

Weekly Word – For Sunday, October 11, 2026

Worship this Week:

What if God's grace comes in a way we didn't expect - or through someone we might overlook? This Sunday, our Old Stories, Living Faith series continues with Naaman, a powerful general who nearly walks away from the healing he needs. His surprising story invites us to receive God's grace and carry it into everyday life. We'll also celebrate with Bibles being given to our new confirmands. Join us this Sunday at 9:00 am for Bible Study and Choir Practice, Worship at 10:00 am and Coffee Fellowship at 11:00 am.

Link to Worship Livestream: https://www.youtube.com/embed/vqeRMi28C90?si=yBY_E7UdTrWGr1dj

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Oct 11	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM & 1550 AM
Mon., Oct 12	10:00-11:30 am	Side by Side Choir Rehearsal in the Fellowship Hall
Tues., Oct 13	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
	3:00-6:00 pm	Neil Williams Celebration of Life with Prayer Service at 5:00 pm
	6:30-8:00 pm	Learning Community – National Parks in Youth Room
Wed., Oct 14	12:00-1:00 pm	Investment Committee Meeting
	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal (sign up!)
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Class
	6:30-7:30 pm	HS Youth Group
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Oct 15	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Oct 18	9:00-9:45 am	Bells Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Bible Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 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:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Sarah Plum
Deacons:	Liz Swank
Organist:	Marsha Pearson

Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Trustee:
Welcomers: Rene Bylander, Lu Lueck, Brodie Lueck
Coffee Fellowship: WISE Team
Counters: Trish Graves, Allen Barnes

Loving God

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the Bible passages used in worship. The group meets from **9:00–9:50** in the Youth Room. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study group is discussing Revelation. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$20.00 each. The group meets in the library on **Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30 pm**. If you have questions, contact Pastor Stacy.

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

Christmas Shoebox: We wanted to remind you of this project for the gentlemen at Kinnic Falls Alcohol & Drug Abuse Center so when you see the items we have listed, you can grab a couple & before we know it, our list will be complete. If you would rather donate cash, put Christmas Shoebox in the memo line and we will make sure all items are purchased. The list is on the gathering table. Thanks to all of you, we are making a difference.

Basics for Local Kids (BLK): BLK is a non-profit organization that provides winterwear to local kids in need from infant to 18 years old. Please consider donating gently used or new coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, or socks. Donations can be placed in the bin near the alley door entrance. Volunteers are needed to help families shop, or to sort and restock items. To volunteer go to www.BasicsforLocalKids.org or call Kim Johnson at 715-821-1623. Thank you for your generous, continuing support. Other questions contact Renee Whipple 715-307-5074.

Journey House is Hosting a Discover Night – Thurs, Oct 22, 6:00 pm: This is a great opportunity for anyone to get to know Journey House a little more. Also, remember, if you have any donations you'd like to give young adults that are transitioning into their own journey, there is always a Journey House bin in the gathering area.

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**. Please contact Carol Merriman or Pastor Chris for details. Use the sign-up sheet to register your interest.

Journey House (Ecumenical young adult outreach): If you're interested in contributing, here are some ideas:
Welcome to School Care Kit & Goody Bag - We are asking for a donation of \$25. These will be given to students throughout October; **A suggested donation of \$30 to help sponsor our weekly gathering, Journey Nights** - Those who give \$30 or more will receive their own Journey Night passport as a thank you gift; **Amazon Wish List** - We created an [Amazon Wish List](#).

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.

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

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.**

Loving Self

Inquirer's Class: New to church? Want to know more about our life and ministry? Join us for the Inquirer's Class on **Tues, Oct 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. At this 90-minute gathering, you will meet church leaders, other new folks and learn more about First Congregational Church. Dessert and childcare are provided. Please sign up at church.

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, Oct 13 & 27.** 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, Oct 13 & 27.**

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, Oct 21 at 1:00 pm at Juniors in River Falls.** All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

Game Day Sunday: Game Day is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **October 18 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

Wednesday Meals: On Wednesday nights, we offer a home-cooked meal in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$9 per person with a family max of \$30. **Meals are served from 5:15 to 6:00 pm.** You can get your meal to go if you go through the line (indicate when you sign up). **Reservations must be placed by noon on Tuesdays.** You can make a reservation online, the sign-up table or by calling the church office.

