

Weekly Word – For Sunday, April 5, 2026

Worship this Week:

Happy Easter! That was last Sunday you say? True, but in the Christian story, Easter keeps happening. Again and again and again Jesus continues to guide and appear to his followers. On the Sunday after Easter, we hear the story of how the Risen Christ appears to his frightened followers giving them peace and courage. These same gifts are needed in us today. Join us as the choir sings, Sunday School meets and the smell of Easter lilies still lingers at the 10:00 am Sunday worship service. Coffee Fellowship follows at 11:00 am. Join us and invite a friend to join you!

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/y0jPXRMGogg?si=EAAD-JPdc3JYofFF>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., Apr 12	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
Tues., Apr 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00-10:00 am	Men's Group
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
	6:30-7:30 pm	Welcoming Committee Meeting
Wed., Apr 15	12:00-1:00 pm	Investment Committee Meeting
	1:00-3:00 pm	Merry Widows Lunch at Mariachi Loco in River Falls
	1:00-2:30 pm	Adult Bible Study
	3:45-5:15 pm	Wednesday School
	6:30-7:30 pm	MS Youth Group
	6:30-7:30 pm	HS Class
	6:00-7:00 pm	Bells
	7:00-8:00 pm	Chancel Choir
Thurs., Apr 16	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., Apr 19	9:00-9:45 am	Bells 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
	11:45 am	Game Day

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Chris Myers
Celebrant:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Jean Smith
Deacons:	Ann Nelson, Melissa Oscanyan, Heidi Cavaness, Karen Lloyd

Organist: Marsha Pearson
Nursery: Kahla Fuller
Live Stream: Jeff Hoffman
Trustee: Steve Koecher
Coffee Fellowship: Jean Smith
Counters: Marie Roe, Scott Nelson

Altar table flowers are given by Marsha Pearson in memory of Maynard Pearson.

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.

Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study: The Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study is studying the book of Ruth. The group meets in the Fireplace Room on **Wednesdays, 1:00–2:30 pm**. To receive a copy of the study book or if you have questions, 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

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 to be a companion or request someone to visit you.

Basics for Local Kids: There is a bin for donations. Volunteers are also needed. You can help families shop or you can help sort, restock or organize. Shifts are 2 hours. To sign up, go to <https://www.basicsforlocalkids.org/> or call Kim at 715-821-1623. Contact Renee Whipple at 715-307-5074 if you have any questions.

Grace Place is a homeless shelter run by the Salvation Army in New Richmond. It is housed in the old St. Croix County Nursing Home. They operate on a short shoe-string budget and are delighted that we will support them with donations and meals. The shelter has three family rooms, a men's wing and a women's wing. They can house up to 50 people, two or three people to a room. If you have any questions, please see Carole Mottaz.

Grace Place Donations: Needed items: 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), belts, adult socks, good buys. There is a bin at church for donations.

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.

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.

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 program meets two days a week and has 12 active guests. Training is provided & the rewards are phenomenal! They are particularly in need of male volunteers but are willing to receive all. Contact then at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wednesday, April 15 at 1:00 pm at Mariachi Loco** in River Falls. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

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, Apr 14 & 28**. Join us!

Women's Group: Interested in fellowship & community with other women? You are invited to join the group at noon every 2nd & 4th Tuesday. Please bring a lunch. The next meetings will be **Tues, Apr 14 & 28**.

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 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.

Game Day Sunday: Game Day Sunday is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **April 19 at 11:45 am**. Join us!

WISE Corner: NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Family Support Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm at 113 East Elm St (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at First Congregational Church at 6:30 pm. Our church WISE Team meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

Relay for Life - April 10: The Relay for Life is **Friday, April 10 from 5:00 to 9:30 pm at the River Falls High School**. The theme this year is "We are the World, United for a Cure." The event begins with the Spaghetti Dinner at 5:00 pm. The Survivor Walk is at 6:00 pm and participants can walk the track anytime except during the Luminary Ceremony. The Silent Auction is from 5:30-8:30 pm and other fundraising sales are in the common area from 5:30-8:30 pm. The Luminary Ceremony starts at 8:30 pm. Luminaries can be purchased at the Relay from 5:00-7:30 pm. The cost of the luminaries "in Honor of" or "in Memory of" is \$5. Some fun activities are scheduled for kids throughout the event. The Closing Ceremony is at 9:00 pm and the event ends at 9:30 pm. If you have any questions or would like to join our team, contact Deb Hoffman at debhoffman234b@gmail.com or (612)308-4945.

Earth Fest is a free community celebration that includes food samples, entertainment, workshops, activities for all ages, and much more. Earth Fest will be held on **Saturday, April 25, from 12:00-4:00 pm at UW-River Falls University Center**. First Congregational will have a booth so stop by and see us. We are giving away Earth Balls! Check it out at www.hopeforearth.org and see the flyer for more information.

Spring Clean-Up, Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am: Please bring your gloves, rakes, blowers, pruning shears, etc. to help clean up the grounds at the church. Please sign up and join us!

Red Cross Blood Drive: Help hope bloom! Please join our **Wed, May 20th First Congregational Church Blood Drive from 11am – 5pm** and save up to 3 lives with 1 donation. One hour of your time can ensure readily available blood resources for patients in the coming weeks. All donors will get a \$20 Amazon.com e-gift card “Thank You!” via email, but the feeling you’ll leave with is priceless - [Click here to sign-up today!](#)

Endowment Grants: Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. Does your group have a new idea you want to pursue? 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 **July 5**. Forms can be accessed through the church office or on the church website.

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.

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>Apr 5, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,154	\$ 145,575
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 158,312

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For our pastors, deacons, choir and musicians who worked so hard during Holy Week and Easter, God bless you all!
- For all who made the Easter Breakfast a satisfying success, especially Chef Andy and his great team!
- For the \$25,000 given by church folks to help refugees in Ukraine, you are angels
- For those who received blood from the recent blood drive in our Fellowship Hall and those who will donate on Wednesday, May 20th, may it bring life

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 am to 12:00 pm

Church Staff Contact:

Church Office - 715-425-2052

Pastor: Chris Myers - chris@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

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – ztruck51ford@gmail.com

Maintenance: Tim Bylander - timthefixitguy@gmail.com