

Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 28, 2023

Note: This Sunday we begin our summer worship schedule of worship at 9:30 am!

Worship this Week:

Join us this Sunday for Pentecost Sunday! At our first summer worship service of the year, we hear the story about the giving of the Holy Spirit, the gift God sends to make God's presence known and felt in our lives. This is the gift that binds us together as the body of Christ and enables us to do more than we can imagine. Join us at the new summer worship time of 9:30 am with Coffee Fellowship to follow!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/YfmuY9QRrJ8>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., May 28	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
Mon., May 29		Memorial Day – Church Office Closed
Tues., May 30	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
Wed., May 31	4:00-6:00 pm	Donna Moseman Memorial Gathering
Thurs., June 1	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
Sun., June 4		Graduation Sunday
	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:

Preacher:	Deb Meyer
Celebrant:	Deb Meyer
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Rebecca Ferguson
Deacons:	Karen Lloyd, Jena Most, Marshall Skule, Traci Hagberg
Organist:	Terry Mithun
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Trustee:	Louie Filkins
Welcomers:	Callie Trautmiller, Lou Greub
Coffee Fellowship:	Kathy and Beth Rausch
Counters:	Roz Ostendorf, Diane Welsh

Altar table flowers are given by Jeff and Deb Hoffman in celebration of their 23rd wedding anniversary.

Loving God

Summer Worship: This Sunday, May 28, we begin the summer season with our summer schedule of Worship at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary and Coffee Fellowship at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

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-summer2>

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 4 during which we will bless our graduating high school seniors and award church scholarships. A reception in their honor will follow during Coffee Fellowship. Seniors, please make sure the office has your post-graduation plans and a senior photo! College graduates, please let us know your graduation and plans!

Loving Neighbor

Diaper Drive: Mission Education is collecting children's diapers and wipes for United Way as a way to honor the mothers and fathers in our lives. You can take a small card to let the good parents in your life know that you're thinking of them by helping other parents who need some extra assistance. Any and all sizes of disposable diapers are needed, but the most requested sizes are the larger ones, 4, 5 and 6, since children wear them for the longest period of time. Thank you for your generosity!

Hope for Creation Summer Social: Join us on **Thursday, June 8 at 6:00 pm at the East Side Shelter in Glen Park** as Hope For Creation sponsors a summer social with a free meal and refreshments. H4C is an ecumenical group of churches working to grow in our care of God's creation. See Barb Peterson for more info. Join us!

Green Team: Are you interested in learning how to live more sustainably? Are you thankful for the gift of God's good creation and want to help care for it better? Join the Green Team! Register your interest on the sign-up sheet and we will connect together to help ourselves and others live better. See Barb Peterson or Pastor Deb for more information.

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) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays 9am to 3pm.**

Loving Self

Veteran's Lunch–Sunday, May 28 at 11:00 am: The menu will be barbeque rib tips, salad, potato salad, and a dessert. Please sign up at church.

Men's Group: The church Men's Group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** for coffee, treats and conversation. We will meet on **May 30** and then will take a summer break until September.

Birthday Celebration: Marge Faulks will be turning 100 on June 14th (Flag Day). Coffee Fellowship on June 11th will be in her honor. Her family is also hosting a party for her on **June 18th from 1-5 pm at St Croix Lanes** in River Falls. Please come and help her celebrate! (No gifts, please.)

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

Softball News: The season begins Monday, June 5. Practices are at the Greenwood School ballfield area. If you have questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)-308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com or Sarah Plum at (715)-418-9393, sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com. If you are interested in playing, please sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-church3>

Video Team Members Needed: Each week the church livestreams the worship service. This vital ministry is run by volunteers Jeff Hoffman and Ryan Luedtke. We are in need of 2 more adults and 1 youth who want to be part of this team. Training is provided and you will join a rotation to fit your schedule. Contact the office for more details and to sign up.

Civil Rights Pilgrimage: Our church has a history of pilgrimage trips. This fall we will add a new experience - A Civil Rights Pilgrimage. This 5-day pilgrimage will include stops in Atlanta, Birmingham, Selma & 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.** Please contact Pastor Chris for info. Space is limited to 14 people.

Second Holy Land Tour: In 2019, 24 people from church participated in a Holy Land Tour to visit important places in our Christian faith like Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and Galilee. We also learned about the cultural and political struggle between Jews and Palestinians and how the three great religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam literally converge in Jerusalem. Planning this tour took a long time. Pastor Chris is in the beginning stages of planning another Holy Land Tour. A date has not been announced, but if you want to be kept in the loop about developments and involved in determining the timing of a trip, please sign-up to register your interest.

Youth Group

Scholarships: Just a reminder that all those who submitted applications for Senior High School or Continuing Education Scholarships should plan on being in worship to receive their awards on Graduation Sunday, June 4, at 9:30 am. Please see Jenny Luedtke, chair of the Scholarship Team, with any questions.

Summer Programs

Vacation Bible School: VBS in 2023 will be: “The World When Jesus Lived.” It will be held **July 31–August 3, 9:00–11:30 am**, and is open to all children age 3 through completed grade 5. As always, we will need many adults and teen volunteers. Registration forms for students and sign-up sheets to help are on the church website under the ‘connect’ button or available at church. Please register and invite friends, relatives, and neighbors to participate.

VBS Design and Builders Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsdesign>

VBS Volunteers Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-vbsvolunteers2>

Registration Form: <https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/vacation-bible-school>

Summer Kids’ Musical: Following a several-year hiatus, we will again have a children’s musical in July for children who have completed kindergarten through grade 6. The show is “Oh, Jonah!” and tells the Old Testament story of Jonah and the whale. Rehearsals are **July 17–20, 9:00–Noon**. The performance will be on July 20 and will include dinner. Registrations are available online or at church. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Musical Volunteers Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-musical>

Registration Form: <https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/vacation-bible-school>

Roberts UCC Vacation Bible School: All are invited to VBS at the Roberts UCC **June 25-28 from 6-8 pm**. Must register by June 11. Cost is \$10 per child or \$25 per family. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board for more information.

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>May 21, 2023</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,684	\$ 226,714
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,268	\$ 215,628

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Mortgage Summary – As of May 15, 2023

Original Cost of Facilities Expansion Project	\$2,386,970.00
Remaining Amount on Bank Loan	\$189,955.30
Interest Rate (Locked in through January 2027)	3.39%
Monthly Payment	\$2,622.76

Current Capital Campaign

Total Pledged	\$596,646.00
Total Received to Date	<u>395,413.72</u>
Remaining Balance	\$201,232.28

People

- For the birth Dean Thomas Wilhelmy, son of new members Mason and Heidi, who was born on May 18 at 8lbs 7oz, 21 inches, may you all grow in faith and love
- For Marjorie Faulks as she approaches her 100th birthday on June 14, may God continue to bless and keep her in strength
- For our graduating High School seniors who were honored at Baccalaureate at RFHS this past Wednesday, may God continue to send people into your life to guide and direct you
- For Jan Hansen who for 20 years has led our church yoga group and is retiring from that role, that she may bask in her accomplishments
- For local families benefiting from a diaper drive sponsored by our Mission Team as a way to honor our parents (collecting between Mother's Day and Father's Day)
- For our church mowing team Ryan Luedtke, Joel Larsen, Larry Peterson and Cheyenne Wilson, thank you!

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 – 12:00 pm

Please note: Church office will be closed on Fridays for the summer starting next week.

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