



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
SEPTEMBER 1, 2011

Pastor's Corner

I was talking to a college student this summer about her faith. She finished confirmation but after that somehow drifted away from faith and the church. She said she no longer believed in organized religion, and had difficulty with many parts of the Bible. She was particularly offended by what she termed "self righteous, judgmental Christians." She is not alone.

One of the saddest realities of modern day Christianity is that the majority of those outside the church think those inside the church are judgmental hypocrites. Even worse many of us inside the church seem content to let leading TV evangelists and even politicians tell us what 'real' Christians are to believe. So what do Christians need to believe? And what do they not have to believe?

I am excited to offer two 8 week sermon series this fall and winter. The first 8 week session, beginning on Sunday, September 11, will deal with Eight Things Christians Do Not Have to Believe and Still Be Christian. The second eight week session will deal with what matters most to Christians, namely Jesus. Who he was, what he taught, how he lived. I hope you can enjoy these sermon series as much I am looking forward to preaching them.

Sept 11: God Causes Cancer, Car Wrecks and Catastrophes

Sept 18: Good Christians Don't Doubt

Sept 25: Everything in the Bible Should be Taken Literally

Oct 2: Real Christians Can't Believe in Evolution

Oct 9: Women Can't Be Preachers and Must Submit to Men

Oct 16: God Cares about Saving Souls but Not about Saving Trees

Oct 23: God Loves Straight People but not Gay People

Oct 30: Bad People Will Be Left Behind

Pastor Chris

Construction Update



Rally Day is Sunday, September 11

9:00 am Early Worship with Choir

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

10:30 am Late Worship with Choir
and Sunday School

11:30 am Confirmation Kick-Off Event
(Grades 6 through 9)

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.

Capital Campaign Update on Stock Transfers

The Capital Campaign is thankful to those that have made or are anticipating making stock transfers to the church.

If you have made a transfer or are in the process of one, the committee asks that you notify Larry Bauer (bauerld@comcast.net or 715-386-9603) of the transfer when it is made so that the funds are properly acknowledged and transacted to the Building Fund in a timely matter. The Capital Campaign thanks all of those who have made these gifts to the Church's Building Fund.

TREASURER'S NOTES

Missy Luedtke

Financial Information for August and YTD:

	August	2011 YTD
Income	\$ 20,867.00	\$ 220,522.77
Expenses	\$ 22,498.01	\$ 223,523.24
Net	\$ -1,631.01	\$ -3,000.47

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

Sunday School Teachers' Meeting

All Sunday School teachers are asked to gather for a teachers' meeting on **Thursday, September 8, at 6:30 PM.** At this meeting, we will determine teaching teams, distribute curriculum, and prepare for the coming year.

New Photo Directory

It's finally happening! It's been 6 years since we have taken your picture for our directory and MANY have never been in our directory. You can find details on how to schedule your sitting and much more information on the insert in this newsletter.

Finances—We are slowly catching up on our General Fund giving. If you are behind in your General Fund giving, please try to catch up. Thank you.



1st Congo Road Trip

The leaves are turning and we need to get out and enjoy them. We are planning our next trip down along the river and to stop for a bite, do some site seeing and a little shopping. Join us on **Tuesday, September 27th**; van leaves the church at 10:30am and will return by 3:00pm. Please join us! You can use the sign-up sheet in the back of the sanctuary to indicate your interest.

Worship Service on Channel 16

The Sunday worship service will now be seen on River Falls public access channel 16 on **Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 pm, and Thursdays from 9:00 to 10:00 am.** Thanks very much to Jeff Hoffman who is leading the team to record the weekly worship service. He still is in need of a few more volunteers. Please contact him at jeffhoffman312@gmail.com or his home phone 715-425-5633.

The Big 3

First Congregational has a lot to offer, but what things should everybody in our community make a priority? Doing the Big 3 will help you connect and grow in your faith life.

1. Come on the Weekend: Make worship a priority every weekend
2. Join a Group: Being a small group helps you get to know others and opens you to transformation and spiritual growth
3. Serve Others: Commit to serving others within the church, in the community and beyond.

Sunday School Begins: September 11, 2011

While you might wonder how Sunday School can exist with not much in the way of classroom space due to the present building project, be assured that we have a good plan in store. We will consider the opening weeks of Sunday School to be an adventure. Students will work on several larger scale projects over the first weeks of class. While the exact projects remain a surprise, they will entail paper mache paste and fun. You will not want to miss it. Be sure to come on September 11!

