

“The Congregator”

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

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

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JUNE 1, 2010

Worship and Education: A Time of Transition

For several years the Board of Christian Education has advocated for a dedicated education hour in the Sunday morning schedule. The reason is two-fold: children need to be in worship and adults need to be in education. A dedicated education hour would also allow teachers to worship with their families, and both of us to teach and participate in worship. A dedicated education hour accompanying worship enables the congregation to take with utmost seriousness its two primary responsibilities: worship and education.

The Board of CE has gathered input regarding a possible adjustment to the Sunday morning schedule. We heard from people who are strongly supportive and we heard people who have reservations. In general the reservations focus on two worries: parents don't want children to have remembrances of being compelled to sit through a worship service that doesn't "speak" to them; and parents are concerned about enabling their children to be good worshippers and not distract either their parents or others. It is difficult to reconcile these two positions, but we and the Board of CE have worked hard to do so.

While the longer-term plan is to establish a dedicated education hour, we will work toward that goal with a time of transition. When Sunday School resumes in the fall, the Sunday morning schedule will remain as it has been. However, there will be changes that will help us address the concerns of parents. The changes will see include but are not limited to the following:

- Children will be invited to take more substantial role in worship. They will assist during communion by holding the basket for empty cups. Sunday School children will be prepared to lead the psalm refrain. Children will be greeters and will distribute children's bulletins.
- The Sunday School curriculum will include time to learn a repertoire of worship music. Children can participate more fully when music is familiar.
- Confirmation children will be invited to participate in more bell and choral groups.
- Everyone will be asked to remember that children make noise and wiggle. They also bring energy and vibrancy to worship that is missed when they are gone.

Worship will not be "dumbed down" to include children. The service will not be turned into "Children's Church." Rather we will emphasize that worship is not just for adults but a gift for children and adults alike. The constraints of the schedule make it difficult to expand education offerings for adults during this time of transition. That is unfortunate. All adults will continue to be invited and encouraged to attend the weekly Adult Forum. At the same time we are gathering topics and leaders who are interested in helping with adult education in the future.

We very strongly ask you to work with us during this time of transition. It is important to address fears about change, but it is equally important not to let fear limit the future. Worship and education are the center of our life together. We need to do justice to both of them for all the members of the congregation.

Chris Myers
Pastor

Stacy Johnson Myers
Minister of Christian Education

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.

Graduation Sunday, June 6

Please join in congratulating our high school graduates at the 9:30am summer worship service on Sunday, June 6. Scholarships will be awarded and a gift will be given to ALL our graduates. A cake in their honor will be served during the 10:30am coffee time following worship. Graduates please wear your robes and make sure you have given Lu in the church office your future plans.

MODERATOR NOTES Submitted by Jean Smith

Summer is fast approaching. Sunday school classes are finished until the fall. Many committees break for the summer. All of these things may make you think we take a break from church. However, there are a lot of things we can do to keep ourselves in touch with not only our church but with God's work. I know I have mentioned this before, but if you get the chance please visit the United Church of Christ website. It is www.ucc.org and has many things that are just wonderful to experience. Here are a few of the things you can find and sign up for.

- **Keeping you ePosted:** an e-zine of news, features, resources, worship materials and justice-action items that arrive in your e-mail inbox every Tuesday. www.ucc.org/keeping-you-eposted
- **Still Speaking Devotional:** Always relevant. Always concise. Inspired reading for your prayerful reflection. Subscribe at ucc.org
- **StillSpeaking Voices:** Wanted: People not afraid to express faith in a StillSpeaking God. Opt yourself in at www.ucc.org/voices
- **Faith Practices:** Available for ordering June 1st, a new downloadable series of curricula to inspire your faith journey. www.faithpractices.org

For those of you without computers, subscribe to the StillSpeaking Magazine. It is a wonderful source of information and has helpful hints on books, websites and all around good reading. Or you can try **The Pilgrim Press**, which has been igniting readers and leaders since 1640 for great reading material. Keep yourself grounded with regular visits to Sunday worship in the months ahead and have a wonderful summer.

Thought: The United Church of Christ's declaration that "God is still speaking" offers both a gift and a challenge. The gift is an understanding of God's word as still being revealed, not over-and-done; as alive, not rigid, and as less a book than an event. But there is also a challenge. If God is still speaking, are you, am I, are we, listening? (Written by Anthony B. Robinson from the StillSpeaking Magazine)

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for April and YTD:

	April	2010 YTD
Income	\$ 21,825.00	\$ 121,185.83
Expenses	\$ 29,667.29	\$ 115,114.17
Net	\$ -7,842.29	\$ 6,071.66

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



Teachers and Volunteers

We have many volunteers for VBS and yet we still need many more. Please consider volunteering.

