



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

MAY 1, 2011

Pastor's Corner

Ground Breaking

After many years of prayer, careful research, sacrifice and hard work, it is finally here! The Ground Breaking for the new addition to our building has been scheduled for Sunday, May 22 between the 9 and 10:30 am worship services out on the front lawn. Come and join us.

We will gather for a brief service at 10:10 am to thank God for this special occasion. We will recognize the many people who have been instrumental in making this event possible and remind one another of the purpose of this new addition. There will be opportunities for the whole congregation to participate, especially our children. Kid-sized hats and shovels will be available to help break the ground. According to church records, the last building expansion happened in a blizzard on April 9, 1961. We hope for much better weather this time of year but the event will take place rain or shine out on the front lawn.

This promises to be a wonderful day. The choir will sing at both services. We will recognize our dedicated Sunday School and Wednesday School teachers. Please be sure to put it on your calendars now.

Chris Myers, Pastor



Boundary Waters Canoe Trip

It is getting closer to summer and that means gauging interest in a summer trip to canoe in the Boundary Waters. If you are an adult or youth 7th grade or older, you are invited to come to a brief Boundary Water meeting on **Sunday, May 15 during the 10 to 10:30 coffee hour.** We will see who is interested and potential dates for a 3 or 4 day trip. This is an informational meeting only. If you cannot make the meeting but would like to know more about the trip please contact Pastor Chris.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

The Thursday Morning Bible Study group will meet **May 5, at 10:00 am.** The study is led by Stacy Myers. All are welcome!

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!!

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.

Many Thanks

As Wednesday School draws to a close for the current year, there are many people to thank: drivers faithfully transported children to church—Cindy Gandrud, Suzanne Hagen, Wendy Hill, Christina Krueger, Chris Myers, Jennifer Syverson; volunteers who provided delicious snacks—Tim Bylander, Suzanne Hagen, Joan Hall, Jan Hansen, Julie Hove, Lori Johnson, Bernice Larson, Virginia Larson, Cheryl Solberg, Peg Steinmetz; leaders who guided and taught the children—Mary Church, Christina Krueger, Lezlie Peskar, Jennifer Syverson; church interns who helped with the program—Megan Larson, Kenzie Merriman. Many, many thanks to all of you.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for March and YTD:

	March	2011 YTD
Income	\$ 19,537.86	\$ 94,616.76
Expenses	\$ 31,989.93	\$ 89,010.33
Net	\$ -12,452.07	\$ 5,606.43

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

First Thursday Fellowship

The First Thursday Fellowship will meet on **May 5 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!



Thanks to our choir, bells and Music Director Scott Perau for all their efforts to provide wonderful music accompaniment to Holy Week!

Inquirer's Class

Those who are new to the church and would like to know more about its life and ministry are invited to come to the Inquirer's Class on **Sunday, May 22.** The purpose of the class is:

1. To learn more about the ministry and programs of First Congregational Church
2. To meet other people who are new to our faith community
3. To meet church leaders and staff.



Lunch is served and childcare is available. Our time together should be about 90 minutes including lunch. Completion of the class is the first step toward church membership.

New Addition Ground Breaking: The Building Committee is pleased to announce that a date has been set for the official groundbreaking ceremony – **SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2011 – 10:00 am.** The ceremony will take place in the front yard of the church.

Other News: The parsonage will be vacated on Sat, May 21. The following week will be dedicated to removing utilities and appliances that can be repurposed. An inventory of what is available will be published. Anyone interested in acquiring any of the items should contact Carol Merriman (715-426-6680) or Bill Hervis (715-821-1535) for details on the process for submitting an offer.

The City of River Falls Planning Commission has the site plan for review and approval. We expect to get the approved plan back by the end of April. The architectural plans are just about complete and will be submitted to the state of Wisconsin for approval the week of May 16. Pending approval from the city of River Falls the parsonage will be taken down by the 10th of June. After the parsonage is removed, construction activity will increase significantly. Since we will be living in a construction zone for several months everyone is asked to be patient and vigilant to the hazards that will exist during construction. Every care will be taken to provide safe and secure access to the facility during this time. It will take everyone's cooperation to ensure that this experience is kept accident & incident free.

