

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)

May 15, 2026

**Our mission is to love God  
and serve people.**

**Everyone is welcome because  
everyone matters.**

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## Pastor's Page

Confirmation Sermon Preached by  
Pastor Chris on Sunday, May 3 on  
John 14:1-10

A few years ago, award winning New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman wrote a wonderful book called *Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations*. In his book he talks about the sense of dislocation so many people feel today by using the image of being on a moving sidewalk, like at an airport. For many years this moving sidewalk went at the same speed, or maybe a little bit faster, but then about 20 years ago, it started picking up speed, going faster and faster and faster. Now the moving sidewalk of life is going so fast that if you get off you could get really hurt - you almost have jump because it is going so fast. And if you want to get on the moving sidewalk, you have jump and land just right or else you'll fall and hurt yourself. Friedman says that all this fast change has made us anxious and unsure about where life is headed. Which is exactly the question Thomas asks Jesus in today's gospel lesson.

Jesus tells his disciples he is going away. He has spent months preparing them, teaching them and being with them. And so, before he departs, he asks them a question:

And you know the way to the place where I am going? I am certain that right after Jesus asked that question there was complete silence in the room. I love you confirmands, but there have been times when I asked a question, I was sure you would know and instead of an answer, was met with exact same terrified silence. So notice please, it is Phillip who speaks up for all of those fearful struggling disciples including you and me when he says: Lord we don't know where you are going? We don't know where this moving sidewalk of life is going, so how are we supposed to know the way? Jesus responds to that honest, faithful question with those beautiful words: I am the way and the truth and the light. You will know God through me. Follow in my way.

You may be surprised to learn that the first followers of Jesus were not called Christians, at least not at first. They were called people of The Way. In fact, the word Christian only appears three times in the Bible. But The Way and People of the Way, those words appear over and over, like today when Jesus says he is The Way and the Truth and the Light. This is important for us to remember as we confirm our 9th graders today.

You see Jesus is not just our way to God or even our way to get into heaven. Jesus is also our way to find meaning and purpose in life. Our Christian faith teaches us that we are all created in the image and love of God. We know that part up here in our heads, but forget it in here in our hearts and so we fail to live it in out-there living. Everyone in this

room knows first-hand that people don't treat one another as God's beloved children. We forget how God wants us to act - the churchy word is - we sin. Even though we know we are all unique and valuable and needed by God, we don't treat one another this way. We hurt one another, even those we love the most. We are trapped between knowing what we should do up here in our heads but not being able to do it down here in our hearts and or live it out in our everyday world. Paul in Romans 7:15 says there is this inner conflict going on inside each of us. I don't understand my own actions, he says, for I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Paul says we are trapped, longing to be free. So, in order to free ourselves, we try out a whole bunch of ways of living. We try materialism and consumerism, thinking we can buy our way to happiness. We try greed and self-interest, thinking only of ourselves. We try escaping, watching endless TikTok videos or shorts of people doing stupid things, and we laugh but they only offer temporary escapes, not a way forward. We try staying busy, filling our schedules to the brim, but that only leaves us exhausted. And so along comes Jesus who says I am the Way and the Truth and the Light. I am the way through the harshness and hardness of life, through its pain and heartache, fears and failings. That is why he says he is going ahead of us, not just to prepare a room for us in heaven after we die, but to blaze a trail so we can follow now. So we can learn how to live

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an abundant life and heal this broken world Jesus loves so much. But how? What does it look like to follow Jesus as The Way when the moving sidewalk keeps going faster and faster?

This is where Friedman's book becomes wonderfully helpful. He says one of the most important skills for thriving in our world is adaptation. Neal Prochnow was one of the former deans at UWRF and also served as chair of our deacons. Neal had a funny, but harsh saying about change. He said you need to adapt, move or die. The world changes. Technology changes. Jobs are changing. Communities change. Our families change. Our bodies change. The question is not whether change will come, but whether we will learn how to stand steady while everything around us moves quicker and quicker.

And one of Thomas Friedman's favorite images is in that strange title: Thank You for Being Late. He tells the story of meeting someone for breakfast in a hotel lobby, and that person was late, like really late. At first, he was annoyed, but then he realized that those unexpected quiet minutes gave him a precious gift: time to breathe; time to reflect; time to notice himself and the world. Being late gave him the gift of unexpected time. A space he did not try to fill by watching yet one more silly cat video! He used the gift of unexpected time to reflect, reorient and renew himself, to figure out how to navigate a changing world and it gave him an idea for a book (which sold 4 million copies by the way). That gift of time and perspective is one of the great gifts of our Christian faith. Because the world keeps telling us and particularly you confirmands: Hurry up. Be faster. Do more. Answer every text and post immediately. Keep up. Perform. Compete. Build your resume. Figure out your entire future by age seventeen, which can feel like a lot of pressure some days, right?

