

“The Congregator”

First Congregational United Church of Christ - 110 N. Third Street - River Falls, WI

Phone: 715-425-2052 - Website: www.firstchurchrf.org

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APRIL 15, 2010

Pastor's Corner

As I write this I am with our Third Year Confirmands on their 'big trip' to Boston. At the end of their three year confirmation experience, each class studies one issue or subject. I try to pick one issue that relates to both our Christian faith and something the kids have studied in school. In the past we have studied the Holocaust and then traveled to the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC. Last year we studied immigration in the Bible and today, then we went to Ellis Island and the Lower Eastside Tenement Museum in New York City. This year we studied our Congregational Church ancestors the Pilgrims and visited many sites in and around Boston and Plymouth Massachusetts.

On this particular trip our Confirmands:

- visited a recreation of the Mayflower and learned how 102 Pilgrims endured the long voyage from England to Plymouth harbor.
- learned of the Pilgrims at their best and worst as we visited recreated Pilgrim and Native American villages at Plimoth Plantation to learn why the Pilgrims embarked on such a dangerous journey.
- walked the whole 2.5 mile Freedom Trail from Boston Common to Bunker Hill (and climbed all 294 steps to the top!)
- worshipped at Old South Church one of the oldest UCC churches in the country.
- visited the Congregational Library to see a Bible from 1480 and lots of articles our church ancestors brought with them from Holland and England.

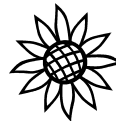
Our Confirmands will be leading the Adult Forum on Sunday, May 16 during the 9am hour. I encourage you to come, see and hear about our "Boston Adventure." Thank you to our church family who are so supportive of these educational experiences!

Pastor Chris

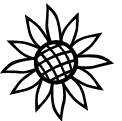
Will Our Children Have Faith? A Christian Education Discussion

On April 25, parents are invited to a discussion about Christian education and faith development. The discussion will also consider the Sunday School schedule. This is an extremely important event for families with children of all ages.

Lunch will be served to families following the 10:30 service. Children will be engaged while adults participate in the discussion. The event will conclude by 1:30. Please RSVP. For more information contact Stacy Myers.



Country Fair Ideas



For the Craft Table

Handmade items – Use your imagination!
Zipper pulls, baby shoes,
Father's Day fun pack,
Race day kit

For the Baked Goods Table

Get out recipes and get those ingredients,
Call relatives to find out how to make
Grandma's molasses cookies

*Plan to spend Saturday, May 8th
at the church having fun!*

We believe...

~The Christian faith is a life-long learning process.

~Our church family aspires to be the living presence of Christ in the world.

~Our faith in Jesus is demonstrated through our lives, actions, and commitments.

~We are striving to become a congregation of life-long givers.

~Worship is the center of our life together.

KNOWING YOUR CHURCH COMMITTEES GOALS FOR 2010

Submitted by the Church Council

Discipleship Committee

- Increase by 10% the amount pledged in the 2010 campaign/Increase the number of non-pledged givers by 10%
- Coordinate the 2010 campaign with the capital campaign
- Continue to promote e-giving by establishing a series of bulletin messages that would appear in each newsletter and bulletin
- Identify and utilize a more effective way of communicating Congregational financial progress than the one we currently use
- Investigate and plan to offer a seminar on managing money for families that is biblically based

Mission Education Committee

- Maintain congregational awareness of mission/service opportunities within and beyond our church, through Mission Moments, brochure, bulletin board and church website. Emphasize non-financial giving as well as financial
- Seek volunteers from the congregation to be lead persons for 'mission' type organizations we support, such as Simpson Housing, Feed My Starving Children, Our Neighbors' Place and Tuesday Banquet
- Continue to focus congregational attention on the identified missions of the wider UCC church, including our congregation's budget commitment to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)
- Organize a rotation schedule for the terms of the Mission Education Committee members

Christian Education Committee

- Explore 1-day workshop, similar to the UCC Polity Course that will be offered to the congregation
- Begin a Women's Education Fellowship similar to the Mean Dad's group
- Organize/Plan a musical for Middle School age kids
- Organize a "Will our Children Have Faith" workshop, an adult meeting/discussion with parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, etc to discuss raising our children in faith
- Continue discussion of a dedicated Sunday School hour outside of the worship hour

