



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 7, 2021

Order of Worship

10:00am

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

Thank you for being vaccinated and for wearing your mask to protect our children and immunocompromised. Children in grades Pre-K through 5th may leave for Sunday School and will return to their parents/guardians for Communion.

PRELUDE

"Highland Cathedral"

C. CALLAHAN

CENTERING

Rebecca White Newgren

Leader: God be with you,

All: and also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP◆

Leader: A thousand days are but a moment to God;

All: All flesh is grass, and withers away.

Leader: Still we treasure our days with those whom we love,

All: And reluctantly give them back to God.

Leader: On this day, we thank God for the saints in our lives.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN

"For All the Saints"

SINE. NOMINE, ARR V. WILLIAMS

For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed, thy name, O Jesus, be forever blessed: Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song, and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Andy Newgren

PRAYER OF CONFESSION◆

God of all the saints, God of all the sinners, hear our prayer. We would be saintlike – holy, good, patient, loving. But we end up feeling more like sinners – full of failures of morality, selfish, mean. Perhaps You see us simply as human – as beloved, and flawed, and trying, and failing, and succeeding. In all of this, forgive the wrong that we have done, and the bless the good we have accomplished. Keep on loving us, and helping us, and molding us more and more into the image of Christ, in whose name we pray in this silence...

One Minute of silent reflection

ASSURANCE AND PEACE

Leader: May the Peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

*SONG OF PRAISE

"The Gloria Patri"

GREATOREX

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Katy Paterson

SONG

"O Lord, Support Us"
Sanctuary Choir

R. POWELL

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Kings 19:1-18

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Up or Down"

Becky Erbe

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Rebecca White Newgren, Becky Erbe

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise...

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

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE WINE

SHARING THE FEAST

As with everything, the Lord's Supper looks very different these days. Hopefully you received a Communion Kit as you entered this morning. If not, please ask an usher for one. For those at home, perhaps you have prepared your own elements. Whatever you have or don't have, wherever you are, whoever you are, the Lord draws us together into God's grace by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

There are three ways to give of yourself to the church: 1. The obvious, money. There is a basket in the Narthex. You can mail in your offering or click the orange DONATE button top right at secondfirst.org. Text "Give \$__" to 815-335-9911 and follow the instructions. 2. Drop a prayer card in the basket or send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org. 3. Make yourself known to this community or offer your time/talent with a Welcome card or by emailing Rev. Rebecca: rebecca@secondfirst.org.

SONG OF OFFERING #547 vs 1-3 "Go My Children, With My Blessing"

WELSH MELODY

Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone. Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own. In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever. Go, my children with my blessing, you are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure. Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure. Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory. Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me. Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free. Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you. Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.

PRAYER FOR OFFERING

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Jesus Shall Reign"

J. HATTON/ARR. V. LABENSKE

◆written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *"Hold Fast to What Is Good"*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Marilyn Hartzog, Tim and Darlene Riddle, communion preparation

Jim Burright, head usher

Wes Hegge, sound

Katy Paterson, bus driver

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

Mary Lea Freedlund November 13, 1930-November 10, 2020

Ruthann Lenard June 3, 1946-November 15, 2020

Claude C. Vernam December 18, 1930-December 3, 2020

Walter J. Pennow May 23, 1931-December 25, 2020

Merritt S. Matheson September 14, 1973-February 4, 2021

Miriam Richardson March 16, 1928-April 4, 2021

Marjorie E. Nash November 17, 1932-May 1, 2021

Jean J. Larsen July 6, 1923-May 5, 2021

Georganne H. Eggers March 12, 1928-May 28, 2021

Thomas Charles Nelson May 28, 1962-June 3, 2021

Kenelm A. Groff June 27, 1929-August 4, 2021

Barbro Lobell December 13, 1928-September 8, 2021

John A. Thayer August 10, 1926-September 23, 2021

Miriam "Mimi" L. Mulford June 26, 1923-October 11, 2021

David F. Smith February 21, 1934-October 12, 2021

Greg W. Cowman March 11, 1957-October 24, 2021

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.

- Continue prayers for **Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Judy Diehl and family (quarantined for COVID)**, Greg Makulec, Beckett Krieg (great nephew of Sandy Williams), Carol (sister of Susan Dodillet), Shirley (friend of Janet Hendricks), Jill Torgerson's son Wayne Gahl, and family, Dan Truttman, (nephew of Jan Novak), Jacob Crow (nephew of new members Josh and Adrian Crow), Roman Ramirez, Lenore Lund, Doris Rowald, Marsha Martin, Ron Schaad, Katy

Paterson, Barbara Smith (daughter of Alice Pampe), Cathy Toepfer (daughter of Jackie Chamberlain), 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: Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Norman Fry, Darlene Miller, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Arlene Snap, Lillian Smith, and Betty Haegg.

