

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ www.firstchurchrf.org

April 1, 2022

*No matter who you are,
no matter where you are
on your spiritual journey,
you are welcome here!*

As Jesus' courageous disciples,
living God's grace, we strive to:

- Worship faithfully
- Welcome openly
- Grow spiritually
- Care passionately
- Serve generously



Pastor's Page

Beacon Gatherings

Beacons are lights set up high to guide and gather people. A beacon is a good image of our call in Matthew 5:15 to be a light that shines in the darkness. Or as that song we often sing around here reminds us—this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine!

All church members and friends are to join us at one of four Beacon Gatherings in the Fellowship Hall in May. We need to regather together, to see, greet and eat with one another again. God is doing some amazing things in our faith community gifting us with opportunities. We have even created a new church video

which will be premiered at these gatherings. We will also hear a brief presentation from the Church Finance Team about the upcoming Capital Campaign and ways you can participate in it. Refreshments will be served and childcare is available. Join us at the Beacon Gatherings!

May 10—1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

May 12—1:00 pm and 6:30 pm

It is time that we start gathering together again. It is time that we start seeing one another and greeting one another in person again. It is time for us to let our light shine before others, so that together with God leading us, we may all see better. Join us!

Pastor Chris

Join us *All are welcome!*

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

April 10th Palm Sunday 10:00AM

April 14th Maundy Thursday 6:30PM

April 15th Good Friday 6:30PM

April 17th Easter Celebration 9:00 & 10:30AM



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RIVER FALLS

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Pastor Dave Retirement Celebration

Join us on **Sunday, May 15** as we celebrate Pastor Dave Ostendorf's ministry among us. For the past 8 years as our Minister for Community and Outreach, Dave has helped us connect our faith to the larger world. He has organized the Learning Community and countless outreach and mission programs. As he retires from that position, we invite you to join us for worship that day 10:00 am at which Dave will preach. Following worship there will be a presentation during Coffee Fellowship to honor him and his ministry.

Please keep Dave and his wife Roz in your prayers as he prepares for this change. Please also keep our Church Council in your prayers as they seek to find qualified candidates to join our ministry team. And please join us as we celebrate Dave and his ministry among us on Sunday, May 15.



Sunday Schedule

8:30 am—Coffee ready!

8:45-9:45 am—Adult Forum

9:00-9:45 am—Music Practice

10:00 am—Worship and Sunday School in Sanctuary

10:30 am—Kids Preschool thru 8th Grade leave for Sunday School

11:00-11:30 am—Coffee Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

11:15 am—Sunday School Ends

11:30 am—12:30 pm—Middle or High School Youth Group

We are worshipping in the sanctuary and no longer require masks. Please continue to pray for our church leadership as they seek to find ways for us to gather both safely and faithfully.



Easter Breakfast

Join us on Easter Sunday from **8:00 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 as well as french toast sticks for the kids. They will also serve orange and apple juice, milk and water, coffee and tea.

We ask for a donation of \$8 per person which goes to our Youth Fund for mission trips and opportunities. Please sign up and bring a friend!

Easter Worship will be at 9:00 and 10:30 am with choir and communion. Join us!



Easter Lilies

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.

Planning Your Good Funeral

In this world, the only thing that can be certain is...death and taxes. Hopefully you already have a good handle on your taxes (if not April 15 is coming soon!), but we at church can definitely help you with the first part. All of us will die. And a gift you can give your family is to plan your good funeral. Following up on a class Pastor Chris conducted back in 2019, on **Sunday, May 22 from 8:45 to 9:45 am** in the Fellowship Hall, Pastor Chris will again conduct a Planning Your Good Funeral workshop which involves for things:

Planning: Doing this work now is a gift we can give to our family. A helpful hand out will include a one-page document to fill out and give to your family.

Your: You get to help plan your celebration of life—how cool is that?

Good: There is such a thing as a good funeral -it is celebrative and involves tears and laughter

Funeral: Pastor will talk about the differences between Funeral, Memorial Services and Celebrations of Life



There are two wonderful adventures planned for this summer:

The **South Dakota Trip** will be to Pine Ridge reservation and include stops at Mt. Rushmore and the Badlands. The dates are **June 20-25** and cost should be about \$400. Scholarships will be available. A flyer is available at church with details. Sign up by April 25 through rfyouthgroup@gmail.com.

