

Weekly Word – For Sunday, February 27, 2022

Worship this week:

This Sunday is a special holiday. Not Christmas. Not Easter. Transfiguration Sunday. Not even Hallmark has a card for this day. Transfiguration Sunday happens every year on the last Sunday before we enter the season of Lent. Transfiguration simply means to change, profoundly change. This Sunday we hear the story of how Jesus was transfigured before the disciples' eyes and learn how we can experience that same change in our lives today. Join us as the Bell Choir performs and communion is celebrated at the 10am worship service.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/aAqcKVxSGs4>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Feb 27	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Bells 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
Tues., Mar 1	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Wed., Mar 2	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	Ash Wednesday Worship Service
	7:30-8:00 pm	Youth and Parent Meeting
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Mar 3	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Mar 6	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
	10:30-11:15 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

St. Olaf Bell Choir 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 a 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! The concert will also be livestreamed. **Please note that St. Olaf College requires either proof of vaccination or a negative covid test to attend the concert in person. This is their rule not ours. Thank you for gracefully abiding by their rules as we welcome them.**

Link to Livestream Concert: <https://youtu.be/MpoqPOKtBM0>

Sunday, February 27, 11:15 am—Fellowship Hall after Worship: Candice Anderson, Executive Director of the River Falls Food Pantry and Shelly Smith, Executive Director of Our Neighbors Place (ONP), will provide us important updates on the work, needs, and plans of both organizations, along with updates on volunteer opportunities in this time of ever-rising need. Church members active with the Pantry and ONP will join the conversation. Hosted by the Mission Education Committee, this is a unique opportunity to learn more about these local Mission Partners.

Ash Wednesday and Lent: **March 2 is Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of the season of Lent. This year we will again gather in the sanctuary for worship with the option of both imposition of ashes and communion. This is an All Worship Day for all of our confirmands, interns and their families. The Wednesday Family Meal will proceed it (sign up ahead of time). Each Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for Prayer Around the Cross, a brief 30-minute worship service of song, prayer and reflection. This year during Lent we will be reflecting on some of the 307 questions Jesus asked through his life and ministry and the 3 he answered. Join us.

Ash Wednesday Meal: A family meal will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 5:15 to 6:00 pm prior to Ash Wednesday worship at 6:30 pm. Please see below for online sign-up which must be made by Tuesday at 4:00 pm.

Special Youth and Parent Meeting After Ash Wednesday Service: All Middle & High School youth and parents are invited to a special gathering in Fellowship Hall after the Ash Wednesday service to talk about a potential mission trip to South Dakota, camping and Boundary Water trips this summer, as well as the long-delayed Boston trip for confirmands. Pastor Chris and Alex will both lead this 30-minute gathering. Join us!

Youth Group Gatherings:

Wed, Mar 2, Evening Ash Wednesday Service

Sun, Mar 6 – Middle & High School – Can Can Wonderland, depart 11:30am, return 4pm

- Please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle7>
- 775 Prior Avenue, Suite #004, St. Paul, MN 55104. Transportation will be provided for those who want it.
- Important info for Can Can Wonderland: Masks required. Covid Vaccination cards or negative test (within 72 hours of event) must be presented, and a photo ID if you are over the age of 18. More info on policies found at <https://cancanwonderland.com/covid-19/>

Wednesday Family Meals: The cost is \$8 per person with a family max 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 (enter on Maple and exit on Elm Streets) between 5:15 and 5:45 pm. Here is the upcoming menu:

Mar 2 - Boneless BBQ ribs, mac & cheese, butter & parsley potatoes, vegetable, roll

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday32>

Mar 9 - Roasted turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll

Mar 16 - Corned beef and cabbage, red potatoes and carrots OR Swedish meatballs, butter and parsley potatoes, vegetable, roll

Mar 23 - Parmesan crusted chicken over rice pilaf, salad, croissant

Mar 30 - Baked pork chop, garlic mashed potatoes, red cabbage & cooked apples, bread

Apr 6 - Meatloaf, baked potato, vegetable, bread

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 Youth Room. This is a great time to begin—or visit—as the group will started a new book on February 23. The new reading is *The Remarkable Ordinary* by Frederick Buechner. Copies are available in the church office for \$16.00. 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.

Relay For Life: The Relay for Life event will be **April 1, held at the River Falls High School** and that's no joke. This year's theme is "Around the World - A World Without Cancer." Our church has been involved in this event for many years and has raised more than \$12,000. Help us this year to raise more money for the American Cancer Society. The Relay for Life Event is a community event. It begins at 5:30 pm with the Spaghetti Dinner and then the Survivor Walk at 6:00 pm. Other highlights are the Luminary Hour at 9:30 pm with the announcement of "in honor of" or "in memory of" people affected by cancer and the Silent Auction. More information on opportunities to donate and chances to be involved are coming up. To be a member of our team or if you have questions, contact Deb Hoffman, 612-308-4945. Thank you in advance for all your help and support.

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.

	<u>Feb 20, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 23,781	\$ 127,413
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 72,272

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Mortgage Summary – As of February 1, 2022

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$495,000.00
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$93,967.85
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

People:

- For the huge decline in Covid numbers both nationally and locally
- For our Bell Choir director Jamie Mills with her tireless energy, and willingness to share her gifts with others—thank you!
- For Dr. Paul Farmer, a heroic doctor serving the neediest people in Haiti (Google him and you will be inspired), who died this past week at 62 doing what he loved—ministering to people—may he rest in peace
- For a break in the cold weather, a time to wash our dirty cars and enjoy being outside
- 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