

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

110 North Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022

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

October 15, 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

One of my favorite Bible stories is the healing of the 10 lepers in Luke 17:11-19. In it Jesus heals 10 lepers in one of his more miraculous healings. Yet of the 10 who are healed, only one returns to give thanks, and the one happens to be an outsider, a foreigner. While Jesus rejoices that at least one has returned to give thanks, he laments that the people who should be giving thanks, do not. What about the other 9? Why didn't they return and give thanks?

I like the story because, among other things, it challenges me to be not just thankful, but to be grateful. It challenges me not just to acknowledge my many blessings, but to act on them.

One of the things I have noticed during this strange and lengthy Covid time, is the amazing ability of people of faith to find blessings amidst the hardships. This is a good thing! God is at work even in a pandemic. To be able to see some blessing in it at all, is an amazing act of faith. And I know from my conversations, so many of you have been able to find blessings amidst the burdens of Covid. Yet the Christian faith does not call us to collect blessings, but to share them. We are called not just to count our blessings, but to live gratefully by sharing them with others.

I am amazed at the many ways we as a congregation try to live this out. In August we shared news and pictures of our school supply give away, supporting over 300 local kids. In September we shared news and pictures of the college packs given away to our

39 college folk. We also started a new Youth Group Ministry for both Middle and High School kids. This month we celebrate the return of Among Friends, Wednesday School and Wednesday Night Family Meals. Next month we look forward to the annual Giving Thanks meal, even if we are not yet sure the form it will take. This church understands that it has been blessed and tries to share those blessings with others.

In the coming weeks, you will receive a pledge card asking you to make a financial commitment to support the ministry of our church. I ask four things of you. First, if you do not already pledge, I ask you to start this year. Pledging is the only way we can know what ministries we as a church can fully fund. Second, if you have pledged in the past, thank you! You are part of the engine that drives this ministry. I ask you to please increase your pledge, even if just a little bit. Third, if you have not already done so, please sign up for e-giving. It is safe, simple and

easy to enroll (look for an enrollment form in the mail, on the website or contact the church office). You never have to write a check again!

*Continued on next page*





# WORSHIP faithfully

## A Note on Sunday Worship

We have moved 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.

We have moved 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 Fall

Sunday Schedule below. 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.

## Pastor's Page *Continued from front page*

One final thing I ask you to do is to consider how you can support the ministry of this church literally from beyond the grave. Please consider making your church home a recipient in your will. You can target a gift toward a specific ministry that has given you joy, for example music, education, and mission. Or you can leave a gift to the Endowment Fund so it will forever help drive the mission and ministry of this church. In doing so you are making sure those ministries can thrive long after you are gone. Please talk to your financial advisor, the Investment Team or a pastor for ways you might creatively consider doing this.

Thank you for your faithful generosity and for living gratefully.

In Gratitude, Pastor Chris



## Fall Sunday Schedule

8:30 am—Coffee ready!  
8:45-9:45 am—Adult Forum  
9:00-9:45 am—Music Practice  
10:00 am—Worship and Sunday School  
10:30 am—Kids Preschool thru 8th Grade  
leave for Sunday School  
11:00-11:30 am—Coffee Fellowship  
(Fellowship Hall)  
11:15 am—Sunday School Ends  
11:30 am—12:30 pm—Middle or High  
School Youth Group

Our current fall schedule is above. We are worshipping in the Fellowship Hall and asking people to mask when indoors following CDC guidelines. Please continue to pray for our church leadership as they seek to find ways for us to gather both safely and faithfully.

## 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 **Cooking Class** in our church kitchen. The October class is full. We are trying to schedule more classes in the future hoping to target certain groups of people so they can connect with each other. Perhaps a young parents/20's and 30's group, an empty nester group, an active retired group. Please contact Pastor Chris if you would like to set up a date for a small group cooking class where you can meet, eat and connect with each other.