Deacon Committee

- Review and establish Usher and Communion schedule for 2010-2011
- Plan and host Confirmation Banquet 2010
- Assist and support Inquirer Classes
- Update Visitation list and responsibilities
- Incorporate congregational members in ushering and communion responsibilities

Music Committee

- Finish the music pamphlet to go in the new member informational folders
- Continued growth of our musical ensembles (choir, bells, etc.)
- Start a Youth Choir
- Have successful community performances of Summer Musical and It Takes a Village Concert



COUNTRY FAIR



Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9:00 am—1:00 pm

First Congregational will be holding the annual Country Fair on Saturday, May 8th. Please consider donating your time and/or talents as the committee chairs commence calling for volunteers.

CRAFTS—In past years our craft tables have overflowed with lovely handmade items donated by members of our church. If you have a dish towel to embroider, remember to return them to Virginia Hilden. Virginia has more for those who would still like to help.

ATTIC TREASURES & TOOLS & STUFF—As you do your spring cleaning, please consider those things that might be used for Country Fair! Jewelry, books, household items, linens, garden and lawn tools, even sporting equipment!

PLANTS—We will have a variety of plants, herbs and blooming hanging baskets.

BAKED GOODS, PIES, CANDY BOOTH—Do you have a favorite goodie to donate to our sale? The Chairs of these committees will be setting up sign-up sheets soon!

RUGS—Stella Ray and Polly Wymer will have their handmade rag rugs for sale! A must in every household.

LUNCH SERVED—Come hungry, Marge Mittelstadt and Kris Ainsworth are again in charge of the kitchen. Food will be delicious and this year's new addition is "The Walking Taco." Bring a friend.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for March and YTD:

	<u>March</u>	<u>2010 YTD</u>
Income	\$ 25,585.00	\$ 99,360.83
Expenses	\$ 26,638.12	\$ 85,446.88
Net	\$ -1,053.12	\$ 13,913.95

A full accounting of all income and expenses is always posted outside the church office door on the bulletin board.

It's Official, Mark the Date!

At the February 7 Annual Meeting we unanimously called Stacy Johnson Myers as our Minister of Christian Education. We will celebrate this event at her installation on **Sunday, May 23** during the 10:30 am worship service. Rev. David Moyer, the Wisconsin Conference Minister will be preaching and the annual end of the year Sunday School picnic will follow. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us.

Dish Towels for Country Fair

Completed embroidered dish towels for Country Fair should be washed, ironed, folded and placed in a plastic bag and dropped off at the church office. Thank you!



Country Fair - Plant Booth

With Spring upon us and plants peeking through the ground, don't forget the plant booth at the Country Fair. As you clean up, prepare, or thin out your flower/herb/vegetable beds and have extra plants, don't throw them out. Instead dig them up and bring them to our plant sale on May 8th. I have extra containers for you to use and if you need help digging up the extra plants give Deb Hoffman a call @425-5633. Maybe you just want to cut back your garden size but you still have all these great plants, again remember we would love your plants for the plant sale. If you have questions, please give me call. Thanks for your help!

Spring Clean Up Day – Thurs., April 29 starting at 4:00 pm

We are asking for volunteers with rakes, clippers, hedge trimmers, leaf blowers, etc. With many hands, the job will get done quicker, and the grounds will look good for Country Fair, which is on May 8th.



VBS Brochures

Registration (and work!) on the 2010 summer program has begun. Brochures have been sent to all families and are available at church. Please complete the registration form in the brochure. Please also invite at least one new family to participate in the programming.

Painting Day

Saturday, April 24, 10:00 am

There is some touch-up painting that needs to be done outside at the church. If you are able to help, please sign up on the back table. Thank you!



Boundary Waters Trip

If you are interested in joining a church group trip to the Boundary Waters canoe area this summer, please contact Pastor Chris. The 3-day, 2-night trip is planned for **July 26-29** and will include multiple groups of people of varying skill levels. No experience is necessary! Use the sign-up sheet to register your interest.

Katie Fuller

Our homegrown seminarian is edging closer to her graduation from Eden Seminary in St. Louis on May 14. Katie is now in the final process of preparation for graduation and hopefully ordination. Once she has obtained a call for a local church setting, she will be ordained.

