



The Reach



April 2026

Dear Friends ~

Spring has arrived. A good friend living in North Carolina already has spinach sprouting in his garden! I've set out my birdfeeder again, and my feathered friends found it within an hour. So haven't the squirrels!

I turned 60. I don't feel old. Yet. I'm looking forward to the "game camp" in North Carolina where I spend a week every April. It's a magical time and one of the high points of my year. Sleeping on a thin mat? Less exciting.

Easter (04/05) always falls near the start of spring. Spirit of Grace worships that Sunday at 9:30 am. Holy Week services ahead of our Easter celebration of Christ's resurrection include Palm Sunday (03/29) at 9:30 am, Holy Thursday (04/02) and Good Friday (04/03), both starting at 7:00 pm. **April 12th is Holy Humor Sunday.** After the somber weight of Holy Week and the joy of Easter Sunday, it's a light-hearted opportunity to "laugh with God." You'll be invited to tell a funny story during worship, if you like. Or *wear* something funny (an outrageous hat or a kooky outfit, for example). On the following Sunday, April 19th, we'll serve a potluck after worship.

It is a privilege serving this church!

Blessings,

~ *Pastor Andrew*

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor:

Rev. Andrew G. Church
ruztyhalo@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant:

Susan Colbeth
office@spiritofgracerf.org

Treasurer:

Melissa "Mei Mei" Abdouch
treasurer@spiritofgracerf.org

Ministry Staff & Congregational Support:

Fay Westberg
fay@spiritofgracerf.org

Senior Choir Director:

Al Madison

Gospbells Director:

Dean Loney

Organist:

Cami Madison
Elissa Ribbens

Information, Technology, and

Media Coordinator:

Ash Patterson

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The church office be closed

Friday, April 3 at Noon

and on Monday, April 6

BAPTISM



From left to right: Gerad Stratton, Bonnie Quackenbush, Pastor Andrew, Ellie Stratton, Lea & Parker Quackenbush

Congratulations on the baptism of **Bonnie Siobhan Quackenbush** on March 8th. Bonnie is the child of Parker & Lea Quackenbush, and little sister to Miller (Millie). Welcome to the church family, Bonnie!

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Susan, Administrative Assistant: Mon-Fri, 8 am-5 pm

Pastor Andrew: Tue-Thu (call ahead with the church office to confirm)

Fay, Ministry Staff & Congregational Support: Wed, 2-3 pm (or by appointment)

Mei Mei, Church Treasurer: Mon and Wed mornings

Ash, IT & Media Coordinator: Tue, 12-4 pm (third Tue, 4-6 pm)



SPIRIT OF GRACE

Reaching Out in Love Since 1857

OFFICE: 715.425.6233

WEBSITE: spiritofgracerf.org

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm

E-MAIL: office@spiritofgracerf.org

Please check the calendar on our website (www.spiritofgracerf.org) for further information.

Clicking on an event will bring up details regarding that event.



Thanks to the following individuals for all they have done for our faith community:

To **Al & Cami Madison** for leading the Saturday Breakfast in March and to **Roger Wiff, Deborah Smith, Belle Peterson, Linda Henderson, Marlys Bradford, Shayna Hall, Arletta Cossette, Carol Knudsen, and Laura Carlson** for helping.

To all who shared their musical gifts including **Spirit of Grace Choir** and the **Gospbells**. To **Cami Madison** and **Elissa Ribbens** for their talents on the piano/organ.

To **Karen Leichtle** for preparing the communion elements, and to **Karen Leichtle, Marlys Bradford, and Blaine Westberg** for serving communion in March.

To **Mark Christopher, Sue Christopher, and Kurt Leichtle** for being Worship Leaders in March.

To **Belle Peterson, Katelyn Nill, Marcus Califf, and Ruthie Keating** for being a Scripture Reader.

To **Gary Eloranta, Clark Fredrickson, Blaine Westberg, Dallas Dosdall, Steve Nelson, Carl Gaulke, and Lynn Nelson** for ushering in March.

To **Mary Baumgartner, Marlys Bradford, Dallas Dosdall, and Dean & Darlene Arneson** for being greeters.

