

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

715-425-2052 ■ [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)

September 1, 2021

*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
- Welcome openly
- Grow spiritually
- Care passionately
- Serve generously



## Pastor's Page

### *Come and Be Fed*

Sometimes it feels like we are living in a real live version of the movie Groundhog Day. In that movie, Bill Murray keeps living the same day over and over and over. It is a funny movie and worth your time, but somehow living it does not seem very funny right now. In fact some days are just difficult. This pandemic has gone on longer than anyone wanted or imagined. Even

the strongest and most faithful among us are getting weary of it all. How are we going to face it all, including an uncertain future and fall? We will face it in faith and let Jesus feed us.

For many summer Sundays now the gospel lessons have been taken from John 6 in which Jesus talks about feeding his people. John 6 is a really long chapter that begins with Jesus feeding the 5000 with just 5 loaves and 2 fish. After Jesus blesses and breaks the food, so many are fed out of so little that there are leftovers. And then in the rest of John 6, Jesus goes on and on and on about feeding people on two things: The Word of God, Jesus teaching to them, and the Bread of Life, Jesus' own body and blood, what we call the sacrament of holy communion. We too need to be fed.

Last fall our theme was Pivot! as we shifted and moved sometimes weekly to adjust to the changing realities of the pandemic. All that pivoting has left us exhausted. Now, we just want to be fed. We need to be fed. So come and be fed this fall.

Inside this newsletter you can find a whole section with ways you can be fed. Alex and Sarah Plum, our new Youth Ministers will be leading new Wednesday evening and Sunday Youth Groups for Middle and High School students. Pastor Stacy will be leading a weekly Bible Study. A series of cooking classes will feed our

hunger to be together in safe, small groups and learn new culinary skills. Music programs can feed the deepest parts of our souls and bless others when that gift is shared. Pastor Dave is working on more gatherings of the Learning Community. So come and be fed.

Sundays will look a little different this fall. For now, starting on Rally Day, we will run one worship service in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 am with Sunday School (Pre-K to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade) to run concurrently and Coffee Fellowship to follow at 11:00 am (see Rally Day Schedule later). And based on feedback we received this summer from the Parents Meetings, we will move communion earlier in the service so kids can commune before leaving for Sunday School. Finally, starting with Rally Day, and with the Deacons' blessing, we will be offering communion every week. So come and be fed.

The good news is that we are not alone. In fact we are never alone. God is with us equipping us with faith to get us through the stressful times of life. In John 10:10, Jesus offers his mission statement: *I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.* Led by our faith, fed at Christ's table, let us move into the fall in confidence and compassion, grace and peace.

In Gratitude,  
Pastor Chris

# WORSHIP faithfully

## A Note on Sunday Worship

Starting on **Sunday, September 5**, we will move back to the Fellowship Hall for worship.

The Fellowship Hall provides more space to gather and space out. It also has a bi-polar ionization system that treats and refreshes the air every fifteen minutes. Sunday, September 5 will be the last of our 9:30 am summer worship services.

Starting **Sunday, September 12, Rally Day**, we will be move to our new fall schedule with the resumption of fall programming and the reopening of the church

nursery and Sunday School with worship at 10:00 am. See the full Rally Day Schedule. The livestream and radio options will continue.

For now, until we get through this current fourth wave of the COVID spike, we are asking all people to mask when they gather in groups, including Sunday Worship, confirmation and Sunday School events that are inside the church building.



## Rally Day & Parent Meeting for Students of All Ages

All parents of children pre-school through Grade 12 (Sunday School, Confirmation, and Interns), are asked to attend an orientation session on **Rally Day, September 12, at 11:30 am**, following worship and Sunday School. This is a very important meeting and required for all families of confirmands. Please be sure to attend. First Congregational

Church takes its responsibility to educate children very seriously. There needs to be a strong connection between church education and family life.

