

## SecondFirst Church

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)  
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Rockford, Illinois

NOVEMBER 2018

# THE TOWER

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL UCC/FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

*Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace*

## A WORD FROM PASTOR REBECCA

Hello Church!

The church and the building is moving and shaking...literally and figuratively! No really, the church bell has shaken the tower so much that stones are falling from it. Our front entrance is closed until we can figure out the extent of the damage...initial drone images look pretty bad! Jokes of wearing helmets to church abound, but in all seriousness, please pray for a simple repair.



We are also shifting spaces on the inside! Our Building Use Ad Hoc Committee, ably chaired by Karen Olson and Jennifer Archer, held two town hall meetings this summer with the congregation and one with the kids. They opened every closet and practically every box, to figure out what our current spaces needs and usage are. As they reported a couple weeks ago in worship...after a very Spirit-filled process, they recommended and the Governing Council approved offering Emerson Hall to a non-profit organization who is changing lives in Rockford. More on that soon, I hope!

Our amazing handbell ministry will move to the fourth floor. We will create a "kid's zone" on the third floor. (Parents are excited about finding their children after service in the same location where they dropped them off. Kids are excited about creating a cool new space.) The old nursery will continue to be a flexible space for bridal parties, overflow meetings and serve as the primary location for Adult Education. I won't bore you with the rest of the plan, but there are many details as result of many minds coming together!

The hard work continues making this move happen. A few gracious volunteers have removed the steps in the fourth floor chapel, and the bells have had their first rehearsals in their new space.

God has given us the opportunity to do even more ministry with our amazing building and location. You, church, have responded to the call with hard conversations and good decisions. We are doing good stewardship in and out of stewardship season!

I am grateful to be your pastor,  
Rebecca



## SAVE THE DATES

- Dec. 7 - Cookie Walk 10:00 am
- Dec. 8 - Christmas Vibrations 3:00 pm
- Dec. 9 - Bell Sunday 10:00 am
- Dec. 16 - Wassail Sunday and Christmas Pageant 10:00 am
- Dec. 21 - Sunday of Advent 10:00 am
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Service 4:30 pm



## OUR DENOMINATIONS HARD AT WORK ON OUR BEHALF



### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**UCC churches in migrant ministry share transformative experiences from Arizona Borderlands**

A number of UCC churches in the Arizona Borderlands, opening their facilities to shelter and support hundreds of migrant asylum seekers being released in waves from ICE (Immigrant and Customs Enforcement) custody this month, are living out a 2017 General Synod Resolution to be an Immigrant Welcoming Church. And despite the demands of feeding, housing and accompanying these unusually large groups on this short leg of their journey, clergy and congregants are finding themselves forever changed by the experience. (source: www.ucc.org)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

**PDA providing much-needed support for hurricane-ravaged areas: More than \$70,000 in grant money is designated for presbyteries in areas affected by Hurricanes Michael and Florence**

Two Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) National Response Teams (NRT) returned from deployment recently in southern Georgia and northwest Florida. They were there to assist in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Michael swiftly blew through the Florida panhandle and southern Georgia as a strong Category 4 storm earlier this month. The teams deployed into Flint River Presbytery and the Presbytery of Florida, where they made damage assessments in coordination with presbytery executives, worshiped with church members, assisted with short-term disaster response plans and identified opportunities for volunteers to help clean up the mess left behind. (source: www.presbyterianmission.org)



JOIN US

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO  
THE PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION  
FALL MEETING

Saturday, November 3  
8:00 am

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
255 E. Bluff Street, Marseilles, IL

**RING CHRISTMAS MUSIC AND BENEFIT CARE FOR PETS**

**Saturday, December 8, 3:00 pm**

Have you considered ringing handbells, but don't feel you can commit to the entire program year? Do you love Christmas music and making a difference in our community? We have an opportunity for you! Come ring with us for "A Furry Family Christmas: A Concert Benefiting CARE for PETS" followed by Bell Sunday the next morning. Bellcantos, our beginner-intermediate adult and teen handbell ensemble, is in need of a couple of folks to ring on the bass table. That means the bells are a little larger than the rest, but not enormous. We use color-coded music, so you can ring even if you can't read music! Rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:00, but that time will bump back to 5:30 as the concert approaches. Contact: Julie Cook Ramirez at 815-543-9739 for more information.