VBS is held August 2-5, 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.

Del Permann Milestone

Already a contender in the category of 'most churches served AFTER retirement', pastor Del Permann will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination on June 12. Please be sure to congratulate him. Currently serving Roberts UCC as interim minister, Del has a standing Sunday morning commitment, so if you wish to relay your greetings on this ministry milestone, please send greetings to his home at: 123 N. Fourth Street, River Falls, WI. Congratulations Del! Who knew you had this much to say!!

Gift to the Wisconsin Conference

First Congregational presented the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC with a framed reproduction of "Noah and the Ark" from the pictorial timeline. The Rev. David Moyer sent a thank you note acknowledging the gift and said that it hangs just to the side of the doors to the worship and education space in the Frederick R. Trost Conference Center. Rev. Moyer wrote: "from the time it was first built the Conference Center has displayed beautiful pieces of art, at times even serving as a gallery for art shows." They appreciate having the addition to their collection.

SIMPSON SHELTER MEAL SERVED—YOUR HELP NEEDED

The Mission Education Committee has arranged for our church to serve an evening meal at the Simpson Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis on **Wednesday, June 16**. The men's and women's shelters have now been combined into one facility so meals need to be prepared for approximately 120 people. Our menu will feature Wisconsin specialties such as brats, potato salad, and strawberry shortcake.

The Roberts UCC congregation is interested in learning about the shelter so has volunteered to assist and we also have four young people from our church interested in helping that evening. There is however still the need for a few more volunteers. Please consider where you may help.

- 1. Meal Preparation:** - Tuesday June 15 @ 10 am (our church)
- **Eight volunteers required**
- 2. Meal Serving/Clean up:** - Wednesday June 16 @ 7-9 pm (Minneapolis)
- Departing River Falls @ 4 pm
- Returning @ 10 pm
- **Four adults volunteers required**
- 3. Toiletry/Personal items:** - This is a good time to fill up the Simpson Shelter Box with toiletries and personal items that we can take with us
- **Deadline Tuesday June 15 (box in church lobby)**

Please use sign-up sheets to assist us with this project. Thank you!

Women's Fellowship

Thursday, June 3, 2010 is the last meeting for Women's Fellowship before our summer hiatus. Please plan to come to brunch at Jan Hansen's lovely home situated among the trees and enjoy the beautiful view and singing birds.

Jan and Cynthia McLagan provide a delicious brunch; Marion Wolfe will lead our devotions. Our program presented by Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers is "*Women Who Followed Jesus*."

All women are welcome. Please contact the church office for maps and/or car pooling arrangements.

Country Fair

THANK YOU to everyone who made our 2010 Country Fair a success. The donations of linens, housewares, books, treasures, "man stuff", and especially the wonderful food that just appears each year – so many baked goods, pies, and food for the lunch sale.

We are so grateful for all the Department Chairs who just "take over" and run their departments without a hitch. Special thanks to those that donated their homemade soups, the wonderful kitchen and dining room crews, and the "rug ladies" – always a popular booth. The plant area was gorgeous, with all the donations also of perennials and house plants. Our craft booth was filled with wonderful, new things (especially the nail crosses from Bob Miller).

Without all of these donations, and many helpful hands – the sale would not be as successful. THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE!!



Vikings Game

Yes, we know we live in Packerland, but we are closer to the Metrodome. A trip to see the pre-season game between the Vikings and the Seahawks is planned. The date is **Saturday, August 28** and kick off is at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 each. Deadline for sign up and payment is June 20.

Summer Musical Auditions

That time of year is just around the corner again! We would love to have you audition for our summer musical: State Road 47. The auditions will take place **Wednesday, June 2nd at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary. All ages and experience levels are welcome. Also, all who audition will receive a part! See Scott for more details.



Summer Youth Dates

<i>Children's Musical: Rescue in the Night</i>	June 21-24, 9:00—11:30 am
<i>Youth Musical: Malice in the Palace</i>	June 21-24, 1:00—3:30 pm
<i>Youth Adventure: A Day in the City</i>	July 14, 9:00 am—5:00 pm
<i>Teens and Adults: Boundary Waters Trip</i>	July 26-29
<i>Vacation Bible School: Through the Roof!</i>	August 2-5, 9:00—11:30 am



Church Softball

Way to go team!!!! Our softball team has started the season off on the right foot with three wins and only one loss. If you have questions, please call Jeff Hoffman @425-5633.