The church office will remain open and available on-site during most of the project. The physical location of the office may change from week to week depending on the construction activity. Many summer programs will need to be relocated off-site to ensure the safety of the participants. More information will be coming out shortly. The bulletin and newsletter will be used to keep everyone informed.

If there are members of our congregation who have businesses that are involved in construction and would like to be considered for a part of the project, contact Bill Hervis (wpherris@aol.com – 715-821-1535) for information on the process to be followed for qualification.

Summer Musicals for Kids

We have established a tradition at First Congregational of producing musicals during the summer months. This summer elementary-aged students will work on “Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit,” a musical telling of the David and Goliath story. Middle school students will work on “Are We There Yet?” which tells the story of Moses and the Exodus.

The time to sign up to participate in the musicals is now. Please register so we are able to continue with our planning. If last year is an indication, the students will have great fun!

We are in need of people willing to help work on costumes and props. If you are willing, please sign the volunteer list or talk with me.

It is also much for fun to stage a musical in front of a large crowd. Please mark your calendars now for an evening of wonderful theater: Thursday, June 23, starting with dinner at 6:00 pm.

Stacy Johnson Myers
Minister of Christian Education

Adult Forum

May 1: Parker Palmer: Leading from Within: Reflections on Spirituality and Leadership, Carole Mottaz—Parker Palmer is a prolific writer who explores the connection between education, spirituality, and leadership.

May 8: Ethical Leadership, Carole Mottaz—Who should be in a position of leadership? The discussion will be based on “Leading with Soul” by Lee Bolman and Terrence Deal.

May 15: *The Sower and the Seed: The Saint John’s Bible*, Stacy Johnson Myers—The forum will study the Parable of the Sower and the Seed and consider the contribution the illumination (the art) in the Saint John’s Bible makes to our interpretation of this story.

YouthCC Corner

Thank you very much to those generous people who purchased a lily (lilies) “in honor” of or “in memory of” someone. Your giving and loving reflection of that special someone allowed the purchase and display of 30 lilies in front of the sanctuary. Thank you! The funds will go toward mission trips and youth activities. God Bless, Deb

Summer Programming for Kids

Registration forms for the 2011 Summer Program are available. There is also a sign-up sheet for the musicals. Sessions:

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!

Needed: Many, Many VBS and Musical Workers

The Vacation Bible School and the summer musicals programs need the help of adult and older youth volunteers. We need volunteers to work on props, backdrops, and costumes. We will need a minimum of 35 volunteers the week of VBS, August 1 – 4. Please consider volunteering. VBS is always an exciting, high-energy week, and this year will have the added excitement of working around and with a building project. We will need many willing workers. To volunteer, please sign the list on the sign up table. For more information, contact Stacy Myers.

🌸 Spring Fling—May 8-14 🌸

WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE SPRING FLING A SUCCESS?

Join Us and Invite Your Friends As Well!

Donate and Bid on Silent Auction Items

Please have Gift Sheets in by Sunday, May 1 (Both Goods and Services are Great to Donate)
Bidding Runs from Sunday, May 8 to Sunday, May 15

Join Us for Mother's Day Dinner, Sunday, May 8 at 11:30 am

Sign up and help only if you are a man or youth but buy your tickets by Wednesday, May 4
Hanging baskets for sale as well for late gift shoppers

Create Pots for Your Patio on Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30 pm

Sign up for a Shift at Feed My Starving Children—May 12 to 14

Spring Fling Day, Saturday, May 14

Come and Enjoy a Fun-Filled Day from 9 to 2

But before you do...bake a pie(s) or other delicious goodies, create a craft,
divide your perennials and have all of the above at church by 8:30 that morn

THEN...plan to eat hardy on picnic fare and sweets while people of all ages enjoy a fun-filled
free carnival with a magician, games, and a walk that will win you a cake

ALSO...please consider signing up to help at the Spring Fling table in back of sanctuary

Mother's Day Dinner

Would you like to save yourself from having to fight the mobs at restaurants on Mother's Day, May 8? Join us for a sit-down dinner honoring women following the 11:30 service. The men and youth of our church will be the preparers, servers, as well as the clean-up group. This event kicks off our Spring Fling week. This will also be your first chance at bidding on our silent auction items. Adults have a choice of three entrees. All dinners will include a fruited lettuce salad, rolls, vegetable, cheesecake desserts, and beverage. You may select pot roast with small white potatoes, roast chicken with cheesy potatoes, or a vegetarian pasta primavera. The children's menu features chicken nuggets served with macaroni and cheese.

