

Weekly Word – For Sunday, July 12, 2026

Worship this Week:

Join us this weekend for summer worship at 9:30 am and Coffee Fellowship which follows at 10:30 am. Join us and invite a friend!

Note: We are in need of a Coffee Fellowship host this Sunday. Everything is provided! All you need to do is show up a bit early to set up and then clean up. Plus, you get to sneak out of worship early.

Sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-coffee>

Link to Worship Livestream: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/KFCj8d2RiYo?si=mqyF2X68YWRPuXmz>

Sunday Bulletin

This Week

Sun., July 12	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 & 1550 AM
Tues., July 14	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	12:00-1:00 pm	Women's Group
Wed., July 15	1:00 pm	Merry Widows Potluck Lunch at The Sycamore
Thurs., July 16	9:00-10:00 am	Yoga
	9:00 am-3:00 pm	Among Friends
	10:00-11:00 am	Knitting Group
Sun., July 19	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 & 1550 AM
	11:45 am	Game Day

Assisting in Sunday's worship service are:

Preacher:	Rev. Bob Wang
Celebrant:	Rev. Bob Wang
Worship Leader:	Rene Bylander
Cantor:	David Reilly
Liturgist:	Carole Motaz
Deacons:	Paul Shepherd, Liz Swank, Melissa Oscanyan, Ann Nelson, Kathy Tomlinson
Organist:	Marsha Pearson
Nursery:	Diane Olson
Live Stream:	Jeff Hoffman
Trustee:	Scott Nelson
Coffee Fellowship:	
Counters:	Jane Truesdill, Allen Barnes

Altar table flowers are given by Lori Otto in memory of her beloved mother, Patricia Johnston.

Loving God

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

Grace Place Picnic Meal Volunteers Needed: Each year our church will serve a picnic style meal at Grace Place in New Richmond. The date is **Wednesday, July 29**. We cook the meal in our church kitchen then serve it in New Richmond. Please use the sign-up sheet at church to help with this needed mission opportunity. Church interns receive intern credit for this mission.

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 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 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 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 **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, July 21 & Aug 4**. 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, July 14 & 28**.

Merry Widows: They will meet on **Wed, July 15 at 1:00 pm at The Sycamore for a potluck lunch**. All widows are welcome to join us for dinner and conversation! See Linda Morrow for more information.

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!

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.

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 Street (Mei Mei's) and the Peer Support Group meets the same evenings at First Congregational Church at 6:30 pm. For mental health issues, please call 988. For more info, call Marg Downing 715-307-5905.

Community Life

River Falls Days Kick-Off Concert: On **Thurs, July 9, from 6:00-8:00 pm**, join us out on the lawn for a concert with the Slapdash Bluegrass Band! There will also be the Rollin' River Food Truck with food to purchase. Bring a chair and join us as we kick off River Falls Days weekend!

Softball News: You know that old saying, "you win some you lose some," well, we lost our game on Monday. We played Luther Memorial and it just wasn't our night. We still had fun though. Our record is back to 500 in baseball logo, or 3 wins:3 loses. Our next two games are **July 13 at 7:30 pm and July 20 at 6:15 pm** both games at Hoffman Park. Come cheer us on! We play every Monday at Hoffman Park throughout the summer until August 24th. We are the team in the red shirts. Any questions, contact Deb Hoffman at (612)308-4945, debhoffman234b@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Summer donors needed! Please join our **Critical Summer Need, Wed, July 22nd Blood Drive from 11am - 5pm.** Emergency situations are on the rise and fewer active donors puts more pressure on a decreasing blood supply over the next 3 months. One hour of your time can help 3 patients in the coming weeks! Beat the Heat with a movie ticket to a summer blockbuster via email PLUS Kwik Tip coupon for a free pint of milk - [Click here to sign-up today!](#)

VBS Volunteers Needed: The VBS program requires many adult and teen volunteers. Please join the excitement by volunteering to help. VBS will be **July 27-30, from 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>

VBS Fused Glass for Adults: Adults are invited to come to the VBS village on **Wednesday, July 29, 1:00-2:30** to make a square fused glass piece. It is a lovely, fun project, and participants will be able to make their own designs. The cost is \$15.00. Please sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64675780-vbsfused>

Peaches: It's time to place your order for the delicious Washington State Peaches! One single-layer box is \$27.00; 2 or more single-layer boxes are \$26.00 each. **Orders must be placed by July 27 for pick up around August 7.** There are 3 ways to order: 1. Email: office@firstchurchrf.org; 2. Sign up at church or online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64615110-washington>; 3. Call: 715-425-2052 – Mon-Thurs from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or leave a message with name, phone, and number of boxes. This is an annual fundraiser for our youth. Thank you for your support!

Night of Dinner/Theater: You are invited to a night of dinner and a show on **Thursday, August 13.** Dinner will be served starting at **6:00 pm**, followed by the main feature: the musical *Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*. In case you can't tell, it is the story of David and Goliath. The show has fun music and clever lines. Please come to support the young people in the congregation. You may sign the reservation list on the sign-up table, call the church office or use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054BA9AD29A4FF2-64675757-musical>

Tools for School: Once again, we are collecting school supplies for local families. As you are out shopping, please start collecting everything students might need this fall (crayons, pens, pencils, notebooks, backpacks, etc.). The School Supply Event will be on **August 17 & 18** here at church. Typically, we serve about 300 students. Thank you for your generous support of this needed local ministry. Please bring donations to the church and place them in the containers in the gathering area. Please also sign up to help sort and distribute items.

Let's Feed Some Kids! Join us on **Wed, Sept 9, from 6-8pm at Tattersall** as we feed 100,000 starving kids right here in River Falls. Our church is one of the sponsors of this Feed My Starving Children event and will have early access to packing times. All our Middle and High School kids will have their first night of Confirmation/Youth Group this night, but EVERYONE is welcome to come and help. Sign up before July 15th to get your spot! Questions to Pastor Chris or Alex.

Endowment Grants: Each quarter the Endowment Grant Committee meets to evaluate proposals for new ministries and projects submitted through our church committees. Consider applying for an Endowment Grant! All proposals must come from a committee, and the next due dates are **July 5 and October 4**. 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

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>July 5, 2026</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 3,586	\$ 287,356
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 11,308	\$ 305,316

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.

People

- For our Garden Geeks who tend our church garden and keep everything looking great, God bless you all!
- For our church mowing team who this year includes Laura and Mark Anderson, Randy Welsh, Roger Kapping and Lee Lueck, thanks for keeping our church lawn looking so great!
- For the gift of summer, may we savor every bit of it
- For those giving blood at our next blood drive on Wednesday, July 22, 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 – Closed

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

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Building: Farnum Fuller – farnumfuller@gmail.com

Building: Troy Zakrzewski – ztruck51ford@gmail.com

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