In honor of her accomplishment, the church is collecting funds to present her with a handmade stole by the same artist who makes our church banners. If you wish to contribute, please drop off a check in the office or offering plate marked "stole fund."

Experience Yoga

Jan Hansen, a certified Hatha and Senior Yoga instructor, will offer yoga classes to those that express an interest—men, women, young, old and everyone in between. Experience the benefits of mind, body and spirit joining together to give you the ability to relax and become balanced, centered, achieve inner calm and peace of mind, improve your physical health, tone your muscles, strengthen your bones and gain flexibility in body and mind. What more could you want!!

Please sign up on the sheet provided on the back table or call Jan at 425-5211. Classes will meet in the Sunday School area and will begin **Tuesday, May 4th from 9:00-10:00 am**.

Classes will meet every Tuesday and Thursday. You will need to bring a Yoga mat and a large bath towel. Cost—donation.

Weekly Email

Do we have your current email address? The "Weekly Word" is a weekly email sent out on Thursdays that highlights upcoming church activities. Please send the church office your updated email address at office@firstchurchrf.org.

The Worship and Education Connection



At the time of baptism, parents and sponsors make profound promises regarding their intentions to bring up their children within the faith community. Fulfillment of these promises is not easy. Bringing up children within the faith community requires that they be present in the congregation's life, and that they are supported and nurtured as they seek to find meaning and a place within the community. Such a task belongs not only to parents and sponsors but to the entire congregation.

While there are many ways that the congregation supports and nurtures its members, three broad categories are particularly important. First of all, the congregation is responsible for providing meaningful worship that both connects the community to its historical roots and speaks to daily life. Secondly, the congregation is responsible for providing the most complete possible instruction in the Christian faith. Thirdly, the congregation is responsible for providing opportunities for mission and for establishing and nurturing relationships within the community of faith. These activities form the core of Christ's church.

It is never possible for the congregation to consider any of these responsibilities complete. Worship requires on-going faithfulness. Education is a life-long commitment. Mission is an evolving opportunity for the church. Congregations can never be content to stand still and say that these responsibilities have been completely accomplished. We must constantly shape our worship, education, and mission so they remain as faithful as possible.

The Christian Education committee has started a discussion of how we can best shape our Sunday morning schedule so all our members can faithfully participate in both worship and education. This discussion will continue at the "Will Our Children Have Faith" event on April 25. Please, please come. It is important. To register, please sign the list on the sign-up table, or call the office.

Stacy Johnson Myers
Christian Education Coordinator

Adult Forum

April 18: *Taxes to Caesar*, Alan Tuchtenhagen

For centuries Christians have wondered how to reconcile life in an imperfect world with a commitment to faithful discipleship. How do our theological ideas shape our understanding of political and economic issues?

April 25, *Seeking Balance*, Dan Randall

Many people today lead hectic lives filled with commitments. Dan Randall will discuss ways of seeking balance and responding to stress in daily life.

May 2, 9: *A Study of Mark's Gospel*, Barbara Peterson

Just as Jesus' ministry was grounded in peace and justice, so too is the ministry of the UCC. The forum will explore the implications of ministry focused on a sense of justice and a commitment to peace. Mark's Gospel will provide the foundation for the study.

May 16: *Confirmation Report: Boston Adventure*, Third Year Confirmands & Pastor Myers

The third-year confirmation students traveled to Boston in April to study the roots of the congregational church, and the Underground Railroad. They will provide a report of their adventures.



Puppet Ministry

The 'Puppet Force' Ministry Group needs some strong "arms" [youth: 2nd grade and up, middle/high school, and adults] for their upcoming performance on Sunday, April 25th. Rehearsals for this short-term commitment will be held each Wednesday (beginning April 7th @ 6:30-7:30 pm) and on Sundays (beginning April 11th @ 9:00-10:00 am) – that's only 6 rehearsals!! Not sure what your "arms" will fit into – how about puppets, prop/scenery making, or helping behind the scenes? The possibilities are endless! So, come join the fun and see for yourself what "Puppet Fever" is all about.

Questions? Call Cheryl Solberg @ 715.377.1028 or 715.220.9844.

