

"The Congregator"

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

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

Rev. Chris Myers: chris@firstchurchrf.org - Office email: office@firstchurchrf.org

JUNE 1, 2009

Please Register

The dates of the summer program have been advertised since January. It is now time to register! Registration materials have been sent to all families. They are also available online or call the church office.

The Musical Workshop: *The Troubbable of Zerubbabel*

June 19, 2009, 10:00 – 11:30 AM

June 22 – 25, 2009, 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Completed Grade 1 – Grade 8

A Day in the City with Pastor Chris

July 22, 2009, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Middle School and Senior High Students

VBS: *God's Amazing World*

August 3 – 6, 2009, 9:00 – 11:30 AM

Age 3 – Completed Grade 5

Feed My Starving Children

Our next outing for Feed My Starving Children is **Tuesday, June 16**. We are to be at the Eagan facility by 9:30 am so we will leave the church promptly at 8:30 am. There are 40 slots available to us and we would like to fill all of them. Children must be in at least third grade and workers are advised that they must wear closed-toe shoes.

The Missionary Education Committee is planning a picnic lunch in Eagan after the work shift. Committee will provide dessert and beverages. This is an optional ending activity for participants. Please sign up as soon as possible so that plans can be finalized for the day.

Also, consider helping to raise money for our group by purchasing an "M & M" container for \$1. We'd appreciate it if you would fill the containers with quarters or other monetary donations so that we may take them with us on the 16th. A filled container of quarters (\$14) provides the food products for one volunteer's packaging shift. And one person's two-hour shift basically provides food for one starving child for a year. ~Missionary Education Committee

Class of 2009

Graduation Worship



Awards will be presented in worship on **Graduation Sunday, June 7 at the 9:30 am service**. All graduating seniors should plan on being present and wear their gowns. Coffee Fellowship following the worship service will be in your honor.

Sabbatical Contact Information

While Pastor Chris is on sabbatical, please use these numbers in case of emergency. The church office (425-2052) should always be your first call as they will have a full list of who is doing what. Outside of office hours, please use the following contacts:

Pastoral emergencies: Lu Lueck
home 425-9413 - cell 715-781-0138

Building emergencies: Tim Bylander
home 425-7437 - cell 715-497-9188

Church office or program questions:
Missy Luedtke - cell 715-222-5427



More Workers Needed

Please volunteer to help during the week of Vacation Bible School, August 3–6, 9:00–11:30 am. We have a particular need for painters, teachers, and helpers. To volunteer, please sign the list or call the church office. For more information contact Stacy Myers. VBS is always a lot of work, but it is also always a lot of fun. Please join us!

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.



Moderator Notes Submitted by Jean Smith

With the summer months fast approaching I just wanted to let you know some of the things the Church Council has been doing. Discussion has taken place on developing a fellowship committee. We have also listened to the pros and cons of someday having a dedicated Sunday school hour. I also want to steer the committee into discussion on the possibility of a marketing brand for our church. All of these items are in various stages of progress and nothing has been decided on yet. Comments from members would be greatly appreciated and would be taken into consideration. As I stated in the beginning, summer is coming and so fewer meetings have been scheduled. With that being the case, Church Council will not meet until the third Tuesday in August unless there is something that needs immediate attention. If you should have something that needs to be addressed, please feel free to contact me at 715-531-1552 or at jsmithler@yahoo.com. Have a great summer and remember there still is the Sunday service with all kinds of exciting guest speakers and the Summer Sounds of Music.

One last thing: If you are gone for some of the summer months don't forget that you can sign up for e-giving so that the church bills can continue to be paid over these summer months. Just contact the church office for details and forms.

Thought: Gracious God, we thank you for all that we know, by our experience, of your love and power. Now enable us to share with those who may not understand, simply because they have never been told. Amen (from Kenneth L. Samuel on the UCC website)

Summer Time is Casual & Relaxing

Casual attire, happy relaxed companionship, the joys of our beautiful world in it's peak season... what better time than the summer to Bring a Friend to join you in worship? Well actually ANYTIME is the perfect time to do this, but here is the opportunity to provide an even more enriching worship experience during our special "Sounds of Summer" Sundays.

Open invitations will be available in the office and brochure display areas. They include the dates of our three upcoming guest musicians:

June 14 - River Falls Brass

July 19 - Jay Beach

Aug 9 - Peter Mayer

Please help yourself to as many invitations as you like, adding your own personal comment as you pass it along to a friend, neighbor, work associate, etc. We would love to have your friends experience worship time with us at First Congregational UCC.

Softball Season 2009



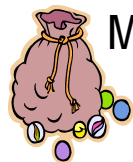
Our softball season has lots of potential. Our record so far is 1 tie, and 1 loss. The next two games are **Monday, June 1st @ 6:30 pm @ PR's Place** and **June 8th @ 8:15pm @ Hoffman Park #2**. Players—please try to show up a half hour early to warm up. We love our fans and appreciate your spirit as you watch our games. If you have questions, please call Jeff and Deb Hoffman @ 425-5633.

Endowment Grant Committee Update

The Endowment Grant Committee funded a request of \$2200 to the Music Committee for the purchase of a 3-Octave set of choir chimes for our church youth, entry-level handbell music and an additional initial salary of a youth bell director.

2008 Deficit Update

So far \$1,190.00 has been paid toward the \$2,324.79 deficit from 2008. If you would like to help pay off this debt, please be sure to write "2008 Deficit" on your check and/or envelope. Thank you!



Marble Mania—Want to experience fun and excitement during River Falls Days? Engage yourself either as a volunteer or a participant in Marble Mania. The Comma Club is sponsoring this event in conjunction with RF Days.