To **Fay Westberg, Julie Freeborn, Janet Dosdall, and Mary Baumgartner** for being at the Welcome Desk.

To **Fay & Blaine Westberg, Darlene & Dean Arneson, Jeanne & Ron Zirbel, and Robin Murray & Dean Coke** for serving Fellowship treats on Sunday after worship service in March.

To **David Rusterholz** and **Jonah Thompson** for doing Sound Board during worship service. To **Euge Isherwood** and **Chris Thompsom** for doing Video Tech during worship service.

To **Becky Kleager, Laura Ida, Jenny Califf and Laura Carlson** for Teaching Sunday School. To **Aleisha Colbeth, Fay Westberg, and Linda Henderson** for helping out in Sunday School. To **Samantha Miller** for being in the Nursery during Sunday School.

To **Kurt & Karen Leichtle, Dean Loney, Carl & Brenda Gaulke, and Lynn & Patti Nelson** for being hospitality hosts.

To **Euge Isherwood** for putting up the banners in March.

To **Jeanne Zirbel** for calligraphing the Baptism Certificate for Bonnie Quackenbush's baptism.

If we missed somebody in our thanks, please let us know. We want to thank everyone!

Thank You

To our Friends at Spirit of Grace Church-

On behalf of everyone at the Free Clinic of Pierce & St. Croix Counties, we'd like to extend our most heartfelt thank you for the incredibly impactful \$5,062 donation. What a testament to how several small acts of kindness adding up quickly to make one large impact. The generosity of your congregation is not only a blessing to our clinic & work, but it's a lifeline to the many individuals & families that we serve. Because of your support, we are able to provide life-saving medications to our neighbors whom otherwise would go without. You are giving hope to people in our community who slip through the cracks of our healthcare system. Please know how much of a difference you all are making! We are deeply thankful for your partnership in helping us serve those in need. The generosity of your congregation reflects the spirit of compassion & service that restores faith in our entire community. It's needed!

With Gratitude-

Mary Steele,
Clinical Manger

Jena Most,
Nursing Supervisor



EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, April 5th

SPIRIT OF GRACE CHURCH

127 S. 2ND Street, River Falls

You are invited to this eggclusive Easter Egg Hunt, on Easter Sunday morning April 5th! Service starts at 9:30 am and the Egg Hunt will be during the service after the children's message!

See you at the Eggtravaganza! Hop to it!

WELCOME

We welcome John Ramstad into full membership with Spirit of Grace. John is the husband of retired pastor Rev. Dawn Ramstad. He's been very active with the Refresh Team. He recently launched a men's coffee "Fellow-ship" on Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am in the Spiff-Up space downstairs. We celebrate his presence with us.

ATTENTION SPIRIT OF GRACE MEN

On **Tuesdays at 9 am**, all men are invited for coffee at church for a mid-week "fellow"ship. We hope this will be ongoing. It's a drop-in as you are able, informal gathering lasting about an hour or so, with no duties, obligations, or commitments required other than cleaning up after ourselves. We will be meeting downstairs in the new "Spiff Up" space. Stop by if you can. If not, keep an eye out for announcements of future gatherings.

For questions or to get on the email list, please contact:
John Ramstad (608) 201 6869 john.ramstad@yahoo.com



RELAY FOR LIFE

April 10th, River Falls High School



Our Relay for Life team contributions are growing, now over \$1899.50. We hope to surpass our total from last year, which was \$4,418. Here are the ways you can support this important effort:

