

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ www.firstchurchrf.org

July 15, 2026

Our mission is to love God
and serve people.

Everyone is welcome because
everyone matters.



Pastor's Page

In case you have been living under a rock, the world is currently caught up in the excitement of the World Cup. Anybody else following this on TV? Every four years billions of people tune in to watch teams from every corner of the globe compete in the world's most popular sport which is... soccer. Unless you are from outside the US in which they call it... football. For an entire month, people who otherwise have little in common gather in living rooms, bars, parks, city squares, even churches to watch twenty-two players chase a ball across a field.

The World Cup is about winning, but if you ask many soccer fans what they remember most, it is often not the championships. They remember the breathtaking pass no one saw coming. The impossible save. The unselfish assist. The graceful teamwork that makes something extraordinary happen.

Pelé, perhaps the greatest soccer player who ever lived, famously called soccer *"the beautiful game."*

That may seem like an odd description because soccer can be rough. Players get hurt. Fans argue. Referees are criticized. Nations become rivals. So why call it beautiful? Calling soccer the beautiful game is aspirational. It is a vision of what the game can be when people play it well.

At its best, soccer reminds us that greatness is never simply about individual brilliance. It is about players learning to serve something larger than themselves. The greatest goal often begins with someone who never touches the spotlight — a defender who wins possession, a midfielder who sees the opening, a teammate willing to make the extra pass instead of taking the glory. Its beauty is created when everyone contributes.

I wonder if Jesus might agree. In today's gospel, Jesus isn't talking about spectacular miracles. He's talking about hospitality. Receiving a stranger. Welcoming a disciple. Offering... "...even a cup of cold water." Which seems so... ordinary. A cup of water. No spectacular healing. No heroic sacrifice. Just a glass of water. It seems almost disappointingly ordinary. Yet Jesus says these are the kinds of actions God notices. Because the kingdom of God is built less by extraordinary people than by ordinary people doing ordinary things with extraordinary love.

Next week our country approaches its Semi-quincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the founding of our nation. Not to date myself, but I clearly remember all the hubbub when we celebrated the bicentennial back in 1976. I was 10, do the math. I know from my conversations with many of you there is sense of uneasiness as we approach this momentous occasion.

In a wonderful book called *This Is Not Who We Are: America's Struggle Between Vengeance and Virtue*, the author Zachary Shore, talks about this push and pull in our nation's history between vengeance and virtue. In fact, the author reflects on this very passage from Matthew — who ever gives even a cup of cold to one of those in need will not lose their reward.

Shore notes that Jesus never tells us to wait until we can solve every injustice. He doesn't say, "Change the entire world before lunch." Instead, Jesus points to something wonderfully small. A cup of cold water. Why? Because civilizations are ultimately shaped not only by laws and elections and military victories. Civilizations are also shaped by habits. By the millions of daily choices by people just like you and me. Will we act out fear or generosity? From vengeance or mercy? From suspicion or welcome? The author argues that every act of kindness pushes back against a culture of revenge. Every small act of compassion becomes resistance against cynicism.

Continued on the next page

Every cup of cold water says: "This is who we really are." Or perhaps better... "This is who Christ wants us to become."

Paul says something similar in Romans 6: "Do not present your members to sin as instruments of unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God." Notice Paul's language. Paul speaks about presenting ourselves. Every day we offer ourselves to something. Our attention. Our words. Our money. Our time. Our energy. Our compassion. The question isn't whether we'll serve something. As that opening quote in the front of the bulletin from Bob Dylan puts it: We all serve somebody. It may be the devil or it may be the Lord, but you're all gonna have to serve somebody. The question is who or what are you serving?

Paul says we become servants of whatever we continually practice, our habits. If you practice anger, then anger becomes your master. If you practice resentment, then resentment starts to shape you. Practice generosity and slowly generosity becomes a part of your character. The Christian life isn't only about believing the right things. It is about practicing the beautiful way, the way of Jesus.