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

The Adult Forum discusses the Sunday's texts prior to worship on Sunday mornings. Please come! All are welcome. The Forum meets in the Youth Room, Sunday mornings, 8:45-9:45 am.



### 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.





Wed, October 13 - Church Interns

Wed, October 20 - Middle School Youth Group at church from 6:30-7:30 pm

Sun, October 24 - The High School Youth Group heads to White Pine Berry Farm for the Corn Maze from 1-3 pm. Cost is \$5. Please sign up below. Friends are welcome!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-high2>

Wed, October 27 - High School Youth Group at church from 6:30-7:30 pm

Sun, October 31 - Middle School Youth Group Service Project



## Fall Clean-Up, Saturday, Oct. 23, 9am-12pm

Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Back-up date is Saturday, October 30. Please sign up and join us!

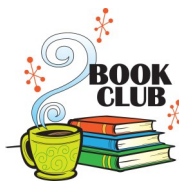
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-fall>

## Wednesday School Registrations

All children in kindergarten through grade 5 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. For COVID-mitigation, all participants will wear masks. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

## Adult Bible Study

The Adult Bible Study group meets **Wednesday afternoons, 1:00-2:30 pm** in the Fellowship Hall. The group is studying Second Corinthians. All are welcome.



## October Book Club

Come join us **Thursday, October 28, 3:00 pm**, for what promises to be a very lively discussion of the most recent Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Night Watchman*, by our Twin Cities' neighbor, Louise Erdrich. Based on the life of her grandfather and the very real treaty issues of 1953, the novel also explores the lives of a whole community struggling with "the worst and best impulses of human nature."

You can pick up a copy of the book at the church office (including 2 large-print copies). Come whether you've finished (or not yet even begun!) the novel, and enjoy time with thoughtful readers and a wise and gifted author.

For more info, call Rebecca Ferguson, Jan Johnson, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn or Suzanne Hagen. (We'll make adjustments to our plan as Covid dictates at the time, but we're wearing masks inside the church building now.)

## 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.





Sunday, October 31st is All Saints Sunday, the day in the life of the church when we remember those who have lived a life of faith and love, and who now rest from their labors secure in God's care. On All Saints Sunday we place a white rose on the communion table in memory of all those who have finished the race of life. This year we will remember the saints of our church who died this past year including:

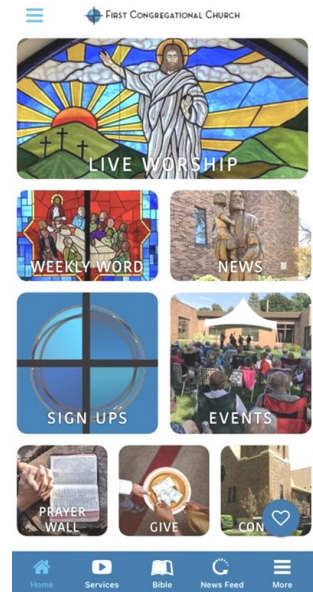
Families of our saints are invited to take the rose home with them after worship. May this time of worship be a time of healing and thanksgiving.



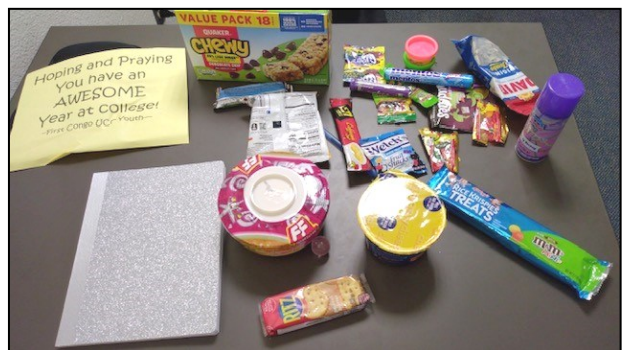
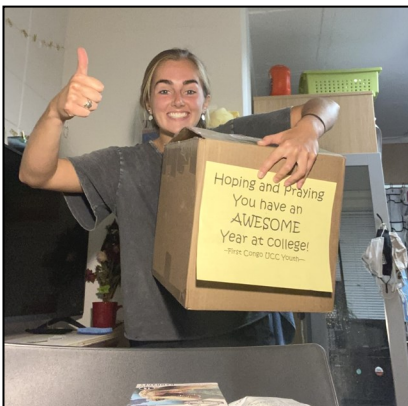
The App includes: Live and Past Services, Weekly Word, Newsletters, Sign Up Sheets, Events Calendar, Prayer Wall, Giving, Bible, News Feed, Push Notifications

