

YOUTH EVENTS

Sun, May 20—Lawn Games & Lunch!—Kick off summer on the last day of Sunday School. Fun Lawn Games for kids of all ages & a picnic style lunch will be served.

Thurs, July 12—Come to church and help prepare and deliver a meal for the Simpson shelter.

Fri, July 13—Come to the church lawn for Summer fun picnic food at 5:00 and then we will watch the River Falls Days Parade together.

July 30—August 2—Vacation Bible School

Wed, August 1—River Falls Fish Game—Meet at the field at 7:30 pm.

HELP WANTED

Much of the ministry of the church is done through teams and committees. The Nominating Team is looking for people who wish to serve in the following areas beginning in September:

Christian Education	1 team member needed
Deacons	1 team member needed
Endowment Grant	Full!
Discipleship	4 team members needed
Mission Education	1 team member needed
Music	Full!
Trustees	2 team members needed
Welcoming Ministry	1 team member needed
Youth Leadership	3 team members needed

If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, or just want more information about them, please see the description of these teams and committees on the bulletin board or talk to a member of the Nominating Team—Neal Prochnow, Lu Lueck, Carole Mottaz, Dianne Barnes, Vicki Sippel, Alan Tuchtenhagen

Techies Needed!—Know websites or graphic design? Like working with computers & computer systems? If you have techie skills & would like to share them, we would like to gather a church tech team who can advise church staff on computer & technology issues. The group would meet quarterly. Please give us your contact info & area of interest/expertise & we will convene the group. Bless you!

FINANCIAL

Treasurer's Report

	Week of May 6, 2018	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 8,621	\$ 194,057
General Fund		
Operational Needs	\$ 8,920	\$ 160,560

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

E-Giving—It is quick, easy & safe. It is designed to help both you with your home budgeting & financing of church ministries which continue even when you are away. Contact Missy (missy@firstchurchrf.org) with questions. If you give electronically, please use the e-giving bookmark in the pew as the offering plate goes by.

WELLNESS

Yoga Class—Come & join a delightful group of people that enjoy the flexibility & exercise that yoga offers. The yoga group (men & women) meets **Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 am** in the youth room. Jan Hansen is the certified instructor. A donation is requested & is shared with local charities during the holiday season. We all look forward to seeing new faces.

Spirit & Health—The group focuses on our spiritual growth together around body issues (weight, exercise, health, image). We meet on **Wednesdays at 6:00 pm**. Join us when you can. Questions, contact Rebecca Ferguson (262)227-1542; rebeccaferguson@hotmail.com

MAY 13, 2018

No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

As Jesus' courageous disciples, living God's grace, we strive to...

WORSHIP FAITHFULLY

Sunday Volunteers Needed

Liturgists for: May 20-10:30

June 3, 10, 17, 24

Welcomers for: May 20, 27; June 3, 10, 17, 24

Coffee Fellowship for: May 13, 20, 27; June 10, 17, 24

The sign-up sheets are on the back table. Thank you!

SIGN UP

Worship Service on Channel 16—The Sunday worship service can be viewed on River Falls public access channel 16 on **Wed at 9 pm & Thurs at 12 pm**. Thanks to Jeff Hoffman who is leading the team to record the weekly worship service. He is in need of a few more volunteers. Contact him jeffhoffman312@gmail.com or 715-425-5633.

Church Office Hours—The church office hours between Labor Day and Memorial Day are: Mon-Thurs: 8:30 am-4:00 pm; Friday: 8:30 am-Noon

*The summer worship schedule with **one worship service at 9:30 am will begin Sunday, May 27**, Memorial Day weekend.

WELCOME OPENLY

Summer Camp—Please consider these 2 great benefits our church offers: **Moon Beach or Pilgrim Center**. They offer many different camps & there are scholarships you can apply for. Catalogs and registrations are online at ucci.org and they are available in the gathering area. Any questions, please contact the church office.

