



FIRST

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

God is still speaking,

110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022
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Office email: office@firstchurchrf.org
JUNE 1, 2011

Pastor's Corner

In today's gospel lesson from John 14, Jesus gathers his disciples and he makes two astounding statements. The first is that he and the Father are one. If you've seen me, Jesus, then you've seen God. Jesus is able to do what God does.

But then there is more. Jesus prepares his followers by empowering them, reassuring them. He says—you, my followers, are going to do even greater things than I have done. Think about that. Even greater things than Jesus. How do you do that? Because up to this point in John's gospel, Jesus has done some amazing things. Healings. Changing water into wine. Restoring sight to the blind. Raising Lazarus from the dead. And yet here is Jesus, you are going to do even greater things than this.

And so the question for us today on this ground breaking Sunday is this-- Do you really believe that? Do you believe this church, for all its faults, and if you have been active around here you know we have plenty of faults, do you believe this church is empowered to do even greater works than those done by Jesus? And if so, how do we live that out.

Do you remember how the gospel of John begins? John begins as all the gospels begin, with Jesus calling a small group of ordinary people to be his disciples. That's the way Jesus works. In fact John's gospel was written by some early follower of Jesus. An ordinary person who was empowered to give extraordinary witness to what God was doing in the world.

-excerpt from Sermon on Sunday, May 22 Ground Breaking Sunday



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 5

Please join in congratulating our high school graduates at the 9:30am summer worship service on Sunday, June 5. 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.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for April and YTD:

	April	2011 YTD
Income	\$ 21,944.86	\$ 116,561.62
Expenses	\$ 20,955.51	\$ 109,965.84
Net	\$ 989.35	\$ 6,595.78

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

Sounds of Summer

June 26 – Dona Pena (world music)

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!

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study group will meet on **June 2, Ascension Day, at 10:00 am**. The study is led by Stacy Myers and will focus on Jesus' Ascension. All are welcome!



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.

Simpson Homeless Shelter Meal

The Missionary Education Committee is again coordinating an evening meal at the Simpson Homeless Shelter in Minneapolis on **Wednesday, June 15**. Volunteers are needed to help with this project in several different ways. Please use the sign-up sheets in back to offer help in the following possible three ways:

- Prepare salads and desserts at 10:00 am on Tuesday, June 14. (Four volunteers needed here at church)
- Prepare the main course at 9:00 am on Wednesday, June 15. (Six volunteers needed here at church)
- Serve the 110 guests at Simpson and do the cleanup following the meal. Meal is served at 7:00 pm. We will leave in the church van at 3:15 with return time at approximately 9:30 pm. (12 volunteers needed)

This is a wonderful experience. We encourage students 14 and older along with their parents to consider volunteering for this mission opportunity. The Simpson Shelter project is one of our local church's on-going mission programs. If you wish to donate new underwear and socks and/or personal care items for both men and women, we will be glad to take those with us. Please use the "church" box to place these items.

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!!

Update from the Building Committee

Having just experienced the ground breaking event how can anyone not believe that God takes care of his people. Rain in the morning right up to the start of the event, the rain stops, the clouds part and we have sunshine. Enough sunshine to get us through the ground breaking, allow our children to participate and even play in the dirt (a favorite pastime of any child) and then clean up and put away the tables, chairs and refreshments. Then, the rains returned.....

A very special thanks to Pastor Chris, Stacy, Suzanne Hagen and Tim Bylander for their planning, organization and preparation for the event. A special thank you also to those who provided the treats, a fun variety of appropriately designed tools and church cookies only to be topped off by exquisite chocolate hard hats. I know there were many others who had a hand in making this a success, thank you all.

Our renters have left the parsonage and through the silent auction many of the appliances, sheds and other components of the parsonage have been spoken for. The next event will be the demolition. We anticipate that taking place the week of June 6th pending the permit from the city.

The final architectural plans have been submitted to the state for approval and once we receive the go ahead then we can secure our permits from the city. The site plan is still under review by the City of River Falls Planning Commission. We are not anticipating any roadblocks.

