



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 15, 2011

Pastor's Corner

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Soon after I moved to River Falls I received a very, very bad haircut. It was uneven in the front with long strands sticking out of the back. It looked bad. So bad that one of you suggested I see their hairdresser. I did. She quickly fixed my bad haircut and has been cutting it for years now. Now I am a convert and recommend her to many people.

Our church is full of evangelists, people who spread good news. Listen to conversations before and after worship, over coffee fellowship, outside after a meeting and people will freely share their opinions about movies, local businesses, doctors, you name it. We talk about diets, exercise routines and books that have helped change us, made us better people.

Yet most of us don't think of ourselves as evangelists. For too many, the word conjures up negative images of intolerance. Jesus though, had it at the top of his 'to do' list for us: God therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 29:19). He doesn't use the e-word, but he clearly expects us to do more than update our Facebook status.

Evangelism hinges on good news and it need not be as onerous as we make think. The key is to remember two things.

First, the only story you are required to share is your own. This is the only story you can share. You don't have to criticize other people, churches or faith groups, just tell your faith story with passion and integrity.

The second thing to remember is that Christian evangelism is rooted in real life experience. Be authentic. Be you. You don't need to be an expert in the Bible or religion. An evangelist is anyone who is willing to give a specific answer to the question: How has Jesus Christ changed your life?

Peace, Pastor Chris

Construction Update



That is the door to the downstairs kitchen!!



Fun Construction Facts

35,977 Board Feet of Dimension Lumber
3,860 Board Feet of Manufactured LVL Lumber
14,144 Square Feet of Roof Sheathing
10,016 Square Feet of Wall Sheathing

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.

Capital Campaign Update on Stock Transfers

The Capital Campaign is thankful to those that have made or are anticipating making stock transfers to the church.

If you have made a transfer or are in the process of one, the committee asks that you notify Larry Bauer (bauerld@comcast.net or 715-386-9603) of the transfer when it is made so that the funds are properly acknowledged and transacted to the Building Fund in a timely matter. The Capital Campaign thanks all of those who have made these gifts to the Church's Building Fund.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for July and YTD:

	<u>July</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>
Income	\$ 16,250.50	\$ 199,655.77
Expenses	\$ 22,960.82	\$ 201,025.23
Net	\$ -6,710.32	\$ -1,369.46

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

PHOTO DIRECTORY

We will have our initial meeting with our photographers on Thursday, August 18, so stay tuned for further info and instruction on this much needed tool for the congregation.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 11

9:00 am Early Worship with Choir

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Late Worship with Choir and Sunday School

11:30 am Confirmation Kick-Off Event (Grades 6 through 9)

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.

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!

Moderators Notes

“One Story Told Many Ways.” This was the theme of our Wisconsin Conference’s annual meeting held at the Green Lake Conference Center in early June. It was an inspirational and informational three days. Rev. Stacy (with Pastor Chris’ able technical assistance) lead a workshop on “The Story in Pictures,” featuring our beautiful Biblical pictorial timeline. Carol Merriman continues her dedicated service on the conference Board of Directors after serving as the Board’s Vice Chair in 2010-2011. I attended sessions on social justice issues, technology resources, and got “up to speed” on the reorganization efforts that are making the conference more adaptive to our 21st century congregations and financial challenges.

The resources, information and networking all were very valuable. But the ultimate “take away”—expanding on the conference theme—was the reminder that “God’s story is potent with the power to change lives. . . . Like God, the story is not static. Because each generation ‘makes this faith it’s own,’ God’s story moves across time and space with endless possibilities for building lives and communities, then reshaping to accommodate new people and new communities in every shape, color and size.”

In fellowship, Suzanne Hagen, Moderator

Building Our Future

Have you had a chance to marvel at the new addition? Isn't it grand?? Just think, Thanksgiving dinner in the new Fellowship Hall!!! The Capital Campaign Committee wishes to thank all of you for your commitments to make our future bright!! If you haven't had a chance to pledge, it's not too late! Just contact Missy in the church office and she would be happy to give you more information and a pledge form. Please make sure that all pledges and donations for the Building Fund are appropriately marked for our record keeping.

The Committee thanks all of you – we couldn't make this happen without you!

Wednesday School Begins

Wednesday School begins on **October 5, 2011**, for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. All children must register and return a permission form. Registration materials will be sent to all families. Forms are also available online at First Congregational’s website (see front page).

