

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**



**Ministry
Groups**

Ministry Descriptions of First Congregational UCC, River Falls

Ministry Name	Description	Programs/Duties/Leadership	Membership	Meets
Adult Forum	Sunday morning small group that talks about faith and life	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers and others	Open	Sundays 9-10am
Advent Workshop	Meal and craft time for families to make items for Advent	Led by Christian Education Committee and Stacy Johnson Myers	Open	First Sunday in December
Among Friends	Senior Respite Day Care Program providing a day program for those dealing with dementia/memory loss and their caregivers	Norma Revels and Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn	Open	Tuesdays 9am-3pm
Asylum Committee	Sponsors a family in our community who fled violence	Led by Bobbie Kuhn, Barb de Souza and Dave Ostendorf	Open	Monthly and with family
Baptism	Sacrament that welcomes infants, children, youth and adults into a life of faith.	Scheduled through the church office and pastor. Contact church office	Open	Baptisms are on Sunday mornings
Bell Choir	Provides musical leadership using bells and led by Jamie Mills . Usually performs once a month.	Practices during program year every Wednesday night from 6-7pm in the Music Room and days they perform in worship	Open	Wed eves and one Sunday morning a month
Bible Study	Weekly Bible Study, welcome to all	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers	Open	Tuesdays from 1-2:30pm
Book Group	Small group who meets monthly for book discussion	Suzanne Hagen	Open	4th Tuesday each month
Building Finance	Coordinates church capital debt/program	Brad Williams, Carole Mottaz and Chris Myers	Appointed	As needed
Cancer Group	Provides encouragement and wisdom from people who have personally walked through health and cancer issues	Contact church office to be connected directly with group	Open	As needed
Care Givers	Lay group that visits elderly people in their homes	Coordinated by Jan Hansen and Dave Ostendorf	Open	Monthly in homes
Choir	Provides musical leadership for worship and led by Scott Perau	During program year practices every Wednesday from 7-8pm in the Music Room and days they lead. Also on specific summer Sunday mornings.	Open	Wed eves and some Sunday mornings
Christian Education	Supervises and directs the educational work of the church with leadership from staff person Stacy Johnson Myers	Sunday School, Wednesday School, Adult Forum, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School, Youth Musical, Advent Event, Graduation Sunday	9 members 3 year terms	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday of the month

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Christmas Giving Tree	Collect items to be given to local families in need	Led by Diane Welsh and other volunteers (office)	Open	Nov and Dec
Christmas Lunch	Fun and fancy Christmas gathering in decorated Fellowship Hall with Costumed Carolers from RFHS	Stacy Johnson Myers , Jennie Price, Dianne Barnes and Eunice Filkins	Open	Beginning of December
Church Interns	Provides opportunities for our 10-12 th graders to use their spiritual gifts in service within the community	Led by Stacy, Chris and JaNae, youth can accumulate up to 200 ministry hours for future higher education scholarship	Open - 24 teens participating	Monthly + ministry hours
Coffee Fellowship	Refreshment time between/after worship service, served by volunteers	Overseen by Welcoming Committee with volunteer helpers who sign up to serve treats.	Open	Every Sunday
Confirmation	Gives 6-9 th Graders opportunities to grow in Christian faith and service	Led by Pastors Chris and Stacy and Diana/JaNae (6 th Grade)	Open	Every other Wed Night
Communion	Sacrament generally celebrated first Sunday of the month and special days (Ash Wednesday, Easter, Christmas). All Christians welcome at the table of our Lord.	Pastors and Deacons work together to prepare and serve the sacrament to the congregation in worship	Deacons and Pastors	At least monthly
Cribbage	Monthly gathering of cribbage players—small offering goes to various local missions	Duane Church and Dave Mountain	Open	Meets second Monday of the month at 7pm
Deacons	Assists in the spiritual and worship life of the church with leadership from staff person Dave Ostendorf	Responsible for communion, ushering, and Confirmation Banquet	9 members 3 year terms	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday of the month
Discipleship	Plans and implements programs that solicit support for the congregation's ministry in the form of time, talent and treasure.	Conducts annual discipleship/stewardship campaign with the help of staff person Chris Myers	6 members 3 year terms	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday of the moth
Endowment Grant	Spends designated proceeds from Endowment Fund to strengthen church ministries	Led by Brian Miller and a team of 6 church members	6 members 3 year terms	Bi-monthly
Free Counseling Center	Community group that seeks to address community mental health issues through free counseling	Catherine Olson and team (freecounselingcenter@gmail.com)	Open	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays in Classroom
Funeral Committee	Provides food to families at memorial/funeral services	Diane Welsh, Yvonne Benson, JoAnn Lentz and office staff	Open	As needed
Garden Gurus	Help maintain the church gardens	Lu Lueck with lots of volunteer helpers	Open	Weekly during garden season

