

## **Weekly Word – For Sunday, October 12, 2025**

### **Worship this Week:**

This Sunday we receive a lesson in gratitude. In the gospel lesson from Luke 17, ten are healed, but only one returns to give thanks. Why does the one return and why do the nine not? Join us as we learn to grow the gratitude part of our faith as the choir sings, Sunday School meets and Coffee Fellowship follows at the 10am Sunday worship service. It is also World Mental Health Sunday so our WISE Team (Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive and Engaged) will be handing out psalm books which were decorated by our Wednesday School kids. Join us and invite a friend to join you.

Link to Worship Livestream: [https://www.youtube.com/embed/6W9A8Kx9JjY?si=rCL94uB\\_Cg9yWMYa](https://www.youtube.com/embed/6W9A8Kx9JjY?si=rCL94uB_Cg9yWMYa)

### **Sunday Bulletin**

#### **This Week**

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
Mon., Oct 13	7:00-8:30 pm	Cribbage Night
Tues., Oct 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
	2:00-3:00 pm	Personnel Meeting
	6:30-8:00 pm	Inquirer's Class
Wed., Oct 15	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	HS Class
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Oct 16	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Oct 19	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	Game Day
	3:00-4:30 pm	Music at First Church Concert

#### **Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:**

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Traci Hagberg

Deacons: Becky Pajac, Laura Anderson, Ann Nelson, Melissa Oscanyan  
Organist: Marsha Pearson  
Nursery: Kahla Fuller  
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman, Casey Beatty  
Welcomers: Arthur Rice & Elaine Dixen  
Trustee: Andy Krueger  
Coffee Fellowship: Marg Downing  
Counters: Trish Graves, Mark Anderson

*Altar table flowers are given by Traci Hagberg in celebration of Ted and Jean Hagberg's wedding anniversary (would be their 70th).*

### **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](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**

**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:** Women's white crew socks, men's white crew socks, men's t-shirts sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, personal size shampoo, personal size conditioner, personal size body lotion, rain ponchos, eye masks, umbrellas, washcloths, padlocks, 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](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 them at [amongfriendsrf@gmail.com](mailto: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 **December 7**. 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* is displayed in the Fellowship Hall until 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."

**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 21 & Nov 4**. 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](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**

**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 15 Swedish meatballs, butter and parsley potatoes, vegetable, rolls  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-58741352-wednesday>  
Oct 22 Beef stroganoff, noodles, salad, bread  
Oct 29 Chicken marsala, rice, asparagus, salad

## **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.

**Spring Break Mission Trip to Back Bay Mission:** We have 2 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>Oct 5, 2025</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,537	\$ 407,907
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,623	\$ 424,920

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, you are angels
- For those taking part in the work weekend at Moon Beach Camp including Lu Lueck, Carol Merriman and Jane Wakefield, may they do good work and return home safely
- 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

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 – 8:30 am to 12:00 pm

### **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)

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – [ztruck51ford@gmail.com](mailto:ztruck51ford@gmail.com)

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - [timthefixitguy@gmail.com](mailto:timthefixitguy@gmail.com)