

## **Weekly Word – For Sunday, August 3, 2025**

### **Worship this Week:**

Stuff. What to do with all our stuff. Jesus had words about this to help us. Join us this Sunday for the Summer Sunday 9:30 am worship service. Communion is celebrated. Kristen Andes will provide special music on her harp and the VBS sets from the week will be up so you can see what the kids did during the week with our theme - Let Your Light Shine! Coffee fellowship will follow at 10:30 am. Join us!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/9JpQWk4YDwk?si=7BUYhKqlfsmTS-9s>

### **Sunday Bulletin**

#### **This Week**

Sun., Aug 3	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
Tues., Aug 5	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
Thurs., Aug 7	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Aug 10	8:30-9:30 am	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	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:	Rev. Doris Ruben
Celebrant:	Rev. Doris Ruben
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Carole Mottaz
Deacons:	Laura Anderson, Paul Shepherd, Jean Most, Karen Lloyd
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Nursery:	Jenny and Hannah Luedtke
Trustee:	Scott Nelson
Coffee Fellowship:	Diane Olson
Counters:	Jean Smith, Dennis Linder

### **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>

**Sunday School Teachers Needed:** Sunday School begins again on Rally Day, September 7. Please volunteer to teach. All classes have teaching partners so no one teaches every week. This is an important ministry and we need volunteers. Please sign up at church or online. There will be a meeting for Sunday School teachers on Thursday, September 4, 6:30–7:30 pm. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-57689735-sunday>

**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](http://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.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** The next Red Cross Blood Drive held at the church is scheduled for **Tues, Sept 30, 11:00 am–5:00 pm**. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter: [firstcongregationalrf](http://firstcongregationalrf) to schedule an appointment.

**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](http://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](mailto:amongfriendsrf@gmail.com)

### **Loving Self**

**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 last date will be **August 10**. Please consider joining us!

**Merry Widows:** They will meet on **Wed, August 20 at 1:00 pm at Culvers**. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See JoAnn Lentz for more information.

**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, Aug 12 & 26**. 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, Aug 12 & 26**.

**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](mailto: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:** It was a hot night to play softball, but at least it wasn't raining. We played the undefeated Servant of the Shepherd and won. Yay, especially since we are at the point where we have only one maybe two extra players to switch in and out every other inning. Our present record is 5 wins, 2 losses and one rain out. Looking ahead, our next 3 games are:

August 4 at 6:00 pm vs First Covenant at Hoffman Park, Field #1

August 11 at 7:15 pm vs River at Hoffman Park Field # 1

August 18 at 6:00 pm at Hoffman Park Field #2

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

**National Night Out** is a community block party event that is FREE for anyone to attend. Held on **Tues, Aug 5th from 5:00-7:00 pm.** There will be family-friendly activities, bounce house, treats/refreshments, visits from fire, EMS, police, etc., and a freewill donation yard sale that runs from 10am-7pm. Location is Our Neighbors' Place (122 W Johnson St. RF). All are welcome.

### **Youth Events**

**Day Trip to the Cities for Middle and High School Youth:** Join Alex in the church van on **Wed, August 6** for a day in the cities. We will explore parks, new food, visit some mission of the church and have a great day together. Contact Alex to sign up.

**High School and College Bible Study:** Join Alex and others for the summer weekly Bible Study. We meet at local coffee shops on either Tuesday or Wednesdays. Text Alex to get on the list.

**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!

**Summer Musical:** Please spread the word and invite children to participate. All are welcome and there is no cost.

**Musical: *Malice in the Palace: The Story of Esther***

Dates: August 18-21, 2025, 9:00 to 12:00 pm; Participants: Kindergarten through Completed Grade 6

Director: Emma Cruciani; Pianist: Marsha Pearson

### **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 27, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,073	\$ 309,274
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 318,690

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

### **People**

- For our AWESOME VBS teachers and volunteers, God bless you all!
- For Tools for School, a local ministry that helps local families with school supplies, what a gift to our community
- For our Trustees who recently repainted the Fireplace Room, bless you!
- For the joy of peaches and supporting our Youth Fund!
- For those who served the funeral receptions for the White and Faulks families, you are a blessing
- For the gift of summer and all that accompanies this special time of year

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 – Closed

**Church Staff Contact:**

Church Office - 715-425-2052

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

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

Youth: Alex 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)