- 1) Go to the website www.RelayForLife.org/RiverFallsWI or specifically <http://Main.ACSevents.org/goto/SpiritofGrace>. Click on the **Donate** box in the upper left corner. Enter "Spirit of Grace" in the Search box to designate your \$ contribution. Or pass a check to the American Cancer Society to Blaine Westberg and he will take care of it for you.
- Plan to **walk** on April 10. You don't need to sign up on the Relay website. Come when you can for as long as you can. The opening ceremony is at 6:00 p.m. with the walk following. Cancer survivors take the first lap of the walk. Cancer caregivers walk the second lap. The walk ends with the Closing Ceremony at 9:30 p.m.
- 3) Attend the Rotary Club's **Spaghetti Dinner**, anytime between 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- 4) Contribute to the **Silent Auction** — You can find information in our Gathering Area. Silent Auction items can be left at the church, and we will see that they are delivered to the Relay event. Silent Auction is from 6:30 - 8:45 pm
- 5) Honor someone who has dealt with cancer by purchasing **Luminaria** in their honor. We will have a table in the Gathering area, or you can find the white Luminaria paper bags in our Gathering Area. The cost is \$5. Simply label the bags or, better yet, decorate them. Either take the bags to the Relay yourself or leave them at the church. We will see that they are delivered. The Luminaria ceremony is at 8:00 p.m. It is a powerful acknowledgement of the people who have been touched by cancer. You may want to plan your walk participation around this meaningful ceremony.

If you have questions about the Relay for Life, please contact Belle at **651-764-6373** or email her at isabellepeterson02@gmail.com



MUSICAL "COME FROM AWAY"

Announcing a Summer Sampler option with a trip to The Guthrie Theatre to see the musical "Come From Away". This is a fun show that affirms the goodness in the world.

We have group tickets to the **July 26th, Sunday performance at 1pm**. Tickets cost: \$43.90 for adults, \$34.00 for seniors, \$21 for age 12- college students. (children under 12 not admitted). The sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area. Payment is due soon: April 19th. Please sign up if you are interested, which will help us determine if we need to order more seats. There are stipends available if you need help with the ticket price.

Carpooling will be organized, and we will leave the church at 11:30 am. See Robin Murray for questions. Please let Robin Murray or Fay Westberg know if you would like a stipend.

For more information about the show, see the synopsis on the sign up sheet, or go to: <https://www.guthrietheater.org/shows-and-tickets/2025-2026-season/come-from-away/>

This musical is the story of what happened when the FAA shut down airspace on Sept 11, 2001, in response to the terrorist attacks, forcing all inbound planes to find alternate destinations. In total, 38 planes were diverted to Gander, Newfoundland. The hospitable residents of the small Canadian town greeted all 7,000 passengers with food, clothing and open hearts. By the time the "plane people" departed, defenses were down, romance bloomed and lifelong friendships were formed. The play was developed by a married couple who interviewed some of the passengers, pilots and townspeople to tell their stories. It is a fun show that reminds us all that humans can demonstrate love and kindness, even under the most stressful and difficult circumstances.



LAST CHANCE! COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are available in the church office and online at spiritofgrace.org

Completed applications along with accompanying transcripts, references, and photos are due in the church office by April 1st. Please make sure all requirements are completed on time.



SATURDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

We will serve our Community Breakfast on **Saturday April 11**. We need a lot more volunteers to help! We need people to cook, set up, welcome, serve, clean up and support. If you can help, please sign up on the clipboard in the Gathering Area on the fellowship table. If you haven't done it before, it is a great way for you to get to know community members and other church members. Many hands make light work!

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Bakken-Young Funeral & Cremation Services sponsors an in-person six-week grief support group for adults who are grieving the death of a loved one. We ask that you participate in all 6 sessions as you are able. This group meets in-Person in New Richmond on **Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm, on April 6, 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11 at the New Richmond United Methodist Church, 209 E Second Street, New Richmond.**

All adults are welcome to participate in the group and the sessions are free. Groups focus on various topics: what is grief, grief reactions, other ways loss affects our lives, ways we remain connected to our deceased. This group is interactive, offers self-reflection, information and education.

Group Facilitator: Julia Rajtar, M.A.P.S., BCC, Bakken-Young Grief Support Coordinator

To register, please rsvp by Wed. April 1, with your name, phone number, and your email address at: julia@bakken-young.com For more information, call or text Julia at 715-781-4003.