Summer Dates

Children's Musical: <i>Rescue in the Night</i>	June 21-24, 9:00—11:30 am
Youth Musical: <i>Malice in the Palace</i>	June 21-24, 1:00—3:00 pm
Youth Adventure: <i>A Day in the City</i>	July 14, 9:00 am—5:00 pm
Teens and Adults: <i>Boundary Waters Trip</i>	July 26-29
Vacation Bible School: <i>Through the Roof!</i>	August 2-5, 9:00—11:30 am

Summer Musical

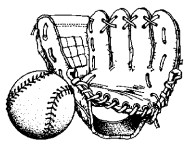
Did you enjoy Godspell last summer? Once again our church is planning on performing a musical this summer. We will need many members in order to make this a success. Whether you want to be on center stage singing a solo or a part of the chorus, we will find a place for anybody that wants to be a part of this production.

If interested, please sign up on Scott's door. Contact Scott Perau (sperau@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns.



Wanted: Empty ice cream buckets and plastic containers for leftovers in the church kitchen. Please drop off clean containers in the kitchen. Thank you!

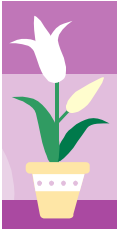
Wanted: If you have any 100% wool sweaters that you are looking to get rid of, please contact Eunice Filkins at 425-5437.



Softball Season

Can you believe it, it's that time again to begin the softball season? Our church's team is open to anyone 14 years old and older. We play on Monday nights at 6:30 or 8:15 pm at Hoffman Park or PR's Place in River Falls. Jeff Hoffman has agreed to manage the team again this year and would like you to sign up on the sheet in the back of the church if you are interested in playing on the team. Our co-ed team requires 3 ladies to be on the field at one time. The first game is **May 3rd** and there will be a couple of practices prior to the first game. You may call Jeff at 425-5633 for more information. We play in a co-ed league of local church teams and it's great to see the many families playing on our team, as well as our opponents. If you do not want to play, but are looking for something to do, be sure to save Monday nights to come and cheer us on. Come join the fun and get a little exercise.

YoUthCC Corner



Lilies: Thank you to all who purchased lilies "in Honor of" or "in Memory of" someone special. The 22 lilies formed a beautiful cross overlooking the altar and sanctuary. Thank you to Marylee Schmahl and Marie Schmahl who helped me put together the lily cross. It definitely was a three person task this year and their help was greatly appreciated.

Thank you also to all who donated their lilies to shut-ins. It was such a pleasure bringing delights of joy and smiles to the people who received the lilies. I feel honored to have the privilege to deliver these lilies to those who are not able to attend church or did not have the opportunity or funds to purchase a lily. I enjoyed my visits thoroughly and it brought joy to my heart to have brightened their day.

Easter Breakfast: Thank you to all the youth and their parents for helping prepare and serve at the Easter Breakfast. I heard much praise that morning for the great job they did and the joy of seeing our youth serve the breakfast.

Pre-Confirmation Class: Thank you to our middle school youth and Diana Villeneuve for preparing cookies for our shut-ins. The youth helped bake, prepare colorful treat bags, and delivered cookies to many of our shut-ins this past week. It was fun to hear all about the wonderful cookie surprise many received when I delivered the extra lilies this week.

In a world of many negative events occurring daily, it's a delight to hear the words of appreciation for our youth and to be a part of such a generous congregation.

May God Bless you, Deb Hoffman



Our 3rd Year Confirmands on their 'Big Trip' to Boston and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Come to the Adult Forum on Sunday, May 16 at 9:00 am to see and hear about their adventure.



Church Camp

We have a grand total of 4 campers! WOO-HOO! We want more! We would like to take this opportunity to target students that have finished 3rd & 4th grades. The Intermediate Camp at Moon Beach is held on the same campus and at the same time as MADD Camp and there would be a good chance that transportation could be shared. This is when MacKenzie Merriman was introduced to camp and HOOKED; she has been at camp every summer since. This is a great age to introduce children to camp and with both scholarships available, this camp is quite affordable. Your bonus is that Carol Merriman and I will be there to nurture them along. Please consider this great opportunity. Shalom, Lu

Interfaith Volunteers of St. Croix County needs your help with one of the following. Call Nancy at 715-381-4360 or email nancya@co.saint-croix.wi.us to volunteer. Interfaith is a private, non-profit organization serving the county for 14 years.

