

Weekly Word – For Sunday, October 20, 2024

Worship this Week:

Often times in church we ask the question—what do you believe? This week our scripture texts ask us the question—what kind of person do I want to be? Join us at the Sunday 10am worship service as the choir leads us in song, Sunday School gathers and communion is celebrated. The Sunday morning Bible Study at 9am continues and during the 11am Coffee Fellowship our Discipleship Team is serving up caramel apples as a treat. Join us!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/93qyROQCjr0?si=KDRxJoKYtNQIGiey>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Oct 20	9:00-9:45 am	Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
	3:30 pm	Silent Movie – The Hunchback of Notre Dame
Tues., Oct 22	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women’s Group
Wed., Oct 23	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	5:15-6:00 pm	Wednesday Meal (sign up!)
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Confirmation Class
	6:30-7:30 pm	No HS Youth Group (this is a change!)
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Oct 24	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
	6:30-8:30 pm	Women’s Health Event
Sun., Oct 27	9:00-9:45 am	Music Rehearsal in the Sanctuary
	9:00-9:45 am	Sunday Morning Text Study in the Youth Room
	9:45-11:15 am	Nursery Open
	10:00-11:00 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:15 am	Sunday School (Pre-School – Grade 8)
	11:00-11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM

Assisting in Sunday’s worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Steve Koecher
Deacons:	Karen Lloyd, Becky Pajac, Loral Keil, Brian Miller, Lance Lueck
Organist:	Terry Mithun
Nursery:	Kahla Fuller
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman

Trustee: JonPaul Okal
Welcomers: Norma Revels, Skip Koosmann
Coffee Fellowship: Discipleship Committee
Counters: Vicki Sippel, Marie Roe
Altar table flowers are given by Evelyn Purdy.

Loving God

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

Adult Bible Study: Wednesday afternoon Adult Bible Study meets from **1:00–2:30 pm**. The group is discussing *Matthew: The Gospel of Promised Blessings*, by Matthew L. Skinner. Through shared discussion, participants learn, explore scripture and faith, and have good fun and fellowship. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy.

Damascus Project: Our Wisconsin Conference sponsors an online learning community called the Damascus Project with a wide variety of options to grow in faith and living. Their website is: www.the-damascus-project.org. And upcoming topics include a class on UCC History and Polity as well as Theology and Ecology. Check it out!

Loving Neighbor

River Falls Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is in urgent need of monetary donations! Information about donations is on their website at <https://rfcfp.org/>. And grocery donations can be brought to 705 St. Croix Street during their hours of operation: Mon 10am-12pm & 6-7:30pm; Wed 1-5pm; Thurs 6-7:30pm; Fri 10am-12pm. Thank you!!

Journey House Volunteers Needed: They are reaching out to new students through the Journey House Coffee Stop. You can come and engage with students and help out with brewing coffee and washing dishes. The Coffee Stop is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 1pm and 3pm to 5pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FA8A92FA4FDC43-50867547-journey>

Donations are also needed: Teas, paper towels, liquid soap for bathroom, mugs and church info pamphlets, items for personal hygiene to give away (deodorant, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene, basic first aid). Donations should be labeled JH and left in the gathering area. Thank you for your help!

Thrivent Free Money: Do you have a retirement account through Thrivent? If so, you can designate some or all of your 'choice dollars' to a non-profit such as First Congregational Church. We are now set up to receive such gifts. Talk to the church office if you need more information.

First Church Companions: The Companions meet quarterly to support each other, help new Companions learn about this role, & discuss questions or concerns. If you are willing to visit with someone in our church community and connect at least once a month with a call or visit, please sign-up. If you are interested in receiving regular visits, there is also a line on the same sign-up sheet for Buddies. Contact Pastor Deb with questions.

Among Friends is a community-based social respite program serving adults who have memory loss who reside in Pierce and St. Croix Counties. For more information, contact them at (715) 293-2561. Check out the website: amongfriendsrf.com and Facebook page. It is held at the church on **Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am to 3pm**.

Among Friends Volunteers Needed: The Among Friends program for families with dementia needs more helpers. The program has expanded to two days a week and has 12 active guests which means they need more volunteers. Training is provided & the rewards are phenomenal! They are particularly in need of male volunteers but are willing to receive all. Contact the program coordinator Sarah Schaffner at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Simpson Shelter Donations: Please note that all donations to the Simpson Shelter need to be **new** items. They will not take anything that is used. Thank you.