SPECIAL MISSION RECOGNITION AWARDS

Congratulations to the following people who recently received Special Mission Recognition Pins and Certificates on Sunday, March 8th:

Lynn Nelson, Julie Dollahon, Kristen Thompson

Thank you for all you do for our church and community!
United Women in Faith

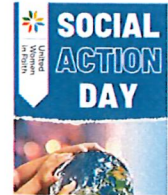
UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The **UWF** will meet Tuesday, April 14 at
1:00 pm in the Conference Room.
This meeting is open to all UWF members.
Come join us and learn more about
United Women in Faith.



Responding in Love

You are Invited – Social Action Day- Zoom Watch Party
Saturday, April 11, 2026, 9:00 am -12 noon in the Conference Room
– Breakfast Downstairs



Powerful Speakers – Attorney Grant Sovern “Standing Up for Due Process” and Grant has worked as an immigration lawyer for 30 years. He currently serves as the Director of the Community Immigration Law Center. Rev. Breanna Illene, “ How Congregations Can Take Action on Immigration.” Breanna is ordained in the UMC and currently is Director of Ecumenical Innovation and Justice Initiatives at the Wisconsin Council of Churches.

You may register online at: <https://wisconsin-reg.brtaapp.com/UWInfaithsocialactionday2026> or at the event.
For further information or questions, contact Laura Ida, 612-801-6284



Celebrate April Birthdays

Dallas Dosdall - April 1	Dan Clark - April 17
Kee Chul Leichtle - April 3	Judy Barnes - April 26
Ann McAlpine - April 3	Carol Gardner - April 26
Sue Christopher - April 12	Ruby Sienko - April 27
Dean Coke - April 13	Tara Heinselman - April 28
Meghan Bodden - April 14	Samuel Roesler - April 28
Roger Wiff - April 15	Patrick Murphy - April 29

If we missed your birthday, we apologize and invite you to call the church office and let us know your birth date.



APRIL NOISY CAN OFFERING BACKPACK PROGRAM

Our Neighbors Place handles the BackPack Program. They fill between 120-130 backpacks per week. Families have the option of picking packs up at school during the school year, or at Our Neighbors Place. During the summer, parents need to pick packs up at Our Neighbors Place. Bags are filled with 7-9 lbs. non-perishable food, and then vouchers are added to the families choice from Ptaček's, Family Fresh, or the north end Kwik Trip for milk, meat, eggs, bread and produce. The program is open to River Falls school age children K-12. Application has no income verification. Families with multiple kids receive appropriate consideration. Our Neighbors Place will have a table in the Gathering Area on Sunday, April 5 if you care to visit with them about all their programs.



IT'S SPRING POTLUCK!



Time for a Potluck! Please plan to join us on Sunday, April 19th for an all Church Potluck.

We will be gathering immediately after church and will be eating at 10:45 am. Start digging through your favorite recipes and find the perfect one for a Spring luncheon.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area for your convenience to plan your dish to bring and for volunteers to assist with cleaning up afterwards. Thank you. Brenda Gaulke.

Spirit of Grace now has the ability to receive online donations via credit card. Scan the QR code and be directed to a secure giving window. Thank you.



SCRIP CARDS

Don't forget to purchase SCRIP cards for dining needs. Some of the cards in-stock to consider include West Wind, Red Lobster, Applebee's, Olive Garden, Arby's, Chipotle, Subway, Table on Main, Panera, Taco Bell, Papa Murphy's, Dairy Queen, Starbucks, Noodles & Company, and McDonald's,

Ptacek's Market, Family Fresh, Walmart, and Target for grocery needs and Kwik Trip, and Ptacek's Gas, for gas needs. Scrip is available to purchase on Sundays; April 12 and 26, and in the church office during the week.

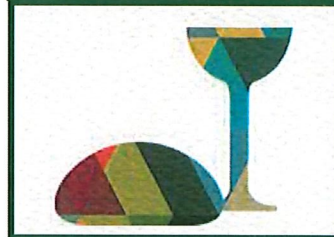
Holy Week

Join us for these holy days in the life of the church



PALM SUNDAY

March 29 at 9:30 am



Holy Thursday

April 2 at 7:00 pm



GOOD FRIDAY

April 3 at 7:00 pm



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5 at 9:30 am

*Easter Egg Hunt
After Children's Time*



Summer Sampler 2026

If you have something you would like to present as a Summer Sampler, please contact Fay Westberg with your idea. Summer Samplers are one-time events and can be a learning experience, just for fun, or a creative time. Let Fay know possible dates, if there is a cost, and a brief description. Things we have done in the past: Vino in the Valley, Pizza on the Farm, Mini Golfing, Study on Prayer, Hymn Sing, Picnic.