Church Fall Landscape Clean up Saturday, November 13, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Please bring rakes, pruning shears, and any other items you would like to use. Contact: Ron Schaad

Haskell Boot Sorting Party Saturday November 20, 8:30 am

As has been our tradition the last few years, SecondFirst Church will be providing boots for all the students at Haskell Elementary School again this year. The boots have been purchased (254 pairs this year), name tags are in the works. We will be holding a boot sorting party starting at 8:30 am in the sanctuary. Boots will be tagged and sorted into classrooms. Please let Deb in the office know if you can participate. We will be following all current church COVID guidelines during this time. I am also looking for someone to drive the van at 11:30 am on that day to deliver the boots to Haskell. Please contact Karen Olson with any questions.

Jubilee Soup Kitchen SOS! Saturday, November 20, 10:00 am

The good news is that our next date to pack to-go lunches at the Jubilee Center will be November 20! The bad news is that both Marge and Jean will be dealing with knee replacements at that time, something neither of us had planned on when we selected this date a year ago. Hence the SOS: Marge is the official coordinator and is looking for a personal assistant for that day. I will still do the planning and assembling of items (utilizing online ordering and pick up service from GFS and Woodman's) but I need someone to help schlep it all into the Jubilee Center and get it ready to go. Could this person, be you? Let me know if you are interested. Questions? Contact Marge Maynard mtm.home@me.com

Pop Up Peanuts Sunday, November 21, 9:30 AM

Please join in ringing! –Peanuts to meet at 9:30 prior to church, in the Sanctuary, for a rehearsal. We will be playing the prelude.

Stewardship Sunday November 21

Why Do You Give To Our Church?

If you were asked that question, how might you respond? Some might say Church is where my leadership skills were first named, noticed and nurtured as I was encouraged to claim and use my voice. Why do you pledge as much as you are able each year? Jessica Lindblade shares her thoughts this morning.

Two Chances for Pumpkin Bars Sunday, November 21

Join us on for Pumpkin Bars after worship. If you with us on Sunday, November 21, you can take a bar home with you. If you attend worship via Facebook, come by church beginning at 11:30 am and we will host a drive thru.

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesday's, 7:00 am in the Dining Room

The cost is still \$1.00. Masks required to enter; social distancing is requested (like at a restaurant). We hope to reunite with all former attendees and are looking for others to join for fellowship, breakfast, and prayer. Contact: [Steve Showers](#)

Calendar at a Glance Nov. 7-14

* via zoom

<u>Sunday Communion Nov. 7</u> Remembering Loved Ones 8:30 AM – Coffee Class* 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School <u>Monday, Nov. 8</u> No Serious Soup 5:00 PM - Deacons <u>Tuesday, Nov. 9</u> 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:30 AM – Presbytery 12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study* 5:00 PM – Foundation Meeting	<u>Wednesday, Nov. 10</u> 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 12:00 PM – Covid Committee* 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers <u>Thursday, Nov. 11</u> 9:30 AM – Carillons 1:00 PM – Advisory Committee for Overnight Cafe 6:00 PM – Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	<u>Friday, Nov. 12</u> No Scheduled Activities <u>Saturday, Nov. 13</u> 8:00 AM Church Fall Landscape Clean Up <u>Sunday, Nov. 14 Worship</u> Baptism 8:30 AM – Coffee Class* 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) *Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace*

Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Katy Paterson moderator@secondfirst.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Rebecca White Newgren rebecca.whitewnewgren@secondfirst.org

Associate Pastor, Member Care and Neighborhood Connections: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Children and Family Coordinator: Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

Director of Theological Engagement: Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org

Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair valerie.blair@secondfirst.org

Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org

Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org

Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org

Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org

Office Manager: Debbie Wise debbie.wise@secondfirst.org

Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org

Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks



Rooted in Love

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.

Psalm 1:3a



Leadership Message

by Darlene Riddle

I owe the spiritual roots I have to my mother. It was she who took us seven kids to Sunday School every Sunday. We grew up on a farm in central Illinois, and I'm not sure why my father never attended when we were young, but it was her steady influence that has lasted and served me well all these years.

I, like many others, didn't go to church all through college and beyond. When my marriage to a non-practicing Catholic ended after eight years, I knew I wanted the same type of solid foundation for my daughter and, at the same time, knew something was missing from my life. The feelings of failure, disappointment, guilt and fear for the future led me to search for a church home.

I was attending a Sunday service in Gordon Chapel led by Rev. William Richard Kerr, the associate pastor at Second Congregational in the early eighties. There is no recollection if this was before or after I joined the church, or what Bible verses the sermon was based on, but I remember like it was yesterday that it was about forgiveness. He asked us to write on pieces of paper what was weighing heavily on our hearts, and they were then collected like the offering. At the front, was a Weber grill – and you can guess the rest. The papers were tossed in the grill, burned and turned to ash.

I'm not sure if I was the only one with tears streaming down my face that day, but that symbolic “letting go” or “lifting up” was the start of feeling that if God can forgive and love me, then I can start to forgive and love myself. The part of the Lord's Prayer “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors” has special meaning to me and I try, not always successfully, to be as forgiving as God has been to me.

After I joined this church, it was becoming involved in activities that helped me get to meet people and make this my church family. I taught Sunday School for several years, was a parent chaperone for the youth group (Snow Camp was an experience) and have served on almost all the various ministry teams – some several times. It is without a doubt that the people of this church are the reason I stayed when we had some less than stellar interim ministers and I can't imagine anywhere else I would rather be on Sunday morning.