Loving Self

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, at the sign-up table or by calling the church office.

Oct 23 - Roasted pork loin, seasoned baby red potatoes, macaroni and cheese, veggie and rolls

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-52155094-wednesday>

Oct 30 - Hot beef sandwiches, cheesy hashbrowns, fresh fruit

Nov 6 - Lasagna and chicken alfredo, salad, and garlic bread

A Conversation For Women About Women's Health: While women rely on the expertise of physicians for health care guidance, women also need the confidence and the competence to ask questions, advocate for themselves, and make informed decisions regarding their own health and wellness. We've invited Dr. Morgan Barnum, a practicing OB/GYN at Hudson Physicians to discuss this question: What women need to know to be strong partners in managing their own health care, particularly amid new and dynamic medical research. The conversation will take place on **Thurs, Oct 24, 6:30–8:15 pm** at church. The evening will include a healthy (but tasty!) dessert. For more information, contact Pastor Stacy. This is a conversation not to be missed. Register at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-51319449-womens>

Game Day Sunday is Nov 10 following Coffee Fellowship. Bring a dish to share. Main dish provided. Please sign up and join us!

Cribbage Night: The cribbage group meets the second Monday. Players are asked to donate \$2 & the group decides which charity. Playing time is **7:00 pm**. All players & abilities welcome. The next game is **Nov 11**.

Men's Group: Our church men's group meets **every other Tuesday from 9:00-10:00 am** in the Youth Room. All men are welcome to join us for coffee, donuts and lively conversation. We gather for an hour and Pastor Chris leads us into a brief discussion. Our next gatherings are **Tues, Oct 29 & Nov 12**. Join us!

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? Pastor Deb invites you to join her at Noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a sack lunch. The next meetings will be **Oct 22 & Nov 12**.

Let's Knit Together: Calling all who knit, crochet, or have a craft that can be brought to church. Join us on **Thursdays at 10:00 am**. We will meet at **The Sycamore on the first Thursday of each month and in the Fellowship Hall the other Thursdays**. We have a great time sharing our current projects and enjoying each other's company. Any questions, contact Marie Roe at 715-781-2103 or firstroe@gmail.com

Church Yoga: The church yoga group meets on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** in the church Fellowship Hall from **9:00-10:00 am** and via Zoom. Please contact the church office to receive the Zoom link.

WISE Meeting: The next WISE Team meeting is **October 27** after worship.

WISE Corner: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group is held on the **2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at the River Falls Public Library**. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Music at First Church Presents: The Hunchback of Notre Dame – The 1923 Lon Chaney silent film with live organ accompaniment by Dennis James. Join us on **Sunday, Oct 20, at 3:30 pm** at the church for this free event!

Fall Activities for Children: Join us **Sunday, October 27** for some fun activities for children. Children are encouraged to wear church appropriate costumes on October 27, and following worship, our Youth Groups will have a mini pumpkin and gourd decorating activity. Please sign up so we have enough pumpkins!

Witness to Faith: The Art of Sadao Watanabe: Please be sure to view the art in the Fellowship Hall. Sadao Watanabe spent his life joining a traditional Japanese artistic sensibility to biblical stories and scenes. He said, "I owe my life to Christ and the gospel...My way of expressing my gratitude is to witness to my faith through the medium of my scenes." Watanabe's prints can be found in the permanent collections of the British Museum, New York's Museum of Modern Art, The Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, the National Museum of Modern Art in Tokyo, and the Vatican Museum of Modern Religious Art (and First Congregational Church!). Don't miss it!

Fall Clean-Up, Saturday, November 2, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Back-up date is Saturday, November 9. Please sign up and join us!

A Funeral Service for Jan Charpentier will be **Saturday, November 9 at 2:00 pm** here at church with a visitation one hour before and a lunch to follow in the Fellowship Hall. We are in need of cakes and bars for the lunch as well as workers. Please use the sign-up sheet below. Thank you for offering this gift to the family.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-52438643-jancharpentier>

Anxious Generation Learning Community on Tues, Nov 12: It is clear families and kids are struggling today, often because of changes and challenges of technology. Pastor Chris will be presenting his insights from a wonderful book: *Anxious Generation: How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness*. Other presenters will include Middle School Teacher Jenny Luedtke and our Youth Minister and High School Teacher Alex Plum. If you want to read the book, please sign up. Copies are \$20 each and are available from the church office.