So along comes Jesus. But instead of saying hurry up, do more and keep up, Jesus says something different. He says abide in me. He says do not let your hearts be troubled. He says follow me.

Our Christian faith gives us the space we need to make sense of a changing world and find our way forward. Worship on Sundays is a like the gift Friedman was given in that thank you for being late moment. Each week we are given one precious hour when we get to step off the moving sidewalk long enough to remember who we are. Prayer is a thank you for being late. Sabbath is a thank you for being late. Communion is a thank you for being late. Confirmation itself is a thank you for being late - moments to stop and before life rushes on, ask ourselves: who am I, what are my gifts, and what am I being called to do and be?

Here in worship our Christian faith gives us real answers to these questions! The answer to the question who are you? Is this: You are God's beloved child. Not because of your GPA. Not because of your great athletic skills. Not because of how many followers or likes you have. And not because you always get it right. You are loved because in baptism you belong to God.

That truth matters because the world will try to hand you a hundred other identities. It will tell you your worth depends on success, appearance, popularity, politics, or possessions. Jesus says no. Your identity begins so much deeper than all of that. It's like that song we sing - I love you, you are mine.

If you let that faith, that way of living, that mindset into your head, and heart and hands, it will change how you live. It means when everyone else is cruel online, you find the strength to choose kindness. It means when the crowd chooses to exclude and ridicule, you choose welcome and stand up for others. It means when people reduce others to labels, you remember every person is made in the image of God. It means when anxiety tells you your future is uncertain, you remember Christ has already gone ahead of you. When failure comes - which it will - you remember failure is never final in the resurrection story. And when the world says protect yourself first, Jesus says love one another.

That is adaptation of your soul. We live in a world of poly crises, multiple crises, problems all going on at the same times. AI, climate change, political division, economic uncertainty and constant comparison. We do not need better advice, like plugging the problem into ChatGPT. We need deeper roots. Roots that will enable us to keep our balance.

Faith gives you roots. Prayer teaches you are never alone. Scripture teaches wisdom which is way older than the latest internet influencers. Community teaches you do not have to live life by yourself. Service teaches a meaningful life is not found in being served, but in serving. Grace teaches that when you fall - you can get back up again. That is what confirmation is about.

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Today is not graduation. It is not a congratulations, you survived confirmation class, good luck out there. Today is a beginning. Today you are saying: I want to walk this Way. Not perfectly. Not without questions. Remember, Thomas had questions too. Thomas did not know where Jesus was going, but Thomas was brave enough to say, "we don't know." And Jesus did not shame him for asking. Jesus simply said: I am the Way, which is good news for all of us, because faith is not about having every answer. Faith is about trusting someone who does.

So, confirmands, parents and church, there will be days when life feels like that moving sidewalk and you are not sure where it is all headed. There will be moments when everyone else seems confident and you feel lost. There will be times when you wonder if you are enough. In those moments, remember Thomas. Remember Jesus. Remember your baptism. Remember this table. Remember this community called church. And remember this promise: You do not walk alone. Christ goes ahead of you, beside you, within you. He is your way when you feel lost, Your truth when the world feels confusing and Your life when hope feels thin. So maybe the prayer for all of us today is simply this: God thank you for being late. Thank you for holy pauses that slow us down long enough to remember what really matters. Thank you for being our Way in a world moving too fast. And thank you for these young people, who remind us that faith is always about beginnings. Amen.



## Mother's Day – Father's Day Diaper Drive

It's that time of year again!! The Mission Ed Committee will once again sponsor a Diaper Drive between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Starting May 10th and running through June 21st, we will collect diapers and wipes in the gathering area. After Father's Day the diapers will be donated to Our Neighbors' Place, Turning Point and the River Falls Food Pantry. **Please note:** Larger sized diapers are most needed.



## VBS Volunteers

It is time to turn our attention to the upcoming summer program. Please volunteer to help with VBS. We need a large number of adult and teen volunteers. To volunteer, please sign the list in the gathering space or online. The VBS volunteer meeting will be **Thursday, July 23, 6:30–7:30 pm**. This is the most important chance to prepare for the week.

