

Weekly Word – For Sunday, September 18, 2022

Worship this Sunday: This Sunday we continue our *Living the Prayer of Jesus* worship series by looking at the second part of the Lord's Prayer: *Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.* Join us following worship for fresh-baked croissants for Coffee Fellowship. There will also be a meeting for all High Schoolers and their parents to talk about the long-delayed Boston Trip this spring. Lastly, the High School Youth Group is kayaking down the Kinni starting at 1pm (contact Alex to register!). Join us and invite a friend!

NOTE: All high school youth and parents are invited to the **Boston Meeting** this Sunday following worship in the Youth Room. Because of the pandemic we have several years of confirmation classes who have not yet made this trip. Pastor Chris will outline the trip details, dates (April 20-23, 2023) and costs. It is critical you are there or contact him ahead of time so he can get a correct number of participants for airfares!

Fall Worship Series: Living the Prayer: The Lord's Prayer is one of the most familiar parts of our Christian faith. And yet how well do you know it? Over this 6-week worship series, we will explore this foundational prayer and how it can inform our living today.

Sept 11	Hallowing—Finding the Holy
Sept 18	Whose Will?
Sept 25	Daily Bread
Oct 2	Forgive Us
Oct 9	Lead Us
Oct 16	Power and Glory

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/PKcVNsM8Jp0>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Sept 18	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	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
	11:15am-12:00 pm	Boston Trip Meeting for Confirmands
Tues., Sept 20	1:00-3:00 pm	Youth Kayaking Trip
	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	6:30-7:45 pm	Boards and Committees Meetings
	7:45-8:45 pm	Church Council Meeting
Wed., Sept 21	1:00-2:30 pm	Bible Study
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Year 3 (9 th Grade)
	6:30-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Sept 22	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
Sun., Sept 25	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	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
	11:15am-12:00 pm	Spring Break Mission Trip Meeting

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Liturgist: Alan Tuchtenhagen
Cantor: David Reilly
Coffee Fellowship: Andy and Christina Krueger
Deacons: Cindy Gandrud, Sheila Peterson
Organist: Terry Mithun
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Video Team: Ryan Luedtke, Murphy Beatty
Trustee: Jeff Hoffman
Counters: Roz Ostendorf, Janice Healy

Altar table flowers are given by Darlene Sumption with thankfulness for her long life.

Loving God

College Pack Addresses Needed: If you have a college-aged student, please make sure the church office has their address so we can send them a college pack! Packing the college packs has become a tradition in our confirmation and youth group programs. This will be done in mid-September so please send those addresses in now! You can email them to our church secretary at missy@firstchurchrf.org. Thanks!

College Pack Items Needed: Our Middle and High School Youth will be packing college packs to send to all of our college and technical school youth. Whether they are studying away at school, or here and living at home, we will have a college pack for them (make sure you provide their address!). Items are gathered by our youth group members, but we also invite the congregation to support this effort as well. Think of items you might have wanted to receive when you were away from home. We ask for them to come in packs of 5 or 10 of each item you donate. Ideal items are lightweight (so they can be mailed). Pens. Fun items from the Dollar Store or Target. Candy. Be creative! Look for the donation box in the Fellowship Hall! Thank you.

Boston Meeting for High Schoolers: For about 10 years now we have taken our 3rd Year Confirmands on a 'Big Trip' to Boston as part of their confirmation experience. With the pandemic, this trip has been postponed numerous times. The date for this trip has been set for **April 20-23, 2023**. All confirmands from 2020, 2021 and 2022 as well as those who will be confirmed this spring, are eligible for this trip. A sign-up and information meeting will be **Sunday, September 18 following the 10:00 am worship service in the Youth Room**. Parents and confirmands should attend.

Spring Break Mission Trip: A rite of passage for youth in the church is time at the UCC mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, Back Bay Mission. After many delays and cancellations due to Covid, this trip will finally happen during the River Falls Schools spring break, **March 11-18, 2023**. We will spend the week rehabbing houses, enjoying the warm sun along the Gulf Coast, exploring New Orleans, going to the beach and even going for a schooner ride. Space is limited to 22 people this year and you must be at least 14 to participate. A sign up and informational meeting will be **Sunday, September 25 in the Youth Room following worship**. We will also need some adult volunteers and people skilled with light construction and home repairs. Join us!