Giving Thanks Meal: The Annual Giving Thanks Meal will be **Sunday, November 17**, after the 10:00 am worship service in the Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$10 per meal. Join us for a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal as we kick off the season of giving thanks. Please include your pie choice of pumpkin or apple and let us know if you will bring a side dish. Sign up by November 13 at church or online:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-52124138-giving>

Youth Events

Wednesday School: All children who are in kindergarten through Grade 5 are invited to participate in Wednesday School. Elementary students in River Falls are picked up at the four elementary schools in town at the end of the school day. Wednesday School concludes at 5:15 pm. Registration forms are available at church and on the website. Please contact Pastor Stacy with questions.

Sign Ups

Coffee Fellowship Hosts Needed: Please sign up to help host and serve. Everything you need is provided, you just need to get there a little early to get things ready, serve and do a quick clean up. Sign up at church or here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Liturgists Needed: Please sign up to be a Sunday liturgist. You will lead us in the Call to Worship and a Scripture text. The bulletin will be sent via email to you on Thursday. Sign up at church or here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-liturgist>

Welcomers Needed: Please sign up to be a welcomer on Sunday morning before the worship service. One person is needed at the bottom of the stairs & one person is needed at the ramp entrance. Please arrive 20 minutes prior to the service. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-welcomers>

Altar Table Flowers: Please sign up to provide flowers for the altar for Sunday worship. Sign up at church or here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-altar>

Church App: The church has a mobile phone app. You can download it from the church website or by scanning the QR Code found on a flyer on the sign-up table and Facebook.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Finances

THANK YOU to all of you for your support of the mission and ministry of our church through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. Your generosity empowers our church! Please be sure to sign up for e-giving or mail/drop off your gifts. There is also an option to give online via our church website.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Oct 13, 2024</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,949	\$ 414,059
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 10,463	\$ 428,983

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

Current Capital Campaign – Oct 16

Total Pledged	\$596,646.00
Total Received to Date	<u>564,294.55</u>
Remaining Balance	\$ 32,351.45

A Debt Paid! We did it! Thirteen years after we embarked on an ambitious 2.5 million dollar expansion and renovation of our church facility, we paid off our bank mortgage! Thank you for your generous giving which enabled this to happen. Please remember the Building Campaign continues because we still need to pay for an upgraded sound/video system and church sign. The campaign runs through May 31, 2025, and we look forward to having enough money to complete this project. Again, thank you!

People

- For the fun and joy of college packs which went out to our college kids last week, thank you church!
- For the gift of Stella Rose Tanis born on September 11 to parents Sarah and Corey Tanis and proud grandparents Doug and Cheryl Hoffman, may they all grow in love and faith
- For the gift of a cancer free diagnosis after treatment for Glenn Kees
- For Barb de Souza our semi-retired healthcare missionary in Rio de Janeiro who celebrates her 94th birthday on October 18th, may she recover from a recent fall and continue her feisty battle for her community

Do you have upcoming news or celebrations to share with the congregation? Graduations? Birthdays and Anniversary celebrations? Please email them to office@firstchurchrf.org by Wednesday of each week to be included in the Weekly Word which is sent out on Thursdays.

Prayer: Prayer connects us with God and our neighbors. Each week in the bulletin there is a prayer list of people, situations and thanksgivings that is also sent out by email to help people in their prayer life. You can sign up by contacting the office at office@firstchurchrf.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday through Thursday – 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Friday – 8:30 to Noon

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@firstchurchrf.org

Minister for Community and Outreach: Deb Meyer – deb@firstchurchrf.org

Education: Stacy Johnson Myers - stacy@firstchurchrf.org

Youth: Alex Plum – rfyouthgroup@gmail.com

Office/Finance: Missy Luedtke - missy@firstchurchrf.org

Music: Jamie Mills - degolierjamie@gmail.com

Choir: Sarah Plum – sarah.e.plum.95@gmail.com

Building: Farnum Fuller – farnumfuller@gmail.com

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