And we will have 2 groups headed to the **Boundary Waters July 17-21**. Leave Sunday afternoon, camp at Sawbill Lake, then enter the BWCA for 3 days, then back. No experience necessary! Cost should be around \$250. A flyer is available at church with details. Sign up by April 25 through rfyouthgroup@gmail.com.



Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars for the 2022 VBS. The theme is *Great Joy!* VBS dates are **August 1-4, 2022, 9:00-11:30 am**. Registrations are

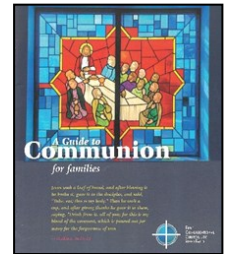
available on the church website <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/sign-ups-forms>. Please register your child and spread the word. All are welcome!

VBS Volunteers

We plan to return to a pre-pandemic VBS format for the summer of 2022. We need many adult and teen volunteers. Please volunteer at this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers1> or by signing the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy.

Communion Resource for Families

First Congregational Church has a new *Guide to Communion*. The resource was specifically designed for families, but it could be helpful for adults as well. Copies were distributed to all Sunday School students during class, and additional copies are available on the sign-up table or in the church office.



Church Scholarship Reminder

Church Scholarships are due in the office in paper form by **Sunday, May 1** and will be awarded on Graduation Sunday, June 5. Scholarships are available for graduating High School Seniors who wish to continue their education in college, vocations or tech schools. Continuing scholarships are available for those already in higher education. Letters of recommendation and/or essays are required. Forms are available on the church website or via this link: <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/sign-up-sheets>

Adult Forum

The Adult Forum discusses the Sunday's Bible texts prior to worship on Sunday mornings. The conversations focus on identifying context, asking questions, and considering what the text says to our lives and the world. Please come! All are welcome. The Adult Forum meets in the Youth Room, **Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:45 am**.



Solar Thanks

Thanks to all who came out for latest 'Learning Community' to learn more about rooftop solar installation. Special thanks to Pastor Dave and Mike Noreen for arranging speakers and homeowners to talk about their experience with solar. If you missed the presentation you can view it again on the church YouTube channel: <https://firstchurchrf.org/livestreams/96>

People in the Pews:

Natasha Rayne

I grew up in Suriname. Suriname is a country on the North East coast of South America. Growing up my family moved quite a bit across Suriname. My parents were ministry leaders and my dad was a pastor and we sometimes moved because of my dad's new ministry assignment. I now live in Ellsworth, WI. I have been attending UCC now for a little over 2 years. What keeps me coming back is the way the word of God is taught; in a simple and applicable way. My favorite quote:

"But I think my mistakes became the chemistry for my miracles. I think that my tests became my testimonies." — TD Jakes. This quote reminds me to trust God with my life, knowing that He makes all my trials and tests work out for my good even when I can't see how. My parents were directors of a Seminary for a number of years and as a family we lived on campus. My favorite childhood memory is from my siblings and I and some kids from the neighborhood going for long hikes in the dense forest behind the seminary campus, sometimes even during mandatory nap time or homework time.

I think that what brought me comfort during covid is all the creative ways me and my husband Peter and my family found to spend time with each other; gardening, going for walks, and other outdoor activities.



Mother Bear Project

Our Mother Bear Ministry has ended. Thank you 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/>

Mortgage Summary—As of April 1

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 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 |



Judith Permann Memorial Service

Please be advised of a Memorial Service for Judith Permann, wife of our previous minister the Rev. Del Permann, will be here at First Congregational on **Saturday, June 18 at 11:00 am** with visitation an hour before and a lunch to follow. Judy will be interred in the church Memorial Garden. Please keep Del, adult daughters Rachel and Jennifer, and granddaughter Elena in your prayers.

New Church Photo Directory

Online scheduling is available for photo sessions held on **May 31 to June 4**. To schedule your photography appointment online, either use the QR Code or 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.



