

## **Weekly Word – For Sunday, November 20, 2022**

### **Worship this Sunday:**

As we approach Thanksgiving this coming week our focus in worship is gratitude. What is it? Why is it important? How can we nurture it? The Angels on Earth Giving Tree ornaments, a way to bless local families, are out and ready for you to select one. Our pre-school through 5th graders begin practicing for the Christmas Program this Sunday during Sunday School. Lastly, we will also debut a new Reverse Advent Calendar this Sunday. Join us!

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/DSdqgt1fb6Q>

### **Sunday Bulletin**

#### **This Week**

Sun., Nov 20	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study 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., Nov 22	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	6:00-7:00 pm	Welcoming Committee Meeting
Wed., Nov 23		No Wednesday Programing
Thurs., Nov 24		Thanksgiving Day – Church Office Closed
Fri., Nov 25		Church Office Closed
Sun., Nov 27	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

#### **Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:**

Preacher:	Christopher Myers
Celebrant:	Deb Meyer
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Rebecca Ferguson
Deacons:	Marshall Skule, Karen Lloyd, Cindy Gandrud, Jena Most, Laura Anderson
Organist:	Terry Mithun
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Ryan Luedtke
Trustee:	Steve Koecher
Coffee Fellowship:	The Beatty Family
Counters:	Trish Graves, Marie Roe

*Altar Flowers are given by Lillian Tan in memory of her parents John and Ruth Tandias.*

**Children's Advent Musical Rehearsal** will be **Saturday, December 17, from 10:00–12:00 noon for children in grades 1–5.** Pre-Schoolers and Kindergarteners do not need to attend the rehearsal. The musical will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 18.**

### **Loving God**

**Sunday Morning Text Study:** Sunday morning Bible text study is held at **9:00 am on Sundays**. 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 current focus is the New Testament book of James. All are welcome. This is a particularly good time to join the Bible study because the group is starting a new book. For information, contact Pastor Stacy.

### **Loving Neighbor**

**Reverse Advent Calendar:** Please see the flyer on the sign-up table.

**Christmas Shoebox Project:** We are collecting items to fill the boxes and bags and will deliver them to the Kinnic Rehab to show that we all care. These shoeboxes contain socks, playing cards, puzzles, soap, toothpaste, and many other items. **An updated list of items is on the sign-up table. We do not need shoeboxes.** Cash donations will be used to purchase any needed items. If you have questions, contact Jean Smith at jsmithler@yahoo.com or at 715-781-6880 or the church office.

**Cookie Making Event:** The Shoebox Project would like to have home-made Christmas cookies to deliver with the items to be given to the Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center residents on December 14. There is a sign-up sheet on the table for people to sign up to volunteer their time and recipes for this cookie making event on **Friday, December 9 at 10:00 am in the church kitchen**. All supplies will be furnished. If you have a special recipe that you wish to share, please contact Jean Smith at 715-781-6880 or Eunice at 715-497-4514. Will be an exciting time. We will even order pizza for lunch and, of course, there will be tasting. Join us!

**Angels on Earth Giving Tree:** If you would like to help some children have a better Christmas this year, please select an ornament from the tree and purchase a gift from their wish list. The unwrapped gift with the ornament needs to be at the church **no later than Thursday, December 8**. Please give the Gift Cards to someone in the church office. If you would like to make a cash donation instead, please send the check (made out to First Congregational Church with “AOE” in the memo line) or cash to the church office. Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Diane Welsh (651-334-3128 or 715-386-6620) or the church office.

**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](http://amongfriendsrf.com) and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays 9am to 2pm**.

**Volunteer Opportunities at Among Friends:** Volunteer needed on Tuesdays to provide transportation for two female participants who live in Hudson. Clients could be picked up at 9:00 am and returned home at 2:00 pm. Mileage reimbursement would be provided. Also, 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**

**Wednesday Meals:** On Wednesday nights we offer a home-cooked meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$8 per person with a family max of \$30. **Meals are served from 5:15 to 6:15 pm**. Confirmants and interns are \$5 each and are encouraged to eat with their classes at 6:00 pm prior to class or activities at 6:30 pm. We will not be offering drive thru service this year, but you may go through the serving line and a meal will be packaged for you to take home. **Reservations must be placed by noon on Tuesdays**.

Nov 30 - Boneless BBQ ribs, butter and parsley potatoes, macaroni and cheese, sauerkraut salad, garlic bread  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday46>

**Men's Group:** The church Men's Group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** for coffee, treats and conversation. Pastor Chris leads us with a brief devotion, gives us a topic to discuss and we also have time to meet and catch up. Join us! Talk to Pastor Chris or Brad Williams for more information. Next gatherings are **November 29 and December 13**. Note on December 13 we will be making sandwiches for the Simpson Shelter! All men are welcome!

**The Advent Workshop:** The annual Advent Workshop for families will be held following Sunday School on **December 4**. The event will include a chance to make a variety of Christmas ornament. This is a great family event. Please come and invite friends to join you! Please sign up.

**2022 Christmas Luncheon:** You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on **Tues, December 6, starting at noon**. The Fellowship Hall will be decorated, the food will be delicious, the company hard to beat, and the River Falls High School Costumed Carolers provide the entertainment. Please come! We have drivers willing to pick up anyone who needs a ride. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please make a reservation and let the office know if you need a ride. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-christmas2>

We are looking for volunteers to help prepare for the Christmas luncheon. We need cooks for Mon, December 5, volunteers to iron the tablecloths on December 5, and three more people to help with serving and clean up. To volunteer, please sign up at church.

**Cribbage Night:** The group meets on the second Monday at the church. Players are asked to donate \$2 which is given to a charity. Playing time starts at **7:00 pm**. All players welcome. The next game will be **December 12**.

**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, Nov 30 – Middle School Youth Group - Live Action Game - Among Us:** We will be recreating a popular phone game of Among Us in real life! Middle Schoolers will complete roles as either Crewmates or Imposters and will each need to complete their tasks. Students, if you would like to get into the spirit of the game, come dressed in a crewmate costume (solid color, funny hat/accessories, good shoes for running)!

**Sun, Dec 4, 11:00 pm - Advent Workshop:** Volunteers needed to help at each station. Please sign up to help. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-youth2>

**Wed, Dec 14, 6:30 pm - MS Youth Group Christmas Cookie Decorating:** Please sign up so we can have enough supplies. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-middle9>

**Wed, Dec 21, 6:30 pm - HS Youth Group Christmas Cookie Decorating:** Please sign up so we can have enough supplies. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-high4>

### **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>Nov 6, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 9,252	\$ 406,444
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 445,905

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Do you Smile? Do you Amazon Smile?** - Did you know the church has received nearly \$500 from Amazon through its Amazon Smiles charity program? It is fast, free and easy to set up. If you have an Amazon account go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and register First Congregational Church of River Falls. Then each quarter the church will receive a small portion of total amazon shopping. Start smiling today!

**Mortgage Summary – As of October 30, 2022**

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$280,776.19
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$215,636.52
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

**People**

- For those who enjoyed our Giving Thanks Meal and the many who made it possible, especially Laura Miller, David Reilly and Andy and Christina Krueger, God bless you!
- For the gift of our bell choir and director Jamie Mills, bless you for the gifts your all bring to our church

Do you have upcoming news or celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthdays 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 12:00 pm

**Church Staff Contact:**

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - [chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)

Minister for Community and Outreach: Deb Meyer – [deb@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:deb@firstchurchrf.org)

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - [stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org)

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)

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)