

Weekly Word – For Sunday, September 7, 2025

Worship this Week:

Join us for Rally Day, the beginning of the program year! This Sunday marks the return of choir, Sunday School, Sunday Morning Bible Study and the return to Worship at 10:00 am and Coffee Fellowship at 11:00am. There will also be a Middle School Orientation for 6-8th grade kids and parents at 11:00 am. This Sunday we also begin a four-week worship series called Rebalance. Our schedule is below. Join us and invite a friend or family without a church home to join you!



Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/4btgpnQZ47Q?si=zckB7q2KNl8eoiHN>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Sept 7	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	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
	11:15 am-12:00 pm	Orientation for Confirmation Grades 6-8 and Parents
Mon., Sept 8	7:00-8:30 pm	Cribbage
Tues., Sept 9	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
Wed., Sept 10	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:00-8:00 pm	All Youth Meet at Tattersall for Feed My Starving Children Event
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Sept 11	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Sept 14	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	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
	11:15 am-11:30 pm	Back Bay Mission Trip Meeting
	11:15 am-12:00 pm	Orientation for High School Students and Parents

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Jill Paulson
Deacons:	Jena Most, Brian Miller, Loral Keil, Kathy Tomlinson
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller

Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Rick Price
Welcomers: Norma Revels
Coffee Fellowship: Jean Smith
Counters: Jean Smith, Scott Nelson

Loving God

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Sunday morning Bible study groups resumes on **September 7**. The group discusses the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets **9:00–9:50 Sunday mornings** in the Youth Room. Please join us! For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study resumes on **September 10**. The group will study the Gospel of John. This will be an in-depth yet accessible study of John. Copies of the discussion book are available for \$20.00 in the church office. Prior to the first meeting, please read the book's introduction. If you have questions, contact Pastor Stacy.

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

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.

Empty Pill Bottles (Prescription Only): The River Falls Lions Club is collecting empty pill bottles, only the clear prescription bottles that are filled by our pharmacists, to send to Africa where there is an urgent need. The bottles will be washed, and the labels soaked off before they are shipped. A tub is in the gathering area. If you have questions, contact Carole Mottaz.

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

Sunday School Teachers Meeting: There will be a meeting for Sunday School teachers on **Thurs, September 4, 6:30–7:30 pm**.

Wednesday School Workers Needed: Wednesday School begins on **October 1**. We need volunteers to provide snacks on a rotating basis. Please sign up at church or online:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-57916444-wednesday>

Knitting Group Update: Please bring any hats, scarves or mittens to the green bin in the gathering area by **Thurs, Sept 18**. We will organize the items and arrange for them to be picked up by the Basics for Local Kids.

Coming Soon: Art Exhibit: The exhibit *Cardboard Chronicles* will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall from **October 1 to November 13**. The exhibit will feature 25 original paintings by Rudolph Bostic that depict biblical stories painted on cardboard with enamel and house paint. Artist Rudolph Bostic is a longtime member of the Second African Baptist Church in Savannah, Georgia. Bostic found inspiration in the works of masters such as Rembrandt, Leonardo da Vinci, and Michelangelo. His art has appeared in folk art museums and galleries, particularly in the southern United States. Bostic paints as a reflection of his own spirituality. He wrote, "I try to express my love for God and the world."

Learning Community: Cardboard Chronicles: Please join us for the next Learning Community event on **Tuesday, October 7, at 6:30 pm**. The focus will be a conversation about the art exhibit *Cardboard Chronicles: The Art of Rudolph Bostic* that will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall starting October 1. This is the second (and final) art exhibit made possible through the grant First Congregational received from the Lilly Foundation.

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, Sept 17 at 1:00 pm at Applebees in Hudson**. 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, Sept 9 & 23**. 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, Sept 9 & 23**.

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

Partnering for Our Sustainable Future: A Community Conversation Hosted by Hope for Earth - Thurs, Sept 18, 6:30-8:30 pm at River Falls High School: Hope for Earth is launching the Climate Action and Resiliency Initiative, and we want your voice at the table! Together, we'll explore practical ways to improve everyday life, like making energy more affordable, reducing waste, strengthening local food systems, and creating inviting green spaces. You'll learn about different focus areas of the initiative, share your thoughts, and (if you're interested) sign up to be part of an action team helping to shape the future of our community. No experience needed, just your ideas and energy. Light refreshments provided. Free and open to all. RSVP at <https://www.hopeforearth.org/>

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 and enter: firstcongregationalrf to schedule an appointment.

Youth Events

Confirmation Orientation: Required Meetings: The Confirmation Orientation Meeting for Middle School students will be after worship on **Rally Day, September 7**. This meeting is **required** for all confirmands in grades 6–8 and their parents.

The Confirmation and Church Intern Orientation Meeting for High School students will be after worship on **Sunday, September 14**. This meeting is **required** for 9th graders and High School students who will participate in the Church Intern program and their parents.

Wednesday School: All children in kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Elementary students in River Falls are picked up at the 4 elementary schools in town at the end of the school day. Wednesday School concludes at 5:15. Registration & permission forms are at church and on the website. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students, particularly due to transportation needs. Wednesday School begins **October 1**. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Spring Break 2026: Spread the word! Save the date! We have 20 spots for a Spring Break Mission Trip to UCC related Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi for **Spring Break of 2026: March 14-21**. Any youth age 14 and older and any adult who wants to spend a week working on rehabbing houses in sunny Biloxi is welcome to join. Note Hudson Spring Break is the week before but UWRF and many UW Schools are off when we are — we would love to have college students participate! There will be a meeting on **Sunday, September 14 after worship in the Youth Room** to talk about the trip and begin sign-ups. We expect this trip to fill quickly so make sure you are at the meeting! Alex Plum can provide details.

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>Aug 31, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,217	\$ 358,860
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 371,805

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For our Sunday School teachers who start this Sunday—thank you for being a blessing to our young people!
- For our choir members singing today and for their director Sarah Plum, you are appreciated
- For those serving this coming program year on our committees and church council who begin work on Tuesday, September 16th at 6:30pm on All Committee Night, may your leadership help us to be a more loving, more courageous and more welcoming congregation
- For the return of Sunday morning and Wednesday afternoon Bible Study and Pastor Stacy who leads this, may we grow in faith and love
- For Barb and Larry Peterson who celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on September 2, may your love continue to grow

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

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

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – ztruck51ford@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com