



FIRST

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

God is still speaking,

110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022
715-425-2052 — www.firstchurchrf.org
Rev. Chris Myers: chris@firstchurchrf.org
Office email: office@firstchurchrf.org
AUGUST 1, 2011

Pastor's Corner

As you can see in the photos to the right, construction is continuing at a breakneck speed. Even warm temperatures and the occasional downbursts of rain hasn't stopped our construction crew! They are incredibly talented people who are working in a very confined space.

This is a big project. Here are some interesting facts of what has gone into our building project so far:

- * 1,500 cubic yards of dirt exported from the site
- * 2.7 tons of steel reinforcing in the foundation footings
- * 46 cubic yards of concrete in the foundation footings
- * 6,000 concrete block to build the lower level foundation walls
- * 4.9 tons of steel reinforcing within the concrete block foundation walls
- * 16.2 tons of structural steel beams and columns
- * 380,817lbs (190.4 ton) of pre-cast floor plank
- * 80 cubic yards of concrete to pour the lower level floor
- * 43 cubic yards of concrete to pour the pre-cast floor topping
- * 49,500 exterior brick

This big project comes with a big cost. Thank you for your faithful gifts to help complete this building. Please stay current on your building pledge. Every additional dollar given to the building project saves us even more money paid out in interest. Thank you for your faithful stewardship.

Pastor Chris

Construction Update



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.



Registration forms are available for VBS, August 1–4, 9:00–11:30 am. VBS is for all students 3 years of age to the completion of grade 5. VBS will meet at the United Methodist Church this summer due to our construction project. The curriculum and program will be our own.

TREASURER'S NOTE\$

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for June and YTD:

	<u>June</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>
Income	\$ 25,399.90	\$ 163,594.27
Expenses	\$ 41,657.35	\$ 178,064.41
Net	\$ -16,257.45	\$ -14,470.14

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

Sounds of Summer

August 14 – Cedar Valley Brass (classical)

The "Sounds of Summer" Music Series is a time to bring in different guest musicians who help us explore worship music in different styles. Please mark your calendars!

Nursery Worker Needed for the Fall

We are in need of a nursery worker for the program year (September through May). This paid position requires a person or small team of people to staff the nursery each Sunday from 8:45 to 11:45 am. The nursery worker is responsible for maintaining supplies, cleaning toys and general up-keep of the nursery. Please talk to Pastor Chris or Stacy Myers if interested.

Finances—We are slowly catching up on our General Fund giving. If you are behind in your General Fund giving, please try to catch up. Thank you.

Confirmation

The Confirmation program will begin on **Sunday, September 11** with the Confirmation Kick-off Event following the 10:30 am worship service. At this time we will meet as a group to overview the program, complete forms and sign up for events for the coming year. This is a mandatory meeting for all who want to participate in the program. Both parents and confirmands are expected to attend. Our confirmation program is open to all youth in grades 7-9 and pre-confirmation is offered for 6th graders. For more info, please talk to Pastor Chris or see the church website.

Worship Service on Channel 16

The Sunday worship service will now be seen on River Falls public access channel 16 on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 pm, and Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Thanks very much to Jeff Hoffman who is leading the team to record the weekly worship service. He still is in need of a few more volunteers. Please contact him at jeffhoffman312@gmail.com or his home phone 715-425-5633.

I Want to Sing That! - Have a favorite old or new hymn? A favorite song that would be wonderful for worship? Pastor Chris is looking for your input in helping to choose music during the summer months. Please put your suggestions on the sheet on the sign-up table.

Yoga Classes—Yoga classes are led by Jan Hansen and are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-10:00 am. Men and women, experienced or inexperienced—all are welcome to participate. We meet in the downstairs Sunday School area. Bring a yoga mat and a large towel. Come and enjoy!!