That is what Jesus is trying to teach us here. A cup of cold water seems totally insignificant in the face of all the world problems. Until you are thirsty. A welcome into a community seems totally ordinary. Until you're the outsider and be told like we heard one of our politicians the other day, you should go home. A kind word seems so small. Until you've gone weeks without hearing one. A handwritten note. An encouraging text. Holding a door. Listening without interrupting. Helping someone carry their burden. These small acts rarely make the evening news. But perhaps Jesus is telling us to subscribe to a different new source where the today's headlines could read: Neighbor noticed. Lonely person welcomed. Child encouraged. Enemy forgiven. Cup of cold water given.

I don't watch it often, but one reason I love watching great soccer is that the truly gifted players make difficult things look effortless. The beautiful game isn't beautiful because everything is easy. It's beautiful because thousands of hours of practice produce habits that become second nature. Discipleship works much the same way. We don't suddenly wake up one morning and find ourselves acting like saints. We become saints one small act at a time. One prayer. One forgiveness. One welcome. One act of generosity. One cup of cold water. We do it again, and again, and again. Until mercy becomes instinct. Until hospitality becomes habit. Until love becomes who we are.

Perhaps that is what Jesus wants from us this week. Not to solve every problem. Not to heal every division. Not to save the whole world by ourselves. Simply to notice who is thirsty. Notice who needs encouragement. Notice who feels invisible. Notice who could use a welcome. Notice who is carrying a burden too heavy to bear alone. And then offer what we have. Even if it is small or seems insignificant. Jesus promises that no act of love is ever wasted, in God's kingdom there is no small act of grace. Every cup of cold water becomes part of something beautiful. And slowly the world is changed.

Do not underestimate the power of small acts. The Grand Canyon was not carved by one mighty flood but by the patient work of the Colorado River, one drop of water at a time, over millions of years. Day after day, year after year, what seemed insignificant slowly reshaped an entire landscape. The Christian life works much the same way. We rarely see dramatic transformation overnight. God changes us — and through us, God changes the world — through countless ordinary moments of faithfulness. One prayer. One act of forgiveness. One generous gift. One word of encouragement. One cup of cold water. Like the water flowing by in those rivers, it may not seem like much today. But over a lifetime, those small acts carve deep channels of grace in our hearts and in our communities. So, keep showing up. Keep practicing the beautiful way of Jesus. Because in God's hands, even the smallest stream of love can one day become a canyon of hope. Amen.

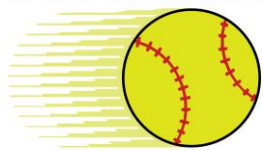
Sermon Preached by Pastor Chris on Sunday, June 28th



Grace Place Picnic Meal Volunteers Needed

Each year, our church will serve a picnic style meal at Grace Place in New Richmond. The date is **Wednesday, July 29**. We cook the meal in our church kitchen then serve it in New Richmond. Please use the sign-up sheet at church to help with this needed mission opportunity. Church interns receive intern credit for this mission.

SOFTBALL



LEAGUE

News and Game Schedule

You know that old saying, "you win some you lose some," well, we lost our game on Monday. We played Luther Memorial and it just wasn't our night. We still had fun though. Our record is back to 500 in baseball logo, or 3 wins:3 loses. Our next two games are:

July 20 at 6:15 pm and July 27

Players, please try to show up 30 minutes before the game.

Come cheer us on! We play every Monday at Hoffman Park throughout the summer. We are the team in the red shirts. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

Summer Choir

Summer Choir is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song. The next dates will be **July 26 and August 16**. Please consider joining us!

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!



PEACE
BE WITH
YOU

Vacation Bible School

All are welcome! No Charge
Age 3 - Completed Grade 5

July 27-30th 9-11:30 AM
110 N 3rd St. River Falls, WI | 715-425-2052



First Congregational UCC
Scan QR code to register
or visit: www.firstchurchrf.org

**THE
ROCK SLINGER
& HIS GREATEST HITS**

CHILDREN'S MUSICAL
August 10 -13, 2026 from 9-noon
Directed by Emma Cruciani, accompanied by Marsha Pearson
Dinner & Performance Aug. 13th, 6:00 PM
Completed Kindergarten-Grade 6



ALL ARE WELCOME ⚡ NO CHARGE
First Congregational UCC
110 N 3rd St. River Falls, WI | 715-425-2052
Scan QR code to register or visit: www.firstchurchrf.org



Designed by Magnific, www.magnific.com

Funeral Helpers Needed

Our church family is in need of one or two more people who will help set tables before funeral receptions in the Fellowship Hall. For many years, Gary and Judy Grimm have done this and will now ‘retire’ from this job. Thank you for all your work! Al and Dianne Barnes will remain in this capacity but would like help and back up. The task is relatively easy - set tables - and takes about an hour. Please contact the church office if you are interested and talk to Dianne and Al if you want more information. Thank you!

