First Congregational Church, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ www.firstchurchrf.org

December 1, 2026

Our mission is to love God and serve people.

Everyone is welcome because everyone matters.



Pastor's Page

The church gets a little head start on the new year. While the rest of the world waits for January, our church year begins with Advent. And with it comes a chance to begin again.

Maybe there's someone we've been meaning to call, a hurt we're finally ready to talk about, or a need in our community we're in a position to meet. Advent invites us to pay attention to those small openings and to wonder what God might be doing through them.

I love the way Duke University professor Kate Bowler puts that hope into words in her "Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent."

May we begin again this Advent season.

Pastor Chris

A Blessing for Beginning Again in Advent

God, could this be the year when we see it?
The goodness that is coming,
like starlight from a distant time?

Could this be the Advent when we sense it?
That the springtime of the soul will one day last forever?

Could this be the Advent when we notice the inbreaking of your coming promises?
Promises full of blessing:
of truth so clear, so bright that every shadowy lie must flee away.
Of compassion so deep, so strong that everyone is encircled in its embrace.

Of restoration so complete, so beautiful that there is gladness everywhere.
And of justice so satisfying and so right, that all will be well.

May this Advent be the new beginning,
as we learn to live by the light of your coming promises.
Glimpsing the world through tears, while also seeing something sacred shining through too.
Our Truth. Our Light.
Our Promise incarnate.

Amen.

Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

Poinsettia sales in honor or memory of someone special have begun. The order forms are on the table. The cost is $15 each. Please return the order form by Dec 13.

The plants will be on display for the Christmas Eve services. You may pick your plants up after the 10:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Proceeds of the sales go toward youth activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 2, 9 & 16
Advent Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 6
Advent Workshop in the Fellowship Hall 11:15 am

Tuesday, December 8
Christmas Luncheon with the River Falls High School Costumed Carolers

Sunday, December 20
Children's Program during Worship

Monday, December 21
Winter Soulstice Event 6:30 pm

Thursday, December 24
Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm

16 Ways to Get Ready for the Birth of the Christ Child this Christmas

1. Enjoy the beautiful sung Wednesday Night Evening Prayer services on Wednesdays December 2, 9 and 16
2. Pick an ornament off the Giving Tree and help a local family
3. Volunteer as Christmas Eve liturgist or luminary lighter
4. Enjoy the Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 8
5. Join us on Christmas Eve at 4:00 or 10:00 pm as we welcome the Christ child!
6. Donate items for the Christmas Shoebox Ministry given to men in rehab at the Kinnic Falls Center
7. Enjoy the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20
8. Cheer the choir on Sundays December 6 and 13 and on Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm
9. Participate in the Christmas Fund special offering benefiting those who have served the church
10. Do crafts and community at the Advent Workshop on Sunday, December 6
11. Revel in the bell choir as they lend their gifts on Sunday, December 6
12. Sponsor a poinsettia for the Christmas Eve service that can be taken home or given to a shut-in
13. Deliver an Amaryllis plant to one of our shut-ins or special friends
14. Bake some cookies and give them away or trade them at the Cookie Exchange on December 6
15. Attend the Longest Night Winter Soulstice Christmas Service on Monday, December 21 at 6:30 pm
16. Pray that in your busyness, boredom or distraction, you may find time to welcome the Christ child into your life

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study

The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study continues to explore Revelation, the last book of the Bible. The group meets in the library on **Wednesdays, 1:00-2:30 pm.** For information about the next theme, contact Pastor Stacy.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Sunday Morning Bible Study prepares for worship by studying the Bible texts 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 Night Family 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. The menu will be:

Dec 2 - Parmesan crusted chicken over rice pilaf, salad, croissant
Dec 9 - Chicken-ala king served over biscuit with fresh fruit
Dec 16 - Meatloaf, baked potato, vegetable, bread
Dec 23/30 – Off for Christmas and New Years

Advent Evening Prayer



On three Wednesday evenings during Advent, we will gather together for Evening Prayer worship featuring the Holden Village Evening Prayer Service, a favorite service for the congregation. The service is lovely, candlelight, brief, and contemplative. Worship is **6:30–7:00 pm**. Worship themes are:

December 2: God Acts
December 9: Gabriel Announces
December 16: Mary Agrees

During a season that is easily consumed by stress and long lists, come to center yourself in God's word. Come for Evening Prayer to recognize Advent as a necessary time to prepare yourself to hear the Christmas story. The services are designed to be meaningful to adults, teens, and children.