Contact Fay for more information:
fay@spiritofgracerf.org or 715-307-4645.

*Spirit of Grace
127 S. 2nd St.
River Falls, WI 54022*

*If you would like to be removed
from this, mailing please
contact the office.*

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River Falls, Wisconsin

2026

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Office Hours Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm			1 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace Choir	2 9:00 am Closing The Gap 7:00 pm Holy Thursday Service	3  GOOD FRIDAY Church Office Closes at Noon 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	4  8:00 - 10:00 am Saturday Breakfast
5 EASTER SUNDAY <i>Happy</i> EASTER! 9:30 am Worship Easter Egg Hunt after Children's Time	6 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 pm Ministry Team	7 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 11:00 am Lions 6:00 pm SPRC	8 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace Choir	9 5:00 pm PFLAG Exec. Board 6:00 pm Book Study 6:00 pm PEO Chapter T	10 5:00 - 9:45 Relay for Life	11
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time	13 7:00 pm Yoga	14 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 1:00 pm United Women In Faith 5:00 pm Memorial Committee	15 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace Choir	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time 10:45 am Potluck	20	21 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship" 6:00 pm Finance Com. 7:00 pm Church Council	22 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace Choir	23 6:00 pm PFLAG	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School After Children's Time	27 7:00 pm Yoga	28 9:00 am Men's Coffee "Fellow-ship"	29 1:30 pm Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Spirt of Grace Choir	30		

Holy Thursday, Good Friday & Worship Schedule April 2026

Holy Thursday Good Friday Easter

	4/02/2026	4/03/2026	4/05/2026	4/12/2026	4/19/2026	4/26/2026
Front Door Greeter	Janet Dossdall	Mary Baumgartner	Marlys Bradford	Dean & Darlene Arneson	Dallas Dossdall	Steve Nelson
Worship Leader	Euge Isherwood with Belle Peterson as Reader	Robin Murray with Shelby Tylicki as Reader	Robin Murray with Katelyn Nill as Reader	Laura Ida with Marcus Califf as Reader	Sue Christopher with Jax Deters as Reader	Mark Christopher with Lyric Myslicki as Reader
Ushers	Dallas Dossdall Blaine Westberg	Mark Freeborn Virgil Nylander	Virgil Nylander Blaine Westberg	Dallas Dossdall Steve Nelson	Lynn Nelson Steve Nelson	Dallas Dossdall Virgil Nylander
Communion Preparation	Prep: Karen Leichtle Servers Dallas Dossdall Karen Leichtle Blaine Westberg		NOTE: Communion has been moved to the 2 nd Sunday for this month-->	Prep: Karen Leichtle Servers Marlys Bradford Janet Dossdall Karen Leichtle		
Pastor	Rev. Andrew Church	Rev. Andrew Church	Rev. Andrew Church	Rev. Andrew Church	Rev. Janet Ellinger	Rev. Andrew Church
Fellowship	-Not applicable-	-Not applicable-	Laura Carlson Belle Peterso	Sue & Steve Nelson	Nancy & Grant Hanson	Carrie & Jon Main
Sound Board Tech	Jonah Thompson	Keagan Kuhl	Jonah Thompson	Mikayla Kuhl	Mikayla Kuhl	David Rusterholz
Video Tech	Chris Thompson	Brian Kuhl	Chris Thompson	Brian Kuhl	Brian Kuhl	Euge Isherwood
Hospitality Hosts	Euge Isherwood	Euge Isherwood	Euge Isherwood	Dean Loney	Patti & Lynn Nelson	Karen & Kurt Leichtle
Welcome Desk	Brenda Gaulke	Julie Freeborn	Fay Westberg	Christine Muenich	Janet Dossdall	Shelby Tylicki