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



Here are some great pics from our college kids as they received their packs. Thank you!





# Engaging the Word, Engaging the World...

## Upcoming

**Wednesday, October 20, 6:00–8 pm, “2040,” Cinema at University Center Kinni Theater**—This is a powerful film about hope in the midst of dramatic climate change, with stories of solutions by people and communities around the world grounded in creative “bottom-up” ideas. In the words of the film maker, it seeks “to create a vision of a different future” in a time of great challenge.

**Thursday, October 21, 6:00 pm, “Food, Poverty, & Health” Presentation**—This discussion on sustainability and its deep ties to the health, wealth, and wellbeing of communities features Peter Kilde of the West Central Wisconsin Community Action Agency, a leader in affordable housing innovation and energy conservation. Participate through the River Falls Public Library or stream live through the Library’s Facebook and YouTube channel.

**Wednesday, October 27, 6:30 pm, “Bringing the Bible to Life,” a Learning Community Gathering in Fellowship Hall**—Curious about the magnificent art work in Fellowship Hall, our corridors, and office—all 51 collages depicting key stories of the Bible? Did you know that our congregation commissioned this artwork, and that Pastor Stacy authored the book with all the artwork recently published by the pilgrim press of the United Church of Christ for children? And that she developed a companion book, *God’s Way*, for Confirmants?

You don’t want to miss this Learning Community Gathering! Pastor Stacy will share the amazing story of Picture the Bible and highlight the development of key collages. We’ll gather following our Wednesday meal in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone attending will be gifted a copy of *God’s Way*.

## Updating

**Afghan Resettlement in Wisconsin and Minnesota**—The resettlement process will be long-term for Afghans housed at Fort McCoy and other sites across the US. Presently some refugees are being resettled in Wisconsin’s larger cities, and plans are underway for resettlement in the Twin Cities as well. Immediate refugee needs are being met through the efforts of experienced resettlement agencies in those host areas, in partnership with local religious groups and civic organizations. We are continuing to monitor the resettlement process to identify specific needs or steps that we might support as a congregation in the days ahead.

## Unfolding

**Hope for Creation (H4C)** churches and community partners are planning a **BIG** community-wide Earth Celebration for April 2022! Ideas and plans for the Celebration are welcome and are already taking early shape. Please visit with Pastor Dave for more information or if you are interested in joining H4C leaders to make the Celebration powerful and impactful.



### Church Van

Just a heads up that we have not forgotten about the new church van. It has been ordered but with supply chain issues, chip shortages and the plant closing for 3 weeks, it is delayed. We will update you when we hear word on its arrival and dedication. Thanks to all who helped pay for it! Thank you also to the Van Team (Tim Bylander, Bob Ferguson, Brad Williams and Pastor Chris) who took this project on.



### Among Friends Has Returned!

Among Friends is now meeting every Tuesday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm at the church. 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.

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).





