

## Weekly Word – For Sunday, April 3, 2022

### Worship this week:

What must I do to inherit eternal life? That is the question Jesus asks us this Sunday in the gospel lesson for Mark 10. It is a simple question and Jesus gives us a simple, powerful answer. Join us for worship at 10:00 am. Join us also for a special 'Music at First Church' concert at 3:00 pm this Sunday as well (details below).

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/8aae7dAM-tQ>

### Sunday Bulletin

#### This Week:

Sun., Apr 3	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
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
	3:00-4:30 pm	Music at First Church Concert
Mon., Apr 4	5:00-6:00 pm	Endowment Grant Committee Meeting
Tues., Apr 5	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	6:00-7:30 pm	Learning Community Gathering – Solar for Homes
Wed., Apr 6	12:00-1:00 pm	Investment Committee Meeting
	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
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sat., Apr 9	10:00am-12:00pm	Visitation and Memorial Service for Jean Hagberg
Sun., Apr 10	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

**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 Ukraine and has been housing refugees in houses and churches, we will regularly send financial support. Our first deadline was Monday, March 21, and we sent \$5000. **Our next deadline will be Monday, April 4.** 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.

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, April 6 – Middle School Youth Group

Wed, April 13 – No Meeting

Wed, April 20 – Interns

Wed, April 27 – Middle School Youth Group

Wed, May 4 – End of Year Celebration

**Wednesday Family Meals:** This is our last Wednesday Night Family Meal for the season. You can eat in person from 5:15 to 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall or to go from 5:15 to 5:45pm with pick up in the back alley. We do need a dishwasher for this Wednesday! Cost is \$8 per person with a family max of \$25. Sign up by 4pm Tuesday please. Here is the last menu:

Apr 6 - Meatloaf, mac & cheese, baked potato, vegetable, bread

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday37>

**Relay for Life Event - April 1, 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 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.

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 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. The baskets have 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.

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 for all your help and support.

**Music at First Church Concert:** Join us **Sunday, April 3rd at 3:00 pm** for a free concert featuring Maria Jette and Mary Jo Gothmann. Travel back in time to 1922 for an imaginary house concert at Downton Abbey featuring wildly popular art songs by ladies, folk songs, and more! Note: Masks are required at this event.

**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 French toast stix for kids and orange & apple juice, milk, water, coffee and tea. **Please sign up by Wed, 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 & 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!!

**Sign up to volunteer at Earth Fest 2022!** On **April 24**, volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks throughout the Earth Fest afternoon at Glen Park. To volunteer go to the link, choose what you’d like to do, the time slot you’re available, and your contact information: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4baead2aa2f58-earth> Help make this event a memorable gathering in our ongoing commitment to care for creation!

**Mental Health First Aid Class--May 11 and 18:** Mission Ed Committee will sponsor a training for adults 18 and older, provided by St. Croix Valley United Way, and held at the church from **6:00-8:45 pm**. The course teaches skills to respond to signs of mental illness and substance use in adults. Costs of the course will be covered for church members by Mission Ed; participation is limited to 20 people. **Attending both nights and completing 2 hours pre-work online is required.** The course can be used for continuing education with approval of an employer. **Please sign up by April 25.** For more information, contact Sally Steneman, [stenesal9@gmail.com](mailto:stenesal9@gmail.com) Sign up on the table or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-mental>

**Softball News:** Our church sponsors a softball team in the River Falls Church Family League. The family league is a co-ed division. The league prefers players to be 14 years old for safety reasons and city league rules. The co-ed description requires teams to have three women on the field at all times, so ladies please don’t be afraid to sign up. The games are played on Monday evenings at Hoffman Park. Games will begin the end May and continue until the second week of August. Practices will begin in April. Come join in the fun & laughs. If you are interested, please sign up on the table or online. If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715) 781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612) 308-4945. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-church2>

**New Church Photo Directory:** Online scheduling is available for photo sessions held on **May 31 to June 4**. To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **wi192** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.** Please call the church office with any questions or for help scheduling.

**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>

**Freddy's Pantry at UWRF–Donations Requested:** Freddy's Pantry is part of the River Falls Food Pantry serving UWRF students. It is located in Rodli Hall and is open and free for all students. It opened in February 2022 and has already served about 10% of the student population. There is a need on campus for food that requires little to no food prep. For more information, please see the link: <https://www.uwrf.edu/AcademicSuccess/Freddys-Pantry.cfm>. A donation box is in the Narthex. Items requested include:

- Single-serve oatmeal or cereal
- Single-serve and microwavable meals (mac & cheese, ravioli, beefaroni, etc.)
- Protein bars
- Juice boxes/Capri Sun
- Tampons
- small bags of chips/snacks
- Beef or meat sticks

**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](https://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](https://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 27, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 16,768	\$ 174,847
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 128,817

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**People:**

- For our 20 church interns who met this past week, that they may continue to grow in faith, love and confidence
- For Rene and Tim Bylander who celebrated their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Monday, may God grace them with many more happy years together
- For the \$5000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For the Anderson family who are transitioning our outdoor church decorations from winter to spring, may our weather follow!
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - [stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org)

Mission: Dave Ostendorf - [dave@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:dave@firstchurchrf.org)

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)

Music: Jamie Mills - [degolierjamie@gmail.com](mailto:degolierjamie@gmail.com)

Choir: Sarah Plum – [sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com)

Building: Farnum Fuller – [farnumfuller@gmail.com](mailto:farnumfuller@gmail.com)

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - [timthefixitguy@gmail.com](mailto:timthefixitguy@gmail.com)