## Sunday Morning Text Study

Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible texts featured in that morning's worship. The group meets at **9:00–9:50 Sunday mornings in the Youth Room**.

The Sunday Morning Text Study will meet through May 17 and then resume in the fall on Rally Day, September 13.

## VBS Painting Work Night

Please come to help paint the VBS backdrops on **Tuesday, July 21, starting at 6:00**. The only talent necessary is the ability to paint within the lines. Please help!

## Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study is winding up its discussions for this program year. The group will resume meeting in the fall, beginning on September 16. On the discussion schedule for the fall are the last book of the Bible, *Revelation*, and Thomas Long's *What Happens When We Die?*

If you have questions or are interested in joining the group in the fall, please contact Pastor Stacy.

## Pre-School and Kindergarten Sunday School Scrapbooks

Pre-School and Kindergarten-age children will receive their Sunday School scrapbooks at the end of the Time with Children on Sunday, May 17. The scrapbooks provide a weekly summary of the children's learning and highlight the art they created.

# VBS and Summer Children's Musical

Dates for the 2026 children's summer programs are:

## VBS

Dates: July 27-30, 9:00-11:30 am

Theme: My Peace I Give to You

## Children's Musical

Dates: August 10-13, 9:00 am-Noon

Show: *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hits*



VBS is for children age 3 to completed grade 5. The musical is for children who have completed kindergarten through completed grade 6. We will need adult and teen volunteers for VBS. Please save the dates!

Emma Cruciani, music teacher at Rocky Branch Elementary, will direct the musical.

Registration forms are online and available at church. Please invite friends and neighbors to participate.

## Upcoming Events

- Sun, May 17 Music Sunday and Leo Anthony Plum Baptism
- Tues., May 19 All Church Meeting Night (Committees off July and August)
- Wed, May 20 Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall 11:00 am to 5:00 pm
- Sun, May 24 Memorial Day Weekend - Worship Moves to 9:30 am
- Sun, May 31 Graduation and Scholarship Sunday at 9:30 am
- Sun, June 17 Father's Day - Worship at 9:30 am
- Thurs, July 9 River Falls Days Concert on the Church Lawn with Bluegrass Band



## Summer Choir

Summer Choir is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song.

The dates will be **June 21, July 26 and August 16**. Please consider joining us!



## Wednesday School Thanks

Another year of Wednesday School has drawn to a close. On Wednesday afternoons during the school year, we pick up elementary students from school and bring them to church for the afternoon. Children enjoy a snack, make friends, listen to stories, work on projects, and build blocks and Legos. Wednesday School would not be possible without our incredibly faithful volunteers: Christina Krueger, Chris Myers, Stacy Myers, Rhett Theisen, David Reilly, Vicki Swank, Erin Syverson, and Jennifer Syverson. We also have middle school-age volunteers who help: Sagan Linaberry, Emma Miller, Hazel Morrison, and Mason Meyer. Many thanks also to the numerous volunteers who bring snacks for the students.

## Sunday School Thanks

We are fortunate to have a strong Sunday School program at First Congregational Church. Sunday School is one of the primary ways our congregation educates children in the Christian faith and supports parents as they seek to fulfill the promises they made at their children's baptisms to raise their children in faith. Sunday School is completely dependent on adults and teens willing to give of their time and expertise to teach. Many thanks to this year's teachers: Laura Anderson, Marg Downing, Traci Hagberg, Kim Korent, Mackenzie Merriman, Jen Meyer, Sarah Meyer, Stacy Myers, Becky Pajac, Alex Plum, Christina Krueger, MiKayla Sanocki, Emma Shepherd, Mara Shepherd, and Vicki Swank. Thank you! Thank you!





## Softball News

It's that time of the year when the temperatures are getting warmer and the grass is turning green that we think of fun outside activities like SOFTBALL. Once again, our church will sponsor a softball team in the River Falls Church Family League. The family league is a co-ed division allowing players to play at the age 14. The league prefers players to be 14 years old for safety reasons and it's the city league rules. The co-ed description requires teams to have three women on the field at all times, so ladies please don't be afraid to sign up and play.

The games are played on Monday evenings at Hoffman Park. Games will begin the first Monday after Memorial Day and continue until the middle of August.

To sign up there is a sign-up sheet on the table in the gathering area or contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, [debhoffman234b@gmail.com](mailto:debhoffman234b@gmail.com).