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, July 21	VBS Painting Night 6:00 pm
Wednesday, July 22	Red Cross Blood Drive from 11:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday, July 23	VBS Teachers Meeting 6:30 pm
Mon-Thurs, July 27-30	Vacation Bible School from 9:00 - 11:30 am
Thursday, July 30	VBS Dinner at 6:00 pm with Program to follow
Mon-Thurs, August 10-13	Youth Musical from 9:00 am to Noon
Thursday, August 13	Youth Musical Dinner and Performance starting at 6:00 pm
Monday, August 17	Tools for School Supply Give Away from 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study will resume on **Wednesday, September 16, 1:00–2:30**. The group will study Revelation. Copies of the discussion book are available in the office for \$20.00 each. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.



VBS Volunteers Needed

We still need adults to help with VBS, especially those interested in teaching. Please help! You can volunteer by signing the list in the gathering space or online. VBS will be **July 27-30, from 9:00–11:30 am**. Please help!

VBS Cookie Bakers Needed



Homemade cookies are a special part of the VBS snack, so we need volunteers to bake cookies. Each volunteer is asked to bring four dozen cookies. A sign-up list is available on the gathering space table.

Summer Kitchen Help Needed

Our church family chefs, Andy and Christina Krueger, will cook for the VBS dinner and the Children’s Musical dinner. They will need help serving and cleaning up. Please volunteer. The sign-up list is on the table in the gathering space.

VBS Volunteer Meeting

The VBS volunteer meeting will be **Thursday, July 23, from 6:30–7:30 pm**. This is an important meeting to be ready for the VBS week. Please mark your calendars.

VBS Painting Work Night

Please come to help paint the VBS backdrops on **Tuesday, July 21, starting at 6:00**. No fancy artistic skills are needed – just a willing attitude and paint clothes

Night of Dinner/Theater

You are invited to a night of dinner and a show on **Thursday, August 13**. Dinner will be served starting at 6:00 pm, followed by the main feature: the musical *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*, the story of David and Goliath. It will be an entertaining evening. Please come to support the young people in the congregation. You may sign the reservation list on the sign-up table, call the church office or sign up online.

Fall Confirmation Orientation

The 2026 Confirmation Orientation for grades 6 – 8 will be on Rally Day following worship on Sunday, September 13. This meeting is **required** for all confirmands and their parents.

The 2026 Orientation for High School Confirmands (grade 9) and Church Interns will be following Sunday, September 20. This meeting is **required** for all confirmands and their parents.

Please reserve the dates and time now to avoid conflicts.

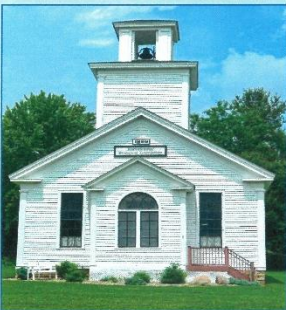
Memorial Garden Update

We are working with a sign company to erect two plaques (one for each side of the Memorial Garden). The names of the saints in the garden will be included on the plaque and will be a wonderful tribute to each one. We hope to have the plaques installed this fall. If you would like to know how to “reserve your spot” in the Memorial Garden, please contact the church office or pick up information in the gathering area.

- The Memorial Garden Committee



ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Join us at the
**Kinnickinnic
Historical Church**
1276 County Road J
River Falls, WI
**Sunday, August 2
1:00–5:00 pm**

☀️ *Delicious Ice Cream* ☀️
Pie ☀️ Cake ☀️ Root Beer Floats ☀️ Cones

**Kinnickinnic
Cemetery Tours
1:30 and 3:30 pm**



Enjoy entertainment and an opportunity to see your neighbors.