Life in Transition

Imagine taking all the stuff in your house and packing it into half the space. Basically that is the situation with our church building for the next few months. Some of the changes you will notice are:

- The only access to the church building is through the Elm Street doors
- The lift and ramp are inaccessible until the new elevator is installed
- Offices are now downstairs in the Sunday School rooms
- The nursery is downstairs in the Blue Room
- Coffee Fellowship will be either outside in nice weather or downstairs
- All lower level bathrooms are open
- Church doors are locked when the church office is not open (note this includes weekends. If you need to get into the building during non-business hours, please contact a staff member ahead of time.)

If you haven't checked out the new offices or progress on the building site, do so soon!



Summer Flowers for the Altar Table

In the summer months flowers are everywhere—in our gardens, at the farmers market, everywhere. It seems a shame to waste this beauty. During the summer months of June, July and August, please consider sharing your flowers with others at church. On Sunday morning simply bring a small or large bouquet of flowers and place them on the altar table or on communion Sundays, on one of the side tables. If you wish to take them home after worship, wonderful. If you want Pastor Chris and Lu to bring them to a shut-in who may appreciate them, simply let them know after worship. What a great way to share God's beauty!

Thank you for bringing in your flowers! Keep them coming!

Summer Family Activity

Summer is a time of fruits, vegetables and gardens. As you pick berries or apples, harvest flowers or garden vegetables, consider sharing some of your bounty. Talk to Lu in the church office for the names and addresses of people in the congregation who might appreciate a quick visit with some produce or flowers. This makes an excellent family activity benefiting the whole community.

Our Neighbors' Place Summer Renovations

Handy men and women (18 yrs or older) are needed this summer to help with renovations to the new Emergency Shelter on Cedar Street. Work party hours are Wednesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 pm. See the sign up sheet at church or the following ONP website for more info. Required Waiver/Contact paperwork is available in the church office or online at www.ourneighborsplace.org

Thanks to all who have been helping with this!



Summer Church Work Camp

(JUST A MONTH AWAY) - We will once again participate at Moon Beach for Adopt-A-Cabin during the week **August 21-27**; some people stay for half the

week and some for the whole week. There is still room for more participants. Please check out the sign-up sheet in the back and sign up if you are interested.

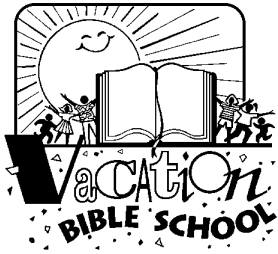


Summer Schedule

The summer worship has begun with one worship service at 9:30 am.

The church office hours between Memorial Day & Labor Day are:

Monday-Thursday	8:30 am-4:30 pm
Friday	9:00 am-Noon



Vacation Bible School

I consider Vacation Bible School to be one of the most important events of the year. VBS and the summer musicals are important because they are the only times when we have consecutive days with students. Consecutive sessions allow us to: lay a foundation for learning and then build on those ideas and experiences; engage in large, time-consuming art projects; explore and make music; and establish and nurture relationships.

The theme for our August VBS program is: “Under Construction: Building Christ’s Church.” Church construction projects don’t happen every year; we need to take advantage of the theme while we have the chance! Students will study the growth and mission of the church, starting with the days of Paul through today in River Falls. We will study church architecture and consider how it reflects the values and resources of the worshippers. Jane Wakefield is undertaking a large stained-glass project with the children. Under Jane’s accomplished guidance the children will make a stained-glass piece for our new building.

Often we think of the benefits of VBS focusing on the children. VBS is also a significant opportunity to build community among people of all ages in the congregation. The life of our congregation is strengthened when we come together for a shared purpose.

Due to the fact that our classrooms are not in tip-top condition at this time (we are in the “things-get-worse-before-getting-better stage”) we will move our whole VBS program to the United Methodist Church this summer. The program will remain as it has been in the past, only the place will change. We will need many adults to make sure our programming stays as we expect it to be. If you have never volunteered, please consider doing so. It is important and fun.

Many students and adults have signed up to participate in VBS. If you (children AND adults) have not already registered, please do so. The community needs you. VBS runs August 1–4, 9:00–11:30 am. Please contact me with any questions.

