

Weekly Word – For Sunday, March 29, 2026

Worship this Week:

Welcome to Holy Week and Palm Sunday! Join us at the Sunday 10:00 am worship service as we loudly and lovingly welcome Jesus with palms and song! The choir will sing, the children will process and palms will be available for all. Come let us welcome a different kind of king in our world today! Please be sure to sign up for the Easter Breakfast next Sunday (sign up below) and this Sunday is the last day to sign up for Easter lilies. Join us and invite a friend!

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday, March 29	Sunday Worship and Procession of Palms at 10:00 am
Maundy Thursday, April 2	Worship at 6:30 pm
Good Friday, April 3	Choir presents their Good Friday Cantata at 6:30 pm
Holy Saturday, April 4	Youth set tables and prepare for the Easter Breakfast at 10:00 am
Easter Sunday, April 5	Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am with Breakfast served from 8:00 to 10:15 am

Easter Breakfast Sign-up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-62422535-easter>

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/G50SvoNk4zw?si=vuwnA3CDfm4PWbrl>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Mar 29	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., Mar 31	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
Wed., Apr 1	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Apr 2	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
	6:30-7:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Fri., Apr 3	6:30-7:30 pm	Good Friday Worship Service
Sat., Apr 4	10:00-11:00 am	Easter Breakfast Set Up
	10:00 am-1:00 pm	Loral Keil Visitation, Funeral & Lunch at Bakken & Young Funeral Home
Sun., Apr 5	8:00-8:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	8:00-10:15 am	Easter Breakfast Served in the Fellowship Hall
	8:45-11:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:00-10:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chirs Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Ginny Larson

Deacons: Lance Lueck, Traci Hagberg, Liz Swank, Karen Lloyd, Kathy Tomlinson
Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers: Deb Hoffman
Trustee: Vicki Sippel
Coffee Fellowship: Melissa and Tom Oscanyan
Counters: Jane Truesdill, Dennis Linder

Loving God

Sunday Morning Text 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 Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study is studying the book of Ruth. The group meets in the Fireplace Room on **Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30 pm**. To receive a copy of the study book or 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

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within the Wider Church Ministries. We need to support this ministry, maybe now more than ever. Envelopes are on the sign-up table. Thank you for your generous support. - Mission Education Committee

First Church Companions: Are you interested in being a companion to someone in our church connecting with them at least once a month with a call or visit? Or would you like to have someone for a companion. Please use the sign-up sheet to be a companion or request someone to visit you.

Basics for Local Kids: There is a bin for donations. Volunteers are also needed. You can help families shop or you can help sort, restock or organize. Shifts are 2 hours. To sign up, go to <https://www.basicsforlocalkids.org/> or call Kim at 715-821-1623. Contact Renee Whipple at 715-307-5074 if you have any questions.

Grace Place is a homeless shelter run by the Salvation Army in New Richmond. It is housed in the old St. Croix County Nursing Home. They operate on a short shoe-string budget and are delighted that we will support them with donations and meals. The shelter has three family rooms, a men's wing and a women's wing. They can house up to 50 people, two or three people to a room. If you have any questions, please see Carole Mottaz.

Grace Place Donations: Needed items: new adult undergarments (underwear up to size XXL), new bras, new or like-new sweatpants up to size 4X, new or like-new T-shirts up to size 4X, new shoes (adult men and female), belts, adult socks, good buys. There is a bin at 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

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wednesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm at Mariachi Loco** in River Falls. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow 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, Mar 31 & Apr 14.** 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, Apr 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.

Game Day Sunday: Game Day Sunday is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **April 19 at 11:45 am.** Join us!

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 St (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at First Congregational 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

Join us for Easter Breakfast – Sunday, April 5: Easter Breakfast will be served from **8:00 am to 10:15 am.** The menu will be blueberry French toast, eggs benedict casserole, scrambled eggs with cheese, sausage links, bacon, mixed fresh fruit, Danishes & cinnamon rolls, coffee, apple & orange juice & milk. Cost is \$10 per person with a family max of \$40, all of which goes to our Youth Fund for mission trips and opportunities. Please sign up by Wed, Apr 1 at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-62422535-easter>

Relay for Life – Hot Dish Meal – April 8: The Relay for Life team is adding a Hot Dish Night to help raise funds for the event. Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society. The Hot Dish Meal, also known as a casserole depending on where you are from, is **Wed, April 8 from 5:15–6:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall or you may take your meal to go. We will have a variety of hot dishes to taste and enjoy. The meal will also include a simple salad, dessert, and some fun side dishes. The cost of the meal is a donation to Relay for Life. We will have luminaries “in honor of” or “in memory of” a special person for sale. The cost of the luminaries is \$5/bag. Our team is also looking for some items to sell at the silent auction. If you have any questions or would like to help with the meal, contact Deb Hoffman at debhoffman234b@gmail.com or (612)308-4945.

Sign up for Apr 8 Hot Dish Night: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-62887251-wednesday>

Relay for Life - April 10: The Relay for Life Event is held on **April 10 from 5:00 to 9:30 pm at the River Falls High School** in the common area and the gym. The theme this year is “We are the World, United for a Cure.” The event begins with the Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 pm which continues until 8:00 pm unless they run out before. The Survivor Walk is at 6:00 pm and participants can walk the track anytime except during the Luminary Ceremony. The Silent Auction is in the gym from 5:30–8:30 pm and other fundraising sales are in the common area from 5:30-8:30 pm. The Luminary Ceremony starts around 8:30-8:45 pm. Luminaries can be purchased at church on March 29, April 6, and April 8, or contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945. Luminaries can also be purchased at the Relay from 5:00-7:30 pm. The cost of the luminaries “in Honor of” or “in Memory of” is \$5.00. Some fun activities are scheduled for kids throughout the event. The Relay for Life’s Closing Ceremony is at 9:00 pm and the event ends at 9:30 pm. If you have any questions or would like to join our team, contact Deb Hoffman at debhoffman234b@gmail.com or (612)308-4945.

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 **April 5**. Forms can be accessed through the church office or on the church website.

Spring Clean-Up, Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Please sign up and join us!

Name Tags: We encourage you to wear your name tags so that everyone can call you by name. It would also help the deacons when you take communion. If you do not have one, please let Missy in the church office know at missy@firstchurchrf.org. In appreciation, the Welcoming Committee.

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>Mar 22, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,311	\$ 138,867
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 135,696

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For the love and joy of Holy Week and Easter
- For the \$25,000 given by church folks to help refugees in Ukraine, you are angels
- For the recent Relay for Life Soup Supper and for their Hot Dish Night April 8th, may we be fed and cancer end
- For those who received blood from the March 16th blood drive in our Fellowship Hall, may it bring life
- For the last of our Wednesday Family Meals which this year is the Relay for Life Hot Dish Night on Wednesday, April 8th from 5:15 to 6:00 pm, may all be fed

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