

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ www.firstchurchrf.org

August 15, 2026

Our mission is to love God and serve people.
Everyone is welcome because everyone matters.

Pastor's Page

Take a look at the picture on the front of the bulletin and up on the screen this morning. What do you notice? People usually first notice the water. It doesn't look like the Sea of Galilee, the setting of today's gospel lesson, does it? It looks like... Switzerland. Because it is. The mountains in the background are the Alps, Mount Blanc, the highest mountain in Europe is in the background. And along the shoreline artist Konrad Witz has painted the buildings of Geneva from around the year 1444 when he painted it. It is one of the earliest European paintings to take the Biblical story and place it not in the Holy Land, but in a place people would know, recognize. The place they call home.

Here is one more thing to know about this painting. It is one of the only famous paintings of Peter walking on the water. Considering how famous this gospel story is, that is surprising. Why are there not more pictures of this famous scene?

The answer is simple. Because Peter fails. Jesus calls Peter the rock, the one on whom he will build his church. But Peter the Rock is no Duane Johnson. Here he fails. He tries and then he fails. And just like on social media, we don't like to broadcast our failures, our mistakes. It's strange though. We remember Peter sinking, far more than we remember Peter walking. But out of all disciples on that boat, it was only Peter who actually had the guts to try, who actually walked on water. Everyone else stayed in the boat where it was safe. Peter is the only one of the disciples whose faith was tested because he was the only one who was willing to step out of that boat.

Often, we think of faith as a noun. We say things like. I have faith. Or I'm struggling to keep my faith. Or sometimes, we feel like we lost our faith. We talk about faith as it were a possession, something we own like a trophy you put on the shelf to admire. But the Bible often speaks of faith not as a noun, but as a verb.



It talks about faith as trusting. Faith as following. Faith as risking. Faith as growing. Faith as serving. Faith as questioning. Faith as learning. In confirmation, we call it faith-ing. Faith isn't just something you possess, that can be given and also taken away, faith is also something you do. It is a living, breathing, process of trusting God through a new experience, through new questions, through new failures and discoveries. When you think about it this way, Peter's struggle on the water makes much more sense. Peter isn't failing at faith. He is faith-ing. His faith grows from that experience that we often think of as a failure. And I think this is the good news for those of us who have struggled in our faith walk as well.

Notice in today's gospel lesson the disciples begin terrified. Jesus has gone away to pray, and they are out in a boat when a storm comes. Battered by the waves, Matthew says Jesus comes walking toward them. At first, they think Jesus is a ghost. Then Jesus speaks saying, take heart it is I, do not be afraid. And then Peter does something, either bold and brave, or foolish and risky, maybe both. He asks for permission to come to Jesus and then he gets out of the boat in the middle of the lake, in the middle of the storm. At first, he walks. But then he looks at the wind and waves so of course he becomes frightened, all of us would.

Continued on next page

He panics which is when he starts to sink, and it is then that Jesus reaches out and catches him. And Matthew says those in the boat worshipped him saying: Truly you are Son of God. You see the miracle in this story is not just that someone walked on water. I think the even greater miracle is that the disciple's understanding of Jesus became deeper than it had been before. Peter steps out of the boat with one understanding of Jesus, and climbs back into the boat with another. His faith grew. Peter learned how to faith.

You see faith begins by stepping out of the boat. Jesus only says one word: Come. And Peter does. He risks. He goes. Rather than certainty, faith always begins with an invitation. Someone invites you to do something, try something, kind of like Marshall Skule one day was asked to volunteer at our Among Friends program. A simple invite. He could have stayed in the boat. But he risked it. He tried it. He found out he really liked it. He was good at it. He gets more out of it than he feels he puts in. He becomes even more of who God made him to be. But you have to risk stepping out of the boat.

And to be faith, faith also involves the risk of sinking. Notice Jesus does not condemn Peter for leaving the boat. Jesus doesn't say - well Peter you should have stayed in the boat where it was safe. Notice also Jesus doesn't order Peter onto the water. Peter has to want it himself. But Peter risks it, as crazy as it seems. Growth in life and faith almost always includes fear and doubt and a great deal of risk.