Our schedule for the summer is:

June 7	No game – bye week		
June 14	Hope Lutheran	7:25 PM Hoffman Park	Field #1
June 21	The River	7:25 PM "	Field #1
June 28	Servant of the Shepherd	6:00 PM "	Field #2
July 5	St. Bridget's	7:25 PM "	Field #1
July 12	Luther Memorial	6:00 PM "	Field #2
July 19	Faith Community	7:25 PM "	Field #1
July 26	No game – bye week		
August 2	Hope Lutheran	7:25 PM "	Field #1
August 9	The River	6:00 PM "	Field #2
August 16-23	TBD – playoff weeks		



Summer Schedule

The summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 30, with one worship service at 9:30 am.

The church office will be closed on Memorial Day—Monday, May 31.

Also, the church office hours between Memorial Day and Labor Day are:

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

Many, Many Thanks

Another year of Sunday School has drawn to a close. The congregation owes many thanks to teachers who faithfully taught this year. The 2009-2010 teachers are:

Pre-School:	Christina Krueger, Martha TerMaat, Michelle Simpson
Kindergarten & Grade 1:	Lucia Bell, JonPaul Okal, Joan Swanson
Grade 2:	Tanya Larsen, Rose Rude, Jane Wakefield
Grade 3:	Cindy Gandrud, Karmin Richter, Anne Tuveson
Grades 4 & 5:	Louie & Patti Filkins, Katie Miller, Rick & Jennie Price
Grades 6 & 7:	Stacy Myers
Grades 8 - 12:	Deb Hoffman



Boundary Waters Trip

If you are interested in joining a church group trip to the Boundary Waters canoe area this summer, please contact Pastor Chris. The 4-day, 3-night trip is planned for

July 26-29 and will include multiple groups of people of varying skill levels. No experience is necessary! Use the sign-up sheet to register your interest.

*Dear Pastor Chris and Congregation,
Thank you for planning and contributing to our confirmation trip to Boston. It was a wonderful fun-filled experience and something that I will never forget!
~Shelby Ducklow*

Yoga Classes

Yoga is held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 am. They meet in the Sunday School area. Please bring a yoga mat and a large bath towel. Any questions, call Jan Hansen at 425-5211.

Volunteers Needed

Interfaith Volunteers choose how to serve individuals age 60 and over. Current needs include light housekeeping in a home or apartment once every week or two in River Falls, weekly companionship for a woman in River Falls, socialization and activity help at the adult day program in Hudson once a month, and opportunities in Hudson as well. For information contact Nancy A at 715-381-4360 or email nancya@co.saint-wi.us



First Congregational Church is now on Facebook—Have you “friended” us? If not, do so. We aim to have more friends than any other church in River Falls.

Weekly Email—Do we have your current email address? The “Weekly Word” is a weekly email sent out on Thursdays that highlights upcoming church activities. Please send the church office your updated email address at office@firstchurchrf.org.

River Falls Days Events

River Falls Days is being held **July 8 -11**. Our church will be involved in three different activities: The RF Days Parade, Faster Pastor Race, and Marble Mania. This means we need volunteers and supplies to make these events happen.

Float

The theme for this year is “KINNISTOCK.” A group of individuals have planned the float entry that will be a big hit. Because of the theme, tie-dye will be a decorating style including t-shirts that will make use of this technique. We will be having a “tie-dye” night on Tuesday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m. In order to purchase the right sizes, we need you to sign up by Sunday, the 20th. Sign up for this fun event even if you can’t participate in the parade. Expert help will make this an easy and fun activity. Root beer floats will be provided.

We will need the following supplies by Monday, June 28: cardboard (appliance size), ice cream pails, chicken wire, acrylic paints, blue tarp, sponge brushes, 1-inch dowels, and staple guns. Please label your items and bring to church. Financial assistance will not be turned down either.

Float construction will be done from Tuesday, July 6, through Thursday, July 8. We will be working evenings at the home of Fred Roethlisberger and Connie Foster (about three miles south of town). Maps will be provided. Work times will start at 6:30 p.m. As plans are finalized, we may have a work night prior to that time. Our award-winning entry will be among the 120 units that will start down the parade route at 6:30 on Friday, the 9th. Sign up for any night(s) you can help construct the float. Prior experience is not required.

Marble Mania

Saturday, the 10th, from 10:15 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m. we will be hosting the second annual Marble Mania event. Contestants from ages 5 to 105 are encouraged to enter the fun-filled event. Pre-registration is not required. For the \$2 entry fee you will receive a bag of marbles to take home along with treats. We also need volunteers to help the day of the event from 10 a.m. until the event is over. Please sign up on table in back of sanctuary.