The cost for adult dinners is \$8 and the children's dinner cost is \$5. Children under three eat free. Tickets will be on sale on Sunday mornings and also during the week in the church office. You must purchase tickets by Wednesday, May 11.

Helpers are needed on Saturday, May 7, at 10 am as well as on Sunday at 10 am through the dinner. We hope that everyone helping will still be able to eat with his/her family. Please sign up at the table in the back of the sanctuary or contact Bob Gustafson at 715-425-2516.



Spring Fling - Plant Sale

Ahh the warmth of spring...As you begin to dig and separate your perennials, please share some for the plant booth at Spring Fling. Also, on May 10th at 6:00 pm as part of the Spring Fling activities, you will have an opportunity to plant up your favorite pot or planter. We will have greenhouse personnel come to our church with an array of annuals and perennials. All you need to do is purchase flowers to fill the planter. The cost will reflect the number you purchase. There is a fee for this opportunity and that covers the fertilizer and soil, and other misc items. If you have any question, please contact Deb at (651)308-4945. I look forward to seeing you all playing in your plants/pots.

River Falls Community Packing Event for Feed My Starving Children



Once again the Christian community of River Falls will be sponsoring a Mobile Packing Event for Feed My Starving Children. It will be held at St. Bridget's school on **May 12-14**. River Falls has contracted to pack 250,000 meals over the 2-1/2 day period. Both adults and children are able to pack....this is a wonderful volunteer experience for families to share. One packing shift is 2 hours in length and there are 9 shifts from which to choose. (140 persons needed per shift.) A master sign-up sheet is available in the rear of the sanctuary. Sign up early for the best choice of shifts.

Donations are accepted at any time toward the cost of food materials, which is \$47,500. Checks must be made out to "Starving RF." It's fun and good for the soul! Let's do this together!!

~From your Mission Education Committee



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" (formerly Women's 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

(NOT JUST FOR ADULTS)

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. This is also a great way of introducing your child to church camp. Please check out the sign-up sheet in the back and sign up for a camp that fits your summer schedule



Church Softball

Our team is co-ed and is 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. We also appreciate our faithful fans and look forward to seeing you and hearing you cheering us on. Below is the schedule:

May 3	5:30 pm	Hoffman Park Basin	Practice
May 9	6:30 pm	PR's Place	Hope Lutheran
May 16	7:45 pm	Hoffman #2	Faith Community #2
May 23	6:30 pm	Hoffman #2	Abundant Life
May 30	off		
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

**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

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 1, 2011



2011 MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Confirmation Sunday 8:00 am Jubilee Ringers 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	2 Building Committee Mtg 6:30 pm	3 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am Bible 101 12:00 pm Pastoral Relations Meeting 6:30 pm	4 5:30 pm Youth Bells 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Church Interns	5 Yoga 9-10:00 am First Thursday Fellowship 9:15 am Bible Study 10:00 am Bible 101 6:30 pm	6	7
8 Mother's Day 8:00 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Sunday School 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast 11:30 am Mother's Day Meal Spring Fling Silent Auction Begins	9	10 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	11 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	12 Yoga 9-10:00 am Feed My Starving Children at St. Bridget's	13	14 Spring Fling 9:00 am-2:00 pm
15 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Boundary Waters Mtg 10:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am LAST Sunday School 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast Spring Fling Silent Auction Ends	16 Mission Education Mtg 6:30 pm Building Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Endowment Grant Requests Due	17 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 3rd Tuesday Soup 'n Sandwich 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	18 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	19 Yoga 9-10:00 am	20	21
22 All Worship Sunday 8:00 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship Service 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Groundbreaking Ceremony 10:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast 11:30 am Inquirer's Class	23 Endowment Grant Meeting 6:30 pm	24 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards & Committees Meetings 6:30 pm Church Council Mtg 7:30 pm	25 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Yoga 9-10:00 am	27	28
29 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	30 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	31 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am				