**A BUSY HANDBELL SEASON**

**By Julie Cook Ramirez, Director of Handbell Ministries**

It's official. Handbell Ministries has a new rehearsal space. We are now located on the fourth floor in the former Reed Memorial Chapel. Our Building and Grounds Manager Jeff Byrne worked with us to structure the move around the October 21st Bell Sunday (which also happened to be the same weekend the Carillons were participating in the ECHO handbell workshop) to minimize the number of times we would need to transport the bells.

If you haven't done so already, please mark your calendars for "A Furry Family Christmas: A Handbell Concert Benefiting CARE for PETS" on Saturday, December 8th at 3 pm. All five of our ensembles will be presenting holiday favorites and CARE for PETS Executive Director Stephanie Hicks will share how her organization helps Rockford's underserved population with their pet needs. After the concert, join us in the gym for a yummy dessert buffet and more opportunities to learn about CARE for PETS.

**PILGRIM SUNDAY POTLUCK DINNER**

**November 18 after worship**

Join the congregation for Sunday dinner as we celebrate the season and holiday together. The Fellowship Ministry Team asks that you bring a dish for the buffet table. The church is providing turkey, dressing, potatoes, green bean and beverages. Silverware and place settings will be provided. Contact: Linda Mohaupt, mommoh54@gmail.com

**ST. LUKE'S UPDATE**

Hello All. Despite what seems like no activity at St. Luke Miracle Temple there is progress towards the goal of demolishing the building. We have placed a contract for demolition as well as asbestos abatement - which must be done before demolition can begin. We have also requested removal of the electrical and gas services by ComEd and Nicor, and are hopefully moving up on their to-do list. From what I've been told this may be a long wait. So while we wait, there have been several people and groups who have been working to remove those things and architectural items that have value. One group is from the church who owned the building 30 years ago. I've met people that were married in the church, whose father was the senior minister there, and even heard the story of two of the teenagers (then!) who first held hands in the balcony during Sunday worship. One of the former members who now lives in Tennessee asked for the cross that was on the altar during the fire and he has since sanded away the charred wood and refinished the cross, and it now resides at his new church. I've been told he gets teary when he thinks of his years in church in Rockford. So there are many goodbyes being said and things retrieved that will live on even after the building is gone. I'll give everybody as much notice as I can before the wrecking ball flies. Thanks, Bill Hoff

**ON THE SHOULDERS OF THOSE BEFORE US**

As strains of Brian McConnell's bagpipes play, we will be remembering our departed loved ones in the first service of November. For me this service means many things, but the act of remembering the lives of those who came before us is significant. Brian's reverent performance reminds me of this.

As someone who teaches, plays, and works in the arts, I daily confront the reality of past works and past artists breathing life into the present. Music, defined as 'sound structured in time', is interesting in this manner, for the structures we encounter are often 20, 50, 100, 250 years or more, articulated through new compositions. The defining of musical structure through pitch, duration (rhythm), timbre (tone), dynamics (volume), and formal choices may be altered in detail as we present it by the means of our present understanding, but -somehow- the voice of the composer can still be heard through these choices. We can still be moved and confronted with our humanity and God's creation, as the pen of a long-gone composer still speaks. We bring the dried ink and brittle paper to new life when we perform.

The music we will present in November reminds me of this and more. The Sanctuary Choir will be singing every weekend but "Thanksgiving" weekend (Nov. 25), when Bob Bates and I will be bringing joyful music to celebrate not only "Christ the King" but also "Pilgrim Sunday", all intended to support the poignant preaching of Pastor Becky (Erbe). Isaiah and Micah are the focus of the two previous Sundays, when we will sing the music of respected organist-composer Paul French and John Beck. Yet as we open the month musically with two traditional gestures from the past (bagpipes and Valerie Blair's exciting rendition of the 19th century hymn, "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"), we will also nod toward the future, our Advent future, with new works by Gerald Custer and Aaron McDermid. These works, from newer voices in musical liturgy, strongly assert their voices by honoring familiar and respected structures, given from those before us. New life is given to the past in remembrance. -By Paul Laprade



We walked for CROP! Some in body, many more by donation. Last year we raised more than any other organization in Rockford... we'll wait for this year's totals.

