

Weekly Word – For Sunday, October 5, 2025

Worship this Week:

Fill in this sentence: I do not have enough... Time. Money. Energy. Wisdom. Courage. Patience. Faith. Some days it feels like we just do not have enough anything. And so, if you have ever said this or felt this, you are in very good company. Such is the predicament of the disciples in today's gospel lesson from Luke 17:5-10. Join us this Sunday as we seek to grow our faith together in worship at 10am as the choir sings, Sunday School meets and communion is celebrated.

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/ycDrZaRa-r8?si=GUvFMrbLl65_UUVw

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Oct 5	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
Tues., Oct 7	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	6:30-8:00 pm	Learning Community Event – Cardboard Chronicles
Wed., Oct 8	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
	5:00-9:00 pm	HS Youth Group Trip to Activate
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Confirmation Class
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Oct 9	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Oct 12	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:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Suzanne Hagen
Deacons:	Lance Lueck, Paul Shepherd, Jena Most, Melissa Oscanyan, Liz Swank
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers:	Rene Bylander, JoAnne Friedell

Trustee: Scott Nelson
Coffee Fellowship: Jean Smith
Counters: Marie Roe, Scott Nelson
Altar table flowers are given by Evelyn Purdy.

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 then at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

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>

Art Exhibit: The exhibit *Cardboard Chronicles* will be displayed in the Fellowship Hall from **October 1 to November 13**. The exhibit features 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 is displayed in the Fellowship Hall. 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!

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Thurs, Oct 16 at 1:00 pm at St. Croix Lanes in River Falls**. 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, 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

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 8 *Pulled pork, vegetable, rolls

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-58740409-wednesday>

Oct 15 Swedish meatballs, butter & parsley potatoes, vegetable, rolls

Oct 22 Beef stroganoff, noodles, salad, bread

*Line opens early (4:45pm) for HS youth going to Activate (5-9pm)

Youth Events

College Pack Items Needed! One of the mission activities of the church youth program is to send College Packs to those off at school or the military. We ask each of our 6-12th grade families to bring items for the 30 College Packs we anticipate sending this year. Think necessary items, fun items and lightweight items as they will be shipped! Food is always good. So are dorms decs. Please have them at church by **Sun, Oct 12.** Thank you!

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. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

HS Field Trip to Activate! in Roseville MN, Wed, Oct 8 from 5-9pm: PLEASE sign up by Sun, Oct 5! 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! 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. 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 Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission: We have 3 spots left for the Spring Break Mission Trip to Back Bay March 14-21 which coincides with both RF and Hudson Spring Breaks. Next step will be to secure flights so please make sure we get those \$150 deposits in! Please talk to Alex for more info. We hope every high school student goes on this trip at least once.

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 28, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,571	\$ 392,683
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 414,297

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For 10 years of generating clean solar energy with our church solar panels, thanks be to God!
- For all those who benefit from blood given at our latest blood drive this past Tuesday
- For our beautiful warm late fall weather, let us enjoy each and every day!
- For our amazing Wednesday School drivers, helpers and snack providers, thank you for your generosity as we began this past Wednesday
- 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