Sunday School Volunteers

We are well on our way to having enough Sunday School teachers for the 2011-12 school year, but we still need a few more. All classes are team-taught, so no one has to teach every week. This is one of the most important ministries of the congregation, and it needs to be well-supported. To volunteer, you may sign the list or contact Stacy Myers.

Adult Forum Resumes

The Adult Forum resumes on **September 11**. The Adult Forum meets at **9:00** on Sunday mornings and is dedicated to exploring scripture, theological ideas, and issues facing people of faith, with a special attention on the relationship between faith and daily life.

On September 11, the focus of the forum will be how we speak about the content of our faith. The session will be led by Stacy Myers.

Wednesday School Workers and Registrations

Wednesday School begins on October 5. All children in Kindergarten through Grade 5 are welcomed and encouraged to attend. The Wednesday School program is designed to complement Sunday School. Registration and permission forms have been sent to all families. Forms are also available online or in the church office.

In order to run the Wednesday School program, we need adult volunteers. We need people to:

- Pick up children at the elementary schools and bring them to church at 3:30
- Provide snacks on a rotating basis
- Assist in leading activities on Wednesday afternoons.

To volunteer, please sign the list or call the church office. For more information, please contact Stacy Myers.

Church Intern Program

All 10th through 12th graders are encouraged to join the Church Intern Program. Interns pick an area of ministry and work with a committee and Pastor Chris to fulfill their ministry plans. Like confirmation, Church Interns will meet monthly on Wednesday evenings with Pastor Chris. Details and an application form have been sent to high school students and can also be found on the church website. A gathering of Church Interns will be after the 10:30am worship service on **Sunday, September 18**.

Confirmation (7th-9th Grades) & Pre-Confirmation (6th Grade)

The Confirmation program will begin on **Sunday, September 11** with the Confirmation Kick-off Event following the 10:30 am worship service. At this time we will meet as a group to overview the program, complete forms and sign up for events for the coming year. This is a mandatory meeting for all who want to participate in the program. Both parents and confirmands are expected to attend. Our confirmation program is open to all youth in grades 7-9 and pre-confirmation is offered for 6th graders. For more info, please talk to Pastor Chris or see the church website.

Life in Transition

Imagine taking all the stuff in your house and packing it into half the space. Basically that is the situation with our church building for the next few months. Some of the changes you will notice are:

- The only access to the church building is through the Elm Street doors
- The lift and ramp are inaccessible until the new elevator is installed
- Offices are now downstairs in the Sunday School rooms
- The nursery is downstairs in the Blue Room
- Coffee Fellowship will be either outside in nice weather or downstairs
- Both lower level bathrooms are open
- Church doors are locked when the church office is not open (note this includes weekends. If you need to get into the building during non-business hours, please contact a staff member ahead of time.)

If you haven't checked out the new offices or progress on the building site, do so soon!

Building Our Future

Have you had a chance to marvel at the new addition? Isn't it grand?? Just think, Thanksgiving dinner in the new Fellowship Hall!! The Capital Campaign Committee wishes to thank all of you for your commitments to make our future bright!! If you haven't had a chance to pledge, it's not too late! Just contact Missy in the church office and she would be happy to give you more information and a pledge form. Please make sure that all pledges and donations for the Building Fund are appropriately marked for our record keeping.

The Committee thanks all of you – we couldn't make this happen without you!

Our Neighbors' Place Summer Renovations

Handy men and women (18 yrs or older) are needed to help with renovations to the new Emergency Shelter on Cedar Street. Work party hours are Wednesdays & Thursdays from 6:00-9:00 pm. See the sign-up sheet at church or the following ONP website for more info. Required Waiver/Contact paperwork is available in the church office or online at www.ourneighborsplace.org

Thanks to all who have been helping with this!

About People

Chuck Smith has just published a new book. *Dryad* is a fantasy/folklore novel ideal for children ages 7-13, or really anyone who has an active imagination and enjoys a good story. In the book, readers will meet a wood sprite named Solstice, who is the human spirit of an oak tree growing in the royal gardens of the kingdom of Midlin. It is available at amazon.com

A huge thanks to **Bob Gustafson** who organized the School Supply Give-Away this year. There was record turnout for this event and Bob was instrumental in getting items purchased, sorted and into the backpacks of needy families. Thanks also to all those who donated items, helped sort and worked at the give away.