Hammond

- Transportation home from Stillwater dialysis M, W, or F at 4:30 pm

Roberts

- Light housekeeping for a woman in her apartment
- Transportation home from Stillwater dialysis M or W at 4:30 pm
- Light housekeeping for a man twice a month in an apartment

River Falls

- Companion for woman once a wk
- Companion for a woman in the county
- Light housekeeping for a couple in an apartment
- Companion for a man
- Grocery shopping and friendship for a woman

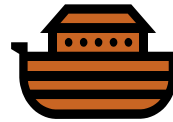
Hudson

- Activity assistants for our Adult Day Respite program Mondays or Thursdays once a month
- Light housekeeping for a woman in a townhouse
- Substitutes for Home-Delivered meal program Wednesdays or Thursdays
- Light housekeeping for woman in her home once a week
- Respite for a woman in her home
- Companionship and light housekeeping for man in an apartment

MOPS (Mothers of Preschool Students)

MOPS is a Christian meeting that helps moms connect with each other, while providing a caring environment for raising children. MOPS meets on Tuesday mornings at First Covenant Church.

We are looking for a woman to coordinate the children's, or MOPPETS, program. The Coordinator would be responsible for organizing the children's crafts, snacks, volunteer teachers and connecting with moms about ideas or problems. This is a volunteer position, beginning in September. The volunteer does not need to have children under the age of 5. If you are interested, please contact Shauna Knott at 426-9827.



Service Opportunity— Volunteers Needed

The Assistance and Resource Center of River Falls (ARC) is seeking additional phone volunteers. If you are willing to work a 2-hour shift, 10:00 am to Noon or 7:00 to 9:00 pm, one to two days a month, Monday through Friday, this is a great opportunity to help the River Falls community. Training will be provided on basic call intake procedures.

The Mission of ARC is to provide short-term financial assistance to members of the community to meet their basic needs and to provide access to additional resources. Please contact Joan Mayen at 715-760-1755 or joan.mayen@uwrf.edu

Tille Quints

Have you been considering joining the Quintuplet volunteers? Now is the time!!! If FIVE 9-month old adorable babies is not enough to melt your heart, consider the current situation: **Mom, Angela is suddenly laid up with a broken leg and so volunteers are of the utmost importance.** If you have 3 hours to spare, you will be greatly rewarded. Please check out their information and volunteer schedule at www.tillefamily.com to see where you could fit in. The new volunteer coordinator Angela Kaiser would love to hear from you @ 425-8736 or speak to the following church members who enthusiastically give their time: Wendy Hill, Mary Church & Maxine Sitz.

Below is the latest newsletter from our medical missionaries serving the slums of Rio de Janeiro, Barb and Gus de Souza.

March 28, 2010

Dear Partners,

The new year is now 3 months old, and I am way behind in writing to you but this year began with a surprisingly, almost tragic, situation as I was faced with one of my greatest challenges, that of the struggle between an impersonal money-oriented program/society, and love and service to others, so I delayed until I could give you all more positive news. It is a long and complicated story which affects our health ministry, but I will try to give you the important details.

On the 25th of January, we received an e-mail stating that our NGO would have to fire all 42 of our employees within 30 days, that is, they would work with us only until the 28th of February for the Mayor of Rio had installed a new health system in the city, and all NGOs and private health programs would enter into this system run by Social Organizations which would be taking over. That is, in our case, our NGO was being discarded!

You can imagine the shock! Fire all these wonderful women, some of whom had worked with me from the beginning of our city contracts in 1999! We had just signed a new contract with the city in October and rejoiced in the victory of finally having our wonderful physical therapy program included! And even though we had heard that this new health system was being implanted in other parts of the city, in all of the meetings our health workers had attended to explain the new system, our family health program in Canal do Anil was never included, for we were always classed as being different because of the fact that our NGO owned the buildings (that we work in) and 95% of the health equipment, plus the new contract included the physical therapy program, which is so unusual in basic Brazilian health care.

But finally, soon after that sad day when I received the news, and with tears in my eyes and in the eyes of the women, I had to give them their severance papers. And the battle began!

- a) To make sure all 42 women were employed by the Social Organization, CIAP.
- b) Find the legal ways to protect our buildings and equipment, that is, fight against this total take over by an organization from another State, Paraná, without making some demands.

And thus the problems began!