## Family Meals Resume

Wednesday meals are back! Each Wednesday night we will again be offering our home cooked meals to be picked up between 5:15 and 6:00 pm. The cost is \$8 per person with a max per family of \$25. For now we are offering a limited number of seats in the Fellowship Hall geared to those already here for Wednesday programming. To go meals can be picked up in the church alley in back of the church (enter on Maple and exit on Elm Streets). We are thankful to Katy Kapaun, our church cook, our kitchen helpers and church interns, all of whom make this ministry possible. Please sign up on the church website by 4:00 pm Tuesday and indicate 'to go' or 'in person' in the comment section. Here is the upcoming menu:

- Oct 20—Boneless BBQ ribs, macaroni and cheese & garlic mashed potato, vegetable, and biscuit
- Oct 27—Parmesan crusted chicken with hollandaise sauce, rice pilaf, asparagus salad, and croissant
- Nov 3—Meatloaf, baked potato, macaroni and cheese, vegetable, and dinner roll
- Nov 10—Roasted pork loin, baby red potatoes, sweet red cabbage, glazed carrots, and bread
- Nov 17—Chicken marsala over rice, fruit, vegetable, and croissant
- Nov 24—No Wednesday Programming/Meals—Thanksgiving

## Boston Trip for Confirmands

We now have three years of confirmands who (hopefully) will be headed to Boston for their Big Trip at the end of their confirmation experience. We have tentatively set a date of April 21-24, the weekend after Easter, as the date for this trip. Later this fall we will set a meeting time with parents and confirmands to explore how this trip might take place. With kids sharing rooms and all the COVID uncertainty, there is lots of uncertainty, but please know we have not forgotten about this trip, its purpose and the hope that all of those who want to go, will be able to go. Stay tuned.

## Spring Break Mission Trip



The Spring Break

Mission Trip will (hopefully) be March 12-19, 2022 to UCC related Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi. Last's years trip was cancelled due to COVID and at this point we are still hoping to be able to go, but are waiting to see how the fall unfolds. The need is great down South yet we want to make sure we can safely accomplish this trip. Please look to the newsletter for updates about this important ministry.



## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX PROJECT 2021

For many years, the yoga group and members of First Congregational have supported a "Christmas Shoebox" for the men at the Kinnic Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center in River Falls. Even though these are somewhat strange times, the NEED is still there, and we will again collect items, wrap and fill the boxes and bags and deliver them to the Kinnic Rehab to show that we all still care!

These shoeboxes contain socks, playing cards, puzzles, soap, toothpaste and many other items. The thick warm gloves have been a welcome addition as well as the nice warm hats!! The new cribbage boards are also a great item the guys really enjoy. The rest of October and November and part of December, we are highlighting this project. We will work with the Wednesday School group in decorating some Christmas bags as well as the older youth helping with wrapping the boxes.

A list of items is at the church, or you can request a list from the church office. Donations are most welcome. Please leave any items in the bin in the gathering area or in the office. Cash donations will be used to purchase any needed items. Thank you for anything that you can provide. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jean Smith at [jsmithler@yahoo.com](mailto:jsmithler@yahoo.com) or at 715-781-6880 or leave a message in the church office.



## Giving Thanks Meal

Each year our church serves a huge Thanksgiving Meal in the Fellowship Hall in mid-November, complete with turkey, potatoes, dressing, pie and amazing sides. This is also the day we hold our Youth Dessert Auction. Last year, due to COVID, we moved the meal to a take out format and over 225 of you enjoyed a wonderful meal thanks to Chef Andy Krueger and his crew.

As of now, it seems unlikely it will be safe to welcome 300 people into the Fellowship Hall for a full meal, but rest assured we are monitoring the local situation and hope to have a plan out in late October. Please pray for church leaders and volunteers as they seek to continue this wonderful tradition while still staying safe. The date of the meal will be Sunday, November 14. Stay tuned!



Giving Thanks Meal 2019

## 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.

Last quarter the church received over \$75 for this account, but that amount could grow greatly if you add the church to your Amazon account. Do it today!

## 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 Oct 3, 2021	Year to Date
General Fund Income *	\$ 6,080	\$ 361,066
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,262	\$ 370,480

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)



## Natasha Rayne to Receive University of Wisconsin 2021 Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award

Dr. Natasha Rayne, Associate Professor of Soil Science at UWRF, will be honored at the University of Wisconsin November Board of Regents meeting for her leadership in making significant and lasting contribution to the University and its campus communities.

