



## Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

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

First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2020

Order of Worship for Digital Service

10:00am

*\*= please rise, whether in body or in spirit*

### PRELUDE

"Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel?"

ARR. J. PETHEL

### CENTERING

Rebecca White Newgren

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Holly Hegge

Leader: The story begins with hope for a child,

**All: A child, born of a woman, like us;**

Leader: A child who will lead us,

**All: A child who will inspire us.**

Leader: A child who will be our living hope.

**All: On this First Sunday of Advent, we give thanks for the coming child, Jesus.**

(light candle)

**All: Let us worship God.**

### HYMN

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

H. HOPSON

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free, who visits and redeems us, and grants us liberty. The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release; God shall fulfill the promise to bring our people peace.

On all by death imprisoned the sun begins to rise, the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes, to guide the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace; Oh bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

### CALL TO CONFESSION\*\*

Holly Hegge

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

When we allow darkness to overcome the light, forgive us, Lord. When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel, have mercy on us, Lord. When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing, and hearing the needs of others, let your grace consume us, O God. When the wars around us are of no concern, forgive us, Lord, and move us to compassion for those who suffer. When our caring is not extended to action, move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters. We come to confess our sinfulness before you and before each other. Remove all barriers that divide us, and let there be no obstacle to our love for you and for one another.

*One Minute of Silent Reflection*

### ASSURANCE AND PEACE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EARLY WORD

Rebecca White Newgren

**SONG**

"Give Thanks"  
Paul Laprade, voice, guitars

H. SMITH

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Daniel 6:6-27

**SERMON**

"The Dude Abides"

Becky Erbe

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Rebecca White Newgren

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*There are three ways to give of yourself to the church: 1. The obvious, money. You can mail in your offering or click the orange DONATE button top right at [secondfirst.org](http://secondfirst.org). Text to give is live! Text Give \$\_\_ to 815-335-9911 and follow the instructions. 2. Send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: [becky.erbe@secondfirst.org](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org). 3. Make yourself known to this community or offer your time/talent by emailing Rev. Rebecca: [rebecca@secondfirst.org](mailto:rebecca@secondfirst.org).*

**SONG OF OFFERING**

"We've Come This Far By Faith"  
Paul Laprade, voice, piano

A. GOODSON

**PRAYER FOR OFFERING****BLESSING AND BENEDICTION****POSTLUDE**

"Savior of the Nations Come"

P. MANZ

*\*Beth Merrill Neel*

*\*\*written by Nathan Decker*

**Thank you to our participants!**

Rebecca White Newgren, centering, early word, prayer

Holly Hegge, call to worship, call to confession

Pastor Becky Erbe, sermon

Paul Laprade, voice, guitars, piano

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Andy Newgren, video

Wes Hegge, sound

**Upcoming Virtual Events:**

Sunday Worship, 10:00 a.m. on Facebook Live

All Ministry Teams will meet as lead by the chair. Call Debbie to reserve a time to sit in the sanctuary. Please reach out!

## **Prayer Requests**

Please keep these members and friends of the congregation in your prayers. Additions to the prayer list are always welcome. Prayer requests will be listed for one month. If you would like to remain on longer, please notify the office.

- It is with sadness we announce the passing of Martha (Jane) McAfee. Jane died Thursday, Nov. 19, in her sleep. Jane was a long time member of First Presbyterian, then later SecondFirst.
- Continue prayers for Marsha Martin, Lenore Lund, Walt & Joyce Pennow, Charles Costello, Katy Paterson, Roman Campa, Ron Schaad, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), Terri Keller (daughter in law of Cara Keller), Jean Herro, Pastor Rebecca, Jackie Chamberlain, Cathy Toepfer (daughter of Jackie Chamberlain), Leah Baskin, Doris Rowald, and Philip & Shirley Davidson.
- And we pray for all those at home and in long-term care facilities, who may not be in worship regularly, but who remain part of our family of faith: Nancy Gallegos, Miriam Richardson, Jan Elliott, Willene Ziebell, Norman Fry, Darlene Miller, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Claude Vernam, Susan Dodillet, Charles Rosche, Arlene Snap, Lillian Smith, and Betty Haegg.

## **Help Celebrate Jayne Pheiffer's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!**

Jayne's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday falls on December 18. We want to celebrate with her on Sunday, December 13, with a drive by birthday event.

We will meet in the parking lot of Lutheran High School (3411 N. Alpine Rd) at 1:45 pm. We will form a train of cars and travel to Independence Village (3655 N. Alpine) to greet Jayne via our cars. Please join us to make this a special day for Jayne. Feel free to make signs, bring balloons or just honk and wave. Call Debbie in the church office to let us know you want to participate.

## **Poinsettia Sunday, December, 20, 2020**

We will be taking orders for poinsettias through Tuesday, December, 7.

