



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
JULY 1, 2011

Pastor's Corner Summer Books

Summer is a good time to read a good book.
Here are some of my recent finds. Happy reading!

The Invisible Bridge by Julie Orringer

Truly one of the most engaging books I have ever read. The story follows a Hungarian Jewish family from the 1930's all the way to the present. The characters are remarkable. You won't be able to put this down. And, despite what you may think as you read it, there is a happy ending.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

A fictional look at the relationship between white women and their maids in the South during the 1960's. If it sounds dull, it definitely is not. Engaging with wonderful character development.

I Shall Not Hate by Izzeldin Abuelaish

The true story of a famous Palestinian doctor living in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Egypt. During the most recent violence, three of his children are killed by the Israeli Defense Force. The book chronicles his life and his struggle not to hate those who killed his children.

Love Wins: A Book about Heaven, Hell and the Fate of Every Person Who Ever Lived by Rob Bell

Rob Bell is a young evangelical pastor who preaches the love of Jesus with a clear passion and openness that many UCC-ers will appreciate. I am planning on doing a three-part study of this book in the fall. Great, easy read.

Pastor Chris

Construction Update

Demolition and excavation are now complete. Currently, workers are setting the footings in preparation for pouring the foundation.



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.



Teachers and Volunteers

Please consider volunteering to help with VBS. Yes, it is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun. VBS is held August 1– 4, 9:00 to 11:30 am. To volunteer, please sign the list or call the church office. This is one of the congregation’s most important programs and help is absolutely critical.

TREASURER’S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for May and YTD:

	May	2011 YTD
Income	\$ 21,632.75	\$ 138,194.37
Expenses	\$ 26,441.22	\$ 136,407.06
Net	\$ -4,808.47	\$ 1,787.31

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

Sounds of Summer

July 17 – Jay Beech (contemporary)
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 significantly behind in our General Fund giving. If you are behind in your pledging, please make an effort to catch up. Even if you are at the cabin, church bills and ministry needs continue. Please also consider giving above and beyond your current pledge. Thank you.



Summer Special Music

Interested in doing special music over the summer? Sign up outside of Scott’s office on the bulletin board. Ask Scott Perau for more details.

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!!

Next Key Building Date—July 5

The next big building date in the construction/renovation project is Tuesday, July 5. On this day, the Christian Education Wing (upper and lower) will be closed. This means:

- * All items from the CE wing must be moved (Fellowship Hall downstairs and all upstairs classrooms, offices, the nursery, upper kitchen and coat closet)
- * Church offices move temporarily downstairs.
- * Nursery will be moved to Blue Room.
- * The church kitchen and lower bathrooms will remain open.
- * Coffee Fellowship will be served downstairs in the Gathering Area.
- * No lift or elevator access to lower level.
- * The only access to the church will be through the Elm Street Sanctuary doors.
- * Church doors will be locked when the church office is not open (note this includes the weekends. If you need to get in the building during non-business hours, please contact a staff member ahead of time)

THANK YOU for your patience during the construction/renovation project!



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!

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.

Simpson Shelter Meal—The Mission Education Committee recently planned, prepared, and served an evening meal to approximately one hundred guests at the Simpson Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis. Chicken Alfredo was the main course along with a fruited lettuce salad, green beans almandine, garlic bread, and peach dessert. We received many wonderful comments on the quality of the food. The guests are so appreciative of these meals and convey that repeatedly to the servers.

Helping prepare the meals here in River Falls were Audrey Alton, Bob Gustafson, Wendy Hill, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn, Virginia Larson, Cheryl Lentz, JoAnn Lentz, Barb Mahoney, Judith Permann, Lois Smith, and Dorothy Sorenson. Servers at the Simpson Shelter were Ray Anderson, Lou Greub, Bob Gustafson, Deb Hoffman, Kate and Ross Jennings, Bonnie Jones-Witthuhn, Deb and Sam Quist, Darla Roeker, and Barb Wall. Thank you to the Endowment Grant Committee for the funds to sponsor these dinners.



Summer Church Work Camp (NOT

JUST FOR ADULTS) - 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

Summer Programming for Kids

The musicals and VBS for the summer of 2011 will be here before we know it. Please register for the programs. They are well-run, creative, valuable experiences for kids. Please invite neighbors and friends to participate. Brochures are available. The sessions are:

Day in the City, completed grades 6 – 12

July 6, 2011, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Explore life in the big city.

Vacation Bible School, age 3 – completed grade 5

August 1 – 4, 2011, 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Just in time for a summer of actual construction on our church building, the VBS theme will be—“Under Construction: Building Christ’s Church.” Watch for hard hats and orange pylons!

Gospel Choir Tour to Germany

Do you want to: Sing gospel music? Travel to Germany? Enjoy choir fellowship? Then join the Wisconsin Conference Gospel Choir Tour to Germany in August of 2012. From August 7-22, The Gospellers, a gospel choir made up of singers from UCC churches across Wisconsin, will travel to the Berlin-Brandenburg area of Germany for a tour.

To prepare we will: 1) attend two overnight retreats at Pilgrim Center in Green Lake; 2) rehearse once a month from October through June in venues across the state (twice in Tomah and Stevens Point, twice in a location nearer to your home); 3) sing at the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Conference (tentative).

In Germany we will: 1) stay in homes; 2) perform 8-10 times; 3) sing with German gospel choirs; 4) tour cultural and historical sites.

Cost is \$2950. Two-thirds of the spots have been filled for this tour. Sign up soon.