**SERIOUS SOUP: A GOOD MEAL AND FELLOWSHIP**

**Every Monday during October & November 11:00 am-12:30 pm**

Come and join us for a meal and fellowship in our dining room. The meal is open to church members and guests from our neighborhood. There are many ways you can support this new outreach program. You can bake desserts, you can help out in the kitchen or you can sit with our guests and get to know those in our neighborhood. We will take off December and January and start again in February. If you would like to Volunteer for Serious Soup contact Katy Paterson, Arlene Noel or becky.erbe@secondfirst.org.

Oct. 8 attendance = 45                      Oct. 22 attendance = 38  
Oct. 15 attendance = 40                    Oct. 29 attendance = 50

**A LITTLE BIT FROM PASTOR BECKY E.**

As I put this to pen, we have just completed our second 'Serious Soup' Monday. We had most of the same faces as last week, with a few new faces. One woman said she has been to several different food lines but this one she said, "I can feel the love in the food here."

It is amazing, the sense of community that exists within those who have gathered. They care for each other, they worry for each other, and they are family to one another. In this fellowship time, they share stories or give each other cigarettes, or hand warmers, or gloves. Of those that have attended, some have apartments, others are chronically homeless. Our homeless guests share where they are staying. Some are at the parking garage across from the Metro Center. Some of our homeless guests sleep in the park, or by the river. All are grateful for the warm meal and companionship.

If you have some free time on Mondays between 11:00 and 12:30 come and join us. You can sit and meet our neighbors, or stop by the kitchen and thank our volunteers for giving up their time to help create this important outreach. Come and be part of this special community.

**MISSION MINISTRY TEAM NEWS**

In worship on Sunday, October 21, with much applause we prayed out nine care packages to young women in the KFACT program who were once considered "at-risk" and are now in college. The team is also working with Rev. Dr. Copeland of New Zion Baptist Church, who is lawyer turned pastor, on bail reform. If you are interested in participating, please contact John DeWaters (chair).

**PIG ROAST RECAP**

Our Second Annual Pig Roast was a hit and an absolute blast! Around 250 people came for food and fellowship with no questions asked. We made some new friends and are excited for next year!!



**HASKELL BOOTS PROJECT**

As has been our December tradition for the past several years, SecondFirst Church will provide every student at Haskell (that's 298 kids this year) with snow boots. These boots are greatly appreciated by the students and staff at Haskell. The Mission Ministry Team is accepting donations for this project. Checks can be made out to the church with "Haskell boots" in the memo line. A "sorting" party will be held on Saturday, December 1 with delivery to the school late morning. Sorting and tagging of the boots will begin at 8:00 am in the sanctuary. Please sign up with Debbie in the office if planning to help with the boot sorting. Contact: Karen Olson olsonk128@comcast.net, or 817-978-3480.

**ROCKFORD CROP HUNGER WALK 33 YEARS OLD**

The 33rd Rockford CROP Hunger Walk was October 21. While over \$5,000 has been raised on line this article's deadline awaits results of the actual Walk. It occurred after about 300 people attended the revival of Rockford's Mayors Hunger Luncheon. It was October 16, World Food Day, at Cliffbreakers Events and Conference Center. The Mayor himself shared distressing statistics about the growth of hunger in Boone, Ogle and Winnebago Counties. Church World Service is currently active in Florida providing food, clean-up supplies, etc. following two devastating hurricanes. It is also providing funds in Indonesia to aide those made homeless by its latest tsunami. By David Jones

**JUBILEE SOUP KITCHEN**

**Saturday, November 3, 10:30 am**

Our final lunch of 2018 will be served on Saturday, Nov 3. If you have a couple or few hours to share, we would love you to share them with us! We will gather at 10:30 am at the Jubilee Center (the small building across Park St, off the Emmanuel parking lot), and finish by 1:30. Contact: Jean Herro 815-399-7213 if you can be a team member. Thanks.

**COURT STREET UNITED METHODIST THANKSGIVING DINNER**

**November 22, 2018 from 11 am to 1 pm**



Volunteer Opportunities or Pie Donations (store bought, baked or frozen): Please call Bert for sign up times and jobs (week of or day-of). 815-751-4605 or hawksforever.be@gmail.com.