Sunday Morning Text Study: Sunday morning Bible text study is held at 9:00 am on Sundays. This group has formerly been called the Adult Forum but shifted last year to a focus on the assigned Bible readings for worship, hence the new name. Please join us for an engaging discussion of the texts. All are welcome!

Adult Bible Study: Adult Bible Study is held on **Wednesday afternoons from 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Youth Room. The year will begin with a study of Hebrews. The book is available in the church office for \$25. Join us!

Wednesday School Workers Needed: Wednesday School begins on **October 5**. We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. Please sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday38>

Wednesday School Registrations: All children who are in kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Elementary students in River Falls are picked up at the four elementary schools in town at the end of the school day. Wednesday School concludes at 5:15. Registration and permission forms are available at church and on the website: <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/sunday-school>. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students, particularly due to transportation needs. Wednesday School begins **October 5**. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Loving Neighbor

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**.

Volunteer Opportunities at Among Friends: Things are going great at Among Friends! We are seeking one or two volunteers on Tuesdays to provide transportation for 2 female participants who live in Hudson. Clients could be picked up at 9:00 am from their locations in Hudson and returned home from the church to Hudson at 2:00 pm. Mileage reimbursement would be provided. Also, we need a volunteer to set up for lunch and do dishes from 11:30 am–12:30 pm. For information, call Norma at (651) 260-5725.

Loving Self

Mental Health & Wellbeing Update: Regretfully, the presenters from the Behavioral and Mental Health Program at Hudson Physicians who were scheduled to lead the Mental Health and Wellbeing sessions in October, have unexpectedly needed to cancel. The Christian Education and Mission Education committees will seek other speakers and events focused on supporting mental health and emotional wellbeing. Stay tuned.

Men's Group Resumes: After a long delay, our church men's group will resume on **Tuesday, October 4, from 9:00-10:00 am**, and then again on **Tuesday, October 18**. We will meet in the church Youth Room. Coffee and a treat are provided. Pastor Chris will lead us with a brief devotion, give us our topic to discuss and we will have lots of time to meet up and catch up. Join us! Talk to Pastor Chris or Brad Williams for more information.

Cribbage Night: The cribbage group meets on the second Monday at the church. Players are asked to donate \$2 and the group decides which charity to donate it to. Playing time starts at **7:00 pm**. All players and abilities welcome. The next game will be **October 10**.

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.

Youth Group News

Wed, Sept 21 - Middle School Youth Trip to Dairy Queen! - What better way to celebrate the first middle school youth group meeting of the year, AND finally receiving our church van, than traveling to Dairy Queen for some ice cream! Please sign up so Alex can plan accordingly if we need an additional vehicle. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle8>

Wed, Sept 28 - High School Youth Trip to Dairy Queen and College Packs! - What better way to celebrate the first high school youth group meeting of the year, AND finally receiving our church van, than traveling to Dairy Queen for some ice cream! We will also finish the college packs this night. Bring your items! Please sign up or text Alex so he can plan accordingly if we need an additional vehicle. Alex will also communicate via HS intern texting thread. Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-high3>

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>Sept 11, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 10,315	\$ 337,102
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 366,633

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 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.

Mortgage Summary – As of August 31, 2022

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$285,189.20
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$210,584.05
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

People

- For those who will receive their college packs soon, may it remind them they belong to a large family
- For the gift of our 20 Sunday School teachers, you are God's good gifts
- For our Trustees who painted the Sunday School hallway downstairs last week, it looks fabulous!
- For those celebrating wedding anniversaries including, Marshall and Gina Skule (46th), Yvonne and Fred Benson (36th), and Christina and Andy Krueger (35th), may you all grow in love
- For Pastor Dave who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination. He was ordained on Sunday, September 3, 1972 at the Evangelical United Church of Christ, Godfrey, Illinois. May God continue to bless him in his retirement

- For Joe Querna and Marlee Gram who will be married on October 8 in Stillwater, may you be graced with Christ's love.
- For Heidi and Mason Wilhelmy as they baptize their daughter Murphy Rose on October 23, together may they grow in faith

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 Hours:

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

Friday – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

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