Faith grows, matures in this story because Jesus catches Peter, just like Jesus catches us. In fact, you could say that the focus of this story is not so much Peter walking on the water, and not even Peter sinking. The focus of the story is how Jesus reaches out to save Peter from sinking. The good news of this story is not that faithful people never sink, it is that like God with Jesus himself, God never lets them sink alone.

One of my preaching professors at Emory University, Fred Craddock, tells the story about a woman at his church who every Wednesday served at a local community meal that is served at their church. This woman was not on the church council. She was not a deacon or Sunday School teacher. She was not wealthy or well known in the community. She was what I would call an anonymous saint, a pew sitter, she came into worship quietly, and left just as quietly. Week after week she showed up at the Community Meal; she tied on her apron, greeted every person by name if she could, served lunch, then helped clean up and quietly left.

One day someone asked her why she had done it for so many years.

She smiled and said, "Well, I kept waiting until I had enough faith to do something important for God. Then one day I realized maybe serving this meal was it. Maybe this was the important thing I need to do for God. So I came, one time. Then I came back the next week. And the next. And somewhere along the way I discovered it wasn't my faith that had grown first. It was my trust in the God who keeps meeting me here. The God who keeps meeting me in the people here, in the food we serve here, in the way this humble meal makes the world a little better, and me too.

That is Peter's story too. Peter did not become the rock because he never sank. Peter became the rock because when he sank, he discovered Christ's hand was already reaching out for him. I think that is what Jesus is trying to teach us today.

Don't wait until you have perfect faith before you volunteer, before you forgive someone, before you have the difficult conversation, before you give generously, before you stand up for someone who has no voice, before you begin praying again, before you step into a ministry that seems bigger than you are.

Don't wait until you are certain. Risk stepping out of the boat. Because faith isn't being certain. Faith is trusting the One who invites you, who says, "Come." Some of us this morning are standing safely in our little boats. We know exactly what the wind, water and waves look like. It is the new job. The difficult diagnosis. The lonely season. The conversation we've been avoiding. The opportunity to serve. The invitation to forgive. The call to love someone who is difficult to love.

So perhaps Jesus leaves us with two simple invitations today.

First, the invitation to get out of the boat. You do not need perfect faith to follow Jesus. You don't have to have everything figured out before you risk following in his way. Don't wait until your faith feels strong and perfect before you decide to serve, or forgive, or pray, or answer God's call. Faith grows on the water, not in the boat. The disciples who stayed behind in that boat were safe, but only Peter discovered what it was like to walk toward Jesus. Get out of the boat.

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And second, don't be afraid if you sink. Everybody sinks at some time. Every disciple has moments when the fear is louder than faith. The promise of this story is not that faithful people never fail. The promise is that Christ's hand reaches us before the water closes over our heads. Our hope does not rest on the strength of our grip on God, it rests on God's firm grip on us. I think that is why Konrad Witz painted this story in fifteenth-century Geneva instead of first-century Galilee. He wanted people to see that this isn't just Peter's story. It is our story, now. Jesus still comes to ordinary people in ordinary places saying come. He still meets frightened disciples in the middle of the storm, saying: *take heart, it is I, do not be afraid*. He still reaches out with a strong hand to catch us when we fall.

So, wherever your boat happens to be this week — at home, at work, in a hospital room, in a difficult conversation, in a new opportunity, or in a place where you simply don't know what comes next — listen for the voice of Christ. Take the next faithful step. And if the wind is strong and your courage gives way, remember this: the story does not end with Peter sinking. It ends with Jesus holding on. And for that we give God thanks. Amen.

Sermon from August 9, 2026, preached by Pastor Chris



Peaches

Thanks to all who bought peaches! And thanks to all who helped unload, sort and get them out the door so quickly! The truck arrived (late) and in less than an hour they were unloaded, sorted and starting to go out the door. It was organized chaos, but we did it! We are working on final numbers, but these peaches bring about two to three thousand dollars to our youth programs. And they are an opportunity for us to work together as the body of Christ. Plus, they just taste great. Special thanks to Deb Hoffman and Marie Roe who helped so much this year.



