

Weekly Word – For Sunday, July 10, 2022

Worship this Sunday

So what are you reading this summer? Any good books? This Sunday Jesus tells us a familiar parable: The Good Samaritan. It is a story of compassion and mercy that challenges us to act likewise. In fact, like any good book, it prompts us to be better people. Join us this River Falls Days Weekend as we end the week with summer worship at 9:30 am in the sanctuary with the church brass group helping to lead music and communion celebrated. Then join us for treats in the Fellowship Hall.

Note: As of right now we still hope to be outside for the concert and pizza from 6-8 pm. In case of rain, it will be moved inside to the Fellowship Hall. Bring a chair and join us for some good tunes and great pizza.

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

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., July 10	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Tues., July 12	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
Thurs., July 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga in the Fellowship Hall and Zoom
Sun., July 17	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Brass Group: *Marsha Pearson, Tim Mills, Alex Plum, Jamie Mills*

Liturgist: *Steve Koecher*

Cantor: *David Reilly, Sarah Plum*

Coffee Fellowship: *Kristin Andes and Tom Magraw*

Deacons: *Laura Anderson, Karen Lloyd, Suzanne Hagen*

Organist: *Marsha Pearson*

Welcomers: *Arthur Rice and Elaine Dixen*

Nursery: *Beatrix Gilberg*

Video Team: *Ryan Luedtke*

Trustee: *Jeff Hoffman*

Counters: *Janice Healy, Dennis Linder*

Altar table flowers are given by Joan Hyland in memory of John Hyland.

Order your peaches today: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-washington2>

Loving God

We Are Hiring! With the retirement of Pastor Dave, the church will be hiring a new part time Minister for Community and Outreach. Please see job description on the sign-up table and website. If you know someone, reach out to them, or let the church office know.

A Planetarium for VBS: Our congregation will build a cardboard planetarium in July. The planetarium will be geodesic dome made out of cardboard that is 16' in diameter and 10' tall. Tim Bylander has made templates for cutting, a special punch for the holes, and a rather ingenious contraption to help us score the cardboard to ensure perfect folds. Now we need workers. Work times are: **July 7–4:00 pm, July 12–4:00 pm, July 24–10:30 am.** Please sign up on the table or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-build>

Vacation Bible School: VBS for 2022 is called “That’s Awesome!” The week’s focus will be experiences and ideas that are worth our awe and wonder. Dates are **August 1–4, 9:00–11:30 am.** Activities include: learning about space, expressing ideas through art, exploring music, working with wood, listening to Bible texts, and spending time with friends. Registration forms are at church and the website <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/sign-ups-forms>. Please register your child and spread the word. All are welcome!

VBS Volunteers and Meeting: Calling adults and teens to help with VBS! Please volunteer online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers1> or by signing the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. There will be an orientation meeting for volunteers on **Thursday, July 28, at 6:00 pm.**

Ukraine Relief: Many are asking what you can do for the people of Ukraine. Please pray and please consider making a financial contribution to help them. Working through our partner church in Hungary, we will regularly send financial support. We have sent over \$15,000. Thank you for your prayerful support.

Summer Nursery Help Needed: During the summer months our church nursery is staffed by volunteers. Please sign up to help in the church nursery. Summer worship time moves to 9:30 am and the nursery is open from 9:15 to 10:45 am. Use the sign-up sheets at church or online. Please contact the church office for more information. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-summer>

Loving Neighbor

Our Neighbors' Place: Did you know that the day center at ONP offers shower facilities for their guests? Look for deals on towels and washcloths and **bring what you can to our ONP bin.** Mission Ed will make sure all these bath linens get to ONP to assist our neighbors in need.

Among Friends is open and 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. For more information, contact them at (715) 293-2651. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com and Facebook page. It is held at the church on Tuesdays 9am to 2pm.

Tools for School: On **Monday, August 15, and Tuesday, August 16,** families in the River Falls School District can receive free school supplies for the upcoming year through the Tools for School Event. Please see the flyer for more information. The sorting and distribution of supplies will be here at our church. Please use the sign-up sheet if you can help sort and/or assist families during the give-away. Please bring your donated school supplies to our church **by Friday, August 12.** If you would like to give by check, please make a note “Tools for School” in the memo line. Thank you for your generosity.

Loving Self

Softball News: Hello fans and players, Here is the schedule:

July 11 – We play two games; hope the night is not too hot!

6:30 pm – Hoffman Park field 1 against SOS

7:45 pm – Hoffman Park field 2 against Christ Center

July 18 – 7:45 pm – Hoffman Park field 1 against Christ Center

July 25 – 7:45 pm – Hoffman Park field 1 against Luther Memorial

Come join in the fun and cheer us on!!! If you have questions contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

Peaches: It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! Single layer box is \$23.00 or two or more single layer boxes for \$21.00 each box. **Orders must be placed by August 1 for pick up in late August.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org; 2. Sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-washington2> 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name and phone and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

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.

Sign Ups

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 & one person is needed at the ramp entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the 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>

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'

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>July 3, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,524	\$ 257,689
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 267,543

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

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. 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://www.amazon.com/smile) 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://www.amazon.com/smile). Once you do this, the church will receive 0.5% of each eligible order. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

Mortgage Summary – As of June 30, 2022

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$338,663.49
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$208,819.80
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

Thanks to your generosity and faithful, upfront giving for the recent Capital Campaign, we were able to make a \$150,000 payment on the principal this month. Thank you!

People

- For Sheila Peterson, one of our deacons, and James Gregory who were married in a simple, quiet ceremony this past week, that they may grow in love
- For Colin Cosgrove and the Bigmouth Buffalo String Band as they helped lead worship music this past Sunday and performed an outdoor concert on Thursday, we are still singing in our minds!
- For Jamie Mills and the Music Committee who hosted our pizza party and concert last Thursday, thank you!
- For meeting and even exceeding our goal of \$495,000 for the Capital Campaign to pay off our building bank debt, upgrade our sound/video systems and install a new church sign, together we did it!
- For Neal and Caren Prochnow who celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on July 21, you are an inspiration
- For the return of River Falls Days and all of its joy, may we enjoy it
- For the over \$15,000 given by church members to help refugees fleeing the Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference

Do you have upcoming news or celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthdays 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 Summer Hours:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm
Friday – Closed

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@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