

## Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 8, 2022

### Worship this week:

Join us this Sunday as together we celebrate **Mother's Day!** On the Third Sunday after Easter the scripture texts include beautiful words from Psalm 23 and John 10 about Jesus the Good Shepherd who beckons us to follow in his paths. But how do we do that today in and through our lives? Join us at the 10am worship service as celebrate Mother's Day with a special gift for each of our moms.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/eF8Ho52n-QU>

### Sunday Bulletin

#### This Week:

Sun., May 8	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 10	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	4:00-5:00 pm	Scholarship Committee Meeting
Wed., May 11	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:00-8:45 pm	Mental Health First Aid Class Part 1
Thurs., May 12	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., May 15	8:45-9:45 am	Bell 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



**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.

**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 Trips:** 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. 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. Flyers are available at church with details. **Sign up today** through [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com).

**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](http://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>

**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>

**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>May 1, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 16,334	\$ 215,605
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 178,362

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Mortgage Summary – As of May 1, 2022**

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$491,316.43
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$91,240.07
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

**People:**

- For our new church van that is FINALLY in production and should be delivered in the next 4 weeks, hallelujah!
- For those recently confirmed into the faith and family of Jesus Christ: Abby Brown, Alice Follstad, Libby Larson, Erica Sippel, Carter Sterba, may you grow in faith, service, and love
- For the fun of bowling enjoyed by our confirmands and interns as we bowled together at St Croix Lanes on the last day of programming for this year
- For our trustees, helpers and interns who did an awesome job spring cleaning our church building, many thanks!
- For our chancel choir whose singing season is now over, thank you for your beautiful music this year!
- For the over \$13,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For Alex and Sarah Plum who completed their first program year as our new Youth Ministers, we are thankful for you!
- 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](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)

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