Andria Hall is headed to Costa Rica for semester to study Spanish.

Ronda Klink is student teaching Business at Somerset High School.

John Kleppe is student teaching in the Music Department at Red Wing High School.

Mary Sumner graduated from WITC with a degree as a Medical Administrative Assistant.

First Thursday Fellowship resumes **Thursday, September 8 at 9:00AM (NEW TIME)** at the home of Peg Steinmetz, 2653 Golf View Drive. Stacy Myers will have Bible Study immediately following the meeting at 10:00AM. If you need a ride, call Lu in the church office, 425-2052.

Softball Update

Way to go team! You were awesome! The softball team placed third in the Family League Division this summer. The fans were great too! We heard much clapping, cheering, and encouraging comments from the stands. Thank you for a great season!!



Back: Greg Chevar, Matt Bylander, Josh Krueger, Farnum Fuller, Mike Schorn, Vickie McLaughlin, Christina Hake
Middle: Alex Solberg, Josh Hudson, Deb Hoffman, Kayla, Ashley Schorn
Front: Alex Carlson, Jeff Hoffman, John Querna
Missing from photo: Matthew Thurston, Joe Querna, John Parsons, Tess Solberg, Beth Antione



Back: Barry Butenhoff, Rene & Tim Bylander, Andy Krueger, Lauren Cernohous, Dave Querna
Front: Casey Kusilek, Christina Krueger, JoAnn Lentz, Judy Fuller, Ray Merriman, Karen Hudson
Missing from photo: Ray Anderson, Melanie Viney, Alice Viney, Katie Krueger, Kevin McLaughlin, Logan McLaughlin

ARC (Assistance & Resource Center, Inc.) Needs Help

ARC is a community outreach program begun by local area churches to meet individuals and families in need. It is a valuable organization. They are in need of board members in various areas. Please see Pastor Chris for details. Board members are expected to:

- Attend a minimum of 8 board meetings a year
- Actively participate on a committee
- Attend one ARC event per year (Art on the Kinni, River Dazzle, River Falls Days)
- Support fundraising efforts
- Assist in maintaining connections to existing donors and seeking opportunities to encourage prospective donors
- Take an active role in promoting organization awareness within the community

Feed My Starving Children Work Day

The Mission Education Committee has reserved 25 spots at Feed My Starving Children in Eagan, Minnesota, for **Friday, October 14, from 9:30 to 11:30 am**. The group will go out for lunch following the event. Mark your calendars now. More details will follow.

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 back of the sanctuary. Bring a yoga mat and a large towel. Come and enjoy!!

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

STAFF



Chris Myers - Pastor
 Lu Lueck - Parish Coordinator
 Missy Luedtke - Office Assistant
 Stacy Johnson - CE Minister
 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

STANDARD PRESORT
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT #53
 RIVER FALLS, WI 54022

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

September 1, 2011

2011 SEPTEMBER 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Yoga 9-10:00 am Photo Directory Meeting 6:30 pm	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am WEVR Broadcast	5 Labor Day Church Office Closed	6 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am	7 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	8 Yoga 9-10:00 am First Thursday Fellowship and Bible Study 9:00 am	9	10 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
11 Rally 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 Confirmation Kick-Off	12 Mission Education Mtg 6:30 pm	13 Yoga 9-10:00 am Prayer Group 10:00 am 2nd Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	14 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 5:00 pm FMSC Trip for Pre-Confirmation (6th Grade) and Confirmation Years 1, 2 & 3 (Grades 7, 8 & 9) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	15 Yoga 9-10:00 am	16	17
18 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 Church Interns Meeting	19	20 No Yoga Prayer Group 10:00 am 3rd Tuesday 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's Boards & Committees Meetings 6:30 pm Church Council 7:30 pm	21 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 6:00 pm Bonfire for Pre-Confirmation (6th Grade) and Confirmation Years 1, 2 & 3 (Grades 7, 8 & 9) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	22 Yoga 9-10:00 am	23	24
25 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 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26 Endowment Grant Requests Due	27 No Yoga Prayer Group 10:00 am Fall Road Trip 10:30 am-3:00 pm 4th Tuesday Banquet 5:00 pm at St. Bridget's	28 6:00 pm Jubilee Ringers 6:30 pm Confirmation Year 1 (7th & 8th Grades) 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:30 pm Confirmation Year 3 (9th Grade)	29 No Yoga	30	