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, June 20 – Sign up deadline to march with our float

Tuesday, June 22 – “Tie-Dye” night, 6:30 p.m. at church

Monday, June 28 – Float supplies at church

Tuesday, July 6 – Thursday, July 8 – Float work nights

Friday, July 9 – Faster Pastor Race - 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 9 – RF Days Parade – 6:30 p.m. – line-up time to be determined

Saturday, July 10 – Marble Mania – 10:15 to 1 p.m. at church



Installation

Some of the special guests present for the installation of the Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers as our Minister of Christian Education on May 23 included:

Back row: The Rev. Greg Kaufmann, Northwest Synod (ELCA); the Rev. Jeanny House, Northwest Association (UCC); the Rev. David Moyer, Wisconsin Conference Minister (UCC)



Help for African Student in Our Church

Nathan Korir is a junior at UWRF completing his degree in Biology. He lives with Jim and Donna Miller (Mike Miller's folks) and has been a regular participant in worship at First Congregational Church. Due to some chaos in the Kenyan government, he and the Millers are looking to raise about \$13,000 so he can finish his course of study and obtain his degree. Nathan is a gentle soul and hard worker who seems caught in a bureaucratic nightmare. If you wish to contribute to his scholarship fund please make a check out to the church marked "Nathan's College Fund". If you wish to make an anonymous gift you can do so directly at WESTconsin Credit Union on North Main Street. Please talk to Pastor Chris or Jim Miller (425-6588) for more information. Thank you for considering a gift.

Amistad Ship in Duluth

Sometimes we are given the ability to enter into history. This summer offers us a chance to experience an important part of both our nation's and our church's history.

In 1839 enslaved Africans on the ship La Amistad revolted against their Spanish captors off the coast of the United States. Their freedom was short lived as their captors sued in the United States court system to have them returned as property. The case went to the Supreme Court and became a defining moment for the Abolitionist movement and the Congregational Church who raised money to hire lawyers to represent the slaves in court and who visited the slaves when they were held in prison awaiting trial. In a victory for freedom, the Supreme Court ruled that the slaves were not property and they were released and returned to Africa.

This summer a recreated La Amistad will be just one of 8 tall sailing ships to visit Duluth, July 28 to August 3rd. Each of the ships can be toured. If you are thinking of vacation plans, a stop to see the ships would prove enlightening. For more details, please see the website www.visitduluth.com.

**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
 Jean Smith - Moderator

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PASTOR'S HOME PHONE NUMBER

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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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 River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 1, 2010

2010 JUNE 2010						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Yoga 9-10:00 am	2 Summer Musical Auditions 6:30 pm	3 Women's Fellowship at Jan Hansen's 9:30 am	4 Office Closed at Noon Fridays	5
6 Graduation Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	7 Pastoral Relations Meeting 10:00 am No Softball Game - Bye Week	8 Yoga 9-10:00 am 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	9	10 Yoga 9-10:00 am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	11 Harter Wedding Rehearsal Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting →	12 Harter Wedding Del's 50th Ordination Anniversary
13 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	14 Softball Game 7:25 pm Hoffman Park #1	15 Yoga 9-10:00 am Simpson Shelter Meal Preparation 10:00 am 3rd Tuesday Soup 'n Sandwich 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's No Boards and Committees and No Church Council	16 Simpson Shelter Meal Serving and Clean Up 4:00-10:00 pm	17 Yoga 9-10:00 am	18	19
20 Sounds of Summer - Cedar Valley Brass 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	21 Children's Musical 9:00-11:30 am Youth Musical 1:00-3:30 pm Softball Game 7:25 pm Hoffman Park #1	22 Children's Musical 9:00-11:30 am Youth Musical 1:00-3:30 pm Yoga 9-10:00 am 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Tie-Dye Night 6:30 pm	23 Children's Musical 9:00-11:30 am Youth Musical 1:00-3:30 pm	24 Children's Musical 9:00-11:30 am Youth Musical 1:00-3:30 pm Yoga 9-10:00 am Musical Meal and Performances 5:30 pm	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
27 9:30 am Worship Service 10:00 am WEVR Broadcast 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	28 Drop Off Float Supplies at Church Softball Game 6:00 pm Hoffman Park #2	29 Yoga 9-10:00 am	30 Wisconsin Conference Meeting in Church Lounge 10:00 am-3:00 pm			