

Weekly Word – For Sunday, May 24, 2026

Worship this Week:

Sunday, May 24, we celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the church. The promise proclaimed on the Day of Pentecost is not that hardship or suffering will end, nor that we will escape the challenges of daily life, but that in and through the Holy Spirit, God comes to be with us and for us and enable us to use what we have and who we are for the sake of the common good. Come and hear the Pentecost story again and ponder what it calls us to do and be as body of Christ in the world.

Remember, starting this week, we begin our summer worship schedule. Worship will be at 9:30 am followed by coffee fellowship in the Fellowship Hall.

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/1jVmLs4Pm1M?si=Y99tHtUAjGPpI9mv>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., May 24	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 am	Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall
	11:00-11:30 am	WEVR Broadcast 106.3 FM
Mon., May 25		Memorial Day – Church Office Closed
Tues., May 26	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
Thurs., May 28	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
	6:30-7:30 pm	NAMI
Sun., May 31		Graduation Sunday
	9:15-10:45 am	Nursery Open
	9:30-10:30 am	Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Livestream
	10:30-11:00 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:	Stacy Johnson Myers
Celebrant:	Chris Myers
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Marie Roe
Deacons:	Becky Pajac, Ann Nelson, Melissa Oscanyan, Lance Lueck
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	<i>Please sign up</i>
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Welcomers:	Norma Revels, Marg Downing
Trustee:	Tim Bylander
Coffee Fellowship:	Welcoming Committee
Counters:	Trish Graves, Mark Anderson

Loving God

Summer Worship: During the summer, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, our **Worship Service moves to 9:30 am** with Coffee Fellowship to follow. Please join us!

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

Mother's Day – Father's Day Diaper Drive: The Mission Ed Committee will once again sponsor a Diaper Drive between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Starting May 10th and running through June 21st, we will collect diapers and wipes in the gathering area. After Father's Day the diapers will be donated to Our Neighbors' Place, Turning Point and the River Falls Food Pantry. **Please note: Larger sized diapers are most needed.**

Summer Nursery Volunteers Needed: During the summer months our church nursery is staffed by volunteers while our weekly, faithful nursery worker Kahla Fuller enjoys some time off. Please sign up for a Sunday to staff the nursery. Thank you! Use the sign-up sheet at church or online:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64011296-summer>

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.

Grace Place is a homeless shelter run by the Salvation Army in New Richmond. 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. If you have any questions, please see Carole Mottaz.

Grace Place Donations: Needed items: 55-gallon garbage bags, 13-gallon garbage bags, paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, Ziploc bags, aluminum foil and plastic wrap, light bulbs, batteries: AA, AAA, and 9 volt, cleaning supplies: Fabuloso, window cleaner, disinfectant wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, toilet bowl brushes, cleaning scrubbers, 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 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 them at amongfriendsrf@gmail.com

Loving Self

Summer Choir is low stress and low commitment. We simply meet an hour before the service and sing a familiar song. The dates will be **June 21, July 26 and August 16.** Please consider joining us!

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, May 26 & June 9.** 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, May 26 & June 9.**

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 is held on the third Sunday of the month. Our next Game Day is **July 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

Softball News: The church league softball games begin June 1st and go through the middle of August. Want to play softball, but not sure if you should play because of a couple Monday commitments? We aim to have extra players, so you don't have to feel bad about missing a week or two. The family league is a co-ed division that allows players to play at the age of 14. This division also requires a team to have three women on the field at all times, so ladies please don't be afraid to sign up and play. The games are played on Monday evenings at 6:15 pm and 7:30 pm at Hoffman Park. We have had three practices and would like the team to come to the remaining practice on TBD at 6:30 pm at the Greenwood softball field. Looking forward to another fun season seeing friends and families play softball. To sign up there is a sign-up sheet at church or contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

VBS Volunteers Needed: First Congregational's VBS program requires many adult and teen volunteers. Please join the excitement by volunteering to help. VBS will be July 27-30, 2026, 9:00–11:30 am. To volunteer, please sign the list in the gathering space or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-63968730-vbsvolunteers>

Needed Items: The choir is in need of more file drawer hanging file frames and folders for the choir music. Please let the church office know if you have these items to donate. Thank you.

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.

Youth Events

Graduation Sunday: Mark your calendars as we celebrate Graduation Sunday on **May 31st** at the 9:30 am summer worship service. We will honor our graduating high school seniors as well as award church scholarships. Let us celebrate their many accomplishments together as a church family!

VBS and Summer Children's Musical: Dates for the 2026 children's summer programs are:

VBS: July 27-30, 9:00 to 11:30 am. Theme is: My Peace I Give to You

Children's Musical: August 10-13, 9:00 am to Noon. The show will be *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hits*

VBS is for children age 3 to completed grade 5. The musical is for children who have completed kindergarten through completed grade 6. Emma Cruciani will be the director. We will need adult and teen volunteers for VBS. Please save the dates and invite friends & neighbors! Registration forms are at church & online: [Registration Form](#)

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>May 17, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 10,162	\$ 233,582**
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 226,160

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

**Now also includes annual gifts given at the beginning of the year.

People

- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- On this Pentecost Sunday, let us give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit that renews and recreates
- For the gift of our choir and bell choirs and their leaders Jamie and Sarah, thank you for sharing your gifts
- For our wonderful Sunday School teachers as the Sunday School season ends, God bless you all!

- For Kahla Fuller our faithful nursery worker during the program year and for those faithful volunteers who staff the nursery over the summer, thank you
- For those who received Pre-School scrapbooks last Sunday, may they help you grow in faith and joy
- For those who donated and those who will receive blood from our recent blood drive, may it bring life
- For Hope Lutheran Church who celebrates their 20th anniversary on Sunday, June 7th, may they grow in love, faith and service to their 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 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