For information see your pastor, click on “German Gospel Tour” under “Events” on the homepage of the Wisconsin Conference website (wcucc.org) or contact Fritz West - 651-433-4058 - fritzwest@frontiernet.net



Church Softball

There it goes...another home run. Not just one, but in the last two weeks, Greg Cheever, Josh Hudson, and Mike Schorn have all hit home runs!! I'm happy to hit the ball between the left and center field outfielders. We've also had some awesome playing by the rest of the team giving us a team record of 4:2. We've had many laughs and fun comments throughout the games. Please come watch the team play. Questions about the team or upcoming games contact: Josh Krueger @ 715-222-9243 or Deb Hoffman @ 425-5633. Also, there are schedules in the back of the church. 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 on Monday!

July 4	off		
July 11	7:45 pm	Hoffman #2	Hope Lutheran
July 18	6:30 pm	Hoffman #2	Faith Community
July 25	7:45 pm	PR's Place	Abundant Life
August 1	6:30 pm	Hoffman #2	Servant of the Shepherd
August 8	9:00 pm	Hoffman #1	St. Bridget's

Tournaments: To be determined at the end of the season

St. Paul Saints Baseball Game

It's that time of the year again when we hear...Peanuts, Popcorn, Cold Pop, Train... and look at that Pig! It's the calls heard at the St. Paul Saints baseball game. We are planning our annual Saints game outing on **July 26 at 7:05 pm**. The Saints are playing the Kansas City T-Bones and the theme for the night is Viva Los Santos. Cost of the tickets is \$12.00 for adults and \$11.00 for children. Our tickets are in section G, located between home plate and first base. We will take the van and leave the church at 5:30 pm. More details will be given to the participants.

I have a limited number of tickets reserved so the sooner you contact me the better. Please contact Deb Hoffman @ (715)425-5633. Come join in the fun!

Moderator's Notes

"Mult-tasking" is a common descriptor these days for many of us. Our church multi-tasks, too. It's particularly apparent as we watch our building project begin, enjoy our summer musicals, work on service projects, prepare for Vacation Bible School, and – very importantly – pray, reflect and worship on Sunday mornings. As our work goes on through this year, knowing the goals and priorities of our key committees is valuable to us all. They are printed below.

Amidst all the activity, I wish you time to rest, restore and pause in gratitude for the earth's beauty and our congregation's faithful work—Suzanne Hagen

Committee Goals – 2011

Church Council:

1. Provide leadership and support to the building and finance committees
2. Intentionally grow the church by 15 families.
3. Design a visioning and goal setting process and a committee/officer appointment schedule to enhance church leadership

Christian Education:

1. Children's Music and Worship Participation – consider additional ways to involve children in music and in worship
2. Bible 101 – schedule another presentation during the year
3. Timeline Book – Explore ways of creating a "booklet" related to the pictorial timeline images
4. Children's Art Gallery Space – identify space in the new building
5. Sunday morning worship schedule – continue conversation regarding an optimal Sunday morning schedule that provides adequate time for worship and education for all members. This includes linking "all Worship Sundays" with the adult forum

Trustees:

1. Continue to keep congregation apprised of the operating budget
2. Balance 2011 budget
3. Have a CPA audit our financials
4. Coordinate existing facility – maintenance/restoration with the new building plans
5. Open communication with finance and building committee

Deacons:

1. Review and establish usher and communication schedule
2. Plan and host Confirmation Banquet 2011
3. Assist and support Inquirer's Classes
4. Update visitation list and responsibilities
5. Write an Endowment Grant Request for Open House Celebration

Music Committee:

1. Recognizing that the current pipe organ has structural issues that at times prevent it from functioning at its best level, the committee will work to keep the organ at a functional level without major expenditures.
2. Continue to "grow" Chancel Choir so it is possible to have 25 choir members singing each time the choir sings for services.
3. The committee will continue to support efforts to provide music participation experiences for the youth/children of the church.
4. The committee will work with the Music Coordinator in an effort to develop alternative music as part of worship services.
5. In an effort to include middle and high school students in the music programs of the church, the committee will support the Music Coordinator in efforts to collaborate with these young people.
6. The committee will seek to share input with the Worship Committee, recognizing that music is an important part of worship.

Discipleship Committee:

1. Develop a new communication campaign and collateral materials that increase both the number of pledges and the amount per pledge.
2. Continue to promote e-giving and explore a web based system for increasing participation and possible linkage with the Capital Campaign pledges/payments.
3. Identify and utilize a more effective way of communicating Congregational financial progress than the one we currently use.
4. Continue to manage Discipleship Campaign in concert with the Capital Campaign.

**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
 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

July 1, 2011

2011 JULY 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	4 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am	6 Youth Day in the City 9:00 am-5:00 pm	7 Yoga 9-10:00 am	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 Mission Education Meeting 6:30 pm	12 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	13	14 Yoga 9-10:00 am	15	16
17 Sounds of Summer—Jay Beech 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	18	19 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 Church Council 7:30 pm	20	21 Yoga 9-10:00 am	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Saints Game-Leave at 5:30 pm-Game at 7:05 pm	27	28 Yoga 9-10:00 am VBS Teacher & Helper Meeting 6:30 pm	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast						

Dear First Congregational UCC Scholarship Committee, Thank you for your generous gift. I have always been grateful for the friendship and support of the church and its members, and I know the money you gave me will be put to good use paying for my education. Sincerely, Ross Jennings

Dear Scholarship Committee, I just want to send a little card saying thank you so much for the fuzzy red blanket and for the nice service and cake reception. I also really appreciate having the opportunity for receiving the scholarship! Thanks again, Megan Larson