SCHOOL SUPPLY EVENT

For River Falls School District
Families In Need

Location: First Congregational Church
110 N Third St



AUGUST 17 4:30PM-6:30PM SUPPLIES, SHOES & PICNIC MEAL

AUGUST 18 10:00AM-NOON SUPPLIES & SHOES

*First National Bank RF(through their 5K Fundraiser) donates all the shoes for the event-shoes cannot be guaranteed for every child

To register, the parent/guardian and student must be in attendance
Event volunteers will assist the students with supplies & shoes.
Due to limited event space, parents/guardians will wait for their student on the main level of the church.

Thank You to our amazing sponsors, event partners & volunteers
We couldn't do this without you!

School Supply Donations

We welcome all school supply donations, but especially need:

- *Quality Backpacks
(Need to last all year - Nike, Adidas, Lands End, High Sierra)
- *Ticonderoga Pencils
- *Dry Erase Markers
- *Pencil Top Erasers
- *Large Glue Sticks
- *Wide Ruled Composition Notebooks
- *T1-30X11S Scientific Calculators

Sunday School Teachers Needed

It is time to gather Sunday School teachers for the fall. Sunday School is one of the most critical ministries we offer to support children as they learn and grow in faith. First Congregational uses a shared teaching model, so a team of three teachers shares responsibilities for an individual class.

We need a *minimum* of seven more volunteers. All curricula and materials are provided, and teachers teach approximately once every three weeks. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. To volunteer, please sign the list on gathering space table or sign up online.

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

Sunday School teachers are asked to attend a teachers' meeting on **Thursday, September 10, 6:30 pm**. This meeting is a chance to get organized for the new Sunday School year. The meeting will conclude by 7:30 pm.

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!

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday morning Bible study groups resumes on Rally Day, **September 13**. The group discusses the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets at **9:00–9:50** Sunday mornings in the Youth Room. Please join us! For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study resumes on **Wed, September 16, 1:00–2:30** with a focus on the final book of the Bible, Revelation. Copies of the discussion book are available in the office for \$20. The fall is a terrific time to begin participating in Bible Study. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday School Workers Needed

Wednesday School begins on **October 7**. We need volunteers to provide snacks on a rotating basis and adult and teen volunteers to help with the children. Please sign the list on the sign-up table or volunteer on the website.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monday, August 17

Tools for School Supply Give Away 4:00 - 6:00 pm

Tuesday, August 25

Harp Concert 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 6

Last 9:30 am Summer Worship Service

Thursday, September 10

Sunday School Teachers Meeting 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 13

Rally Day – Sunday School, Choir, Adult Forum All
Return and Worship is at 10:00 am

Sunday, September 13

Confirmation Orientation for Kids and Parents in
Middle School

Sunday, September 20

Confirmation, Church Interns and Youth Group
Orientation for High School Students and Parents

Monday, September 28

Red Cross Blood Drive 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Wednesday School

All children who will be in kindergarten through Grade 5 in the fall are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Elementary students in River Falls are picked up at the four elementary schools in town at the end of the school day. Wednesday School concludes at 5:15. Registration and permission forms are available on the church website and in the church office. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students, particularly due to transportation needs. Wednesday School begins **October 7**. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Fall Worship Series: Faith In Our Heads, Hearts & Hands

What does it mean to have faith? Is faith something we believe, something we feel, or something we do? The answer is yes! Join us September 13, 20, and 27 for a three-week worship series exploring Faith: Head, Heart & Hands. Just as we each have different ways of expressing love, we may also have a natural “faith language.” Some of us connect with God through questions, learning, and ideas; others through prayer, worship, and experience; and still others through serving, helping, and putting faith into action. Over these three Sundays, we’ll explore our own faith language while also discovering how God may be inviting us to grow in the other two — because a vibrant, growing faith needs head, heart, and hands.

