

Weekly Word – For Sunday, June 28, 2026

Worship this Week:

The Beautiful Game and The Beautiful Way

The World Cup is on! Teams from across the globe are competing in the world's most popular sport, soccer, which Pele once called 'the beautiful game.' This Sunday Jesus invites us not to play a beautiful game, but to live the beautiful way. He says even something as simple as offering a cup of cold water helps to heal the world. Join us at the 9:30 am summer worship service. The church nursery is staffed and open, the music will be great, and Coffee Fellowship follows at 10:30 am. Join us and invite a friend!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/1VXdX19J7mY?si=BGtcfOO0Lhr9nTv>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., June 28	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM & 1550 AM
Mon., June 29	10:00-11:00 am	Ann Gustafson Visitation
	11:00 am-1:30 pm	Ann Gustafson Funeral with Lunch to Follow
Tues., June 30	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
Thurs., July 2	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., July 5	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM & 1550 AM

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Traci Hagberg
Deacons:	Laura Anderson, Liz Swank, Heidi Cavaness, Paul Shepherd, Kathy Tomlinson
Organist:	Terry Mithun
Nursery:	Diane Olson
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers:	Rebecca Ferguson
Trustee:	Mike Danielson
Coffee Fellowship:	Carole Mottaz
Counters:	Marie Roe, Trish Graves

Altar table flowers are given by Chuck and Judy Sambs in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Loving God

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

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 at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64011296-summer>

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.

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 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

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 **July 26 and August 16.** Please consider joining 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, July 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, July 14 & 28.**

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, July 15 at 1:00 pm at The Sycamore for a potluck lunch.** All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

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 is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **July 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 Street (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at First Congregational Church at 6:30 pm. For mental health issues, please call 988. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Committee Needs for 2026-27 Program Year: During our Annual meeting in February, we learned about a number of programs that are happening inside and outside of our church. All of these activities and endeavors need volunteers to continue going forth. The Nominating committee will soon begin the work of filling open spots in our committees. Please say **YES** when one of the committee calls, emails or talks with you about the many opportunities for you to share your time and talents. **Our committee needs are as follows:**

Nominating: 2 people	Christian Ed: 1 person
Deacons: 4 people	Discipleship: 4 people
Endowment Grant: 1 person	Trustees: 2 people
Mission Ed: 1 person	Music: 1 person
Welcoming: 2 people	Investments: 1 person
Scholarship: 2 people	

Terms begin in September 2026 and run for 3 years. If you feel called to serve, please contact one of the Nominating committee members or call the church office. Thank you in advance for your consideration. *Marie Roe, Norma Revels, Karen Lloyd, Marsha Pearson, Kathy Rausch*

Community Life

Softball News: We had another gorgeous night for our softball game. We played hard against the team that has not lost yet. It was a close game, and we were ahead for two innings, then they got a few runs. We got some more runs, but it wasn't enough. We lost by one run in the last inning. It was a good game. I thank the team for their terrific effort and awesome catches. We have won 2 games and lost 2 games. Our next two games are June 29 at 7:30 pm and July 6 at 6:15 pm, both games at Hoffman Park. Come cheer us on! We play every Monday at Hoffman Park throughout the summer until August 24. We are the team in the red shirts. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

VBS Volunteers Needed: The VBS program requires many adult and teen volunteers. Please join the excitement by volunteering to help. VBS will be **July 27-30, from 9:00–11:30 am.** To volunteer, please sign the list in the gathering space or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-63968730-vbsvolunteers>

Peaches: It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! One single-layer box is \$27.00; 2 or more single-layer boxes are \$26.00 each. **Orders must be placed by July 27 for pick up around August 7.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org; 2. Sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64615110-washington>; 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name, phone, and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

Red Cross Blood Drive: Summer donors needed! Please join our **Critical Summer Need, Wed, July 22nd Blood Drive from 11am - 5pm.** Emergency situations are on the rise and fewer active donors puts more pressure on a decreasing blood supply over the next 3 months. One hour of your time can help 3 patients in the coming weeks! Beat the Heat with a movie ticket to a summer blockbuster via email PLUS Kwik Tip coupon for a free pint of milk - [Click here to sign-up today!](#)

Tools for School: Once again, we are collecting school supplies for local families. As you are out shopping, please start collecting everything students might need this fall (crayons, pens, pencils, notebooks, backpacks, etc.). The School Supply Event will be on **August 17 and 18** here at church. Typically, we serve about 300 students. Thank you for your generous support of this needed local ministry. Please bring donations to the church and place them in the containers in the gathering area. Please also sign up to help sort and distribute items.

Let's Feed Some Kids! Join us on **Wed, Sept 9, from 6-8pm at Tattersall** as we feed 100,000 starving kids right here in River Falls. Our church is one of the sponsors of this Feed My Starving Children event and will have early access to packing times. All our Middle and High School kids will have their first night of Confirmation/Youth Group this night, but EVERYONE is welcome to come and help. Sign up before July 15th to get your spot! Questions to Pastor Chris or Alex.

Endowment Grants: Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. 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 through the church office or on the church website.

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.

Youth Events

VBS and Summer Children's Musical: Dates for the 2026 children's summer programs are:

VBS: July 27-30, 9:00 to 11:30 am. Theme is: My Peace I Give to You

Children's Musical: August 10-13, 9:00 am to Noon. The show will be *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. Emma Cruciani will be the director. We will need adult and teen volunteers for VBS. Please save the dates and invite friends & neighbors! Registration forms are at church & online: [Registration Form](#)

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>June 21, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 3,250	\$ 269,970
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 282,700

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For our Garden Geeks who tend our church garden and keep everything looking great, God bless you all!
- For our church mowing team who this year includes Laura and Mark Anderson, Randy Welsh, Roger Kapping and Lee Lueck, thanks for keeping our church lawn looking so great!
- For all those who have been given the gift of fatherhood, may you continue to grow into this wonderful gift
- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- For those giving blood at our next blood drive on Wednesday, July 22, may it bring life

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 – Closed

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