Christmas Shoebox

The drive for Christmas Shoebox items for the gentlemen at Kinnic Falls Alcohol & Drug Abuse Center in River Falls has begun. If you would rather donate money, designate it for "Christmas Shoebox" and we will make sure all items are purchased. The list is on the gathering table.



Bring Christmas Joy!

Each year we invite members of the church family to deliver an amaryllis plant to one of our shut-ins or special church friends. This is a wonderful, family-friendly activity that brings joy to both the giver and recipient. Simply sign up at church, prepare the amaryllis plant, and deliver it. Feel free to add a card or some cookies if you wish. Thank you for being part of this ministry of compassion.

Important Upcoming Dates for Families

Please keep the following dates in mind as you plan your schedules:

- Advent musical rehearsal during Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 5): Nov 29, Dec 6, 13.
- Advent musical dress rehearsal (kindergarten – Grade 5): December 19, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon.
- Advent musical presentation: December 20, during worship.

Learning Community

Thanks to Mark Anderson who led us through a fascinating journey detailing the churches of River Falls. Mark will also be doing a walking tour of houses in River Falls in the spring.

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. For more info talk to Lu Lueck or Pastor Bob.

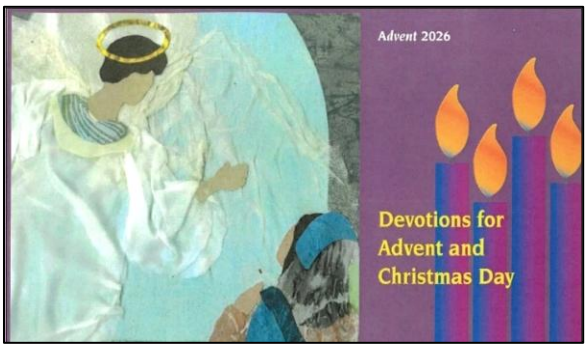
Side By Side Choir Concert

Each Monday morning, we in the church office enjoy the sounds of the Side by Side Choir practicing in the Fellowship Hall. This choir is comprised of community members and those with dementia. What wonderful music they make together! They will be presenting a concert, ***Joy in Friendship***, on **Saturday, December 5th at 10:30 am.** Mark your calendars!



2026 Devotional for Advent and Christmas Day

This year's devotional for Advent and Christmas Day features scripture, art representing different times and cultures, reflections on themes common to the art and contemporary life, quotations to consider, and prayers. Please get a devotional booklet and use it throughout the coming weeks.



2027 Discipleship Campaign

Each year the church conducts a Discipleship Campaign to financially support the ministry of First Congregational Church. Literally every program you see in the pages of this newsletter is supported through your financial giving. Thank you! We ask of all our church members and supporters three things:

- First, if you don't pledge, please start this year.
- Second, if you do pledge, please increase your pledge, even if only slightly.
- Third, work toward a tithe recognizing all the ways God has blessed you and our call to share those blessings with others.

We understand that economic circumstances are difficult especially for our younger families so thank you for digging extra deep this year to enable our programs and ministry to continue as we seek to minister to our community.

Cards for Barb de Souza

Barb de Souza is our retired healthcare missionary who spent decades training healthcare workers in the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and after a recent stroke, she is now being cared for by many of the people she trained. Her daughter will be going to visit her just after Christmas. If you would like to send her a Christmas card or thinking of you card, please drop them off in the basket in the Gathering Area by Christmas Eve. We have blank cards available as well. Please keep Barb and her family in your prayers.



Reverse Advent Calendar

Advent, which begins right after Thanksgiving, is a time of waiting and watching for the arrival of the Messiah at Christmas. Many of us use Advent Calendars at home with small gifts and chocolates as ways of counting down the days until Christmas. For the past few years, our Mission Committee has encouraged folks to join the Reverse Advent Calendar - giving instead of getting. We all know that with government cuts and shutdowns, many families are struggling to put food on the table. Starting on Giving Thanks Sunday, November 15, our Mission Team will be handing out paper bags with the Reverse Advent Calendar attached. Each day (or week) we ask you to place items in the bag until it is full with 25 needs items for the Food Pantry. Bring the completed grocery bag back to church by Christmas (or earlier!). After they are dedicated, our Mission Team will bring all the items to the Food Pantry. Bless you for your generosity.