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Hope for Creation	Small group that works with other local churches to provide ways to protect and care for God's creation	Led by Mike Noreen and Dave Ostendorf	Open	Periodically
Investment Committee	Oversees all the investments and assets of the church.	Sets financial policies and works with financial advisors to ensure the long term financial stability of the church (Chris Myers staff)	5 members appointed	Quarterly
Kitchen Clan	Make sure kitchen is clean and organized	Led by Carole Mottaz	Open	As needed
Meal Ministry	Provides meals delivered to those in short term need	Coordinated through the office and Mealtrain.com to provide home cooked meals to families with new babies or facing sudden health issues	Open	As needed
Men's Group	Gathers regularly for fellowship, support and growth	Led by Mike Gardner, Brad Williams, Roger Kampstra and Pastor Chris	Open	Every other Tuesday 8-9am
Merry Widows	Group who meet monthly for lunch and support	Led by JoAnn Lentz	Open	Monthly
Mission Education	Educates and engages congregation through programs related to local, national and international mission endeavors of the church and denomination	Organizes mission teams and programs including denominational offerings (Dave Ostendorf staff)	6 members 3 year terms	Monthly 2 nd Tuesday of the month
Mission Moment	3-5 minute segment in worship which highlights one of the outside mission endeavors of the church	Led by the Mission Team	Open	2 nd Sunday of each month
Mother Bear Project	Knits teddy bears which are sent to children in Africa	Rene Bylander leads with lots of help from volunteer knitters (office)	Open	Done at home then sent in groups of 50
Music	Supervises the music program of the church with leadership from the Music Coordinator	Worship & liturgical music, Choir, Bell Choir, Sounds of Summer Worship Series, Music at First Church and special music (office)	6 members 3 year terms	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday of the month
Music at First Church	Series of concerts and gatherings organized by Music Committee to highlight various musical styles and groups	Led by Music Committee and Music Coordinator (office)	Open	As scheduled
Nominating	Solicits and suggests people to fill ministry positions on church boards and committees	Works with the Moderator and Pastor during summer months to fill committee openings (Chris Myers)	5 members Appointed	As needed – usually 2 or 3 times in April/May

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Nursery	Provides safe and loving childcare for all worship services	Sheila Peterson and volunteers		Sunday mornings
Office Support Team	Volunteers who help in church office	Help church Secretary Missy Luedtke with various tasks and projects		Mon-Thurs 10am-1pm
Pastoral Relations	Provides support to pastor and feedback from the congregation	Works with Personnel and Church Council to ensure prompt, frank communication between pastor and congregation (Chris Myers)	4 members	2 times a year
Peaches	End of summer fundraiser for youth group	Led by Youth Minister, Deb Hoffman and Prochnows (office)	Open	Early September
Personnel	Responsible for oversight of all church staff	Develops job descriptions, conducts reviews and evaluations, hire and release church staff (Chris Myers)	6 members Appointed	As needed—usually 4 times a year
Picture the Bible Resources	Educational resources featuring our Biblical Timeline images; includes 3 books for parents and congregations	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers and Picture the Bible Committee	Appointed	Quarterly
Prayer Group	Prays for people of the congregation, community and world	Coordinated by Pastor Chris , shared with congregation, emailed to those who desire so that we may further our ministry of praying for one another	Open	Weekly
Picture the Bible Committee	Works to promote and coordinate the Picture the Bible faith formation resources	Stacy Johnson Myers , Jean Smith, Brad Williams, Rebecca Ferguson and Alan Tuchtenhagen	6 members Appointed	Meets as needed
Quilters	Meets to make quilts given for baptisms	Fun sewing together! (office)	Open	Monthly
Saints Project	Interviews and records life and faith stories of church seniors	Suzanne Hagen, Rebecca Ferguson, Stacy, Chris and church interns	Trained interns and adult helpers	Training required
Scholarship	Awards monetary scholarships from Scholarship Fund	Solicits, reviews and awards scholarship given annually in June (Chris)	3 members Appointed	As needed—usually 2 times in the Spring
School Supply Give Away	Free School Supplies given to community members in need	Bob Gustafson and volunteers (office)	Open	First Mon/Tues in August
Shoebox Christmas Ministry	Collect items to be given to men in rehab at Kinnic Falls Center	Led by Jean Smith, Diane Crist, Judy Grimm and Yoga group (office)	Open	Nov and Dec
Softball	Co-ed and family team plays in River Falls Church League	Matthew Thurston and Deb Hoffman (office)	Open	Summer Monday Nights