## Rally Day Schedule

8:30	Coffee Ready
8:45- 9:45	Choir Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)
8:45- 9:45	Adult Forum (Youth Room)
9:45- 11:15	Nursery Open
10:00- 11:00	Worship (Fellowship Hall)
10:00- 10:30	Children in Worship
10:30- 11:15	Sunday School (Pre-School - Grade 8)
11:00- 11:30	Coffee Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)
11:30	All-Parent Meeting -- Pre-School, Sunday School, Confirmation, Interns (Sanctuary)

## Fall Worship Series: Come And Be Fed!

One of the parts of Jesus' ministry that we do not think about is his ministry of feeding people. Put simply, Jesus fed people. He fed people with his teaching. He fed people by offering healing and welcome. He fed people by offering his own body and blood. As we begin the program year, our Fall Worship Series is 'Come and Be Fed!' Each Sunday, we will let Jesus feed us by focusing on one of the great themes in Jesus' ministry listed below:

Fed by his Love	Rally Day, Sunday, September 12
Fed by his Grace	Sunday, September 19
Fed by his Justice	Sunday September, 26
Fed by his Community	Sunday, October 3
Fed by his Healing	Sunday, October 10
Fed by this Generosity	Sunday, October 17
Fed by his Compassion	Sunday, October 24

This fall come and be fed at Christ's table and by his Word.



## Come and Be Fed

'Come and Be Fed' is our fall theme. Below are some of the ways we hope to feed one another this fall.

**Middle School and High School Youth** are invited to be fed as our new Youth Ministers, Alex and Sarah Plum lead separate Middle School and High School Youth

Group events on alternating Wednesday evenings and Sundays (see website for schedule). The goal of these gatherings is simply to have fun together and help serve others. Come and be fed.

**Bible Study** will resume in September on Wednesday afternoons at 1:00 pm. Be fed in a small group as they explore God's Word and God's Way together. This group is open to all people. Come and be fed.

As chef Peter Kwong leads us in a bunch of two part **Cooking Classes** in our church kitchen. Each cooking class will include times to both learn how to cook new dishes plus time to eat together in the Fellowship Hall. Space is limited, cost is \$30 per meal/lesson and sign ups will begin in mid September. The October dates are Thursday, October 14 and 21 from 6-8 pm where we will be learning various Thai dishes. More dates and cuisines are coming in November! Come and be fed.

As we make **Music** together. Choir meets on Wednesday nights from 7-8 pm and Bells meets on Wednesday nights at 6 pm. For now we will be meeting masked to keep as safe as possible. We are also in need of musical small groups and solos to enhance our Sunday worship services. Come and be fed.

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## Adult Forum Resumes

The Sunday Adult Forum will resume on **September 12, from 8:45–9:45 am** in the Youth Room.

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### 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 at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the worship service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

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## Coffee Fellowship Hosts and Liturgists Needed

Another sign of the return to normalcy at church is the return of both Coffee Fellowship and Liturgists.

**Coffee Fellowship Hosts** will be asked to serve Best Maid cookies which are in the church freezer, make lemonade and/or serve coffee. All the materials are provided, you will simply need to serve and clean up (at this point we are using disposable cups). Sign up at church or on the church 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 church 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.



## New Youth Ministers

Alex and Sarah Plum are so excited to be joining the congregation and leadership team at First Congregational! Originally from Eagan, MN and Cameron, WI, Alex and Sarah met at UW—Eau Claire where they both studied music education. They are both now teachers in the RFSD music department.

In their free time, they like to hike, kayak, travel, sing duets, and play with their dog, Nellie. They are excited to become rooted in the River Falls community and grow spiritually as they serve First Congregational!

## Sunday School Teachers Needed

Sunday School begins on **September 12**. Presently we have nine of 15 needed teachers. Please volunteer to teach! Teachers do not teach every Sunday but on a rotating basis with members of a team. To volunteer, please use the link on the church website (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-sunday>) or sign the list on the sign-up table. For more information, please contact Pastor Stacy. Please help. The need is urgent!

