

Weekly Word – For Sunday, March 20, 2022

Worship this week:

Where is your faith? That is the question Jesus asks us this week in the Gospel lesson from Luke 8:22-25, where he stills a storm in front of some nervous disciples. If faith is trust, how can we learn to be more trusting of God and others? Join us this Sunday as Jamie, Dave and Sarah provide special music, Sunday School resumes after a week off for Spring Break, and communion is celebrated at the 10am worship service.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/30MTaxxG1aQ>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Mar 20	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
Tues., Mar 22	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., Mar 23	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal
	5:45-6:15 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:00 pm	Lenten Worship Service
	7:00-7:30 pm	Confirmation Year 3 (Grade 9)
	7:00-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Mar 24	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Mar 27	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

Ukraine Relief: Many of you are asking what you can do for the people of Ukraine. Please pray and please consider making a financial contribution to help them.

Pray for changed hearts. Pray for world leaders to find a way to peace. Pray for people fleeing violence that they may find safe places to stay. Pray for those opening their homes and schools and churches.

Please also consider making a financial contribution. Working through our partner church in Hungary, the Reformed Church, which borders the Ukraine and has been housing refugees in houses and churches, we will regularly send financial support. Our first deadline in this coming Monday, March 21. Any check or gift received by then will be sent over to Hungary immediately to help those in need. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Now That's A Good Question: This Lent we are going to wrestle with some of the big questions of faith and life. Starting on Ash Wednesday and going all the way through Easter, we will take a cue from Jesus and dive deep into scripture, unpack stories and help us answer the question—what does Jesus want us to do today? During our Wednesday Lenten services, Prayer Around the Cross, we will take Sunday's question and help answer it by praying and singing together, as well as hearing some of our most beloved children's stories along with some new stories. Together may we grow in faith and love this Lent.

Ash Wednesday: What are you looking for? John 1:38

Lent 1: Who do you say that I am? Matthew 16: 5

Lent 2: What do you want me to do for you? Mark 10:51, Luke 18:41

Lent 3: Where is your faith? Luke 8:25

Lent 4: Do you see this woman? Luke 7:44

Lent 5: What must I do to inherit eternal life? Luke 18:18, Matthew 19:16

Lent 6: What then shall we do? Luke 3:10

Maundy Thursday: Do you know what I have done for you? John 13:12

Good Friday: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Matthew 27:46

Easter: Why do you look for the living among the dead? Luke 24:5

Wednesday Lenten Schedule: With the arrival of Lent, our Wednesday church schedule changes slightly.

3:45-5:15 pm—Wednesday School

5:15-6:00 pm—Family Meals In Person (sign up!)

5:15-5:45 pm—Family Meals Drive Thru (sign up!)

5:45-6:30 pm—Bell Practice

6:30-7:00 pm—Lenten Worship: Prayer Around the Cross; Confirmation Part One for Parents, Interns, Youth Group & Confirmands

7:00-7:30 pm—Confirmation/Interns/Youth Group Part Two

7:00-8:15 pm—Choir Practice

Youth Group Gatherings:

Wed, Mar 23 – Middle School Youth Group

Wed, Mar 30 – Interns

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. You may now eat either in the Fellowship Hall serving between 5:15 and 6:00 pm or 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 23 - Parmesan crusted chicken over rice pilaf, salad, croissant

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday35>

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

Apr 6 - Meatloaf, baked potato, vegetable, bread

Community Event at St. Bridget's Church: In Our Backyard: Human Trafficking 101, **Tues, March 22** from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

Relay For Life: Looking for something to do on April 1st that will make you feel good with your participation, try the **Relay for Life event on April 1, 2022, held at the River Falls High School**. This year's theme is "Around the World - A World Without Cancer." This event allows the community to get together for a few hours to honor or remember loved ones and their caregivers affected by cancer. It's an opportunity to raise dollars for the American Cancer Society (ACS), who will use these funds for research and ways to help those affected by the illness. Our church has been involved in this event for many years and has raised more \$12,000.

Our team's first fundraiser was the Soup night held Wednesday, February 16 and raised over \$350. On Sunday, **March 20 and 27**, there will be a Relay for Life team member in the Fellowship Hall for you to find out more

information about the event, donate to the team (which goes to ACS), or purchase luminaries. Luminaries are lunch bags decorated 'in honor of' or "in memory of" of loved ones affected by cancer. There will be markers and crayons available to decorate the bags. Each bag cost \$5, and the funds go to ACS. The bags are used to decorate the River Falls High School gym railing and are lit up with Christmas lights for the Luminary lighting and the reading of the persons honored and/or remembered at 9:30 pm.

