

Weekly Word – For Sunday, April 10, 2022

Worship this week:

Sunday's worship is a journey. We begin with Jesus' literal journey down from the Mount of Olives and into Jerusalem to celebrate the festival of Passover. He was greeted with great joy. Just as the week progressed for Jesus, so too our worship moves from palms to passion, from shouts of "Hosanna" to cries of "Crucify." Join us for worship at 10:00 am.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/ZnFbVb3hmuk>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., Apr 10	8:30-9:45 am	Choir Practice
	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
Tues., Apr 12	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., Apr 13	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
		No Confirmation Class (Attend MT/GF Worship)
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Apr 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	6:30-7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Fri., Apr 15	6:30-7:30 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
Sat., Apr 16	10:00am-12:00pm	Easter Breakfast Set Up
Sun., Apr 17	8:00-10:15 am	Easter Breakfast Served in the Fellowship Hall
	8:45-9:45 am	Adult Forum in the Youth Room
	8:45-11:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:00-10:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	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 \$5,000. **Our next deadline will be Monday, April 18.** Thank you for your prayerful support.

Youth Group Gatherings:

Wed, April 13 – No Meeting

Wed, April 20 – Interns

Wed, April 27 – Middle School Youth Group

Wed, May 4 – End of Year Celebration

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 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, 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 5 or more in your family, please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is not available Saturday or Sunday because we will be doing paper sign-ups at church. **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.

Mother Bear Project: Our Mother Bear Ministry has ended. Thanks to everyone who donated time, money, talent, and supplies. The nationwide Mother Bear Project, which is based in Minneapolis, is still going. You can find more information at <http://motherbearproject.org/>

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>Apr 3, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 7,165	\$ 178,512
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 138,726

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Mortgage Summary – As of April 1, 2022

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$492,501.50
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$95,661.03
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

People:

- For the over \$7000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Susan Walden and Evelyn Purdy, our faithful Wednesday Night Meal volunteers who enabled us to resume this ministry, may you rest from your labors with our thanks
- For our church interns, especially Anna Anderson, Conner Rude, Ryan and Evan Luedtke along with our Youth Minister Alex Plum, who enabled us to offer drive thru service for our Wednesday meal program, bless you!
- For Caren and Neal Prochnow who joined the church 50 years ago this Sunday, Palm Sunday of 1972!
- For all those who will be fed at the Easter Breakfast, may it bring joy all of us
- For our church and musicians who each week grace us with their gifts, thank 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—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

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