MOVING DAYS are rapidly approaching. The first deadline is June 5th. By June 5th everything that is stored in the storage areas in the fellowship hall along the north wall, in and around the stairway between the main floor and down stairs and the music coordinators office **MUST BE BOXED, REMOVED AND STORED**. If you or any of your teams have materials stored in this area please help to see that everything is removed. Packing boxes are available, see Lou or Missy in the office if you need boxes or tape.

The next MOVING DAY is July 5th. That week the roof comes off the administrative wing between the sanctuary and the new addition. Everything in this area must be boxed, moved somewhere safe or stored. A number of individuals have volunteered to lead the effort to see that everything is packed. The group that needs the most help is Education. Please contact Stacy to volunteer your time helping pack all the class rooms and educational supplies.

During this phase of the construction the main entrance will be closed so the primary and only access to the sanctuary and rooms under the sanctuary will be from Elm. A church office will be maintained on site during the entire construction and remodeling process. Initially it will be downstairs below the sanctuary in one of the classrooms.

As always, if there are questions or needs please contact Bill Herris or any member of the Building Committee.



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

First Thursday Fellowship

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet on **June 2 at 9:15 am**. Following the meeting will be the Thursday Morning Bible Study at **10:00 am**. The study is led by Stacy Myers. Please join us!

Summer Nursery Help Needed—During the summer months our nursery is staffed by church volunteers. If you are a regular user of the nursery or simply have a love of children, please sign up to staff the church nursery on one or more of the following dates: June 5, 12; July 10; August 7, 28

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:

Elementary Musical, completed grades 1 – 5

June 20 – 23, 2011, 9:00 – 11:30 AM

The children will produce "Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit," an extremely funny rendition of the story of David and Goliath.

Middle School Musical, completed grades 6 – 8

June 20 – 23, 2011, 1:00 – 3:30 PM

Middle School students will stage "Are We There Yet?" The production tells the story of Moses and the Exodus.

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!

Dinner and a Night of Theater

The whole congregation is invited to have dinner at church on **June 23 at 5:30 pm**. This will be the last dinner held in the current Fellowship Hall. The dinner will be followed by two musicals presented by the children and youth of the congregation, "The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit" (the story of David and Goliath) and "Are We There Yet?" (the story of the Exodus and journey to the Promised Land). The musicals will be directed by Peggy Krasin and accompanied by Judith Permann. Please come. Attending the performance is an important way to support the young people of the congregation. Please contact the church office for reservations or sign the sign-up list.



Church Softball

Our team is co-ed and open to anyone 14 years and older. The division rules require 3 ladies to be on the field at all times. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Schorn @ (612)481-0519 or Deb Hoffman @ (612)308-4945. Schedule:

June 6	9:00 pm	Hoffman #1	Servant of the Shepherd
June 13	7:45 pm	PR's Place	St. Bridget's
June 20	7:45 pm	Hoffman #1	Luther Memorial
June 27	6:30 pm	Hoffman #1	The River
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



Summer Church Camp

Check out the card table in the history room for the new Summer Camp Brochures that are also available online at www.ucci.org. If you are planning on attending any of the camps, please indicate the name of the camp and the date on the sign-up sheet. You may just want to try one of their popular family camps for your summer vacation; think about it! **Scholarships Available!** The First Thursday Fellowship is funding summer camp scholarships. You can contact Lu in the office for applications. There are also scholarships available from our Northwest Association. Please be sure to check the brochure for deadlines.

Summer Church Work Camps

We most likely will not do all four workcamps scheduled this summer at Moon Beach but we are definitely going to try to get enough interest for one, if not two. The most popular one with our congregation tends to be "Adopt-A-Cabin" which is a week long camp in August; some people stay for half the week and some for the whole week. Please check out the sign-up sheet and sign up for a camp that fits your summer schedule.

🌸 Spring Fling Update 🌸

Spring Fling 2011 is now history. Months of planning went into this new event and the committee is pleased with the outcome. On a financial side, the profit will be right around \$5,300.