Oct 14 - Swedish meatballs, butter & parsley potatoes, vegetable, roll

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-65887297-wednesday>

Oct 21 - Beef stroganoff, noodles, salad, bread

Oct 28 - Chicken marsala, rice, asparagus, salad

Neil Williams Celebration of Life - Tues, Oct 13, from 3:00-6:00 pm with a Prayer Service at 5:00 pm.

Refreshments will be served. We are in need of a few people to help serve and clean up:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-66529786-neil>

Learning Communities for the Fall:

Tues, Oct 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! Dessert will be served. Sign up and join us for a night in our National Parks: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-66029566-learning>

Tues, Nov 10 at 6:30 pm: The Churches of River Falls – This event will focus on churches in River Falls. Why? Well, churches, like old houses, barns, gas stations, and train stations, are intriguing. They were built with vision, determination, and hope. As time marched on some church buildings were lost to fire or storms. Some were remodeled, moved, or repurposed. Congregation member Mark Anderson will show slides of the early churches of River Falls and what became of them. He will share a few stories, artifacts, and memories with the slides. If you have pictures or artifacts to share, please bring them along! Please sign up at church or online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-66148947-learning>

Preschool Screening: The School District of River Falls is hosting a free preschool screening on **Fri, Oct 23**. This is designed for families who live within district boundaries and have concerns about some aspect of their 2-1/2 to 5 year old child's development. For more information or to request an appointment time, contact Ann Nelson at 715-425-1819 ext. 3101 or ann.nelson@rfsd.k12.wi.us.

Fall Clean-Up, Sat, Oct 24, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Back-up date is Sat, Oct 31 Please sign up and join us!

Relax with Rose - Breathwork Techniques: **Thurs, Oct 29, 6:30-7:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall** - Learn and practice several different breathwork techniques. These quick techniques will help you step back and relax in a stressful moment or reduce your racing thoughts so you can fall asleep faster. For more information, contact Rose Rude at 715-781-7032 or rar651@gmail.com. Please sign up at church or online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-65687649-relax>

Giving Thanks Meal: The Annual Giving Thanks Meal will be **Sun, Nov 15**, after the worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per meal. Join us for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal as we kick off the season of giving thanks. Please include your pie choice of pumpkin or apple and let us know if you will bring a side dish. Sign up by Nov 11: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-66327345-giving>

Side by Side Choir - 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 **Mondays at 10:00 am at the church** for our fall season of music and engagement. Rehearsals have started and will conclude following our **concert on Saturday, December 5 at 10:30 am**.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive: The next Red Cross Blood Drive held at the church is on **Wed, Nov 25, from 11:00 am to 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.

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 **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

College Pack Items Needed! One of the mission activities of the church youth program is to send College Packs to those off at school or the military. We ask each of our 6-12th grade families to bring items for the 30 College Packs we anticipate sending this year. Think necessary items, fun items and lightweight items as they will be shipped! Food is always good. So are dorms decs. **Please have them at church by Sun, Oct 11**. Thank you!

Bibles for New Confirmands: The congregation will present Bibles to new confirmation students during worship on **October 11**.

Wednesday School: All children in kindergarten through Grade 5 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 website and at church. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

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>Oct 4, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 1,536	\$ 421,798
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 452,320

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For those who were at Moon Beach this past week getting our church camp ready for fall and winter - Jane W, Lu L, Norma R, Tim B, Carol M and Dan R - thank you for your work!
- For Alyssa Larsen (daughter of Joel and Tanya) and Jaron Duitsman to be married on October 31 in Maiden Rock, WI with pastor Chris officiating (yes, they are getting married on Halloween!)
- For Darlene Sumption and Lyle Wood who both celebrated their 100th birthdays recently, you are inspirations!
- For those who gave blood at our last Red Cross Blood Drive, 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 – 8:30 am to Noon

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Minister for Community and Outreach: Bob Wang – pbobcca@outlook.com

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Office/Finance: 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

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – ztruck51ford@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com