St. Paul Saints Baseball Game Recap

This year at the Saints game we heard a new phrase a lot....I mean A LOT! Cookies... ‘get your fresh chocolate chip cookies’ yelled by a youth selling chocolate chip cookies! There are some phrases we don't want to hear for awhile, right Chris and Tim?! Tim Bylander was noted by the Saints organization for being the Blood Donor for the game and Andy Myer got a foul ball. It was a fun game with a come-from-behind win in the ninth inning. The 20 participants had a great time and were pleased there were no weather issues as in past years. Thanks to all who attended this year's Saints game and see next year.



Summer Church Work Camp

We will once again participate at Moon Beach for Adopt-A-Cabin during the week **August 21-27**.

There is still room if you wish to participate.

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

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
- Both 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!



Some days we have a lot of noise and some days we have to work around obstacles....

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 Janeiro, 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



Remembered in Prayer...

Please remember the Larsen family as they mourn the loss of Bill Larsen, the Carrison family as they mourn the loss of Roseann, and the Stokke family as they mourn the loss of Paul.

VERY Enthusiastic Thanks...

Many, many people volunteered to help with VBS. The congregations needs to give an enthusiastic word of thanks to the following wonderful workers who gave of their time, energy, and creativity: Lisa Allen, Megan Allen, Nicole Allen, Laura Anderson, Sam Anderson, George Beatty, Susan Beatty, Rene Bylander, Tim Bylander, Diane Clark, Allison Conley, Evan Ellis, Hannah Ellis, Danni Filkins, Cindy Gandrud, Stefani Gerczak, Suzanne Hagen, Wendy Hill. Glenn Kees, Midge Kees, Peggy Krasin, Andy Krueger, Christina Krueger, Katie Krueger, Alyssa Larsen, Ethan Larsen, Tanya Larsen, Carol Merriman, Mackenzie Merriman, Bob Miller, Andy Myers, Ann Nelson, Natalie Nelson, Sam Nelson, Becky Pajac, Judith Permann, Annette Peterson, Bailey Plackner, Lisa Plackner, Reid Plackner, Jennie Price, Zack Price, Karmin Richter, Ruth Reilly, Elizabeth Rodewald, Karen Rodewald, Rose Rude, Catherine Schmahl, Jen Selleck, Alaina Syverson, Martha TerMaat, Anne Tuveson, Jane Wakefield, Rachael Wakefield, Spencer Wakefield.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

It is time to gather Sunday School teachers for the 2011-2012 year. Please consider

volunteering. All classes are team-taught, so teachers do not have to teach every week. Sunday School is a very important ministry of the church. It is critically important that we have many volunteers. To volunteer, you may sign the list or call the church office.

Wednesday School Workers Needed

The Wednesday School program is in need of volunteers. We need people to:

- Pick up children at the elementary schools and bring them to church at 3:30
- Provide snacks on a rotating basis
- Assist in leading activities on Wednesday afternoons.

Wednesday School is a well-attended program. It requires many people willing to help. For more information, please contact Stacy Myers.

Rally Day – Sunday School and the Adult Forum resume on Rally Day, September 11, 2011. All children, starting at the age of 3 years, are most welcome. All adults are welcome and encouraged to attend the Adult Forum at 9:00 am.

School Supply Night Update

Thanks to all the members who contributed to the School Supply Night that was held on Tuesday, August 9. We served 212 students (a 10% increase from last year). We thought we had plenty of supplies for the kids but we ran out of many items. Because some students were honest and said they didn't need new backpacks, we gave out 205 of the 212 donated. We fell short by 6 of scientific calculators (48 were given out). The 218 boxes of colored pencils were 11 short of what was needed. We had 64 flash drives and that was 12 short of what was needed. Two hundred forty boxes of markers were given out. This gives you an idea of the amount of supplies that are needed to stage this event. For the first time in history we ran out of folders and notebooks.

A special thank you to those that helped with sorting on Monday and distributing on Tuesday: Rene Bylander, Bob Johnson, JoAnn Lentz, Carole Mottaz, Lisa Plackner, Dorothy Sorenson, Peg Steinmetz, Michele Thurston, Samantha Thurston, and Polly Wymer.

Without the strong support from this church, this project would not be possible. I am so grateful for your donations of supplies, cash, and time. I would ask for your help again this fall that when backpacks go on clearance you might consider buying one or two. We will be glad to store them until next summer. With deep gratitude, Bob Gustafson, School Supply Coordinator

**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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**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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 15, 2011



2011 AUGUST 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 CE Meeting 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 CE Meeting 6:30 pm	24 Adult Forum Committee Meeting 9:00 am	25 Yoga 9-10:00 am	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			

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!!