**NEIGHBORHOOD NUMBERS**  
(as of October 17, 2018)

<b>3 diaper help</b>	<b>8 for clothing</b>
<b>3 bus token help</b>	<b>32 showers</b>
<b>1 help with electric bill</b>	

## SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*“Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.”*  
-Pauline R. Kezer

This quote reflects the year for Family Christian Education. Our Transit youth celebrated Courtney's time with us, had Dyan ably lead them through the summer with a Mission Trip and other events, and now welcome Aubrey as their new youth director. The youth hosted a new event "Tech and Talk" where they assisted other members with technology challenges. Our Wednesday evening programming had declining attendance, Sunday School teachers were getting harder to recruit, and our youth bell programs were suffering from lack of participation. So we decided to change. This September we rolled out a new Sunday morning schedule. Kids from age 2 through high school all meet at the same time and the same location. Dyan leads them in a short worship service and then they break out in three groups: Mission table, prayer table, craft table. Dyan and two other adults as well as the older youth all help the younger kids complete their chosen project. (Hint, hint, a great opportunity for you to get involved with our youth! No teaching, no prep time required.). After a quick snack, the youth are off to bells. The strong roots of the bell programs from both Second Congregational and First Presbyterian are branching out. Participation has increased. Thanks to Julie Cook Ramirez for her flexibility with this new schedule. Now another change is on the horizon, a Kid-Zone on the 3rd floor. We are excited about this new space for our youth, with increased safety and welcoming at its core. And I almost forgot to mention, the Christmas pageant will be back this December. By Karen Olson

### CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Confirmation is open to all middle school and high school students who have not yet been confirmed. We will meet from 11:45 am - 1:30 pm on Sundays listed below, lunch will be provided. Winter and spring dates to come. Confirmation Sunday will be June 9th.

- November 4** - Understanding How the Bible Is Organized
  - November 11** - Biblical Hermeneutics (Just HOW DO we Interpret Scripture?)
  - December 2** - God of Justice and Compassion Part I
  - December 16** - God of Justice and Compassion Part II
  - January 4-6** - Snow Camp
  - January 27** - What is Sin? The Psychology of Sin (When Science Proves God Exists!)
  - February 10** - What is Grace? (A Mindful Experience including some Outside Experts!)
  - February 22-24** - Stronghold Confirmation Camp
- Contact: aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org

### NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL FORMAT

Do you ever wonder what the kids do when they leave for Sunday School? This year, we are using a new format combining a few curriculums. We are able to get our sillies out in the beginning, listen to a bible story, partake in an offering of our talents through a craft, mission project or prayer station, have a snack and end with a mindfulness activity. We are always looking for volunteers to help. No planning is required, just come hang out with some amazing kids. Use the link to sign-up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA5A92EA2FF2-sunday> -- Any questions, please contact Dyan Lofgren at dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org.



Both teens and adults enjoyed Tech and Talk!



Theo Newgren collects the offering for the new children's worship Sunday School format.



The Peanut Bells ringing Jesus Loves Me.

## GET SOCIAL!

Connect with us on Facebook > [facebook.com/secondfirstchurch](https://facebook.com/secondfirstchurch)

## EVER WANTED TO BE IN A PARADE?

Well, here is your chance. The Membership Ministry Team is looking for volunteers to participate in creating and being a part of the parade for Stroll on State that will take place on Saturday November 24. We will need to create a Christmas themed float and have participants willing to walk/ride along on that date for Stroll on State. If this is something you think you would like to join in on please Contact: Kim Craft at berlincraft@comcast.net or Sandra Campa at sandracampa55@gmail.com.



# STROLL on STATE

### WALKING IN THE GYM IS BACK!

Tuesdays and Thursdays, October through April 11:00 am -1:00 pm

When a church is open to the community around it, the community around it comes to church. For another cold weather season, we will welcome walkers in our gym. So bring your friends, tell your co-workers and get your move on. To volunteer, call the office or email [debbie.wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:debbie.wise@secondfirst.org)

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

If you would like to be received into membership at SecondFirst Church or would just like to learn more about us, please join us for the dates and times listed below.

- Sharing Our Stories of Faith-Sunday, November 4 after worship with light refreshments.
- Sharing Our Collective Story of Faith-Wednesday, November 7, 5:30-6:30 pm for dinner.
- Living Into Our Faith-Sunday, November 18 meet at 9:00 am in the dining room then received into membership during worship.

To register: **Debbie Wise 815-963-8431** or [debbie.wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:debbie.wise@secondfirst.org)



Many thanks to Bill Hoff who scaled the building to save a cat and then fixed the damage to roof he saw while he was up there.