Marble Mania starts at 11:00 am on Friday, July 10, with marble instruction. Tom Fletcher, owner of Essence of Nonsense in St. Paul, will serve as our guide. From noon until 1:00 pm entrants will have an hour of practice time.

Starting at 1:00 pm a single-elimination tournament with age categories follows. Awards will be given to top finishers. This event is open to people from 7 to 107. For a \$2 entry fee, each participant will receive a take-home marble package as well as supporting the purchase of marbles for children in Barb de Souza's Brazilian mission project. Application forms are available in the church office or at firstchurchrf.org. **Fee must accompany application form. Volunteers are needed for the event.** Contact Bob Gustafson at 425-2516. We want this to be an intergenerational event so hone your marble skills and join the fun.

The Summer Program: An Expression of the Congregation's Baptismal Promises

At the time of baptism, parents and sponsors make many promises. These promises are made in the presence of God and the community of faith. Parents and sponsors promise to encourage their child to live in the way of Christ; they promise to be witnesses to the word and work of Jesus; they promise to help their child be a faithful member of the church; and they promise to teach their child the faith and tradition of the church.

These are gigantic promises, promises that are much larger than any parents or any sponsors can deliver themselves. This is precisely why baptism happens in the presence of the congregation and not in private. The congregation is there to support the promises of the parents and sponsors. This, too, is a gigantic commitment on the part of the congregation. It means that the congregation needs to provide worship, service, and educational opportunities for children as they grow up and for parents as they seek to bring up their children in the Christian faith.

The summer program is one of the most important ways we provide for the Christian education of our children. We have three different sessions, with three sets of goals. The June musical is targeted for children grades 1 – 8. This year the children will learn an obscure, but important story in Israel's history, the return from exile and the rebuilding of the temple. This could be rather dry material, but when the story is presented through song and great narrative, it becomes quite fun. In addition, the children learn to work together. They learn that they can do more together than they can individually.

In July, Pastor Chris will take a group of middle school and high school students to explore the city of Minneapolis. They will visit the Simpson Shelter, and learn about homelessness and the fact that people of faith have the responsibility to address society's ills. They will ride the Light Rail Train and marvel at the ingenuity of God's people. They will eat lunch at the Mid-Town Market and experience something of the diversity of the human family.

In August, we expect many children for VBS. The theme is "God's Amazing World." The children will learn about the creation, consider the importance of stewardship, develop and nurture relationships, use their voices, and lend their hands to many creative projects. This year the children will also explore how it is possible to be both people of faith and scientists. This is an important message the church must send to our children.

I cannot over-emphasize how important it is for children to participate in these programs. The summer program allows us time to develop themes and ideas and relationships that we do not have during Sunday School. Registration materials are available. Please register your children. It is important. Please extend an invitation to families outside our congregation so they feel welcome as well.

Stacy Johnson Myers, Christian Education Coordinator

Women's Fellowship

Jan Hansen and Cynthia McLagan will again be co-hosting our June meeting for Women's Fellowship. This will take place on **Thursday, June 4 at 9:30 am at the home of Jan Hansen, N7379 – 810th Street, River Falls.** This is a very pleasant gathering among the birds and flowers, and a lovely brunch is served. We invite all members and guests to attend this last meeting until fall. Stacy Johnson Myers will be talking about "*Jesus and the Christian Life.*" If you need directions or a ride, please contact the church office.



Just want to say "**Thank You**" to all my church family for all your prayers, visits and meals delivered to me during my recovery. Also a special thanks to Lu for all her support. I am progressing daily and hope to be back in the flock soon.
Sincerely, Virginia Hilden

Undies Sunday (and more) for Simpson Housing Service



On Sunday June 14, Julie Manworren, director of Simpson will be speaking at our church in the morning service. The Mission Education Committee invites you to take this opportunity to donate items that the shelter needs. The needs right now are:

- Men's underwear – any size briefs or boxers
- Deodorant – men's fragrances, any size
- Disposable razors
- White undershirts
- Shower shoes (flip flops)

Let's really show our ongoing support of the Simpson Shelter by filling our donation boxes to full and overflowing! Thanks for your help! Donations can be dropped off at the church anytime prior to June 14th.

Valley Fair—Come join us at Valley Fair on **Saturday, June 6th**. We plan to leave the church @ 9:00 am and return around 7:00 pm. The cost of the trip will be \$29 plus additional money for food. This will cover the entry fee and transportation to the park. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church. We are also asking for a permission note from the parent/guardian with an emergency number and any medical concerns. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Diana Villeneuve ((763)443-7035) and Deb Hoffman (425-5633).



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

STAFF



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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

110 N. Third Street
 River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 1, 2009

2009 JUNE 2009						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Building Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Softball at PR's Place 6:30 pm	2	3	4 Women's Fellowship at Jan Hansen's 9:30 am	5 Office Closed at Noon on Fridays Throughout the Summer	6 Youth Valley Fair Outing 9 am-7 pm
7 Graduation Sunday Communion Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	8 Softball at Hoffman Park #2 8:15 pm	9 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11	12 Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting →	13
14 Sounds of Summer 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	15 Softball	16 Feed My Starving Children Work Shift 9:30-11:30 am 3rd Tuesday Soup 'n Sandwich 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards and Committees Meetings 6:30 pm	17	18	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	22 Youth Musical 9:00-11:30 am Softball	23 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	24	25 Youth Musical Dinner and Performance 6:00 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	29 Softball	30				

Email Addresses Needed—By fall of 2009, we want to send out a weekly church email update. We need you to get your current email address to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for your help!