

Weekly Word – For Sunday, July 20, 2025

Worship this Week:

What is your love language? How do you like to give and receive love? This Sunday we encounter the story of Mary and Martha who exhibit two different ways of being in the world. Mary who sits at Jesus feet and listens. And Martha who is distracted by her many tasks. Many of us feel Martha is getting a bad rap - someone has to ... fill in the blank. But what if we get this story wrong? Join us this week as we learn more about our love languages, discipleship and how to be more mindful in a chaotic and worrisome world. Summer worship is at 9:30 am and features an incredibly talented musician - Dennis Alfveby - as our guest. Join us!

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/2HjIqPao4ao?si=oPPArelt_Yz0qnPm

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., July 20	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
	11:15 am	Game Day
Mon., July 21	6:30-7:30 pm	Therapeutic Music Concert
Tues., July 22	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 pm	Chuck White Visitation
	11:00 am-12:00 pm	Chuck White Funeral with Luncheon to Follow
Wed., July 23	10:00 am-4:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive in the Fellowship Hall
Thurs., July 24	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
	6:30-7:30 pm	VBS Volunteer Meeting
Sun., July 27	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:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Jean Smith
Deacons:	Cindy Gandrud, Becky Pajac, Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule, Jena Most
Organist:	Dennis Alfveby
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Nursery:	Sarah Meyer
Welcomers:	Carole Mottaz, Marg Downing
Trustee:	Louie Filkins
Coffee Fellowship:	Jenny Luedtke
Counters:	Marie Roe, Scott Nelson

Loving God

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. Please contact the church office for more information. Use the sign-up sheet at church or online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-56894730-summer>

Damascus Project: Our Wisconsin Conference sponsors an online learning community called the Damascus Project with a wide variety of options to grow in faith and living. Their website is: www.the-damascus-project.org. And upcoming topics include a class on UCC History and Polity as well as Theology and Ecology. Check it out!

Loving Neighbor

Tools for School: Once again, we are collecting school supplies for local families. As you are out shopping, please start collecting everything students might need this fall (crayons, pens, pencils, notebooks, backpacks, etc.). The School Supply Event will be on **August 18 and 19** here at church. Typically, we serve about 300 students. Thank you for your generous support of this needed local ministry. Please bring donations to the church and place them in the containers in the gathering area. Please also sign up to help sort and distribute items.

Simpson Shelter Supply Needs: Men's T-Shirts Sizes M, XL, XXL, XXXL, Bras - all sizes, Personal Size Body Lotion, Personal Size Baby Oil, Nail Care Kits, Men's and Women's Shower Shoes, Textured/Natural Hair Products, Personal Size Hair Conditioner, Personal Size Toothpaste, Umbrellas, Good buys on out-of-season clothing. All items MUST BE NEW. There is a box at the church for donations.

Thrivent Free Money: Do you have a retirement account through Thrivent? If so, you can designate some or all of your 'choice dollars' to a non-profit such as First Congregational Church. We are now set up to receive such gifts. Talk to the church office if you need 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 and Thursdays 9am to 3pm**.

Among Friends Volunteers Needed: The program meets two days a week and has 12 active guests. Training is provided & the rewards are phenomenal! They are particularly in need of male volunteers but are willing to receive all. Contact the program coordinator Sarah Schaffner at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

VBS Volunteer Meeting: The VBS volunteer meeting will be **Thursday, July 24, 6:30–7:30 pm**. This is the most important chance to prepare for the week. Please plan to attend.

Peaches – Order deadline is July 28: It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! 1 single-layer box is \$26.00; 2 or more single-layer boxes are \$25.00 each. **Orders must be placed by July 28 for pick up the first week of August.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org; 2. Sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-57267634-washington>; 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name, phone, and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

Therapeutic Music Concert: Experience the calming, soothing effect of live therapeutic music! You are invited to a free concert by Certified Therapeutic Musician Kristin Andes and her harp on **Mon, July 21, 6:30-7:30 pm** here at the church. Join us!

Night of Dinner/Theater: You are invited to a night of dinner and a show on **Thursday, August 21**. Dinner will be served starting at **6:00 pm**, followed by the main feature: the musical *Malice in the Palace: The Story of Esther*. The show has wonderful music and clever lines. Please come to support the young people in the congregation. You may sign the reservation list on the sign-up table, call the church office or use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-57541517-musical>

Summer Choir is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song. The dates will be **July 27 and August 10**. Please consider joining us!

Men's Group: Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts and lively conversation. We gather for an hour and Pastor Chris leads us into a brief discussion. Our next gatherings are **Tues, July 29 & Aug 12**. Join us!

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **Tues, July 22 & Aug 12**.

Let's Knit/Craft Together: Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am**. We meet at **The Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month and in the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays**. We have a great time sharing our current projects and enjoying each other's company. Any questions, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or firstroe@gmail.com

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.

WISE Corner: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at 113 East Elm Street (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at Luther Memorial Church at 6:30 pm. Our church WISE Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Softball News: Welcome back from retirement Clyde and we are glad you are our umpire. It was a fun game and we won. Our record is 3 wins, 2 losses, and a rainout. Looking ahead here are our next 3 games:

July 21 at 7:15 pm vs Spirit of Grace at Hoffman Park field #2

July 28 at 6:00 pm vs SOS at Hoffman Park field # 1

August 4 at 6:00 pm vs First Covenant at Hoffman Park

Thanks to our faithful fans who cheer us on. Come join in the fun whether playing or cheering the team on. If you have questions contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com

Youth Events

Youth Day Trip to the Cities: Alex is working on dates for the Day Trip to the Cities! The days and times will determine where we might visit. Please fill out this short questionnaire to help Alex plan around the group's availability: [Day Trip to the Cities -Form](#)

Peach Fundraiser: Heads up! Peaches are expected to be delivered the first week in August. We would love to have any Middle School, High School, and College youth who are home to help unload and sort that day!

VBS and Summer Musical: Our summer program registrations numbers are low. Please spread the word and invite children to participate. All are welcome and there is no cost.

VBS: Be the Light!

Dates: July 28-31, 2025

Participants: Age 3 – Completed Grade 5

Musical: Malice in the Palace: The Story of Esther

Dates: August 18-21, 2025

Participants: Kindergarten through Completed Grade 6

Director: Emma Cruciani

Pianist: Marsha Pearson

Survey for Mission Trips for Youth: We are conducting a survey to gauge youth and family interest and availability for mission opportunities for the Summer of 2025, and Spring Break (March 16-20) of 2026. Our hope is to find areas of mission work that you would be interested in and provide spiritual and personal growth. Students or parents, please take the time to look over the options and let us know of your interest in the mission trips we could offer: <https://forms.gle/wEiLueQtP97JN3Gn8>

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 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 an option to give online via our church website.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>July 13, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,656	\$ 298,693
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 297,444

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For the gift of rain, which renews our gardens and lawns
- For another successful meal served at the Simpson Shelter in Minneapolis
- For those who will serve the funeral lunch on Tuesday for the White family, you are a blessing
- For Tools for School, a local ministry that helps local families with school supplies, what a gift to our community
- For Natasha and Peter Rayne as they traveled to adopt their orphaned nephew Jemuel from Suriname after 3 years of paperwork and prayer, may your newly adopted son grow in grace and love in his new home
- For the gift of summer and all that accompanies this special time of year
- For our Garden Geeks who weed and water at church each week, you are a blessing

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 – Closed

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex 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