With members of our Board of Directors, I was able to schedule a meeting with the health secretary of Rio de Janeiro to attest to our rights to at least to have CIAP pay rent for the use of our buildings/equipment and have the same employees hired. The health secretary said we would have to have a meeting with his assistant who was in control of this new health system, Dr. Daniel. At this meeting, he suggested immediately, that we get in contact with the leaders of this Social Organization, CIAP, and discuss all this. This we did, our Board of Directors, 2 politicians from the local electoral system, president of the Assoc. of the dwellers of the shanty town, 3 members of our community, and 3 members of the local health supervision responsible for our area.

This meeting, as were the others following, was catastrophic! An example of money versus love and concern! Nothing solved! Then came Carnaval and nothing in Brasil functions during these days. We sent e-mails back and forth, and none were even answered. We went again to Dr. Daniel and explained that we would have to close up the first of March, for our NGO had no more money to pay for light, water, etc., and our employees were desperate without salary and a guarantee they would be hired again. Dr. Daniel said he would contact CIAP, and then I pleaded with him to let me at least keep the pharmacy open. He pointed out that the building could not be used for the family health program, nor could the women go there for they were no longer employees of our NGO.

He also pointed out that CIAP would probably refuse to pay rent as they had a specific amount to be spent on each health unit, and ours was different as we had more employees, for example, 2 nurses assistants for each health team, (others had only one), a separate pharmacy with me as volunteer (volunteers not allowed) and an administrative assistant, plus a physical therapy program, all extra!!! Of course, we realized that extra payment would mean less for the leaders of CIAP to receive as individual benefits.

A week passed, and the clinic had to be closed except for the pharmacy, and the people in the shanty town began to react as well as friends of mine in the health and political fields, priests and a pastor. Another meeting was called with Dr .Daniel, and he asked what we wanted so that the clinic could be opened again.(politically, the closing of one of the largest health units was not good!) We said:

1. hire all the women who were working there before,
2. as the physical therapy was not included in the program, pay our NGO enough rent so that we could support the program,
3. allow me, as president of the NGO, to continue to work in the pharmacy as well as supervise the care of our building and equipment, and coordinate our other projects such as the children's program, that is, work in partnership with the coordinator, appointed by CIAP for administration.

We asked Dr. Daniel to write out all that was agreed upon at this meeting in a formal bulletin.

We came home victorious, but that victory was short lived. No formal letter followed, and the leaders of CIAP refused all contact with us and the area supervisor, Dr. Leonardo, and refused to pay any rent! We continued with closed doors except for the pharmacy! The only thing we accomplished was that all the women were hired by CIAP but were forbidden to enter our building, and the doctors and nurse were sent to a health center in the violent shanty town, the City of God. And the health educators were to visit their patients and explain what was happening.

As the 2nd week ended with the doors closed, help came from all angles, the police of the area encouraging us to make a public manifestation (protest) on the entrance to the highway near us with leaders of other communities near by and, of course, our shanty town dwellers.

Then someone called the local radio station, and reporters from various popular newspapers heard about the public manifestation planned and SO DID THE CITY MAYOR! This was not, of course, good news to a rising politician, and with the swine flu virus vaccine campaign beginning, so he called the local mayor of our area, and then on Monday of last week, the beginning of our 3rd week closed, the local mayor, 2 of his assistants, Dr. Leonardo, health supervisor of our area, and two of his assistants plus an official journalist arrived at the clinic.

There was no time for me to call any of our Board of Directors, so I called the president of the Assoc. of shanty town dwellers and a couple of leaders of the churches and community, and we sat down to bargain. As the mayor wanted at all costs to prevent a public protest manifestation which was scheduled for Friday, the 26th of March, he agreed to interfere and contact CIAP to force the acceptance of our demands, and we were to open again on Tuesday. A separate document was signed allowing us to open with a two month temporary contract leasing the buildings to CIAP until a final contract including our demands are agreed upon.

And that is what we are now doing. However, there was one issue which was not final, that is, the rent CIAP would pay so we could support the PT program, something they had refused from the moment of the take over of our clinic. We explained that our first request for rent was high because as we would no longer receive any money from the city, we would have no money for the maintenance of our buildings/equipment, not even for supplies, electricity, telephone, etc. Our NGO had no more money! CIAP refused; our second appeal for rent had been for the salaries of our physical therapy program which CIAP would absolutely not include! This is still under negotiation, and until it is solved, we will have to pay these salaries from donations as more than 100 patients per week use our services, and in fact, we need a 3rd physical therapist for home visits.

