary.org/library-events.html>

Youth Group Gatherings:

Sunday, January 23—High School Youth Group Service Project

Wednesday, January 26—Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, January 30, 1:00-3:00 pm—Rock Climbing at UWRF (All ages)

Please sign up <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle5>

Wednesday, February 2—High School Youth Group

Sunday, February 6—Middle School Youth Group Bowling

Wednesday, February 9—Middle School Youth Group

Sunday, February 13—High School Youth Group Bowling

Wednesday School: Wednesday School is temporarily on hiatus due to rising COVID infections. Of particular concern for Wednesday School is the snack time when students remove their masks to eat. The tentative plan is to resume on January 19, 2022.

Spring Break Trip Cancelled: A reminder that the March Mission Trip to Back Bay was cancelled due to Covid.

Wednesday Family Meals: Meals will begin again February 1st.

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

Adult Bible Study: The Adult Bible Study group meets **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The group is now studying the Old Testament book of Amos. Discussion books are available in the church office for \$24.00. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

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.

Save The Date: St Olaf Bells Coming to First Congo for a Concert: Yet again the St Olaf Bell choir will be coming to First Congregation for a concert. This will be the third time the Bell Choir has performed at our church. With 15 ringers and a director, the St Olaf Bell Choir is nationally acclaimed musical group. They will perform in the sanctuary on Friday, February 25 at 7:00 pm. Matthew Myers, a senior at St Olaf and member of First Congregational Church, will be one of the students in the choir. Save the date, join us and spread the word!

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed: 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 and one person is needed at the Ramp 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.”

Church App: The church has a 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.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab ‘Give Online’

Free Money for Church Ministries: The church has 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.

	Dec 31, 2021
General Fund Income*	\$ 471,117.56
General Fund Expenses	<u>470,373.78</u>
2021 Net Income	<u>\$ 743.78</u>

	Jan 9, 2022
General Fund Income*	<u>\$ 41,246.80</u>

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

A new budget will be approved at the February 6th Annual Meeting.

Building Fund Update:

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$543,063
Remaining Amount of Church Endowment Loan	\$300,000
Cash on Hand in the Building Fund	\$122,048
Interest Rate	4.725%
Monthly Payment	\$3,300

People:

- For all who show up and do what they can despite all the current limitations and precautions, especially medical and educational staff, you are a blessing
- For Alex Plum who led the youth outing to Badland snow tubing last Sunday, may your body warm up!
- For the hope of an end to the pandemic, may it be soon
- For those who helped or will help celebrate the lives of Peg Thompson and Judie Henning at their Memorial services, may it bring comfort and joy
- For Sarah Plum, our choir director who received the 2022 Outstanding Young Choral Director Award for her work at RFHS, congratulations, we are proud of you!
- For those who will be fed from our generosity as we again support the ministry of Feed My Starving Children through our M&M Christmas offering

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: Farnum Fuller – farnumfuller@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com