## Wednesday School Workers Needed

Wednesday School begins on **October 6**. We need adult volunteers, drivers to transport children from school to church, and people to provide snacks. Please consider volunteering. Please sign the list on the sign-up table or use the link on the church website: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-wednesday18>

## Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will resume in the fall on **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00–2:30 pm**. The first session is **September 15**. Presently the plan is to meet in-person in the Youth Room. Please indicate your interest by signing the list on the sign-up table at church or on the sign up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-adult>

## Wednesday School Registrations

All children who will be in kindergarten through Grade 5 in the fall of 2021, are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Registration and permission forms are available on the church website (<https://firstchurchrf.org/grow/pages/sunday-school>) and in the church office. It is important to have advance registration in order to be adequately prepared for students.

**Wednesday School begins October 6**. For COVID-mitigation, all participants will wear masks. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.



## Church Van Update

Thanks to your incredible generosity we have put a deposit down on a new Ford Transit van. We hope to have a dedication of it this fall. Right now it is in production and we hope to have possession of it in early fall. The van will be detailed with the church name and new logo.





## New Church App

The church has a new mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code to the right (directions below) which can also be found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.

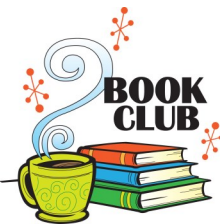
The App includes:

Live and Past Services, Weekly Word, Newsletters, Sign Up Sheets, Events Calendar, Prayer Wall, Giving, Bible, News Feed, Push Notifications



Five easy steps to get our church app on your mobile device:

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code above or visit: <https://bit.ly/FCCApp>
3. Click on the link that pops up
4. Install the Church App - Tithe.ly onto your device
5. Open the Church App (skip login if prompted) and get connected with our church



Enjoy reading? Enjoy chatting about books? Enjoy just chatting sometimes? Well, you are warmly welcome to become part of the First Congregational Church Book Club. The Church Book Club reads a wide variety of books, sometimes deeply profound books and other times just fun books. Read the whole book? Great. Not quite finished with the book? Great. Come be together and puzzle together some gleanings from the book.

The Book Club will meet at on **Thursday, September 23, at 3:00 pm at the church.** The September book is *Lake of Tears* by Mary Logue. Copies are available in the church office. Questions? Please contact Jan Johnson, Rebecca Ferguson, or Bonnie Jones Witthuhn.

## Celebration of Life for Betty Church

The family of Betty Church (June 15, 1927 - July 23, 2020) invites you to celebrate her life at her "After Party." Betty wanted her life to be celebrated in Academy Award style, hence an After Party.

Please join us at the Glen Park Pavilion, 335 West Park Street, River Falls, WI, on **Sunday, September 5, between 1:00 and 4:00 pm.** We look forward to seeing you then!

## Church Yoga

Jan Hansen's 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.

## Softball News

This is sadly the last message of the 2021 season, but it brings fantastic news! We are the **Champions of the 2021 Church League Softball ending our record at 8:1**. This is quite the accomplishment as our team's age ranges from 14 years old to late 60s and skill level varies. As one player put it, playing off our church's motto "We welcome you no matter where you are in your softball journey." I cherish this team because we all laugh, encourage, tease, recommend ideas to help one another through rough patches, praise highlights, and step in wherever needed since most weeks' the lineup changes due to players schedules. It's an awesome group of people and friends!

**Thank you to our wonderful players, our fantastic fans, and families who support our desire to play softball.**

May you all have blessed rest of the year. Please check out our winning team photo and congratulate the players (including those who were missing the last photo, they all worked hard this season to have a winning year) as you see them in the future. See you all next year for the 2022 season! If you have any questions, please contact Matthew Thurston at (715) 781-3626 or Deb Hoffman at (612) 308-4945.