To volunteer or donate a pie, please contact
Patti Phillipps at 715-977-0354.

VBS Fused Glass for Adults

Over the years, adults have asked to be able to try the children’s VBS projects. So, this year, adults are invited to come to the VBS village on **Wednesday, July 29, from 1:00–2:30 pm** to make a square fused glass piece. It is very fun and a terrific way to spend a summer afternoon. The cost is \$15.00. Please sign up at the sign-up table or online.



Back Bay Mission Trip Planned for April 2027

Ever wanted to go on a mission trip? Heard about the awesome experiences so many of our church folks have had at UCC related Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi? Just want to get out of town to someplace warm? Join us! Our church is sponsoring yet another trip to Back Bay Mission, **April 18 – 24, 2027**. A meeting will be held in early September. Please contact Carol Merriman or Pastor Chris for details. Use the sign-up sheet to register your interest.



Summer Youth Group Events

Wednesday, July 29 - Conquer Ninja / Top Golf Combo

Depart church around 1:00 pm. Top Golf at 1:30 pm and Conquer Ninja (obstacle course) open gym at 3:00 pm. Alex expects this to cost \$15-20 per person and the church will cover the rest. Please email Alex at rfyouthgroup@gmail.com to confirm going!

Monday, August 3 - Activate

Alex has flexibility to schedule this any time before 5:00 pm and will reserve the 90-minute experience around the group's availability! Cost is \$10 per person, and friends are welcome with advanced notice. (Alex must reserve tickets for the exact group size.) Please email Alex at rfyouthgroup@gmail.com to confirm going!

Tuesday, August 4 - Main Event

Main Event is a brand new space that is opening in Woodbury featuring bowling, virtual reality, laser tag, billiards, arcade games, gravity ropes, human crane, and more! Once Alex has a group, he will reach out and make reservations. He is expecting it to be \$10-15 a person. Friends are welcome with advanced notice as Alex likely needs to reserve exact numbers. Please email Alex at rfyouthgroup@gmail.com to confirm going!

Sunday, August 16 - Kayaking the Kinni

Join us for kayaking the Kinni! The group will decide if we are kayaking the upper or lower. When you sign up, please let me know if you have your own kayaks or will need to borrow one. Please email Alex at rfyouthgroup@gmail.com to confirm going!



Peaches

It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! One single-layer box is \$27.00; two or more single-layer boxes are \$26.00 each. **Orders must be placed by July 27 for pick up around August 7th.**

There are 3 ways to order:

1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org - please include name, phone, and number of boxes
2. Sign up at church or online on the church website www.firstchurchrf.org
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!

What the Pastor is Reading

This is Not Who We Are: America's Struggle Between Vengeance and Virtue

by Zachary Shore - Catchy title huh? That is what attracted me too. In the first half of the book, his section 'Enemies' investigates how fear, anger, and prejudice produce decisions that violate our highest ideals. And in the second half titled 'Saviors,' he focuses on a less familiar story - how Americans worked to soften the consequences of previous actions. Shore's argument is that America has always contained both of these impulses. Good read for history and political folks!



Dear Church, I would like to thank the scholarship council and the church family for this wonderful gift as I continue my schooling at Minnesota State University. I'm very blessed to have a community that believes in me and my future aspirations in life. I will continue to show good works in the way the Lord has planned for me. Once again thank you church family! Best regards, Murphy S. Beatty

Dear Church, Thank you for your generous scholarship award. With this support, I am looking forward to attending the University of Chicago Law School in the fall. This church has instilled in me the importance of using one's talents and abilities to contribute to the common good. This commitment has informed my decision to study law and will continue to guide me throughout my legal education and career. I look forward to seeing you all when I am home later this summer. Thanks, Matthew Myers