Sunday, September 13: Faith in our Hearts

Sunday, September 20: Faith in Our Heads

Sunday, September 27: Faith in our Hands

People in the Pews: Gerhard “Skip” Koosmann

I was born and raised in Glenwood City, WI, the 2nd of 8 children in our family. Glenwood City was small and easily explored on foot or by bike from one end to the other. Summer was most memorable because of the freedom it offered. I liked fishing for trout, swimming at our local pool, and just being a kid, along with all the other kids in town. I was able to experience farm life as an adolescent, spending some summers working on my uncle’s farm, nearby.

For my 2nd Birthday, I received a Sailor suit from my parents. I then became the “Skipper,” then shortened to “Skip.” The name (Gerhard) was a bit awkward for a kid growing up in Glenwood City, so the nickname stuck.

After graduation, I enlisted in the US Army for 3 years (1962–1965) and was stationed in Korea for 14 months. After discharge from the Army, I began college at UWRF, where I met Susan, we married, and have two daughters. We’ve lived in this area since college.



Summer is my favorite season because it lets me play golf. I also enjoy working on various landscape projects.

I grew up in a church environment, but regular church activity was mostly dormant as a young adult. It wasn’t until our two girls reached an age when we thought it would be important for them to have that influence. We came to this church during the Dick Hoblin era. Both of us have served in several capacities over those years. I look forward to attending Sunday services for the message, the music, and the opportunity to reflect. I enjoy our Men’s Fellowship meetings and the Wednesday meal program, in addition to the many services and activities the church provides our church community and the community at large.



Rally Day

Sunday School, Sunday Morning Bible Study, choir and bells resume on Rally Day, **September 13**. All children who are three years old (and toilet-trained) are welcome in Sunday School.

Previously registered students do not need to register again. New students should register. Registration forms are available at church or 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

Journey House News

Journey House (an Ecumenical young adult outreach, located at 143 E Cascade Ave) is getting ready for the new school year! If you're interested in contributing, here are some ideas:

- **A Welcome to School Care Kit and Goody Bag.**

We are asking for a donation of \$25. These bags will be what we hand out during the Involvement Fair and given to students throughout the months of September and October. We are hoping to have 50 bags sponsored.

- **A suggested donation of \$30 to help sponsor our weekly gathering, Journey Nights.**

The school changed their funding model for groups (less money for us to use) on top of everything being more expensive. Those who give any amount will be recognized. Those who give \$30 or more will receive their own Journey Night passport as a thank you gift. (These are what we are giving the students that give them a fun way to engage more with our Journey Night conversation.)

- **Amazon Wish List.**

We created and plan on keeping up with an [Amazon Wish List](#).

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.

VBS Report

VBS 2026 is in the books. We had a great week with 51 children participating. Many thanks to the adults and teens who volunteered to help: MiKayla Sanocki, Erin Syverson, Sonja Adams, Diane Olson, Reagan Selleck, Mackenzie Merriman, Vicki Swank, Alice Follstad, Jenny Luedtke, Bea Adams, Emma Miller, Becky Pajac, Judy Sambs, Ann Nelson, Melissa Oscanyan, Mason Meyer, Marshall Skule, Christina Krueger, Connor Rude, Judy Fuller, Phyllis Meyers, Evelyn Purdy, Hannah Luedtke, Hazel Morrison, Sagan Linaberry, Dave Reilly, Jamie Mills.



Learning Communities for the Fall

Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm: A Night in the National Parks!

Ever wanted to visit three of our most famous national parks: Tetons, Yellowstone and Glacier? Planning a trip there for next summer? Join Pastor Chris as he leads us on a quick 90-minute tour of three of our nation's most outstanding national parks. He will talk about both the beauty and grandeur of the parks as well as practical logistical things - where to stay, what to do and most important how far out to plan and book! Join us for a night in our National Parks!

Tuesday, November 10: The Churches of River Falls

River Falls has lots of churches, but do you know their history. Join us as River Falls native and historian Mark Anderson tells us some of the stories behind the churches of River Falls, including our own.