Sustainability Pledge

The Church Council has unanimously endorsed the **Sustainability Pledge** circulating in the community by *Hope for Creation* churches and partners, pledging to live as a church “aligned with the sustainable community values of social, economic, and environmental justice.” Churches, businesses, and organizations throughout River Falls are signing the **Pledge** as the community continues its deepening and highly visible commitments to sustainable living.

All of us (individually and/or as households) are also encouraged to sign the **Pledge**, which is available on the table in the Narthex and at **Earth Fest 2022**.

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 contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.



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 tab 'Give Online'

Funeral Help Needed

One of the many important ways we as a church community support one another is by serving meals to families after a Funeral or Memorial Service. We are in need of people to provide cakes/bars and to help work at funeral luncheons. Please consider being a part of this ministry by contacting the church office.



Care Givers Needed

The Church Care Team identifies shut-ins and senior friends and then matches other church members to visit them in their homes. It is a tangible way of making the love of Christ visible. Many wonderful friendships have emerged from these caring relationships. The Care Team is in need of a few more members who would be willing to be matched with a senior or shut-in. Please contact the church office to volunteer or the current Care Team Members (Jan Hansen, Jill and Merle Paulson, Vicki Hoffman, Kathy Wochomurka, Callie Trauttmiller, Diane Welsh, Pastors Chris and Dave).

Treasurer's Report

| | Week of Apr 3, 2022 | Year to Date |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| 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.

Church Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Chris Myers—chris@firstchurchrf.org
Office: Missy Luedtke—missy@firstchurchrf.org
Education: Stacy 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

Engaging the Word, Engaging the World...

Upcoming

Thursday, April 21, 6:00 p.m. “The Mental Health Impacts of Our Climate Change.” Featuring Dr. Christie Manning, Director of Sustainability and faculty in the Department of Environmental Studies at Macalester College. Sam live through the RF Library Facebook and YouTube channel.

Sunday, April 24, 1:30 p.m. Walk Fest to the Earth Fest! Gather at church to stroll to Glen Park for the Earth Fest 2022 celebration. If you’re driving plan to park at the High School and take the Shuttle, or get to the Park area early for on-street parking. Lawn chairs are welcome!

Earth Fest 2022, Sunday afternoon, April 24 is taking shape for Glen Park!

- 45 (yes, 45!) organizations will have tables and booths and displays telling the stories of their environment and sustainability commitments.
- Chris Silver and his band and the Barley Jacks will provide great music!
- Our own Sarah Plum will have her “Uninstrumental Choir” to sing and the UWRF Pep Band will liven up the Park!
- A variety of electric vehicles will be on site to drive!
- Food, food, and more food!! Free trees, free light bulbs!
- Games and activities for children and youth!

It will be one of the biggest events of the Spring, so plan to be there!!!!

Updating

The Kairos Call to Action Newsletter of the Creation Care Team is a great resource on the environment/sustainability work of UCC churches in Wisconsin, providing news, updates, and innovative actions being pursued by congregations across the State. Sign up for it at <https://www.wcucc.org/kairos-call-to-action/kairos-call-to-action-newsletter/>

Among Friends Is Back, Tuesdays at the Church! For information contact Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn (715-307-1182) or Norma Revels (651-260-5725).

Unfolding

May 11 and 18 Mission Ed Committee will sponsor a "Mental Health First Aid" class, a training for adults 18 and older, provided by St. Croix Valley United Way, and held in-person at the church from 6:00-8:45 p.m. 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. 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 at the Narthex table by April 24. For more information contact Sally Steneman, stenesal9@gmail.com



Because Sometimes You Just Need to Party

On **Thursday, July 7**, the church is hosting an epic kick off to River Falls Days Weekend: a pizza truck and a Bluegrass band out on the church lawn. Recognizing we all need something fun to look forward to at this time of the year and recognizing also how long this pandemic has dragged on, the Music Committee will be hosting a concert out on the church lawn with a local Bluegrass band providing the entertainment. Details closer as the date approaches. Mark your calendars!



Church Softball News

Once again our church will sponsor a softball team in the River Falls Church Family League. The family league is a co-ed division allowing players to play at the age 14. 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 and play. The games are played on Monday evenings at Hoffman Park. Games will begin around the end May and continue until the second week of August. Practices will begin in April. Come join in the fun and laughs.