New to Church?—Are you a first time visitor? Please stop at the welcome table in the gathering area to receive a special welcome gift from us!

WELCOME OPENLY

Relay for Life Fundraiser—Plant Sale—Our Relay team has partnered up with Barnyard Botanical who will donate \$1000 toward our team's fundraising total. We have a variety of flowers available to purchase like hanging baskets, geraniums, pansies, some herbs, accent plants, & many more. Not sure what to give your Mom or friend? Here's another opportunity for you, a gift certificate. Purchase a gift certificate for yourself or someone else & then be able to go out to Barnyard Botanical about 6 miles out on Country Trunk M past the River Falls Hospital to purchase plants using your gift certificate. Thank you!

TODAY

Men's Group Gathering!—Our newly formed men's group meets every other Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall for coffee, treats, conversation and fellowship. Our next gatherings are **Tues, May 15 & 29**. Thanks to our leadership team of Mike Gardner, Roger Kampstra & Brad Williams who helped organize this group. Join us!

Summer Singing Opportunity—This summer we will be putting together a choir once a month to lead worship and sing an anthem. Everyone is invited! You do not have to have to have music reading skills or any previous experience. We will sing on the following Sundays: **June 24, July 22, and August 5**. If you would like to sing, please meet up with us at 8:30 am on any of the Sundays that we will be singing. If you have any questions, please contact our choir director, Scott Perau. Cell - 715-461-0318 Email - sperau@gmail.com

Confirmation Sunday



WELCOME OPENLY

Cribbage Night—Barry Butenhoff was the overall winner and he had the high hand of the May game. Cribbage will take a break for the summer & resume on the second Monday of each month beginning September 10.

Softball News—It's that time of the year when we think of fun outside activities like

SIGN UP

softball Our church will sponsor a softball team in the River Falls Church Family League. The family league is a co-ed division allowing players to play at the age 14. The league prefers players to be 14 years for safety reasons & city league rules. The co-ed description requires teams to have 3 women on the field at all times, so ladies please don't be afraid to sign up & play. The games are played on Monday evenings at Hoffman Park. Games will begin the first Monday after Memorial Day & continue until the second week of August. Practices will begin soon. Come join in the fun & laughs. If you are interested, please sign up. If you have questions, contact Matthew Thurston at (715)781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945.

Graduation Sunday—This year Graduation Sunday will be **June 3 at the 9:30 am** summer service. Join us as we celebrate this milestone in their life journey, award scholarships, recognize church interns and present blankets to all our graduating seniors.

Book Group Meeting—The summer meeting will be **Tuesday, June 26 at 3:00 pm at the church** to discuss **The Chilbury Ladies Choir** by Jennifer Ryan. The story details the creation of a choir in a small English town in WWII. Women's empowerment is a theme. Copies are available in church office.

WANTED: Coffee Fellowship Hosts

SIGN UP

We are in need of people to sign up for Coffee Fellowship. We all know what an enjoyable & important part of our Sunday worship this is If you have questions, contact Lu Lueck at 715-781-0138.

Daily Devotional to Your Inbox—Did you know that the UCC has a daily devotional that can be sent directly to your email each morning? Containing a scripture verse, short devotional and prayer, and written by various UCC pastors, you can sign up for this free devotional by going to:

http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

GROW SPIRITUALLY

Adult Forum—*The forum meets Sundays 9:00–10:00 am*
May 13: Biblical Images of God, Stacy Myers—The Bible is filled with images of God. These images are rich, varied, and reflect the many different ways that God experience God. Come to the forum to explore and discuss biblical images for God.

May 20: Pentecost and the Mission of the Church, Stacy Myers—On the Day of Pentecost, often considered to be the "Birthday of the Church," come to explore the history of Pentecost, the significance of Pentecost for the earliest Christians, and the identity and mission of the Christian Church that came into being on Pentecost.