We started the week with a dinner prepared primarily by Andy Krueger. The one hundred guests were treated to a succulent dinner featuring four entrée choices. "That's one of the best meals I have ever been served" commented one guest. A special thank you to Andy for his culinary skills as well as the men and youth who helped prepare, serve, and do the clean-up tasks for the meal.

About a dozen people attended the 'plant a patio garden' event on Tuesday. Those attending got some great ideas for planting and were able to purchase plants. Thanks to Deb Hoffman who coordinated this project as well as the plant sales on Mother's Day and the following Saturday.

The weather wasn't any help in promoting Saturday's events. Cheryl Solberg put together a wonderful carnival for kids. The magician brought a lot of laughs and "how did he do that?" questions from both children and adults. Al Barnes and Larry Peterson grilled traditional burgers, brats, and hot dogs for the picnic lunches. Diane Barnes was the lead in planning the food and recruiting the kitchen crew.

Eunice Filkins organized the crafts and provided aprons for the workers as well. Pies and baked goods were coordinated by Lu Lueck. Our new event, the Silent Auction, was organized by Annette Peterson and Virginia Hilden. It was interesting to observe people going around and around checking out the bids. This truly was a remarkable success.

When planning this event, we were looking for ways to incorporate more fellowship opportunities and get more people involved. The committee feels we accomplished this. Our follow-up meeting reviewed the project and decided we should plan for 2012 with a similar venue with some tweaking. We would like to hear from all of you regarding any changes you would recommend for next year.

So many of you volunteered to help with the event. Many of you donated to the silent auction, the craft booth, the plant area, as well as the food and pie sales. Some of you donated money to the event. Your generous bids during the silent auction area were also greatly appreciated. We are so thankful to all of you for contributing to the success of Spring Fling 2011.

Bob Gustafson, Chair, 2011 Spring Fling



FMSC River Falls Event Thank You!

The Feed My Starving Children mobile packing event held at St. Bridget Parish School Gym on May 12-14, 2011 and sponsored by the River Falls Christian Community is complete. It was a great 3 days. Because of your generous gifts of time and money we accomplished most of our goals and are proud to announce these results:

- * 1180 volunteers gathered to package food at 9 two-hour shifts
- * \$32,500 was raised to purchase the food for packaging (We had other funds to make up the short fall)
- * 256,608 meals were packaged
- * 703 children will have meals for an entire year
- * 253 pounds of food were collected for the local food shelf (new this year)

Our four year totals for this event:

- * 4180 volunteers have participated in packaging on 35 two-hour shifts
- * \$156,500 has been raised to purchase the food for packaging
- * 933,608 meals have been packaged
- * 2558 children have been fed for an entire year
- * 253 pounds of food has been collected for the local food shelf

This was all accomplished because of YOU!
Peace and Blessings, The Local Organizing Committee



Thank you to First Thursday Fellowship for cleaning out all their supply areas.

And thank you to all the people that helped remove items and those that are storing them off location.

**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

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PASTOR'S HOME PHONE NUMBER

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 chris@firstchurchrf.org

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

110 N. Third Street
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 RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

June 1, 2011

2011 JUNE 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 Yoga 9-10:00 am First Thursday Fellowship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:00 am	3	4
5 Graduation Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service— Receive New Members 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	6 Building Project Begins!	7 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am	8	9 Yoga 9-10:00 am	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Annual Conference →	11
12 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	13 Mission Education Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am Prepare Food for Simpson Meal 10:00 am 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	15 Prepare Food for Simpson Meal 9:00 am Serve Simpson Meal 7:00 pm	16 Yoga 9-10:00 am	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	20 Youth Musicals Grades 1-5 9:00-11:30 am Middle School & Senior High 1:00-3:30 pm	21 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 3rd Tuesday Soup 'n Sandwich 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards & Committees Meetings 6:30 pm NO Church Council	22	23 Yoga 9-10:00 am → Youth Musicals Program and Meal 5:30 pm →	24	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
26 Sounds of Summer—Dona Pena 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	27	28 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	29	30		