

## Weekly Word – For Sunday, April 17, 2022

### Worship this week:

Holy Week is here! Join us as we journey with Jesus through this four-part drama that began last week on Palm Sunday and ends in triumph on Easter Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Worship with Communion at 6:30 pm

Good Friday Choral Cantata with Brass at 6:30 pm

Easter Sunday Worship with Communion and Brass at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Join us and invite and friend!

Maundy Thursday Livestream: <https://youtu.be/-9ufa7FNfKkM>

[Maundy Thursday Bulletin](#)

Good Friday Livestream: <https://youtu.be/XZprytGlsc0>

[Good Friday Bulletin](#)

Easter Sunday Livestream at 10:30 am: <https://youtu.be/hDpDfTYd5CM>

[Sunday Bulletin](#)

### This Week:

Sun., Apr 17	8:00-9:00 am	Choir and Bells Practice
	8:00-10:15 am	Easter Breakfast Served in the Fellowship Hall
	8:45-11:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:00-10:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary
	10:30-11:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., Apr 18		Easter Monday – Church Office Closed
Tues., Apr 19	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., Apr 20	12:00-1:00 pm	Investment Committee Meeting
	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Years 1 & 2 (Grades 7 & 8)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Church Interns (Grades 10-12)
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Apr 21	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., Apr 24	8:45-9:45 am	Bells 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

**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. 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. Sign up today and join us at the Beacon Gatherings! Dates are Tuesday, May 10 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm; Thursday, May 12 at 1:00 pm and 6:30 pm  
Sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-beacon>

**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 is Monday, April 18.** Thank you for your prayerful support.

### **Youth Group Gatherings:**

Wed, April 20 – Interns

Wed, April 27 – Middle School Youth Group – Science Event – Facilitated by Mikayla Peterson

Wed, May 4 – All Youth (Grades 7-12) Bowling – 6:30-7:30 pm, St. Croix Lanes

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](mailto: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](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com).

**Earth Fest 2022, Sunday, April 24, 2:00-5:00 pm at 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 and join us!

**Earth Fest** promises to be a very large activity. You *could* park at the high school and catch a ride on the shuttle to Glen Park--*OR, you can park here around the church*, meet up at the front entrance of the church at **1:30 pm**, and we'll all walk together the mile to Glen Park, thereby getting some of our steps in, saving a bit of gas, and just generally enjoying each other's company. Call Rebecca at (262)227-1542 if you have any questions.

**Sign up to volunteer at Earth Fest 2022:** Volunteers are needed to help with a variety of tasks throughout the Earth Fest at Glen Park. To volunteer go to the link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c4baead2aa2f58-earth> Help make this event a memorable gathering in our ongoing commitment to care for creation!

**Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am:** The Trustees have scheduled a dual cleanup day on April 30. They plan to do a deep clean inside the church and yard clean up at the same time. However, they need your help. It won't take long if we have many helping hands. The clean-up begins at 9:00 am. Please stop by the gathering area for directions as to where the help is most needed. However, if you have preferences don't be afraid to request that task. If you plan to work outside, please bring tools like rakes and tarps or if you have a leaf blower bring it along. For the inside cleaning; dusters, your favorite mop, and extra vacuum cleaners would be helpful. Interns please join us and get double the credit toward your total! I've heard the rumor there may be snacks too. Please sign up. If you have any questions, contact Jeff at (612)804-0264 or [jeffhoffman312@gmail.com](mailto:jeffhoffman312@gmail.com)

**Relay for Life Follow Up:** Thank you everyone for your generosity in giving toward Relay for Life functions whether it be through simple donations, luminary bags, or the spaghetti meal. Our team reached their highest level ever, the silver level, with \$4,207 and the most luminaria bags purchased for display. THANK YOU!! Overall the Relay for Life community fundraiser exceeded their goal of \$75,000 by \$12,000 and they are still collecting till August of this year. There were 262 spaghetti meals purchased and 258 luminary bags displayed. There were 26 teams raising money and many participants at the event. There were also 45 survivors walking at the event representing 675 years since their cancer diagnosis. That is awesome! We pray for many more years for all of the survivors and those experiencing cancer and their care givers now. Deb Hoffman, team captain.

**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 May 1.** 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>

**Church Softball:** 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. The co-ed description requires teams to have three women on the field at all times. The games are played on Monday nights at Hoffman Park. Games will begin the end May and continue until the second week of August. Practices will begin in April. If you are interested, please sign up. 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:** Photo sessions held on **May 31 to June 4**. To schedule your photography appointment online use the QR Code or 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 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.

**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>Apr 10, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,975	\$ 180,752
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 148,635

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 \$10,700 given by church members to help refugees fleeing Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For the Krueger clan, their helpers, and our youth who fed us at the Easter breakfast, God bless you!
- For our musicians and choir who pull out all the stops to celebrate Easter, we are thankful
- For Pat Anderson, Marlys Peterson, and their crew who served the funeral meal for the Hagberg family, thank you for offering Jean's family this gift
- For Diane Welsh who does our church laundry each week, thank you for doing this needed task
- For the Lu Lueck and Linn Lawrence getting the church garden ready for spring, may it enable spring to finally arrive
- 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)