



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 15, 2011

Pastor's Corner

Day in the City

Each summer I try to take one day and expose our middle and senior high youth to life in the Twin Cities. As different as it may look, sound and even smell, the people who live in the Cities are just like us. They have jobs. Are trying to raise their kids as best they can. Grumble about the traffic. And worry about the future. Day in the City is always one of the highlights of my summer.

This year's Day in the City led us to St Paul, though we had some last minute changes due to the government shutdown in Minnesota. We started out visiting the St Paul Cathedral and learning more about religious art and architecture. Next we headed to Minnehaha Falls (just across the border in Minneapolis) to see the falls. We rented bikes and saw the oldest house east of the Mississippi River. For lunch we visited the Midtown Global Market where we found every type of food imaginable and some we had no idea even existed (curried goat!). With full bellies, we toured United Seminary, the UCC related seminary. We marveled at their beautiful new chapel with a glass ceiling. We ended the day at Como Park with a ride on the bumper cars at Comotown, a visit through the Japanese Garden, Conservatory and Zoo. It was a great day. Thanks to Barb Peterson



for helping to chaperone. Next summer we head back to Minneapolis to explore the Mill City Museum, ride the train and visit the downtown farmers market.
Pastor Chris

Construction Update

These photos show the pre-cast floor plank being set in place. The plank will be grouted in on 7/12/11 and we intend to pour the pre-cast topping on 7/13/11. Lower level plumbing rough-in will begin on 7/13/11 and the lower level concrete floor will be poured early next week. Rough carpentry framing will also begin early next week.



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 NOTES		
Missy Luedtke		
Financial Information for June and YTD:		
	June	2011 YTD
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

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? Please email Scott Perau at sperau@gmail.com.

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 11

The next big building date in the construction/renovation project is July 11. 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.

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



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.

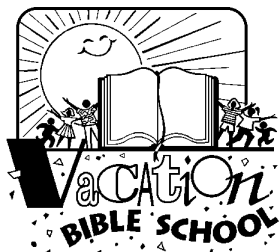


Summer Schedule

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

Please Save Plastic Bags

Please save plastic grocery bags for an upcoming VBS project. Please bring empty, clean bags to church. We will save plastic bags only through the end of July.

VBS Paint and Work Night

We have six sets of backdrops to paint in preparation for VBS. Because we have limited space this year, we will need to get the painting done in record time. There will be a work night for painters (and tracers, cutters, name-tag makers) on **Tuesday, July 19, at 6:30 pm**. Please come!! The sign-up sheet is on the registration table.

VBS Teachers’ Meeting

All VBS teachers and helpers are asked to gather on **Thursday, July 28 at 6:30 pm** for a teachers’ meeting.

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.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A sincere and hearty thanks to all who have helped move items as part of the church construction project.

- The CE and Music Committees
- The office staff
- Alex Solberg and friends, Bill Hennis, Andy, Matt and Katy Myers, Hunter Ohlsen, Matt Bylander, Kenzie Merriman
- And HUGE thanks to Tim Bylander and Dave Mountain who have worked many hours

Thank you all!!

General Synod

I was selected to represent the Northwest Association as a delegate to General Synod 28 this past July 1-5. General Synod meets every two years to conduct business of the national office of the UCC. During the business portion much was decided including passing a budget, agreeing to continue Synod every two years, to change the structure by downsizing the committees. To elect Rev. J. Bennett Guess to Officer of the UCC and Executive Minister for Local Church Ministries, Mr. Mark Clark to Assoc. General Minister of UCC; the Rev. James Moos to Officer of the UCC and Executive Minister for Wider Church Ministries. Vacancies to the committees were also elected for which I have been elected to the Board of Wider Church Ministries. I am very honored and humbled by this, and hope I can bring my passion for mission to the table to continue the UCC's great work in this area. We also discussed and voted to approve twelve resolutions, which all can be found on the website (UCC.org). Besides the business portion there was time to worship, meet new friends and see old. This is a very inspiring gathering and I would suggest anyone/everyone to look into and consider attending General Synod 29 in California in 2013. If you have any questions or would like more info please contact me. ~Carol Merriman



Softball Update

We almost did it! Did what? Beat the top team in our division. We were so close until the 7th inning and then they pulled ahead to beat us 7:3. Our record is now 4:3. We would love to have you join us for the remaining games: The games are:

- July 18th @ Hoffman Park @ 6:30
- July 25th @ PR's Place @ 7:45 PM
- Aug 1st @ Hoffman Park @6:30 PM
- Aug 8th @ Hoffman Park @9:00 PM

Please come watch and cheer our team on! Questions about the team or upcoming games contact: Josh Krueger @715-222-9243 or Deb Hoffman @ 715-425-5633. 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 you on Monday!