Sharing Families Giving Tree

Going, going, gone! Wow in just 8 days all but one of our Giving Tree ornaments are gone. Each year we 'adopt' 9 local families to provide Christmas gifts and food and gas cards.

Please have unwrapped gifts with the ornaments back to the church by Thursday, December 10. Thank you for your generosity!

If you have questions, please contact Diane Welsh (651-334-3128 or 715-386-6620) or the church office.

Tax Savings and Church Blessing

If you have appreciated assets and are looking for a way both to reduce your taxes and contribute to the church mission & ministry, consider donating some of your Required Minimum Distribution to the church.

Stock Giving - Donating appreciated assets avoids federal capital gains taxes and provides a federal income tax deduction for the current market value of the gift. Similar state tax benefits are also provided in most of the country. Most importantly, you'll be making a powerful difference for your church or another charity.

IRA Giving - For church supporters age 70.5 or older, IRA gifts present a powerful way to save while you give. Generally speaking, IRA gifts are always tax-free and can help you reduce your future tax burden, satisfy a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) if you have to take one, while supporting your congregation.



Children's Advent Musical

Sunday School children in pre-school through grade five are working on the Advent musical, ***The Christmas Guest.***

The musical will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 20**.

Please plan to be present for worship that day. Every child should have a full assembly of the church family for this event. Please be sure to come.

Annual Christmas Luncheon

You are invited to attend a Christmas Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 8, at 12:00 noon**. The menu features Norwegian meatballs and a large collection of Christmas cookies.

The River Falls High School Costumed Carolers will sing. Please come! The cost is $10.00 per person.

Please make a reservation by signing the list on the sign-up table, registering online or calling the church office.

Volunteers Needed for the Christmas Luncheon

Thank you to those who have already volunteered to help with the Christmas luncheon. We have plenty of cooks, now we need more volunteers for serving and kitchen clean up. Many hands make light work! We also need more cookie bakers. Please volunteer!



The Advent Workshop

The 2026 Advent Workshop for families (and interested crafters!) will be in the Fellowship Hall following Sunday School on **December 6**, the Second Sunday in Advent.

The event includes making a variety of Christmas ornaments. If you have friends or neighbors considering participation in a church family, invite them to join you!

Giving Thanks Meal on Sunday, November 15th

A HUGE thanks to all who participated in this year's Giving Thanks Meal. Once again, we served over 220 people in less than half an hour. Thanks to Chef Andy and his helpers as well as our Alex, our Middle and High School youth and parents for cooking, setting up, serving and cleaning up. Here are some pictures.










Journey House Event

All young adults are invited to Journey House (143 Cascade Ave) for the following:

- **A Night of Prayer** – Making Space for the Sacred held on **Thurs, December 17, 6:00-8:30 pm**

2027 Back Bay Mission Trip

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. **Please let them know ASAP so we can reserve transportation!**

Winter Soulstice Event
Monday, December 21 at 6:30 pm



As most meteorologists remind us, the longest night of the year is the day/night on the calendar when earth's tilt positions us as far from the sun as possible creating the most darkness in a twenty-four-hour period (December 21/winter solstice). For thousands of years, humans have considered this event an annual "turning point" of sorts and have created dozens of rituals to commemorate the absence of light and the hopeful return of brighter days. Some of these ancient customs and rituals have even been incorporated into the Christmas season.

Then there is the concept of a blue Christmas (not to be confused with the Evis Presley song) that many faith communities acknowledge and ritualize. On that topic, everybody knows that the Christmas season can often be a difficult time for many folks most often due to the normal grief associated with the loss of a loved one. But, even remembering the anniversary of a traumatic experience or a particular rough patch can trigger sadness or melancholy during the holidays.

This year at First Congregational Church, the W.I.S.E. Team is developing a hybrid event to take place on the longest night, December 21st, that will cover both areas and will thus hopefully reach a wider audience of participation.

The evening will begin indoors in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm and will include music, readings, litanies, and the sharing of our stories. We will then head outside for a traditional fire circle for more singing and sharing and finally return to the Fellowship Hall for some symbolic seasonal refreshments and informal fellowship.

The event will go on regardless of the weather forecast though we may have to make a few adjustments if deemed necessary. We will be joined by members of several neighboring churches, but this meaningful opportunity is open to anyone so spread the word.

Porch Pot Thanks

There was a lot of joy downstairs in the Tile Room recently as folks gathered for a Christmas Porch Pot class led by our own Laura Anderson and her friend Diane Clark. What a great idea! Nearly all the items were donated by the leaders, and the class fee was all donated to the River Falls Food Pantry. Win win!