Announcing Summer Dates

The Musical (completed grades 1–8)
June 18–21, 9:00 am–12:00 noon
(performance on June 21 at 6:30 pm)
VBS (pre-school–completed grade 5)
July 30–August 2, 9:00 am–11:30 am

Please remember that we will need many adult and teen volunteers to help with VBS. Please use the sign up sheet. Registration forms are on the back table.

Upcoming Summer Events

Sun, May 27: Memorial Day, beginning of summer schedule: Worship at 9:30 am with Coffee Fellowship following

Sun, June 3: Graduation Sunday – come wish our High School graduates well!

Sun, June 10: Chordsmash live in worship – Scott Perau's high energy barbershop group

Sun, June 17: Father's Day: Join us as we bless all those called to be fathers

Sun, June 24: Summer Choir (meet at 8:30 am, sing at the one summer 9:30 am worship service)

SERVE GENEROUSLY

Special Offering—On May 20—Pentecost Sunday—we'll share in the national **Strengthen the Church Offering** of the United Church of Christ. This is one of our denomination's special, focused offerings taken throughout the year. **Strengthen the Church** funds help start new congregations and grow current local churches in sites across the country, and supports future church leaders committed to revitalizing & renewing communities. Half of the Offering supports ministry in Wisconsin, and half goes to strengthening the church nationally. Envelopes for this offering will be available in the pews on May 20. Your gifts are most welcome!

Save Your Family Fresh Receipts!—ARC gets \$1,000 for every \$150,000 in receipts, so every dollar counts. ARC is the agency funded by local churches to help address the immediate needs of people in our community (rent, utility, gas, repair help). A box for receipts is on the back table.

Our Neighbors' Day—Friday, May 18 from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm at Our Neighbors' Place, 122 West Johnson Street, River Falls. There will be a Yard Sale, Open House and Tours and a Picnic Style Meal from 4-6 pm. See the flyer on the bulletin board.

2019 Spring Break Mission Trip—It is time for another Spring Break Mission trip! We do this trip every second year (when spring break does not coincide with Holy Week ☺). The trip is geared for youth age 14 to college. A limited number of adult spots are available as well. We spend the week working on houses (painting, light construction and demolition, landscaping, etc) in Biloxi through our UCC partner agency Back Bay Mission (www.thebackbaymission.org). The cost about \$500 per person for the week including all transportation, meals & housing. Dates are **March 23-30** (RFSD spring break). Space is limited to 22 people and this trip ALWAYS fills up. An organizing meeting will be held in the fall. Please add the date to you busy calendars if you are interested! For more info please see Pastor Chris or Carol Merriman



CARE PASSIONATELY

Prayer List—If you have people you wish to add to the church prayer list, please use the blue "I Wish" pew cards & put in the church office or the offering plate. If you wish to receive the weekly prayer list via email, contact the office.

Care Givers Program—An opportunity to serve members through an outreach program that pairs members providing visitors to those unable to be with us regularly in worship or activities. If you are interested in volunteering, have questions or are aware of anyone that would benefit from this, contact Jan Hansen at 715-425-5211

Meal Ministry—Ever had a death in the family? How about something joyous & life changing like the birth of a baby? As a congregation we are called to 'care passionately' for one another & one of the ways we would like to do that is through a "Meal Ministry." A small stipend to help pay for food may be available. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Thinking of You Cards—Please use them to send a note to someone who is ill, grieving or you just haven't seen in a while. Place them in the offering plate & we will deliver them. This is one of the ways we care for one another.

2018 Community Dementia Friendly Series
River Falls Public Library from 6:30–8:00 pm

May 22—Round Table Discussion

Networking and collaboration opportunities for caregivers and the community.

June 26—Dementia Capable Community

A conversation about the process for our community to become Dementia friendly.

Among Friends, located here at church, provides a social respite for individuals with dementia & their caregivers. We are open 9 am-3 pm every Tuesday. Please contact Norma Revels 715-293-2561 or Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn 715-307-1182 if you are interested in knowing more.