Weekly Word – For Sunday, July 19, 2026

Worship this Week:
Summer worship is at 9:30 am and features an incredibly talented musician - Dennis Alfveby - as our guest and coffee fellowship to follow. Join us and invite a friend!

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/OaXqVOIk4no?si=y9Z7BxWfyYfezT1X

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., July 19	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
	11:45 am	Game Day
Tues., July 21	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	6:00 pm	VBS Painting Night
Wed., July 22	11:00 am-5:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Thurs., July 23	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	VBS Teachers Meeting
	6:30-7:30 pm	NAMI Peer Group Meeting
Sun., July 26	8:30-9:30 am	Summer Choir Rehearsal
	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:	Steve Koecher
Deacons:	Heidi Cavaness, Liz Swank, Laura Anderson, Becky Pajac
Organist:	Dennis Alfveby
Nursery:	Diane Olson
Welcomers:	Jan Johnson, Marg Downing
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Trustee:	Andy Krueger
Coffee Fellowship:	Luedtke Family
Counters:	Marie Roe, Dennis Linder

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

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.

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 21 & Aug 4**. Join us!

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **Tues, July 28 & Aug 11.**

Game Day Sunday: Game Day is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Days are **July 19 and August 16 at 11:45 am.** Join us!

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.

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.

Community Life

Softball News: We are back in the winning category. Due to a forfeit, not the way we wanted to win, our record is 4:3. Our next two games are **July 20 at 6:15 pm and July 27 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 24th. We are the team in the red shirts. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

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!

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

VBS Fused Glass for Adults: Adults are invited to come to the VBS village on **Wednesday, July 29, 1:00–2:30** to make a square fused glass piece. It is a lovely, fun project, and participants will be able to make their own designs. The cost is $15.00. Please sign up at church or online: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64675780-vbsfused

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!

Annual Ice Cream Social: Held at the Kinnickinnic Historical Church, 1276 County Road J, RF, on **Sunday, August 2 from 1:00 to 5:00 pm**. There will be entertainment, ice cream, pie, cake and tours of the Kinnickinnic Cemetery. Please see the flyer for more information. To volunteer or donate a pie, please contact Patti Phillipps at 715-977-0354

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.* In case you can't tell, it is the story of David and Goliath. The show has fun music and clever lines. 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 use this link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64675757-musical

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 & 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.

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 dates are **October 4 and December 6**. 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

Summer Youth Group Events:

Wed, 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!

Mon, 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!

Tues, 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!

Sun, 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!

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

	July 12, 2026	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	$ 1,550	$ 309,934
General Fund Operational Needs	$ 11,308	$ 316,624

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 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
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