We love it when people share their gifts, connect with each other and our community is served. See one of the pastors or our moderator Marie Roe if you have an idea you want to offer.

Here are the pics. Thank you Laura and Diane!







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 date is **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 **Mon, Jan 25, from 1:00-6:00 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.

Basics for Local Kids (BLK)

BLK is a non-profit organization that provides winter-wear to local kids in need from infant to 18 years old. Please consider making a donation of gently used or new coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, or socks. Donations can be placed in the bin at church. 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 at 715-307-5074.

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 the River Falls Public Library & 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 Nov 15, 2026	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	$ 22,287	$ 513,928
General Fund Operational Needs	$ 11,308	$ 520,168

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
Mission: Bob Wang - pbobcca@outlook.com
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

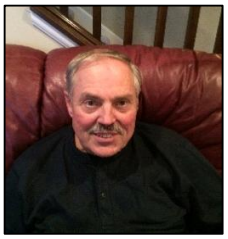
NEW MEMBERS – November 22, 2026



Krista Black – I am a new mom to an almost 14-month-old now but still figuring out this parenting thing day by day. I also have two fur babies I love very much Cocoa and Remi. I work in Hudson for Docucopies, a printing company, and have been there for 9 years now managing a team of printing specialists. I love printing as there's always something new to work on every day and it's fun to see behind people's lives with what they choose to print with us from biographies to yearbooks to wedding invitations to Christmas letters. I am a graduate of UW River Falls and have grown to love this little town over the last 15 years. My husband Andrew and I met in high school but rekindled our friendship and eventually love here in River Falls as well. This town has been a huge part of my life and now also will be for my daughter, and I am looking forward to finding friendships and activities to enjoy moving forward with this church.



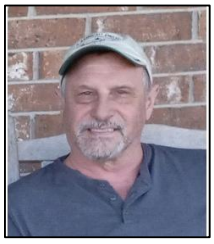
Shelley Hallen – I grew up in MN and WI as a Methodist. I joined my husband's family's ELCA Lutheran church in Hudson, WI just before we married in 1985. We have two adult children that live nearby, and we are both retired. I do watch my 1-year-old granddaughter 4 days a week.



Steve Healy – I am married to Janice Healy. We have two daughters, Stephanie Hagen and family of Hudson and Megan Wolsey and family of Red Wing and one son, Brian who is deceased and his family lives in Rochester, New York. I am a retired President and CEO of Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services and a former Executive Director of Polk County Economic Development Corporation following retirement. I am on the school board Service of the School District of River Falls. I am an active life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Pheasants Forever. I have served on a number of boards of directors. I enjoy travel, hunting and fishing.



Deb Hulbert – My family moved to River Falls in 1958. My Dad taught Physical Education and was the wrestling coach at the RF State College. My Mom was a nurse at the City Hospital. I was in fifth grade. I went to the Campus School and graduated from RF Senior High in 1967. I graduated from UW-RF in 1970 with a degree in Physical Education. I earned a Master's Degree in Education at Hamlin University in 1995. In 1969 Rich Timmerman and I were married in Hawaii while he was on leave from his station in Vietnam. We had three children who were educated in River Falls. Wesley is an electrician, Alec is a math teacher. Abby was diagnosed with a rare auto immune disorder when she was 14. During the journey with her illness, we had a lot of ups and downs. It was during that time that Rich and I divorced. On the Upside, the RF community was always at our side. Abby always said we could live and prepare for her death because we were never alone. I taught PE in Red Wing and River Falls at the Junior High, Greenwood, Westside and the University. I coached at Red Wing, Stillwater and River Falls. Back in the day, at the beginning of girl's sports, I coached everything. My coaching legacy; I started the gymnastics team at River Falls. In 2004 I married Norb Hulbert. He had a construction company in Forest Lake, so I retired and moved to Forest Lake. We were there for 20 years. Three years ago, we moved home.