Created in 1994, the Award is a high honor and distinction for a University of Wisconsin faculty member. First Congregational UCC joins the entire UWRF and River Falls community in celebrating Natasha with her family, friends, and colleagues!

Natasha teaches in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences at UWRF, where she joined the faculty in 2014 after completing her PhD at Oklahoma State University.

Natasha serves as a Deacon at First Congregational and is a member of the choir. Join us in congratulating her this Sunday!! She is married to Peter Rayne, another of our Deacons!



## Connie Foster Honored at the UWRF Falcon Center for Excellence

Connie Foster's distinguished career at UWRF has been recognized by the University with the naming of the Athletic Department Conference Room in her honor. Connie has served as Interim Chancellor, Interim Provost, and in various other leadership and coaching positions at the University. In 2013 she was recognized with the University's Outstanding Service Award and in 2015 was inducted into the UWRF Athletic Hall of Fame. She returned to UWRF to serve as Interim Chancellor in 2020. At church Connie has served as the Convenor of our Long Range Planning Group.



## AAUW Book Sale

The annual American Association of University Women's (AAUW) Book Sale will be the last three weeks of October - Thursdays from 10am to 7pm, Fridays from 10am to 7pm, and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm at the former Global Made, 120 N. Main Street, RF.

Bring donations to the bins at Family Fresh and Dick's Market, River Falls or to County Market, Hudson. Drop off large quantities at the sale site on Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm and Saturdays from 10am to 12pm now through October 9. Proceeds will be used for scholarships. Thank you for your support.

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN River Falls**  
**Fall 2021 Frances Cohler Coffee Concerts**  
 Fridays at Noon | University of Wisconsin - River Falls Campus

**September 10** | Evren Ouzel, piano - 2021 Chopin Foundation Finalist  
**September 23** | Natalia Moiseeva, violin & Ivan Konev, piano  
**October 8** | Jeffrey Jaworski, guitar and Namji Kim, piano  
**October 22** | Paul Cohen, saxophone & Anna Kaiserman, piano  
**November 19** | Dan Chouinard, accordion (Prairie Home Companion) & Bill Chouinard, organ  
**December 3** | Mark Billy, MN Opera Vocalist & Ivan Konev, piano  
**December 10** | St. Croix Trio: Natalia Moiseeva, violin  
 Tanya Remenikova, cello & Ivan Konev, piano

In the event of COVID shut-downs at UWRF, alternate locations include Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson, WI and/or Shepherd of the Valley Church in Afton, MN

*Join us for coffee, cookies & conversation after the concert.*  
 Questions? Please contact series coordinator Kris Tjornehoj at 715.410.7416  
 Visit [www.uwrf.edu/mus](http://www.uwrf.edu/mus) for information about additional events!





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RIVER FALLS

Office Phone: 715-425-2052  
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Website: [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)

## 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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

OCTOBER 15, 2021

## First Communion Information for Parents

### When do children at First Congregational Church begin taking Communion?

There is no uniform age at First Congregational Church when children begin participating in the Lord's Supper. Some children are pre-school age, others are in elementary school, and some wait until confirmation to begin taking Communion. The Bible and church history do not give decisive guidelines about the age to begin celebrating the Lord's Supper. The decision about when people are welcome at the Lord's Table has largely been made by local worshipping communities. Our practice is to include children when they and their parents think they are ready to participate.

### How will I know when my child is ready?

Some parents choose infant communion for their children. Many parents wait until their children express an interest. Typically, children are ready to participate in Communion when they start asking questions about this sacrament. One important theme of Communion is inclusion: All are welcome at the table of the Lord. If a child feels excluded, it is a good time for that child to begin participating.

### My child does not yet receive Communion. Should she/he still come forward?

Yes, all people are invited to come forward to the servers at the Communion distribution time. Children who will not be communing should keep their hands folded (as opposed to reaching out). This is a signal to the pastor and deacons that the child desires a blessing.

**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."