If you are interested in playing on our team, please sign up on the softball signup sheet in the gathering area or online <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-church2>.

If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715) 781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612) 308-4945.

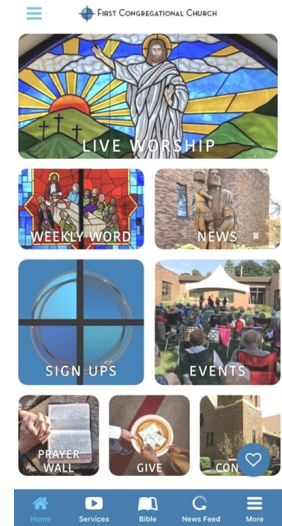


Church App

The church has a mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code to the left (directions below). The App includes: Live and Past Services, Weekly Word, Newsletters, Sign Up Sheets, Events Calendar, Prayer Wall, Giving, Bible, News Feed, Push Notifications. Call the church office with any questions or if you need help.

Five easy steps to get our church app on your mobile device:

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code above or visit: <https://bit.ly/FCCApp>
3. Click on the link that pops up
4. Install the Church App - Tithe.ly onto your device
5. Open the Church App (skip login if prompted) and get connected with our church



Altar Flowers

Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or on the church website:

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

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. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the worship service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Coffee Fellowship Hosts and Liturgists Needed

Coffee Fellowship Hosts will be asked to serve Best Maid cookies which are in the church freezer, make lemonade and/or serve coffee. All the materials are provided, you will simply need to serve and clean up (at this point we are using disposable cups). Sign up at church or on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists will lead us in the Call to Worship and one of the Scripture Lessons. The material will be emailed out on Thursday to practice. Sign up at church or on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Please note church interns can receive credit for either of these activities. Thank you for volunteering in these important ministries as we continue our journey.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 22, 2022

Treasurer's report: We will make first half payments to our mission partners soon. PPP funds from last year will be pulled into the General Fund in March as we need to spend that money this year; this will help with mission payments. Mission Ed has added a line for "refugee relief" into their committee budget but haven't fully determined how to allocate this money. Our new bookkeeping service is working well for payroll, but their process for generating Picture the Bible and Among Friends reports needs some fine-tuning. A bookkeeper is on site once monthly.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sustainability Pledge - Pastor Dave presented a Sustainability Pledge developed by Hope for Creation. The City of River Falls, the RF school board, and UWRF have all expressed support for this pledge. The pledge will also be at the local Earth Day fest on April 24, which is shaping up to be a large event. Joel Larsen (Moderator) and Rose Rude (Mission Ed chair) signed the pledge.

Capital Campaign update - Joel. Video was filmed last week and we are planning some small group gatherings starting after Easter. The campaign has a \$495,000 goal in order to (1) pay off our bank debt (2) redo sound systems in the sanctuary & Fellowship Hall and (3) fund a new church sign

Pastor Dave's retirement - his last day is May 15. We discussed ways to honor him on that day. We also discussed early steps in the search for a replacement. A search committee is being formed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Church "reopening" is essentially done. Easter breakfast will be in person this year and we will have two services, 9:00 and 10:30 am. Youth have two trips scheduled this summer (South Dakota Pine Ridge Reservation immersion trip and a Boundary Waters trip). Boston trip for confirmands past & present is scheduled for April 20-23, 2023.

Church van update - Delay continues due to supply issues. Our deposit was put down in July 2021

Weekly communion - We'll continue at least through the end of the program year

MINISTRY UPDATES:

Christian Education - (1) Collaborating with Mission Ed on a curriculum about mental health awareness & wellbeing for people in all ages & stages of life. They hope to offer program events next year. (2) We have a new, revised booklet on communion for families. An example was passed around (3) Christian Ed is planning to write an endowment grant to get a wireless microphone for use in the youth room

Deacons - They are planning to switch to an all gluten-free Communion bread recipe. Samples were provided. They hope to make the switch at Easter.