Jeff Pajac – Even though I have been attending the UCC for over 23 years, and have served on committees and played my guitar and sung alone and with the choir, I have never committed to official membership. I have decided that it is time to join the flock. I was born in Ashland, WI, and grew up on a small rural farm outside of the city limits. My family belonged to the Catholic Church. It took me years to say the "Our Father" without using the Catholic wording – I guess I am a little stubborn. I am currently retired and live with my wife Becky in the little town of Martell, WI. I look forward to finally becoming a member of this church and the people I have come to enjoy as my church family.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING - November 17, 2026

Treasurer's Report – Missy - Income was low during October, but the month of November donations improved. Donations typically increase in November and December. Missions have been paid out though the 3rd quarter. OCWM fully paid out. Endowment grant funds were withdrawn in November and were used to pay for Missions.

New Business:

Council book read for 2026-27 - Theo of Golden by Allen Levi Chapters 16-30 Discussion by Council

2027 Budget - Almost all committees have contacted Louie regarding their proposed budgets

2026 Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 7 - Presentations by committees took too long last year-need to reduce them down. We only need a SNAPSHOT of the committee. Create a slide and send it to Pastor Chris. May consider a small lunch instead of breakfast/brunch.

Question about names on the Memorial Garden Plaque - discussion occurred regarding whose names can be on the plaque. Determined that it is in place as a headstone for the people who are interred here. The Church Council gave a unanimous vote to only have those interred there have names on the plaque.

Old Business:

New AED Battery – Chris - This one was purchased through a grant. Will last for 3 years.

Tuck Pointing and Building Issues – Louie - the committee met with 2 contractors. Requesting revised bids on the work to determine how much they will cost and what fund-raising will be needed. To be discussed in more detail at the annual meeting. (est. cost will be $200,000)

WISE designation - The Council voted to accept the designation. The national conference has contacted the church to request a vote occur at the annual meeting. Marg has recommended that we follow the request and hold a vote at the February annual meeting.

Ministry:

Christian Education (Angie) - Advent Workshop on Dec 6th, Preschool class strategies, Learning communities being scheduled. Advent Musical is scheduled for Dec 20th

Deacons (Anna) - Communion on Dec 24th both services, No Deacons for Advent services, Discussion of communication with Pastor Bob for their procedure during his services. Creation of Sunshine Fund. Walk through of logistics

Discipleship (Chris) - thank you notes. 100 pledges have already been received.

Endowment Grant (Norma) Submitted via email - No new grant applications were submitted. The next deadline is Dec. 6th. There is $1550 available for the remainder of the year.

Mission Education (Carol) - Sleep in Heavenly Peace presentation at the meeting tonight. Over 100 beds were donated this year. To complete a build: $5000.00 for the wood and supplies and 25 volunteers to complete the building.

Music (Dave) - no update

Personnel (Alan) - completed all staff evaluations, position descriptions will be revised by spring. Recommended to trustees a 4% pay increase. Will work on sharing more information about the specific duties of each staff member

Trustees (Louie) - Room 101 has been painted, Fall clean-up was the 24th-a lot of work was done in the gardens, Handrail on the new stairs, drain is repaired in the family bathroom, the new sign pillars have some cracking that needs to be addressed. Most of the budgets have been submitted.

Welcoming Ministry (Lu) - No meeting this month - last month updated our articles, coffee fellowship sign-ups still needed, tracking "welcomers," will keep the $200.00 budget.

Pastor (Chris) - Data points from each committee needed by Chris, Side by Side Choir going well - will run again the spring. Current budget is concerning but not worrisome at this point. Delivered the card to Christina Krueger yesterday. Pastor Bob will be the lead during Chris' sabbatical in May-July 2027. Giving Thanks Sunday was Nov. 15th with 220 people serviced in less than 30 minutes. New members will be received on Nov 22nd. Advent Evening Prayer Worship will be held on Wednesday December 2, 9, and 16. Dec 8 Christmas Luncheon will be held. December 20 will be the Kids Christmas Program and December 24 Christmas Eve services will be held at 4 and 10 pm.

Moderator (Marie) - Josh Knutson and Laura Anderson will do CPR and AED training this winter. Minimal cost with the certification.

WISE (Marg) - submitted first budget. Dec 6 cookie exchange, Rose's breathing exercises went well. Soulstice event Dec. 20th at 4:30 pm, working well with Pastor Bob.

NEXT MEETING: December 15, 2026

Respectfully submitted by Jo Anne Friedell, Clerk

SERVE generously

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 **Dec 8 & 22.**

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 **Dec 8 & 22.** Join us!

Merry Widows

They will meet on **Wed, Dec 16, at 1:00 pm at West Wind in RF.** 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 is **Dec 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
Bob Wang, Minister for Community and Outreach
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

DECEMBER 1, 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.