Right at this very moment, the finance director of our NGO, Rosa, is meeting with the vice-president of our NGO, Marivani, and a lawyer, to draw up this contract including all our demands, our rights to the building and the administration of it for a two year period. The big question is the amount of rent they will agree to pay, so that we can support our physical therapy program. Rosa was told to calculate this, which she did, and then she was told to reduce it, and the sum she was allowed to give will not cover completely the 2 physical therapists we have now. Thank heavens for these great assistants, for Rosa is an excellent accountant, and Marivani, a theology professor and involved in shanty town political struggles for rights to their lands and homes.

I have had so much support from the area health supervisor, Dr. Leonardo, whom I have known for sometime, but he is new in this job, for all of these jobs are political nominations and are temporary depending on who is in power. We were lucky in that we had had the same mayor for 8 years so not a lot of change. The new Mayor is slowly destroying the institutional structure of so much in the city. As our NGO no longer employs any of our workers, we theoretically cannot hire whom we want to or promote anyone, as I have always done, if you remember. However, Dr. Leonardo, the area health supervisor, has assured me that he will work very hard to see that the promotions of the two women I have suggested will be honored, one who is now a health educator to a nurses assistant and one of our cleaning women to a health educator, both have acquired the requisites for these positions. Also a new doctor and nurse (the others left in order to avoid working with CIAP) to work with us in can be chosen by me.

For all of you who knew of these happenings, thank you for your prayers and confidence, and we know if the rest of you knew, you would have added your prayers and encouragement. We have lost a lot but we have maintained our objective: to serve the people of the shanty town of Canal do Anil in your name for the love of Christ.

My daughter, Judy, recently sent me this quote which seems so appropriate:

“WE MAY ENCOUNTER MANY DEFEATS BUT MUST NOT BE DEFEATED” Maya Angelou

Blessings of gratitude to all of you, our partners.

Barb and Gus

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

STAFF



Chris Myers - Pastor
 Lu Lueck - Parish Coordinator
 Missy Luedtke - Office Assistant
 Stacy Johnson - CE Coordinator
 Scott Perau - Music Coordinator
 Organists - Marsha Pearson,
 Barb Wall
 Tim Bylander - Building Supervisor
 Dave Mountain - Custodian
 Jean Smith - Moderator

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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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April 15, 2010



2010 APRIL 2010						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
18 8:00 am Jubilee Ringers 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	19	20 3rd Tuesday Soup 'n Sandwich 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards and Committees Meetings 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 7:30 pm	21 3:30 pm Wednesday School 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 6:30 pm Pre-Confirmation (6th & 7th Grades) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	22 Kettle Bells 4:30 pm	23	24 Painting Day 10:00 am Northwest Association Meeting in Eau Claire 9 am-3 pm
25 8:00 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast 11:30 am Christian Education Discussion NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Journey House Meeting 7:00 pm	27 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	28 3:30 pm LAST Wed School 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 6:00 pm Confirmation Banquet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	29 Spring Clean Up 4:00 pm Kettle Bells 4:30 pm	30 Johnson Wedding Rehearsal 6:00 pm	

Journey House Campus Ministry Update — Take Back the Night

Last week Journey House participated in a UWRF sponsored Take Back the Night Rally. Take Back the Night is an international 501(c)3 charitable foundation that seeks to end sexual violence in all of its forms including sexual assault, sexual abuse, dating violence, and domestic violence. Take Back the Night empowers survivors in the healing process and inspires responsibility in all. Our goal is to create safe communities and respectful relationships through awareness events and initiatives. We hold marches, rallies, and other events throughout the year on college campuses and in communities large and small to send a consistent, uncluttered message of support to survivors. Our rally consisted of live music, spoken poetry, speeches by representatives from several related organizations, and an appearance by the River Falls mayor. We also held a candle light vigil for participants to share their experiences and names of people to honor, finishing the night by marching through campus and River Falls. We strive to make Journey House a safe place for students to go for support in good times and more importantly bad ones. Active participation in events like these not only solidifies our resolve but our reputation as a place for people to get help, arguably the most important function that Journey House does for the community.