Back row: Ethan Cernohous, Kylie Schaefer (scorekeeper), Bryan Jaeckel, Sarah Plum, Bridget Schaefer, Will Tuchtenhagen, Matthew Myers, Jeremy Speer, Reagan Selleck, and Brodie Schaefer

Front Row: Jill Jaeckel, Deb Hoffman, Ryan Luebben, Larry Luebben, and Jeff Hoffman

Missing from the photo: Matthew Thurston, Samantha Thurston, Alex Plum, Andy Myers, Peter Rayne, Tim Schaefer, Louie Filkins, Farnum Fuller, Beth Antoine, Jen Selleck and Natasha Rayne

### A NOTE OF



Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for the college scholarship. I am excited to study child development at CVTC. I have enjoyed working with children during Wednesday school, Sunday school, and VBS. My goal is to work in an early childhood setting. I am grateful for your support during my high school years. Confirmation class and the intern program were great experiences. The confirmation trip to Boston, service projects, and retreats are memories I'll never forget. I look forward to staying involved in this heart-warming church.

Sincerely, Kim Swanson

## Pastoral Acts in August

August 12 – Interment in Memorial Garden of Gus de Souza and Wayne and Marian Wolfe

August 15 – Confirmation of Cheyenne Wilson

## New Committees and Church Council Terms Begin

Our church committee structure works on a program year from September through August. Committees generally meet the third Tuesday of each month. The new program year will begin on **Tuesday, September 21**, when all committees will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm for a brief orientation before heading to their small group meetings from 6:45 to 7:45 pm, followed by Church Council from 7:45 to 8:45 pm. Please pray for our church leaders as they seek to guide us in these difficult times.

# Engaging the Word, Engaging the World...

## Upcoming

### **Thursday, September 9, 6:00 pm, Interfaith Action of Greater Saint Paul**

Opening fall gathering of congregation leaders with Interfaith Action and its partner organizations.

Highlighting its new family homeless shelter, its work with Native American families, its East Side tutoring programs with children, and its innovative Opportunity Saint Paul program. Our church is now a member of Interfaith Action, with Kate and Tad Jennings serving as our representatives. Participate online at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf19O2DmuF9qj7VZ1hOvm-KM0P10qI5p7OAKMBle8b6uGjlgA/viewform>

### **Thursday, September 9, 6:30 pm, Hope for Creation**

September community meeting. Hope for Creation churches and community partners continue to move forward! Plans are underway for ongoing commitments in the community and for a spring 2022 celebration. Gatherings are currently held both in person and online, with details forthcoming. For more information, contact Pastor Dave at 715-441-6559 or at [dave@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:dave@firstchurchrf.org).

### **September 22-25, Rock the Block, Habitat for Humanity, River Falls**

A community-wide effort to refresh homes in the city, along with a playground, green space landscaping, picnic tables and benches. *Volunteers especially needed Friday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup>* for playground and landscaping work. For more information or to participate, please contact Larry Peterson of Mission Education at 715-377-5007 or Pastor Dave at 715-441-6559. Come Rock the Block!!

## Updating

### **October: Among Friends Returns!**

Among Friends is returning in early October at the church with a grand reopening after many months away! This innovative, locally-run social respite program for older adults with memory loss or physical frailties and their caregivers in Pierce and St. Croix Counties is a true gift for many. The Among Friends Board is also welcoming new members; more information about the program and the Board can be found at <https://amongfriendsrf.wordpress.com/>, by calling 715-293-2561, or emailing [amongfriendsrf@gmail.com](mailto:amongfriendsrf@gmail.com).

## **Help with Funeral Lunches**

After many years of serving, JoAnn Lentz and Yvonne Benson are retiring from coordinating our church funeral lunch ministry. Pat Anderson and Diane Welsh have graciously agreed to take over as coordinators. It would be wonderful if we could have one other person who could help coordinate this ministry to our church families in grief.

You do not need to cook, only coordinate workers and caterers. Helping a family in grief by providing food for them is a holy gift. Please contact the church office if you are interested in joining the team. And be sure to thank JoAnn and Yvonne for their many years of ministry.

## **Spring Break Mission Trip**



Last year's trip to

Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, MS was cancelled due to COVID. This coming year, we have again secured 25 spaces for this bi-annual trip to spend the week fixing houses in hurricane prone Mississippi. The dates align with the River Falls, Hudson and UWRF spring break calendars — **March 12-19, 2022.**

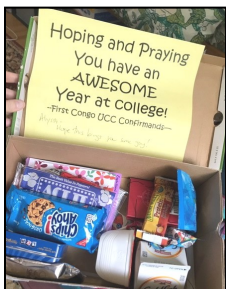
An informational session will be held this fall. In the meantime — mark the date! Did we mention it will warm and sunny in Biloxi in March? Join us! Open to youth and adults. See Pastor Chris for more details.