Discipleship did not meet

Mission Education - (1) Mental Health First Aid training is scheduled for May 11 and 18. The committee will sponsor up to 20 people to do this. Some people may be able to get professional continuing education credit for this program (2) They are discussing reviving the veterans' group (3) \$5000 has been donated and earmarked for Ukrainian relief (3) Rose is hoping to start a donation box for items for the UWRF food pantry, and will have a wish list in the bulletin (4) Planning a washcloth-and-towel collection event for the Our Neighbors' Place shower facility (5) Learning Community on solar energy planned for April 5, 6 pm at church

Music - Maria Jette & Mary Jo Gothmann will give a program (piano & voice) on April 3 at church. Refreshments afterward.

Trustees - They are installing programmable thermostats in downstairs rooms. Indoor & outdoor spring cleaning planned for April 30, 9 am-1 pm. All are invited

Welcoming - Continuing to manage coffee fellowship & welcoming schedules

Pastor - (1) New church directory planned for this spring. Diane Welsh is heading up the effort. Photos will be taken the last week of May and the first week of June. (2) Interns have suggested a cornhole league in the Fellowship Hall over the winter - perhaps a six-week tournament. We're in favor.

NEXT MEETING: April 19, 2022

SERVE generously

Simpson Shelter Needs

- Twin, full, and queen size blankets and sheet sets—new
- Pillows—new
- White t-shirts—new, sizes small & medium
- Large tubs of Country Time Lemonade and Kool Aid mixes (we use these in Igloo containers for meals)
- Hot sauce
- Coffee—ground, caffeinated
- Products for textured and natural hair
- New shower curtains and shower rings

There is a box at the church for donations. Thank you!

Save Family Fresh Receipts

ARC gets \$1,000 for every \$150,000 in receipts, so every dollar counts. ARC is the agency funded by local churches to help address the immediate needs of people in our community (rent, utility, gas, repair help). A box for receipts is on the back table.

Save Your Batteries to Recycle!

We have a container available for recycling all those old, depleted batteries. Start saving them now and bring them to church. We'll pass them on to the recyclers and keep them out of landfills and the environment in our ongoing commitment to sustainability.

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 March 21 and we sent \$5,000. Our next deadline will be **Monday, April 18**. Thank you for your prayerful support.

amazon smile Free Money for Church Ministries

The church has created an Amazon Smile account through which the church can receive a portion of the price of each purchase you make through Amazon. 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. Last quarter the church received over \$100 for this account, but that amount could grow greatly if you add the church to your Amazon account. Do it today!

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.

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



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Office Phone: 715-425-2052

E-mail: office@firstchurchrf.org

Website: www.firstchurchrf.org

STAFF

Chris Myers, Pastor

Dave Ostendorf, Minister for Community and Outreach

Stacy Johnson, CE Minister

Missy Luedtke, Office Administrator

Joel Larsen, Moderator

Alex and Sarah Plum, Youth Ministers

Jamie Mills, Music Coordinator and Bell Choir Director

Sarah Plum, Choir Director

Marsha Pearson, Organist

Terry Mithun, Organist

Tim Bylander, Building Supervisor

Farnum Fuller, Custodian

Pastor's home phone number:

Chris Myers 715-426-2075

chris@firstchurchrf.org

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

110 N. Third Street

River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

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RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 1, 2022

First Communion Information for Parents

When do children at First Congregational Church begin taking Communion?

There is no uniform age at First Congregational Church when children begin participating in the Lord's Supper. Some children are pre-school age, others are in elementary school, and some wait until confirmation to begin taking Communion. The Bible and church history do not give decisive guidelines about the age to begin celebrating the Lord's Supper. The decision about when people are welcome at the Lord's Table has largely been made by local worshipping communities. Our practice is to include children when they and their parents think they are ready to participate.

How will I know when my child is ready?

Some parents choose infant communion for their children. Many parents wait until their children express an interest. Typically, children are ready to participate in Communion when they start asking questions about this sacrament. One important theme of Communion is inclusion: All are welcome at the table of the Lord. If a child feels excluded, it is a good time for that child to begin participating.

My child does not yet receive Communion. Should she/he still come forward?

Yes, all people are invited to come forward to the servers at the Communion distribution time. Children who will not be communing should keep their hands folded (as opposed to reaching out). This is a signal to the pastor and deacons that the child desires a blessing.

Sign Up Sheets: All of the current sign-up sheets are on the church website. Click on the "Connect" button at the top of the page and then select "Sign Ups/Forms."