Local Attorney Linda Zuba reports about her volunteer work at the Dilly Detention Center in Texas at an event hosted by the League of Women Voters.

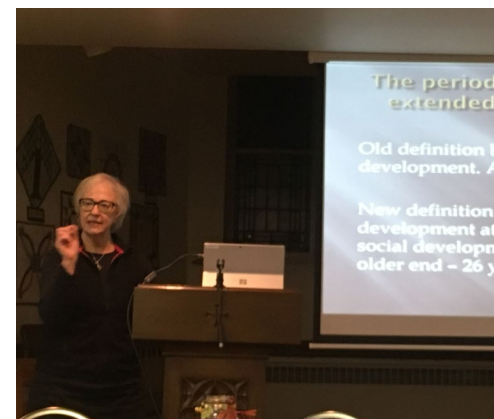


Mayor Tom McNamara speaks with Judge Rosemary Collins while leading about 200 people in a march against domestic violence Sunday in downtown Rockford.

Pastor Rebecca and family marched with other church members against domestic violence. Many thanks to Alice Uphouse for getting our church engaged on this important topic.



Our handbell ministries in their new practice location.



Elaine Breck of Rockford Promise shares the impact of a college education for the students they serve during our series on Adolescence.



Armando Cardenas wrote a song for the asylum seekers and those separated from their parents. Performed here with Tito Cevallos.



Marge Maynard (left) and Shamika Williams (right) discuss KFACT after the Adolescence series.

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

## Thursday, November 1

9:30 AM - Carillons  
 9:30 AM - Free Showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center  
 5:30 PM - JD Board Meeting  
 6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
 7:00 PM - Choir

## Friday, November 2

No Scheduled Activities

## Saturday, November 3

8:00 AM - UCC Prairie Association-Marseilles  
 10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic  
 10:30 AM - Soup Kitchen  
 Change your clocks back

## Sunday, November 4

Remembering Loved Ones  
 8:30 AM - Koffee Klass  
 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
 10:20 AM - Sunday School  
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour  
 11:15 AM - New Member Class  
 11:15 AM - Cookie Walk Planning Mtg  
 11:15 AM - Tower Ringers  
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop  
 11:45 PM - Confirmation Class  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center

## Monday, November 5

10:00 AM - Free Showers  
 11:00 AM - Serious Soup  
 5:00 PM - Love Rockford

## Tuesday, November 6

7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking

## Wednesday, November 7

No Deaconesses  
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
 5:00 PM - Family CE Ministry Team  
 5:00 PM - Membership Ministry Team  
 5:30 PM - New Member Class  
 6:30 PM - Martin Ringers  
 6:30 PM - Series on Adolescence

## Thursday, November 8

9:30 AM - Carillons  
 9:30 AM - Free showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center  
 6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
 7:00 PM - Choir

## Friday, November 9

9:00 AM - Peanut Brittle Party  
 1:00 PM - Horizons Bible Study

## Saturday, November 10

10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic  
 10:00 AM - Carillons Rehearse

## Sunday, November 11 Carillons

8:30 AM - Koffee Klass  
 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
 10:20 AM - Sunday School  
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour  
 11:15 AM - Tower Ringers  
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop  
 11:45 AM - Confirmation  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center

## Monday, November 12

11:00 AM - Serious Soup  
 12:00 PM - Adult Education Ministry Team  
 5:00 PM - Deacons Ministry Team

## Tuesday, November 13

8:00 AM - Men's Fellowship  
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop  
 9:30 AM - Presbytery Joliet  
 9:30 AM - Free Showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking  
 6:00 PM - DVT

## Wednesday, November 14

9:00 AM - Peanut Brittle Party  
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
 5:00 PM - Foundation Meeting  
 5:00 PM - Trustees  
 6:30 PM - Martin Ringers  
 6:30 PM - Series on Adolescence

## Thursday, November 15

9:30 AM - Carillons  
 9:30 AM - Free showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking  
 5:30 PM - Governing Council  
 6:00 PM - ARC Rec Night  
 6:00 PM - Bellcantos  
 7:00 PM - Choir

## Friday, November 16

No Scheduled Activities

## Saturday, November 17

10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

## Sunday, November 18

Pilgrim Potluck Stewardship Celebration  
 8:30 AM - Koffee Klass  
 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
 10:20 AM - Sunday School  
 11:00 AM - Pilgrim Potluck  
 11:15 AM - Music Ministry Team  
 No Fellowship Ministry Team  
 11:15 AM - Tower Ringers  
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center