Words seem insufficient to convey my thanks for the many expressions of comfort and caring shown to me and my family at the time of Joyce's passing, and in the days following. The many beautiful and uplifting cards and memorial donations, gifts of food, prayers, and more. In addition, a sincere word of thanks for all the kind gestures of love extended to Joyce and myself during the several months she was in Hospice Care. We both received blessing upon blessing during that time. Special thanks to Pastor Chris for his faithful ministry of love and caring. Joyce and I and our family have been richly blessed! Our church family has surely been a special gift of God's grace, love, and support. To God be the glory!

Sincerely, Roger Kampstra

Softball News

The last two nights, **August 17 and 24**, are playoffs games with the times yet to be determined.

August 24th will also be a fun night for the teams with a picnic plus the finals of the playoffs. Come cheer us on! We play at Hoffman Park. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com

Committee Needs Update

The Nominating Committee has been busy contacting people this summer. Thank you to all that said **YES!!** when asked to serve.

We are still in need of 2 Deacons and 1 person for the Christian Ed Committee. Please consider giving of your time to help our church. The term begins in September 2026 and runs for three years.

*Experience the calming, soothing effect
of live therapeutic music!*

You are invited to a free concert by

**Certified Therapeutic Musician
Kristin Andes and Her Harp**

**Tuesday, August 25
6:30 – 7:30 pm**

**First Congregational Church
110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI**

Presented by the WISE Team

Among Friends Board Members Needed

Among Friends is a respite program for families with dementia. They need board members. They meet on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 pm. Please see Norma Revels for details.

Summer Musical Report

We had 15 participants in the summer musical, *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*. It was a terrific week.

Special thanks to Emma Cruciani (music teacher at Rocky Branch Elementary and our occasional guest soloist) for directing, Marsha Pearson for accompanying, and Christina Krueger for working with the students.





**Discover the
Joy of
Singing
Together!**



WHO: People living with memory or thinking changes, their care partners, family, friends, and community volunteers who enjoy helping others.
WHAT: A welcoming choir where people gather to connect and thrive by sharing music, joy, and laughter!
WHEN: Join us weekly on **Mondays at 10 am** for our fall season of music and engagement. Rehearsals start on September 14, 2026 and will conclude following our concert on Saturday, December 5th at 10:30 am.
WHERE: We meet at the First Congregational Church, a comfortable and easy-to-access location: 110 N. Third St., River Falls, WI

To learn more or sign up contact: Norma Revels
Call 651 416-9530 or email: sidebysidechoir@gmail.com

Join SIDE-BY-SIDE CHOIR!



We are a proud member of the Giving Voice Network, a community of choirs around the world that are increasing well-being and redefining the narrative of dementia. Learn more at givingvoicechorus.org

Thank You Notes

Thank you so much for your continuous support and generosity. I can't express how grateful I am to receive this scholarship. Knowing I have an amazing church family that believes in me is something very special. I couldn't do it without this committee's support!! Thank you so very much. - Cheyenne Wilson

Thank you so very much for financially assisting our family in attending Moon Beach in St. Germaine. We were able to connect, bond, reflect and laugh during our week together. - Larissa Lueck

I enjoyed the polar plunge and doing the mile swim and I enjoyed spending time with family. - Brodie Lueck

I had an amazing time down at Moon Beach. I couldn't do it without your money, so thank you. - Fallon Lueck

We had a wonderful week at Moon Beach. The weather was perfect, the water warm (sort of) and the food divine. It was a very unique experience because this family camp consisted of the same campers that had attended as children and this was their 40th year of coming to this specific family camp. Thank you for the scholarship so we could explore more of God's creation. - Lu Lueck

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 **Monday, September 28, 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 Aug 2, 2026	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 5,427	\$ 341,245
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 350,548

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 firstroe@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 **Aug 25 & Sept 8**.

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 **Aug 18 & Sept 1**. Join us!

Merry Widows

They will meet on **Wed, Aug 19, at 1:00 pm at Tattersall in River Falls**. 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 **August 16 and September 20 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.

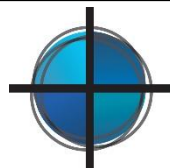
Among Friends

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

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RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

AUGUST 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.