**Brazilian Healthcare Mission**—The latest newsletter from the Rev. Barb and Gus de Souza healthcare ministry in Brazil is available on the church website. Click on the “Serve” tab at the top and select “Our Community” and find the Brazilian Healthcare Mission newsletter link or find a copy on the back table.



## People in the Pews: Susan Walden

1. *Where did you grow up/hometown?* I grew up in Brooklyn Center, MN but I spent most of my life in Maple Grove, MN
2. *Where do you live now?* Mailing address is Prescott but we consider River Falls our city. I have been in WI for 10 years now.
3. *How long have you been attending First Congregational Church?* I became a member on August 21, 2016. But I attended for a year before I became a member.
4. *What keeps you coming back to church at First Congregational?* It is a VERY friendly and welcoming church. I shopped around for a lot of years and actually joined another church. It was not a good fit. Then my dear friend Bernice Larson introduced me to her/this church. And that was that! I found my new home.
5. *What is your favorite bible passage or quote or hymn and why?* Colossians 3:1-17! It is the rules for a Holy Living. Just speaks to me so much.
6. *What is your favorite childhood memory?* The Sunday School Church Steeple Bank! I couldn't wait for my birthday to come so I could put my pennies in that bank!!! I loved watching all the other kids push their pennies through too. Still makes me smile thinking about it. :)
7. *What is your favorite hobby or pastime?* I LOVE to read and/or listen to Audio Books. I also love my monthly coffee dates with my granddaughter. We started this last year and it fills my heart with so much joy. But now this Fall she goes off to college (Madison) so we will have to squeeze it in when she comes home OR Grandma goes to her!
8. *Tell us something about you or your family that may surprise us?* I actually worked in a very large church (10,000 members) for 14 years. I was in Youth Ministries, Pastoral Care, and Admin. And at 40 years old I bought my first motorcycle and rode for 10 years. Now I enjoy just being a passenger.
9. *What gives you comfort or joy during these COVID-19 days?* Nothing gives me comfort or joy about COVID-19. I am just very happy the world is opening up again and life can somewhat return to "normal??" I and my family have been very blessed to NOT be affected by COVID. I am very sad for those that have been though. Let's just erase 2020..... ><>



### College Packs

Once again this year our confirmands and interns will be sending College Packs to all of our church college students. This is going to be another difficult year so we are inviting the **WHOLE** congregation to bring items to church to be packed by our church interns for our approximately 40 college freshman, sophomores, juniors and seniors.

We ask you to bring in fun and useful items that you might like to receive if you were in college — silly putty, play dough, prepacked snacks, detergent packs, Halloween décor, etc. Please buy identical items in groups of 5 or 10 and the church interns will pack them and send them off with a note and prayer for the year. **Items need to be at church by Wednesday, September 15.** Have fun with this and show some love to our college kids!

### American Red Cross Blood Drive

Held at  
**First Congregational Church**  
**Friday, September 17**  
**11:00 am to 5:00 pm**

Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS  
or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and  
enter: [firstcongregationalrf](https://www.firstcongregationalrf.org) to  
schedule an appointment.