## Monday, November 19

11:00 AM - Serious Soup

## Tuesday, November 20

7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop  
 9:30 AM - Free Showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking  
 5:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Dinner  
 5:30 PM - Missions Ministry Team

## Wednesday, November 21

10:00 AM - Staff Meeting  
 6:30 PM - Martin Ringers

## Thursday, November 22

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!  
 (office closed)



## Friday, November 23

Office Closed

## Saturday, November 24

No Bridge Clinic

## Sunday, November 25

8:30 AM - Koffee Klass  
 10:00 AM - Worship Service  
 Children in Worship  
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour  
 11:15 AM - Tower Ringers  
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop  
 4:30 PM - Just Breathe 815 Drop In Center

## Monday, November 26

11:00 AM - Serious Soup

## Tuesday, November 27

7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop  
 9:30 AM - Free Showers  
 6:00 PM - Earth Care Committee  
 7:00 PM - Executive Committee

## Wednesday, November 28

10:00 AM - Staff Meeting

## Thursday, November 29

No Scheduled Activities

## Friday, November 30

7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop  
 9:30 AM - Free Showers  
 11:00 AM - Gym Walking

## SPECIAL WORSHIP DAYS IN NOVEMBER

### REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES ON ALL SAINTS DAY

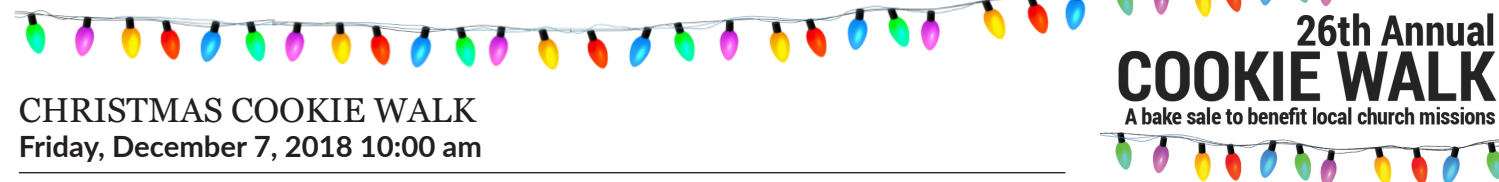
#### Sunday, November 4

Our annual All Saints, Remembering Our Loved Ones is coming up soon. Please join us as we remember and celebrate the lives of those we have lost this past year.

### SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER

#### Sunday, November 11

Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, professor at Chicago Theological Seminary (UCC) will preach Sunday, November 11. Come hear what this Gospel of Luke scholar who focuses on pop culture has to say about the prophet Micah.



## CHRISTMAS COOKIE WALK

Friday, December 7, 2018 10:00 am

Mark your calendars for Friday, December 7th. Elegant homemade cookies, frozen casseroles, and the world famous peanut brittle will be available to purchase. Take outs will be available. Come hungry for a hot lunch. The Church Street String Band will provide entertainment. Doors open at 10:00 am and close 1:00 pm.

Contact: Mary Young 815-877-8113

## GOVERNING COUNCIL NOTES

We have had very complete discussions on the start of the "new church year" and are looking forward to the implementation of the strategic plans that have been made by the ministry teams. Governing Council approved the new building use plan, is following updates from Trustees about building repairs (including new HVAC in the sanctuary), has approved initial plans for a new alternative worship service (monthly Sunday afternoons), is seeking funding for the mural project and is considering an overnight cafe to keep a small number of people safe during the cold nights.

We are looking forward to the events in the near future - Thanksgiving is always a "big and historic event" in the church, and of course, the following Advent season will be exciting and eventful.

The Governing Council encourages all members and others who attend to participate in these important programs of our church. Let us continue to be "energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace".

## NOTE FROM MODERATOR: STEVE SHOWERS

Please be assured that we are working hard to energize Rockford. You can feel the energy by just following the e-word that is sent monthly. (If you are not receiving this via e-mail, either pick up a copy from the office or contact the office with your e-mail address.

After a very successful recent neighborhood event (the pig roast), we have gathered to allow children to walk the parking lot for our "Trunk or Treat". This is a great way to watch the happy faces, great costumes and creative designs for the trunks. Watch and listen for the news of activities that help us to meet our lofty goals.