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Spirit and Health	Small group focused on spiritual growth together with body issues (weight, exercise, health, image)	Fellowship and encouragement (office)	Open	Monthly
Spiritual Direction	Provides an opportunity for people to deepen their Christian spirituality in a small group setting	Led by Kate Jennings , church member and certified Spiritual Director	Open	Monday Nights
Strategic Planning	Thinks creatively about the future of our church ministry	Moderator, Pastors and lay leaders (Chris Myers)	Open	Quarterly
Sunday School	Christian faith formation for age 3 through 8 th grades	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers and many volunteers	Open	Sundays 10:30-11:30am
Tell Me A Story	An opportunity for church members to share their faith story as a part of Sunday worship services.	Led by the Discipleship Team (Chris Myers)	Open	Third Sunday of each month
Thanksgiving Meal	Full Thanksgiving meal served to whole congregation	Led by Laura Miller and Jennie Price	Open	2nd Sun in November
Trustees	Responsible for business and financial affairs of the church and the church building and property	Develops and oversees budget, maintains church building and organizes spring and fall clean up days (Tim Bylander and Missy Luedtke)	9 members 3 year terms	Monthly 3 rd Tuesday of the month
Vacation Bible School	A week long program for kids age 3 through completed 5 th grade	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers , staff and LOTS of volunteer helpers	Open	First week of August
Veterans Group	Meets regularly for support and education	Led by the Mission Team, Pastor Dave and Rose Rude	Open	Occasionally
Wednesday Meals	Provides healthy, homemade, family style meals during program year in Fellowship Hall	Staffed by volunteers with paid cook Katy Kapaun (office)	Open	Wednesday Nights (Oct-May)
Wednesday School	After school faith formation program for k-5 th graders that provides snack, biblical story, crafts and fun	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers with lots of helpers including teen/interns	Open	Wednesday afternoons 3:45-5:15pm
Welcoming Ministry	Small group who seek to welcome everyone into Christ's church, particularly on Sunday mornings	Led by Kathy Rausch and a team of 6 and lots of volunteers. They schedule Sunday welcomers, Coffee Fellowship, rovers and cookie deliveries/popcorn bags for first time church guests (office)	6 members 3 year terms	Third Tuesday of the month
Wellhaven Gathering	Monthly Coffee and Communion gathering in the community room at Wellhaven for any church seniors	Led by Prochnows and Pastors Chris and Dave	Open	Third Tuesday of the month

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Worship Ensemble	Worship band leads worship on the first Sunday of the month	Works with Music Coordinator and church members (office)	Open	Rehearses Wed before
Yoga	Led by Jan Hansen	Meets Tues and Thurs from 9-10 am in the Fellowship Hall (office)	Open	Tues and Thurs 9-10am
Youth Leadership Team	Provides opportunities for spiritual growth and fun for middle school, high school and college students	Meets with Youth Minister, JaNae Westrich	6 team members	Monthly
Youth Musical	A week-long program from kids kindergarten-grade 8	Led by Stacy Johnson Myers and volunteers	Open	End of June

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