

Weekly Word – For Sunday, January 1, 2023

Worship this Sunday:

Join us for worship this Sunday at 10:00 am.

Link to Livestream Worship: <https://youtu.be/Y04CnhwPk5Y>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Jan 1	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., Jan 2		Church Office Closed
Tues., Jan 3	9:00 am-2:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00 am-10:00 am	Yoga with Luncheon Afterwards
Wed., Jan 4	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	6:00-7:00 pm	Jubilee Ringers
	6:30-7:30 pm	Confirmation Year 3
	6:30-7:30 pm	Middle School Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thur., Jan 5	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
Sun., Jan 8	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Group 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:	Deb Meyer
Celebrant:	Deb Meyer
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Marie Roe
Deacons:	Karen Lloyd
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Trustee:	Tim Bylander
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Still Need Someone</i>
Counters:	Diane Welsh, Jane Truesdill

Annual Reports Due: All Committees, please submit your Annual Reports, preferably electronically, by **Thursday, January 12**, to Missy Luedtke at missy@firstchurchrf.org. Thank you!

URGENT: Two Sunday School Teachers Needed: The Sunday School program is in critical need of two more Sunday School teachers. Teachers do not teach every week. Please consider volunteering. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pastor Stacy.

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! **Please note: The Adult Forum will not meet on January 1.**

Adult Bible Study: Adult Bible Study is held on **Wednesday afternoons 1:00–2:30 pm** in the Youth Room. The group will begin a new study in early January, so that is a good time to welcome new participants. For more information, talk with Pastor Stacy.

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**.

Loving Self

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 and gives us a topic to discuss. **We will meet again on January 10.** All men are welcome!

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 **January 9**.

Church Yoga: Jan Hansen's church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** at the church from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please call the office to receive the Zoom link. The luncheon will be held after yoga on Tuesday, January 3.

Inquirer's Class: Want to know more about First Congregational Church? Join us on **Tuesday, January 24 at 6:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. In this 90-minute gathering, you will meet other new folks, church leaders as well as get an overview of the church's mission and ministry. After introductions and a tour of the church building, dessert will be served as church leaders share information about the church. Those who complete the class and wish to join the church as members will be received into church membership in February. Join us!

Boundary Waters Trip: If you are interested in a Boundary Waters trip this summer, Alex is collecting a sign-up list to begin planning! Please list the full names of everyone interested, a phone number, and an email address for further communication. The current dates we are looking at are July 16-20, 2023, but there might be some flexibility on the dates depending on availability and the sooner we collect interest. Due to interest, we may need 4-6 adults if we need to separate into two groups. The max permit size is 9 people per group. If you are interested in leading a group, please indicate so when you sign up! Permits need to be obtained in mid-January to reserve our summer dates, so an initial down payment will be collected in January to reserve your spot.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: Our church has a history of pilgrimage trips. In addition to the bi-annual mission trip to Back Bay Mission, our youth head to Boston to learn more about both their Congregational Church heritage and our nation's history. We also have led a Holy Land Pilgrimage to learn more about the biblical roots of our faith. This fall we will add a new experience - A Civil Rights Pilgrimage. This 5-day pilgrimage will include stops in Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma and Montgomery. We will literally be walking in the steps of history to learn more about our country and our Christian faith. There will also be time to enjoy southern cuisine! **The trip will take place October 25-29, 2023, and an informational meeting will be held Sunday, January 22 from 11:15 am to Noon in the Youth Room.** Please contact Pastor Chris for info and use the sign-up sheet to register your interest. Space is limited to 15 people.

Youth Group News

Sun, Jan 15 - Badlands Snow Tubing 1:30-4:30 pm: Please sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-youth3>

Winter Retreat for High Schoolers – Jan 27-29: All high school youth are invited to join Alex for an awesome winter retreat at ARC retreat center in Osceola, WI. We leave Friday afternoon, spend all day Saturday at the retreat center, then leave early on Sunday to return home and help lead worship. The date is Friday, January 27 to Sunday, January 29. The retreat center offers tubing, an indoor gym, human football, and lots of other fun activities. Cost is \$75 per person for pledging families. We are excited to resume this retreat after a two-year absence! Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-winter>

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>Dec 18, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,158	\$ 488,314
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 505,359

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 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 December 30, 2022

Original cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining amount on Bank Loan	\$277,153.41
Cash on hand in the Building Fund	\$235,001.72
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

People

- For Tim Bylander and Marshall Skule, our frosty church snow blowers, who faithfully clean the way for us, may you be warmed by our gratitude
- For the gift of our young people who presented their Christmas Program, it was awesome!
- For Norma Revels who retired as Coordinator of Among Friends, may you rest from your fruitful labors and for Martha TerMaat who begins this position, may you continue the good work of this ministry
- For Roger Kampstra who celebrates his 85th birthday on Christmas Eve, may you be blessed with many more
- For Jean Smith and all who supported the Shoe Box Ministry to the men at the Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab program, may it bring Christ's love to all of us
- For Randy and Diane Welsh who directed the Angels on Earth Giving Tree and for all the families it blessed
- For Lu Lueck and her grandson Brodie who planted and potted this year's Amaryllis plants for our shut ins, bless you
- For the two beautiful Christmas trees from Linn Lawrence's family farm put up by Tim Bylander and Farnum Fuller, may they kindle joy in all of us
- For Laura and Mark Anderson who arranged the flowerpots outside the church entrance, they are beautiful!

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

Minister for Community and Outreach: Deb Meyer – deb@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum – rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

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

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