

Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 1, 2022

Worship this week:

This Sunday at the 10am worship service we confirm our Third Year Confirmands into the Christian faith and make room for their gifts. Christ is risen! But what difference does that make in our life today? Our worship service centers on John 21 in which Jesus appears to the disciples and gives them important work to do. Join us!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/OOK09e-xtVs>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week:

Sun., May 1		Confirmation Sunday
	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., May 3	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., May 4	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:30-7:30 pm	All Youth (Grades 7-12) Bowling at St. Croix Lanes
Thurs., May 5	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., May 8	8:45-9:45 am	Music 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

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. We have sent over \$12,000. **Our next deadline is Monday, May 15.** Thank you for your prayerful support.

Youth Group Gatherings:

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. 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 today** through rfyouthgroup@gmail.com.

Coffee Concert at UWRF - Friday, April 29, 12:00-1:00 pm – Isles Ensemble (Ukrainian musicians) – All are invited to this free concert.

Spring Cleanup is Saturday, April 30, 9:00 am: The Trustees have scheduled a dual cleanup day. 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. 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

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 Sign up on the table or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-mental>

Among Friends has re-opened and is accepting new referrals. Among Friends is a community based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. In April we enjoyed music, chair yoga, a concertina performance, starting herbs for spring planting and a variety of games and activities. In May special activities will include a Kentucky Derby party, a visit from service dogs in training, and making fresh flower bouquets. For more information about Among Friends, contact us at (715) 293-2651. Also, check out our website: amongfriendsrf.com and our Facebook page. Among Friends is held at the church on Tuesdays from 9am to 2pm. **Guests are invited to join us for coffee from 9:30–10:00 on Tuesday, May 31.**

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, click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **w1192** 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 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 17, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,763	\$ 199,271
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 158,544

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 those being confirmed into the faith and family of Jesus Christ today: Abby Brown, Alice Follstad, Libby Larson, Erica Sippel, Carter Sterba, may you grow in faith, service, and love
- For the gift of in-person prom at River Falls High School this weekend, may it be a fun time for all
- For the nearly 1000 people who attended the first Earth Fest this past Sunday at Glen Park, that it may stoke in each of us gratitude from God's gift of the good creation and an urgency to better care for it
- For our chancel choir whose singing season is now over, thank you for your beautiful music
- For the over \$12,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Kaye Anderson who received one of 8 UWRF Chancellor's Awards this spring, we are proud of you!

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