The cost is \$14.00 and you can call or email Debbie with your order. Please mail your check to the church and note Poinsettia's. Please let us know if you want the poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of a loved one.

## **Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 20**

Family Christian Ed invites you to participate in a new sort of Christmas Pageant. It will involve recording yourself and sending it in or being recorded by one of us. Please let us know if you are interested as soon as possible. Parts for all ages! Please contact: Jennifer Archer

## **Giving Opportunity: The Christmas Fund/ Christmas Joy Offering Sunday, December 20**

We will receive gifts to the UCC and PCUSA funds that support current and retired church workers in need. The funds are used to help with emergency situations, housing, long-term care, health care costs, and supplements to small pensions. In this season of giving, we extend our gifts to those who were called to serve our churches with love and faithfulness. Thank you.

## **Christmas Prayer Stations December 21 - 23, Times varied and spaced apart**

Missing the sanctuary this Christmas Eve? sign-up for your time to see the decorations and pray through the stations. Those who have come into the sanctuary after a time away have been stunned by its power to bring us before God. Come enjoy the decorations, music and be invited into prayer, confession and grace. Email [Debbie Wise](mailto:Debbie.Wise@lutheranhighschool.org) or call the church office 815-963-8431. Masks and hand sanitizer required and offered at the door.

## **Virtual Christmas Eve Facebook Live 4:30 pm**

The lights will be twinkling, the music flowing and the word inspiring. Join together across the bounds of space and time to worship the Christ who brings new life and joy to us in this year we desperately need him. Music featuring Nannette Felix on harp, Valerie Blair on organ and piano,

Julie Cook Ramirez on classical guitar, the SecondFirst Choir making its digital debut and Paul Laprade directing and creating. Grab your own candle to light and join us for a meaningful celebration of Christmas.

### **PJ's for KFACT Mission Ministry Team**

KFACT's Christmas Holiday Party is soon, and each girl in the program needs a pair of pajamas and slipper socks. Our Mission Ministry Team agreed to promote their wish, and others in the Rockford area are helping too.

If you would like to make the holiday brighter for a KFACT mentee, please bring to church or mail a pair of new pajamas and slipper socks by December 15<sup>th</sup>! Do not wrap the items.

The needs & sizes are: \* All sizes are needed (XSmall, Small, Medium, Large) And the need is for 25 sets in each size. A pair of slipper socks, one size fits all, is requested with the pj's. \*\$10 Starbucks Gift card (Optional)

All donations are greatly appreciated! Help make spirits bright for KFACT girls! Purchase in town or online. Below is a link you may use if you wish! KFACT's wish list

Please note "For KFACT" somewhere on your gift, especially if ordering online!

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AKOSL33U8P83?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/AKOSL33U8P83?ref=wl_share)

Donations can be sent or dropped off to SecondFirst Church Thank you for your kindness.

**Coffee Class** continues to gather each Sunday at 8:30 am with a wide range of topics. Exact sessions are still being finalized, but this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others. Contact Andy Newgren to receive the Zoom invite or be added to the email distribution list. Email

### **Could Our Church Send 54 Children Back to School in Haiti?**

This is the third year our church will be providing school funds for children in Saut-d'eau, Haiti. We have learned from James and Odette Casimir that there is no free public school, therefore each family must pay \$250 per child to provide for tuition, supplies, back-pack, uniform and lunch.

Our Mission Team has offered to donate one dollar for every two dollars given by the congregation. There are 54 children we are hoping to sponsor and at this time we still need \$3,740 to make it happen. If you would like to contribute to this project you may make a donation to SecondFirst Church with *Haiti Education Fund* in the memo line.

This project sends a message of peace, justice and joy to children who live far away but are in our thoughts and deeds.

If you have questions, suggestions, or would like to join the Haiti Interest Group at SecondFirst Church, please Contact: Roger and Carolyn Greenlaw or James and Odette Casimir

### **Stories of the Bible and the Stories of Our Lives Tuesdays at 12:00 noon**

Led by Rev. Rebecca on ZOOM

The stories of the Bible are full of pain and joy, suffering and triumph. In some ways they mirror our own stories and in other ways they seem distant and far away. Using the Narrative Lectionary text for the coming Sunday, we will study the passage and use it to reflect on our own lives. All are welcome. No Bible experience necessary. (Call the office if you need help with Zoom). Register with Debbie in the office to receive the Zoom link. Questions? [rebecca@secondfirst.org](mailto:rebecca@secondfirst.org)

### **Serious Soup Monday's 11:30 am -12:30 pm (No Serious Soup on November 30)**

Serious Soup has begun with some changes. A few tables will be set up outside for guests to sit as they eat. Lunches will be warm to go bag lunches. Contact: [becky.erbe@secondfirst.org](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org)

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