



# FIRST

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*God is still speaking,*

110 N. Third Street, River Falls, WI 54022  
715-425-2052 — [www.firstchurchrf.org](http://www.firstchurchrf.org)  
Rev. Chris Myers: [chris@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:chris@firstchurchrf.org)  
Office email: [office@firstchurchrf.org](mailto:office@firstchurchrf.org)  
MAY 15, 2011

## Pastor's Corner

*...you are standing on holy ground."*  
--Exodus 3:5

After years of planning and dreaming, hoping and praying, it is finally here: Ground Breaking! I hope all of you, young and old, new and long-time members will join us between worship services out on the front lawn for the ceremonial breaking of the ground. There will be special hard hats and shovels for children. Special treats for all of us to eat. And four large shovels to recognize those church leaders who have helped to make this day possible. God has blessed us! Please join us on this festive day.

As we embark on this expansion project, let us remember at least two things. As the old church school song goes,

*The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple,  
the church is not a resting place, the church is a people.*

This building is only necessary to help us be the church together, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. Second, let us remember the words of what has become for many of you a beloved favorite hymn:

*Let us build a house where love can swell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive,  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace,  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions,  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Let us make these not just words we sing in worship, but a way of living acted out daily in both our life together and in our individual lives.

Pastor Chris

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## **Ground Breaking—Sunday, May 22**

9:00 am—Early Worship with Choir

10:05 am—Gather on the Front Lawn

10:15 am—Coffee, Lemonade and Treats on the Front Lawn

10:30 am—Family Worship with Choir

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*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's Notes

*"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree—" ~Martin Luther*

Our congregation truly has been planting for tomorrow as we begin the construction of our new church addition. What we will celebrate at our May 22 groundbreaking ceremony ultimately is not new bricks and mortar, although we will certainly appreciate the wonderful new space. We'll be celebrating our worship history in this community, the heritage of past generations of members, and the faith of today's members in future fellowship, worship and service to others.

Please continue to follow the building and finance updates in our newsletters; if you wish to make a new or additional financial contribution to the project, please contact Larry Bauer or Pastor Chris. We look forward to seeing you at the groundbreaking between services on May 22.

~Suzanne Hagen, Moderator

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TREASURER'S NOTES</b> Missy Luedtke</p> <p>Financial Information for April and YTD:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u></th> <th style="text-align: center;"><u>2011 YTD</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 21,944.86</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 116,561.62</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 20,955.51</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 109,965.84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 989.35</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ 6,595.78</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>A full accounting of all income and expenses is always posted outside the church office door on the bulletin board.</p>		<u>April</u>	<u>2011 YTD</u>	Income	\$ 21,944.86	\$ 116,561.62	Expenses	\$ 20,955.51	\$ 109,965.84	Net	\$ 989.35	\$ 6,595.78	 <p><b>Boundary Waters Canoe Trip</b></p> <p>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 <b>Sunday, May 15 during the 10 to 10:30 coffee hour</b>. 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.</p>
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<p><b>Thursday Morning Bible Study</b></p> <p>The Thursday Morning Bible Study group will meet on <b>June 2, at 10:00 am</b>. The study is led by Stacy Myers. All are welcome!</p>													

# 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.

# 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.

## Update from the Building Committee

Progress continues to be made as we approach the ground breaking ceremonies on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May. Here are a few of the activities that you will see going on about the campus related to the building project.

The week following the groundbreaking the Parsonage will be vacated and all reusable components will be removed. There is a silent auction being organized by Carol Merriman who will be sharing more of the details as we approach the date.

The safety fence will be constructed the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> of May. This is extremely important and necessary so that we don't have anyone wandering into spaces that could result in an incident or injury. The parsonage will be razed starting June 6<sup>th</sup> followed by the digging of the new foundation for the addition. During this phase the back entrance of the Church along the alley way on the north side will be removed and parking along the alley will be restricted. This is primarily to prevent any possible damage to vehicles that may customarily park along the alley. There will be false walls erected at the end of the hallway in the administration area and at the north end of the current fellowship hall.

The next significant event will be the removal of the roof over the current administration area, nursery and music office. This is scheduled to happen the week of July 5<sup>th</sup>. This space will no longer be available after June 30<sup>th</sup> and the offices of the church will be relocated downstairs to a room yet to be identified. When this happens the current entrance to the church will be closed. Access to the sanctuary will be from the side street. This entrance will become the primary access to the sanctuary and the downstairs rooms that will house the office and some of the class room activities. The work in this area is expected to continue through the middle of October when the new addition will become available and the administration area will be completed and reoccupied by staff.

All through the summer and early fall we will be living with some disruption of our normal church life. We ask for your prayers and continued support of our community. Through your support and involvement the end result is going to be something that will enhance our ability to be of service to the community and provide a first class Christian education experience from a facility to be proud of.

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### 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 these dates on your calendars!

### 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: May 29; June 5, 12; July 10, 17, 31; August 28

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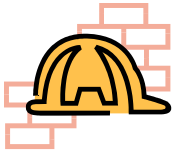
*Congratulations to Russel and Grace Gilberg on the birth of their son, Axel Remus on April 25<sup>th</sup>*

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### 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.



## Memories, Groundbreaking, Shovels

We remember the past for different reasons. Sometimes we remember events; exactly what we did, when, and with whom. Sometimes we remember feelings; intense feelings that range from elation to deep sorrow. Sometimes we remember ideas; points in our lives when we find clarity, or when what we have held dear breaks away. Some memories are life-defining and others become part of the background of our lives, but all of them are important because they connect our present and future to the past.

I hope that the people in our congregation will remember the upcoming church groundbreaking for a long time to come. It is likely not to be among our most defining memories, but I do hope that is one of the background memories that we carry with us. When we break ground for our expanded church building on May 22, we are doing a lot more than digging a foundation and stacking up the bricks. We are making a commitment to the future: the future of our congregation, the River Falls community, and to the way of God. After all, we build a new building not just to have more space, but because it is our conviction that we can use that space to follow God's way and serve God's people.

An important component our new building will be education space. It reflects our conviction as a congregation that we need to provide education in the Christian faith that is as complete as possible—for adults as well as children. In accordance, the ground breaking event will be for adults and children. Please make it a point to come—and bring the children! Hardhats and shovels will be provided...the stuff of which memories are made.

Stacy Johnson Myers  
Minister of Christian Education

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### Adult Forum

The final session of the Adult Forum for the 2010-11 academic year will be held on May 15. The Adult Forum will resume on September 11, 2011.

**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.

### 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!

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## 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!*



## Confirmation Sunday

We received 11 young people into the church through confirmation on May 1, 2011.

Jordan Roen  
Tess Solberg  
Zoe Jennings  
Nick Rameaux  
Ethan Larsen  
Jacob Giordana  
Scott Anderson  
Reid Swanson  
Hannah Luedtke

Amanda Hendrickson

Chas Erickson (not pictured)



## 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](http://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 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

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

110 N. Third Street  
 River Falls, Wisconsin 54022

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

May 15, 2011



2011 MAY 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
15 9:00 am <b>Worship Service</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:00 am Boundary Waters Mtg 10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b> 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 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 <b>Worship Service</b> 9:00 am Adult Forum 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:05 am Groundbreaking Ceremony 10:30 am <b>Worship Service</b> 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 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	26 Yoga 9-10:00 am	27	28
29 9:30 am <b>Worship Service</b> 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				



**Summer Schedule**

The summer worship schedule begins Sunday, May 29, with one worship service at 9:30 am.

The church office will be closed on Memorial Day—Monday, May 30.

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

**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!!