People in the Pews: Jennifer Syverson

1. I grew up in Coon Rapids MN. I live in River Falls.
2. I have attended First Congregational church since 2008
3. What keeps me coming back is the openness and friendliness of everyone. That everyone is welcome. Supportive community that wants to help others. I also have always liked that events center around food!
4. Two favorite quotes: 1. If fear was not a factor, what would you do? (Helps me when I am working through things). 2. Favorite quote from Pastor Chris last year: What is **POWER** but the ability to change people's lives for the better. Embrace your **POWER**. This really spoke to me that I (or we) can be powerful in a good way. To stand up for others that need help or someone to lean on.
5. A favorite childhood memory is when I was younger, my family took a houseboat trip to Lake Vermillion. I loved being on the water and in nature with my family, away from the chaos of life and we just got to laugh, play games, swim, fish & roast marshmallows.
6. Something about me that might be a surprise is I live close to the Kinnickinnic River and sit in the river at least once a week year-round (unless it is under 19 degrees!) to feel one with nature and it is very calming for me and helps reduce anxiety. It helps me focus and have clarity with what is going on in my life.



Dear Scholarship Committee and Congregation, I am very grateful for your continued support as I continue my education. Knowing that my church family believes in me means more than I can express. I'm honored to receive this scholarship and will make the most with the opportunities it provides. Thank you, Ryan Luedtke

Larissa, Brodie, Fallon and Lu Lueck wish to thank the Scholarship Committee so much for helping finance our week of family camp at Moon Beach. We can't wait to tell you about it when we get back.

UCC Family, Thank you so much for this scholarship and helping me further my education. I am so lucky to be a part of this congregation and have this opportunity. Thank you.
- Alice Follstad

First Congregational Church, Thank you so much for all your support and generosity. I am incredibly grateful for receiving a scholarship. This semester going into Junior year is even more meaningful as I start the nursing program. Your support will allow me to focus more on my studies without needing to work as much! Thank you again for helping me invest in my education and future! Go Knights!! Sincerely, Emma Cernohous

Dear First Congregational Church, Thank you so much for the generous contribution to my educational fund. It is so nice to know I am a part of such a wonderful community supporting me on my journey. Thank you all!
- Stella Theisen

Dear UCC Family, Thank you so much for awarding me with a continuing education scholarship. With this money, I will be able to complete my final year at my

University and graduate in May. I appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness in giving out these scholarships and valuing education. Thank you again! - Noah Follstad

Dear FCCRF Congregation, Thank you so much for your generous contribution to my graduate studies via the Scholarship Fund! This church has been nothing but good to me over the years and I am very grateful. I hope to share my research and studies in energy systems and electric vehicles with the congregation in the form of a Learning Community at some point. Thank you again. I am very appreciative! - William Tuchtenhagen

Dear First Congregational UCC, Thank you very much for the scholarship to pay for my college. The money will go towards my tuition costs and help for almost half the amount I would have to pay. - Rhett Theisen

Endowment Grants

Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. 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 dates are **October 4 & December 6**. Forms can be accessed at church office or on the website.

Among Friends Volunteers Needed

The program meets two days a week. 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



Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive held at the church is on **Wednesday, July 22, from 11:00 am-5:00 pm.**

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

Tools for School

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 & 18** here at church. Typically, we serve about 300 students. Thank you for your generous support of this needed local ministry.

Please also sign up to help sort and distribute items.

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.

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.

For mental health issues, please call 988. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Treasurer's Report

	Week of July 5, 2026	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 3,586	\$ 287,356
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 305,316

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

Education: Stacy Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Office: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex Plum - rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com

Choir: Sarah Plum - sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com

Building: Farnum Fuller - farnumfuller@gmail.com

Troy Zakrzewski - ztruck51ford@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com



Grace Place

Supply needs:

- 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)
- Adult socks
- Belts
- Shampoo, conditioner, body wash & lotion-large or travel size
- 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

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 **July 28 & Aug 11**.

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 **July 21 & Aug 4**. Join us!

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 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 Day are **July 19 and August 16 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.

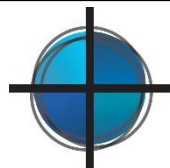
Among Friends

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 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'



FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
RIVER FALLS

Office Phone: 715-425-2052
E-mail: office@firstchurchrf.org
Website: 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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

110 N. Third Street
River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #53

RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

JULY 15, 2026

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>

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.

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.