The Relay for Life Event begins at 5:30 pm with the Spaghetti Dinner and then the Survivor Walk at 6:00 pm. Another fun activity at the event is the Silent Auction from 6–11:00 pm. Items are donated to the silent auction by the teams participating and other people/businesses of the community. Items range from baskets with themes like; chocolate, wine, movies, or bath items. Other items to bid on are tickets for area events, meals, crafts, golfing opportunities and sometimes outdoor furniture.

If walking around the gym is not your thing, there are also games going on, food and other items for sale in the lobby of the high school, fun music, and a wonderful chance to visit with friends and/or meet other people affected by the illness. The Relay event is truly a chance to help others and yourself, through sharing time with friends and raising funds to reduce the devastation of cancer.

To join our team google: Relay for Life Pierce County WI, sign in (with your information), and tap on the join a team button. Our team is **1st Congregational Church**. For more information or if you want to donate, call or text Deb Hoffman, 612-308-4945. Thank you in advance for all your help and support.

Music at First Church Concert: On **Sunday, April 3, at 3:00 pm**, there will be a program of music including Gershwin and Porter in the sanctuary with a reception to follow in the fellowship hall. Performers are Maria Jette and Dan Chouinard from the Twin Cities. Join us!

Learning Community - Tues, April 5, 6:00 pm, "Solar Power: Bringing It Home," Fellowship Hall: This Learning Community Gathering will provide homeowners anywhere in the area a "one-stop" opportunity to learn about home solar installation and solar power options. Area solar installers, utility reps, and a rep from the statewide Focus on Energy group will join River Falls Municipal Utility staff and current solar homeowners to provide information on the process and outcomes as we expand our sustainability commitments.

Volunteers Needed for the Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt on **Saturday, April 9**, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm at the River Falls High School. Volunteers also need on **Friday, April 8**, from 4:00–5:00 pm at Wellhaven Senior Apartments Dining Room to help put treats into Easter eggs. For more info, contact Rose at 715-781-7032. Please sign up to volunteer at the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA8AA2AAAFD0-easter1>

Easter Breakfast – Sunday, April 17, 8:00-10:15 am: Join us on Easter Sunday **from 8:00 am until 10:15 am** as our young people again serve the Easter Breakfast. This year's updated menu includes eggs benedict, rosemary potatoes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and homemade biscuits with apple, peach, or blueberry toppings. They will also serve orange and apple juice, milk and water, coffee and tea. **Please sign up by Wednesday, April 13.** We ask for a donation of \$8 per person all of which goes to our Youth Fund for mission trips and opportunities. Please sign up and bring a friend! <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-easter>

Easter Lilies are offered for you to honor or remember someone and grace our worship space with beauty. The lilies will be displayed on Easter morning and may be taken home following the 10:30 service. To order an Easter Lily for \$15, please fill out the form on the sign-up table and place in the offering plate or leave in the office. **Orders must be placed by April 10.** Proceeds go to our youth fund.

Earth Fest 2022, Sunday, April 24, 2:00-5:00 pm is taking shape for Glen Park! Leaders from numerous organizations are working together with *Hope for Creation* members and partners to make the afternoon one of the biggest events of spring. There will be music all afternoon, food, booths and displays, electric vehicles, tree planting, games and other activities for children and youth... a great afternoon for everyone! See the poster on the bulletin board and put the day on your calendar now!!

Vacation Bible School: Please mark your calendars for the 2022 VBS! The dates are **August 1–4, 2022**. Our plan is to return to a pre-pandemic VBS format. This means we need lots of people: kids to participate, teens to help, and adults to guide students. Please register your willingness to help by signing up on the link or the volunteer list on the sign-up table: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers1>

Empty Pill Bottles: The River Falls Lions Club is collecting empty pill bottles, both prescription and over the counter, to send to Africa where there is an urgent need. The bottles will be washed, and the labels soaked off before they are shipped. A blue collection tub is in the gathering area. Please see Carole Mottaz with questions.

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. The group is reading *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.

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>Mar 13, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 11,996	\$ 140,700
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 108,999

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People:

- For a safe and needed spring break, that God may grant us all renewal whether we travel or enjoy a staycation
- For a peak at our upcoming spring weather this week which melted a lot of snow—bring it on!
- For the huge decline in Covid numbers both nationally and locally
- For Neal and Caren Prochnow celebrating 64 years together on St Patrick's Day when Neal asked Caren on their first date—may God grace you with ever growing love
- For Alex Plum, one of our Youth Ministers, that he may grow in faith and continue to help our youth grow their faith
- For the return of the Prayer Around the Cross Lenten worship services, may they kindle faith, hope and love in us all
- 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—please have them returned by April 15!

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

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Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com

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