Stacy Johnson Myers, Minister of Christian Education



Cookie Bakers Needed

We need volunteers to make cookies for VBS snacks. If you are willing to make cookies for hungry VBS students, please volunteer to bring 4 dozen cookies on one of the days of VBS, August 1–4.

Please call the church office to volunteer.

VBS Dinner

The VBS week will end with supper and a presentation of the week’s activities on **Thursday, August 4, starting at 5:30 pm**. Please come for the festivities. Coming to the VBS program is a great way to support the kids of the congregation. Please call the church office to make a reservation or sign the reservation list.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

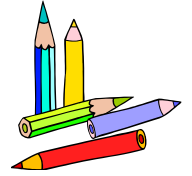
Even as we enjoy the summer it is time to begin preparing for Fall. We are in need of Sunday School teachers. Please volunteer by signing the list on the sign-up table. All classes are team-taught. For more information, please contact Stacy Myers.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES NEEDED

For Tuesday Banquet's

SCHOOL SUPPLY NIGHT Tuesday, August 9



All School Supplies Needed!! We are in Particular Need of:
Back Packs, Markers, Flash Drives, Calculators, Colored Pencils,
Dry Eraser Markers, Plastic Folders, Glue Sticks



Please no loose-leaf paper, 24-box of crayons, nor bottled glue



**PLEASE HAVE ITEMS HERE BY MONDAY,
AUGUST 8, AT NOON**

Sunday Needs

Coffee Fellowship Hosts for: August 28

Liturgists for: August 7, 14, 21, 28

Welcomers for: August 7, 14, 21, 28

The sign-up sheets are on the back table at the church. Thank you for your help!

Please also see the sign-up on the bulletin board for Altar Flowers.



Softball Update

We would love to have you join us for the remaining games:

Aug 1st @ Hoffman Park @6:30 PM

Aug 8th @ Hoffman Park @9:00 PM

Questions about the team or upcoming games contact: Josh Krueger @715-222-9243 or Deb Hoffman @ 715-425-5633. Way to go team and let's keep having fun and providing awesome fellowship. Thanks to all our devoted fans and we look forward to seeing you on Monday!

Home at Last!

Barb and Gus De Souza are finally back in the States. After nearly 30 years in Brazil as a healthcare missionary in the shantytowns of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janerio, and after many months of immigration hassles, Barb and Gus have arrived at their new home in Thomasville, NC. Located near one of her daughters, their new home is located in a UCC retirement village in the North Carolina mountains. Barb, Gus and their three dogs are well and surprised by all the calm and quiet of their new home.

Welcome home Barb and Gus! Their new contact info is:

400 Frank Circle
Piedmont Crossing
Thomasville, NC 27360
713-540-3707



The Church and the Phillipps family wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the men and women who helped serve and clean up during Bob Phillipps' funeral.

Thank you to Marc Otto and JoAnn Mathews who helped trim the honeysuckle hedge last week and for helping to trim many other shrubs this week along with Wendy Hill and Cindy Peterson. ~Lu

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

STAFF



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

Office Phone: 715-425-2052
 Office E-mail: office@firstchurchrf.org
 Website: www.firstchurchrf.org

PASTOR'S HOME PHONE NUMBER

Chris Myers 715-426-2075
 chris@firstchurchrf.org

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

110 N. Third Street
 River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

STANDARD PRESORT
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #53
 RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

August 1, 2011



2011 AUGUST 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Vacation Bible School 9:00-11:30 am (meets at UMC)	2 Yoga 9-10:00 am	3	4 Yoga 9-10:00 am → VBS Meal and Program 5:30 pm (at UMC)	5	6
7 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	8 Mission Education Meeting 6:30 pm	9 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's - School Supply Give-Away	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 Yoga 9-10:00 am	12	13
14 Sounds of Summer— Cedar Valley Brass 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	15	16 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 3rd Tuesday 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards & Committees Meetings 6:30 pm NO Church Council	17	18 Yoga 9-10:00 am Church Directory Meeting 7:00 pm	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	22 Adopt-A-Cabin Work Week	23 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	24	25 Yoga 9-10:00 am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27 →
28 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	29	30 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am	31			