### Summer Worship

What are the two seasons in Wisconsin? Winter and...Road Construction. During the summer between Memorial Day and Labor Day our **Worship Service moves to 9:30 am** with Coffee Fellowship to follow. Please join us!

### Music Sunday

Join us on **Sunday, May 17th** at 10:00 am for Music Sunday! Our bell choir and chancel choir will present some of their favorite music of the year. This is a chance not only to enjoy some great music but also to offer our appreciation for many, many Wednesdays spent in the church basement practicing. Please be sure to thank them and their directors, Jamie Mills who conducts the Bell Choir and Sarah Plum who conducts the Chancel Choir.

### Summer Nursery Volunteers Needed

During the summer months our church nursery is staffed by volunteers while our weekly, faithful nursery worker Kahla Fuller enjoys some time off. Please sign up for a Sunday to staff the nursery. Use the sign-up sheet at church or online. Thank you!



### Graduation & Scholarship Sunday

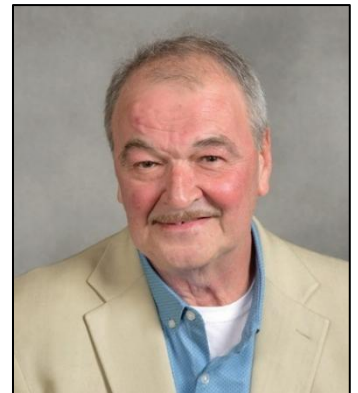
Sunday, May 31 is Graduation Sunday. At the 9:30 am summer worship service, we will recognize our graduating High School Seniors and award scholarships. All scholarship applicants and their parents should be in attendance. Each year this church gives out about \$50,000 in church scholarships. Thank you to our anonymous donor who has been so generous in supporting our church scholarship program.

### Among Friends New Director

It is with absolute joy that we announce our Among Friends program has a new director: Marshall Skule! Marshall has served as deacon, VBS program helper, member of our Men's Group and helps with the church Memorial Garden.

For the past two years, he has also served as a volunteer at our Among Friends program for families with dementia.

We are thrilled to announce that he has been hired by the Among Friends Board to be their next director taking over the position from Norma Revels. Please be sure to congratulate him when you see him.





## Confirmation

Please be sure to welcome our newest church members! On Sunday, May 3rd we welcomed four of our ninth graders into the faith and family of Jesus Christ by confirmation.

They are Blake Friese, Tyler Sterba, Harper Withers and Cody Ronnander.

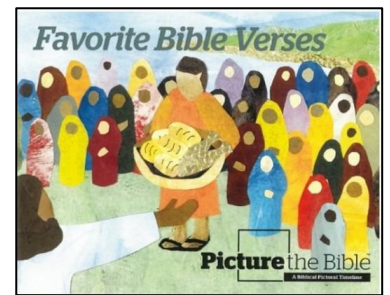
Please be sure to welcome them as we make room for their many gifts!

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## Memory Bible Verses

The May memory verse (the final for the program year) is Psalm 23:1-3 –

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters;  
He restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.



Bobbie McFarrin's famous setting of Psalm 23 (dedicated to his mother) uses feminine pronouns for God. It is lovely. Consider what these words add to your experience of Psalm 23:

*The Lord is my Shepard, I have all I need, She makes me lie down in green meadows,  
Beside the still waters, She will lead.*

*She restores my soul, She rights my wrongs, She leads me in a path of good things,  
And fills my heart with songs.*

*Even though I walk, through a dark & dreary land, There is nothing that can shake me,  
She has said She won't forsake me, I'm in her hand.*

*She sets a table before me, in the presence of my foes, She anoints my head with oil,  
And my cup overflows.*

*Surely, surely goodness & kindness will follow me, All the days of my life,  
And I will live in her house, Forever, forever & ever.*

*Glory be to our Mother, & Daughter, And to the Holy of Holies,  
As it was in the beginning, is now & ever shall be, World, without end. Amen*

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## Youth Program Celebration

This past Wednesday our Confirmation and Youth Groups ended the program year with their annual bowling celebration! Thanks to all who participated in Confirmation, Middle and High School Youth Groups and Church Interns. And special thanks to those who lead them, Pastors Chris and Stacy and Alex Plum.

Alex is planning some fun summer events to keep our young people connected including the annual Day in the City Trip and the Summer Youth Bible Study. Look for more info next month (Baby Leo is keeping him up now!)

# CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 21, 2026

Treasurer's Report – Missy: The Budget is steady at this time. Review of budget notes that some items were mis-coded again. Missy will resolve with the bookkeeper. Missions are current at this time. All staff have been paid, and all benefits are up to date.

## **New Business:**

WISE budget for 2027 - Up to this point: they have had speakers and events funded through the Endowment Grant. They will need a budget to operate under for the 2027 budget.

Lilly Grant Proposal from WI Conference - There are two different grants: they offer a congregation grant and a conference grant. We are one of 6 churches invited to enter a project from the congregation. Chris has been invited to participate in a ZOOM meeting later this week. To consider "things we do well" or things we could share with other congregations.

New Committee members and renewing members (end Aug, begin new Sep) – Marie sent out emails to all the committees to ask what members are finishing their first term to determine who will need the nominating committee to be recruiting for. Asking for suggestions/recommendations as well.

## **Old Business:**

Tuck Pointing and Building Issues – Lance: reviewed the damage and compared the review to the work estimates.

Discussion of having companies assess the building with the committee members. Tim also had drone video of the flat roof - no standing water and drain was open. Trustees reviewed the footage. Need to identify what the actual problem is, scope of project may not need to be as large as originally thought. Also looking at a rough timeline for fund raising.

Tiny Homes Update – Chris - The board has been formed: Wellspring Village. Tom Oscanyan is the church representative on the board. The High School Tech Ed will begin work on the house and the church team will complete the project.

Minister for Community Update – Alan provided a report: there is an individual from southeastern WI. Both he and his wife are retiring ministers and are relocating to Roseville to be close to family. He is familiar with this congregation and knows Carol M. and Chris. He is in the process of gathering his credentials. Alan may convene the committee to interview him. Personnel Committee: Alan T, Marie E, Suzanne H, Kathy R, Chris M, Carol M

## **Ministry Updates:**

Christian Education (Angie) - Review of summer program plans: VBS July 27-30 - theme will be Peace. Musical - August 10-13, fused glass project is continuing, Parent Support Event planned for the fall.

Deacons (Lance) - Walked through confirmation Sunday plans, Marie provided Safety Training.

Discipleship (Chris) - Meeting in May. People in the Pews ongoing.

Endowment Grant (Norma) - No change - no requests pending.

Mission Education(Larry/Carol) - Committee members are asking for additional information about the Tiny Home project, Diaper Drive coming up between Mother and Father's Day. Earth Fest Earth Balls are ready. There is an additional surprise for adults. Mission Moment people scheduled for the summer. Habitat for Humanity doing a modular home build in Ellsworth. There will be one scheduled in Baldwin after that.

Music (Marie): May 17th is Music Sunday

Personnel (Alan in late fall) - See above

Trustees (Louie) - Handrail has been completed. No word from Fire Suppression company. New light installed near end of entrance sidewalk. Will explore landscape lighting for the area down the sidewalk, back stairs in the alley - 3 bids so far - analyzing them at this time. Saturday morning is the scheduled outside clean up. Discussed replacement trees in the boulevard.

Welcoming Ministry (Deb) - No meeting this month. Monitoring the Welcome Schedule and Coffee Fellowship.

Pastor (Chris) - Sarah Plum's baby is due on Thursday. Tanner takes over for the rest of the season. JoAnn Lentz Memorial Gathering at church on Saturday, May 2 from 11 am-1 pm. Marshall Skule has accepted the position of new Director for Among Friends beginning May 1st. Among Friends was awarded the River Falls Power of 100 grant.

Moderator (Marie) - April 30th is deadline for submitting committee member needs.

Respectfully Submitted, Jo Anne Friedell, Clerk

NEXT MEETING: May 19, then off June and July, then Aug 18 last meeting before new folks come on Sep 15

## 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 **July 5**. Forms can be accessed at church office or on the website.

## Needed Items

The choir is in need of more file drawer hanging file frames and folders for the choir music.

Please let the church office know if you have these items to donate. Thank you.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive held at the church is on **Wednesday, May 20, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.**

See the flyer for more info. Call 1-800-733-2767 or go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter: [firstcongregationalrf](http://firstcongregationalrf) to schedule an appointment.



## Gardeners and Mowers Needed!

We love our church gardens and lawns! Please help us maintain them by joining our Garden Geeks and/or the Lawn Mowing Team. You sign up for a week that works for your busy schedule. Training is provided and it is so appreciated! Use the sign-up sheets or talk to Lu Lueck about Garden Geeks or the office for mowing.

