

Weekly Word – For Sunday, September 28, 2025

Worship this Week:

To be human is to grow and change. That is by God's design. We are all growing and changing. But who are you becoming? Join us for the last week of our Rebalance Worship Series as we explore how to grow without burnout by looking at some of the faith practices in our Christian faith. Join us and invite a friend to join you too!

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/jYVH8nI9bZI?si=tk9Up1xeyXMHR_Ay

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Sept 28	9:00-9:45 am	Music 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
Tues., Sept 30	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	11:00 am-5:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Wed., Oct 1	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal (sign up!)
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Youth Group
		No HS Meeting
Thurs., Oct 2	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
Sun., Oct 5	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
	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

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Sue Danielson
Deacons:	Laura Anderson, Paul Shepherd, Ann Nelson, Brian Miller, Loral Keil
Organist:	LeAnn Stein
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers:	Cindy Gandrud, Norma Revels
Trustee:	Louie Filkins
Coffee Fellowship:	St. B's Donuts
Counters:	Jane Truesdill, Dennis Linder

Loving God

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets from **9:00–9:50** in the Youth Room. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The group is studying 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. 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

Neighbors in Need Offering: Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one third of the offering going to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two thirds supporting UCC Justice Ministries. Envelopes are in the pews, and we will be taking the offering through October. Thank you for your generous support.

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 them at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

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>

Endowment Grants: Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. Does your group have a new idea you want to pursue? Is there a need in the church or community your group wants to address? Consider applying for an Endowment Grant! All proposals must come from a committee, and the next due date is **October 5**. Forms can be accessed through the church office or on the church website: <https://firstchurchrf.org/pages/sign-up-sheets>

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. Please sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-58608162-learning>

Inquirer's Class: New to church? Want to know more about our life and ministry? Join us for the Inquirer's Class on **Tues, October 14 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. At this 90-minute gathering, you will meet church leaders, other new folks and learn more about First Congregational Church. Dessert and childcare are provided. Please sign up at church.

Music at First Church Concert: Join us for our next Music at First Church concert on **Sunday, October 19 at 3:00 pm**. Come and hear music by Rachmaninov, Massenet and Dvorak. Our guest musicians include Helen Chang on violin, Natalia Moiseeva on viola, Lukas Goodman on cello and Ivan Konev on piano. This is an opportunity to hear world-class music right here in River Falls. Admission is free, the concert will last an hour and a reception in the Fellowship Hall will follow. Join us and spread the word!

Fall Clean-Up, Saturday, November 1, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Back-up date is Saturday, November 8. Please sign up and join 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, Oct 7 & 21**. 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, Oct 14 & 28**.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive: Fall into donation – join us for our **Tuesday, September 30th First Congregational Church & Community Blood Drive from 11am – 5pm** to help the blood inventory BOUNCE BACK from summer lows. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon.com gift card via email as an added, "Thank You!" 1 hour, 1 donation can help up to 3 patients in need - [Click here to sign-up today!](#)

Wednesday Meals: On Wednesday nights, we offer a home-cooked meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$9 per person with a family max of \$30. **Meals are served from 5:15 to 6:00 pm.** You can get your meal to go if you go through the line (indicate when you sign up). **Reservations must be placed by noon on Tuesdays.** You can make a reservation online, the sign-up table or by calling the church office.

Oct 1 *Taco bar

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-58737038-wednesday>

Oct 8 *Pulled pork, vegetable and rolls

*Line opens early (4:45pm) for MS & HS youth going to Activate (5-9pm) who sign up!

Youth Events

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.

MS Field Trip to Activate! in Roseville MN, Wed, Oct 1 from 5-9pm: PLEASE sign up by Sun, Sep 28 as Alex needs to reserve tickets! What is Activate? Check out this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FhF7n2OyGM> Your MS student and a friend are invited for a fun evening at Activate in Roseville, MN! This is a high energy play experience with multiple rooms to choose from, as well as multiple game options per room. Plan on wearing athletic clothing and shoes, as well as bringing water to stay hydrated. This is a longer event so plan on eating or bringing snacks. Alex has room for 13 in the van, but we can accommodate more if we have an interested chaperone/driver. Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BACAF2EA2FFC07-58469064-activate> Note also that Wednesday Meals will open early at 4:45pm so those going to Activate can eat before they leave.

HS Field Trip to Activate! in Roseville MN, Wed, Oct 8 from 5-9pm: PLEASE sign up by Sun, Oct 5 as Alex needs to reserve tickets! What is Activate? Check out this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FhF7n2OyGM> Your HS student and a friend are invited for a fun evening at Activate in Roseville, MN! This is a high energy play experience with multiple rooms to choose from, as well as multiple game options per room. Plan on wearing athletic clothing and shoes, as well as bringing water to stay hydrated. This is a longer event so plan on eating or bringing snacks. Alex has room for 13 in the van, but we can accommodate more if we have an interested chaperone/driver. Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BACAF2EA2FFC07-58672421-activate> Note also that Wednesday Meals will open early at 4:45pm so those going to Activate can eat before they leave.

Spring Break 2026: 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. Sign-ups have begun. See Alex Plum for more 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>Sept 21, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,474	\$ 390,641
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 403,674

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For our beautiful warm late fall weather, let us enjoy each and every day!
- For our amazing Wednesday School drivers, helpers and snack providers (we need more of each!), thank you for your generosity as we begin on Wednesday, October 1
- For our church song leaders/cantors Dave Reilly and Jamie Mills, thank you for sharing your gifts with us
- For those serving this program year on our committees and church council, may your leadership help us to be a more loving, more courageous and more welcoming congregation

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