## Tools for School Thanks

Feed my sheep. Those are Jesus' words to us in the gospel lesson from John 21. In River Falls, those words took the form of Tools for School, a ministry to give students in the River Falls School District all the school supplies they need to have a successful year. Over 300 kids came through our church building picking out Barbie backpacks, Minecraft folders, crayons, pencils and so much more. Thanks to First National Bank, they all also received sneakers. Thanks to Associated Dentist, they got toothbrushes. Thanks to Julie Larson and her crew, they got a sack lunch. Thanks to the Optimist Club, they got a board game. Many thanks to Kim Masanz who organized it all. And



thanks to the church and community for all your generosity. We had volunteers



from churches, the police and fire departments and city of River Falls helping. Because of privacy concerns we cannot post pictures of students, but if you are feeling sad or stressed by the state of the world today, please think of this event. #RiverFallsRocks #FeedMySheep #GodIsGood

## amazon smile Free Money for Church Ministries

The church has created an Amazon Smile account through which the church can receive a portion of the price of each purchase you make through Amazon. It is important to know that you need to do two things for the church to receive this money. First, go to Amazon Smile by typing in [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and then add First Congregational Church River Falls to your Amazon Smile. Second, every time you order you must order through your Smile account by going to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Once you do this, the church will receive 0.5% of each eligible order. Please contact the church office if you have questions.

## Simpson Shelter Supply Needs

- Twin, full, and queen size blankets and sheet sets—new
- Pillows—new
- White t-shirts—new, sizes small & medium
- Large tubs of Country Time Lemonade and Kool Aid mixes (we use these in Igloo containers for meals)
- Hot sauce
- Coffee—ground, caffeinated
- Products for textured and natural hair
- New shower curtains and shower rings

There is a box at the church for donations. Thank you!

## Treasurer's Report

	Week of Sept 22, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income*	\$ 6,561	\$ 328,824
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 314,908

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

## Church Staff Contact Info

Pastor: Chris Myers—[chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)  
 Office: Missy Luedtke—[missy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:missy@firstchurchrf.org)  
 Education: Stacy Myers—[stacy@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:stacy@firstchurchrf.org)  
 Mission: Dave Ostendorf—[dave@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:dave@firstchurchrf.org)  
 Youth: Alex and Sarah Plum—[rfyouthgroup@gmail.com](mailto:rfyouthgroup@gmail.com)  
 Music: Jamie Mills—[degolierjamie@gmail.com](mailto:degolierjamie@gmail.com)  
 Choir: Sarah Plum—[sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com)  
 Building: Dave Mountain—[focusfan2001@yahoo.com](mailto:focusfan2001@yahoo.com)  
 Maintenance: Tim Bylander—[timthefixitguy@gmail.com](mailto:timthefixitguy@gmail.com)



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## STAFF

Chris Myers, Pastor

Dave Ostendorf, Minister for Community and Outreach

Stacy Johnson, CE Minister

Missy Luedtke, Office Administrator

Joel Larsen, Moderator

Alex and Sarah Plum, Youth Ministers

Jamie Mills, Music Coordinator and Bell Choir Director

Sarah Plum, Choir Director

Marsha Pearson, Organist

Terry Mithun, Organist

Tim Bylander, Building Supervisor

Dave Mountain, Custodian

Pastor's home phone number:

Chris Myers 715-426-2075

[chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto: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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

## Ways to Reach Out to Others

All of us want to do something to help and be Jesus' loving disciples in the present moment. Below are some specific things you can do at home:

**Shut-ins/Seniors**—We have connected our seniors/shut-ins with church families who send them notes, small parcels and kid's artwork. If you want to be matched with a shut-in, contact the church office.

**Donations for Shut In Bags**—One of the good things to come out the pandemic are the 25 shut in bags that are delivered each month by volunteers. We are looking for donations of small gifts or handmade items that can be put in these gift bags. Home baked cookies, small handmade items, even seasonal dollar store items are all great additions to this ministry, but there must be 25 of them. Contact the church office for more info.

**Compassion Fund**—There are families in our church who have been furloughed, fired, and laid off. We will be able to offer some modest assistance to these families through our church Compassion Fund. Gifts should be mailed to the church and marked 'Compassion Fund.' Families who need assistance, please contact Pastor Chris.

**Prayer**—Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. Pray for the helpers. Pray for your families. Pray for people losing their jobs. Pray for students learning online. Pray for families learning new routines. Pray for people cooped up inside. Each week there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the church office.

**Sign Up Sheets:** All of the current sign-up sheets are on the church website. Click on the "Connect" button at the top of the page and then select "Sign Ups/Forms."