Respectfully submitted, Deb Hoffman

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 26th @ 7:05 p.m. The Saints are playing the Kansas City T-Bones and 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 @ 5:30 p.m. More details will be given to the participants. I have limited number of tickets reserved so the sooner you contact me the better. Interested in attending the Saints game, please contact Deb Hoffman @ (715) 425-5633. Come join in the fun!

Finance Committee/Capital Campaign Update

I take my cue from Pastor Chris.....

Welcome...a word that we use often. It is a word that is a part of biblical stories. A word we use to give a feeling of comfort to others who join us. A word that can do wonders to those that need a pick me up. A simple word that can mean so much.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome any of those that have not yet joined the congregation in the building of our future. We welcome all in this most exciting time for our congregation. We welcome all to be a part of the renovation and addition.

If you have not had an opportunity yet to make a pledge to the Capital Campaign or you would like to make an additional pledge, we welcome you. This is an opportunity that will build the church from the foundation up – literally!

We welcome inquiries or questions. You can contact Larry Bauer, Missy in the church office or myself.

Cheryl Lentz
Finance Committee Chair
425-6652 after 4pm

Larry Bauer
bauerld@comcast.net

Missy Luedtke
Church Office
425-2052

Out with the old...



In with the new!



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.

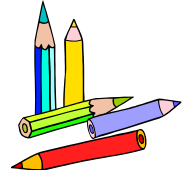
Cost is \$2950. Two-thirds of the spots have been filled for this tour. Sign up soon. For information see your pastor, click on "German Gospel Tour" under "Events" on the homepage of the Wisconsin Conference website (wcucc.org) or contact Fritz West - 651-433-4058 - fritzwest@frontiernet.net



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: July 24; 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.

Volunteers Needed

Interfaith Volunteers are needed to provide transportation in
or near River Falls for errands/shopping, assistance with
housekeeping and companionship for a man in his home,
companionship for a woman in her apartment, companionship
for a man living with his wife in their home, respite for families
in or near Hudson, and assistance with activities at the
Hudson adult day program as a sub on Mon. or Thursday.
For information on these opportunities contact Nancy at
715-381-4360 or email nancya@co.saint-croix.wi.us

Find Help and Healing for the Hurt of Separation and Divorce

DivorceCare is a 13-week, biblically-based support group seminar. Each session includes a 30-minute DVD video followed by small group discussion about the video. The format is set up so anyone can join at any time during the 13 weeks. The DivorceCare DVDs present experts, ministers, and Christian counselors discussing divorce-related issues such as depression, anger, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Real people share their stories of how they deal with the pain and heartbreak of divorce and separation.

Who: The group is for anyone recovering from separation or divorce. It is a non-denominational program open to everyone.

What: The program consists of 13 weekly sessions. Each session stands alone as a topic, so you can join at any time. After completing the program, participants are encouraged to repeat the program as needed or to come back for specific sessions.

When: Monday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Dates: The next group will run from August 1st through October 31st (There will NOT be a session on Labor Day, September 5th)

Where: St. Bridget Church, 211 E Division Street, River Falls

Cost: A one-time \$10 fee can be paid at the first meeting (fee will be waived if unable to pay). Childcare provided at no cost.

How do I join? Email Barb & Jerry Liddell at divorcecare.ic.stb@hotmail.com or call Fr Harris at 715-425-1879, ext 103

For more information: visit the DivorceCare website at www.divorcecare.org

**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

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PERMIT #53
 RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

July 15, 2011



2011 JULY 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 VBS Paint & Work Night 6:30 pm 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						



Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to participate in the Church Internship – it's great extra money to help pay for college tuition. Also, thanks for awarding me with a scholarship, it'll help out greatly this fall! Church will always be an important part of my life! Thanks again, Alison Conley