## 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](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org). In appreciation, the Welcoming Committee.

## 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. We are now set up to receive such gifts. Talk to the church office if you need more information.

## WISE Corner

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at 113 East Elm St (Mei Mei's) & 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.

## Treasurer's Report

	Week of <u>May 3 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,150	\$ 177,548
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 203,544

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

\*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

## Church Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Chris Myers - [chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)

Education: Stacy Myers - [stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org)

Office: Missy Luedtke - [missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)

Youth: Alex Plum - [rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)

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)

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

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

*SERVE  
generously*

## Grace Place

Supply needs:

- 55-gallon garbage bags
- 13-gallon garbage bags
- Paper towels
- Kleenex
- Napkins
- Ziploc bags, aluminum foil and plastic wrap
- Light bulbs
- Batteries: AA, AAA and 9 volt
- Cleaning supplies: Fabuloso, window cleaner, disinfectant wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brushes, cleaning scrubbers
- Good buys

There is a bin at church for donations. Thank you!

## 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.

## River Falls Food Pantry

The pantry is currently in need of: toilet paper, cereal, peanut butter and cooking oil. Information about donations is on their website at <https://rfcfp.org/>. Donations can be brought to 705 St. Croix Street during their hours of operation:

- Mondays 10:00 am–12:00 pm  
and 6:00–7:30 pm
- Wednesdays 1:00–5:00 pm
- Thursdays 6:00–7:30 pm
- Fridays 10:00 am–12:00 pm



## 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 at church 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 [fristroe@gmail.com](mailto:fristroe@gmail.com)

## Church Yoga

The yoga group meets on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** in the Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

## Women's Group

Interested in fellowship and community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **May 26 & June 9**.

## Men's Group

Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday**. We gather for conversation and fellowship around a scripture verse or story. All guys are welcome to join us at **9:00 am in the Youth Room**. Our next gatherings are **May 26 & June 9**. Join us!

## Merry Widows

They will meet on **Wed, May 20, at 1:00 pm at Jonesy's Local in Hudson** (1801 Ward Ave between Maurices and the Bowling Alley). All widows are welcome to join for dinner & conversation! See Linda Morrow for more info.

## Game Day Sunday

Game Day Sunday is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Days are **May 17 and June 21 at 11:45 am**. Join us!

## Veterans Coffee Chat

Held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month at 9:30 am at The Sycamore in River Falls. Coffee and pastries are provided. Contact Megan at The Sycamore 715-997-3441 with questions.

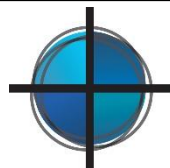
## Among Friends

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults with memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. For more information, contact them at 715-293-2561. Also, check out the website: [amongfriendsrf.com](http://amongfriendsrf.com) and the Facebook page. Among Friends is located at the church and is held on **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**.



## Offering QR Code

1. On your device, open Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click tab 'Give Online'



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E-mail: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org)  
Website: [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)

### STAFF

Chris Myers, Pastor  
Stacy Johnson, CE Minister  
Missy Luedtke, Office Administrator  
Marie Roe, Moderator  
Alex Plum, Youth Minister  
Jamie Mills, Music Coordinator and Bell Choir Director  
Sarah Plum, Choir Director  
Marsha Pearson, Organist  
Terry Mithun, Organist  
Tim Bylander, Building Supervisor  
Farnum Fuller, Custodian  
Troy Zakrzewski, Custodian

Pastor's home phone number:  
Chris Myers 715-426-2075  
[chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

110 N. Third Street  
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #53

RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

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MAY 15, 2026

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### Altar Flowers

Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

### Welcomers Needed

Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed for at the bottom of the stairs and one person is needed at the ramp entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

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### Coffee Fellowship Hosts and Liturgists Needed

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts** will be asked to serve Best Maid cookies which are in the church freezer, make lemonade and serve coffee. All the materials are provided; you will simply need to serve and clean up. Sign up at church or on the website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

**Liturgists** will lead us in the Call to Worship and one of the Scripture Lessons. The material will be emailed out on Thursday to practice. Sign up at church or on the website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Please note church interns can receive credit for either of these activities. Thank you for volunteering in these important ministries as we continue our journey.

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### Newsletter Deadlines

The church newsletter is sent out twice a month. Deadlines are the 10th and 25th of each month. Items should be sent to the church office no later than those dates.