Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)
Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Stewardship Sunday November 13, 2022
Order of Worship 10:00am

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

Thank you for being vaccinated. Wearing masks is strongly recommended.

PRELUDE "More Love to Thee, O Christ" ARR. WAGNER/HAYES

***WELCOME** Becky Erbe
Leader: May the Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦** Kris Harden
Leader: Holy God, in reverent awe, we come to worship you!
All: We gather to honor and glorify God's almighty name.
Leader: Righteous God, we rejoice as we come to worship you!
All: We gather to celebrate God's power over the forces of evil.
Leader: Faithful God, with thankfulness, we come to worship you!
All: We gather to sing praises to the God in whom we trust.

***HYMN** #321 vs, 1,4,5 "The Church's One Foundation" AURELIA
The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord. She is his new creation by water and the word. From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride. With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war, she waits the consummation of peace forevermore: til with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest, and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One, and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won: O happy ones and holy: Lord, give us grace that we, like them, the meek and lowly, may live eternally.

CALL TO CONFESSION♦♦

PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Leader: We are so easily confused by what the world tells us, Watching God, that we forget the stories of faith we heard as children.
All: We are so fearful of tomorrow; we are not aware of your Spirit with us today. We are so busy wondering, 'what if?' or 'suppose?' we cannot hear the promises you whisper to us.
Leader: So once again, Gracious God, have mercy on us.
All: You know our hearts so well-touch them with your grace. You see our deepest fears-heal them with your peace. You hear our secret longings-speak to them of your hope. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

One Minute of silent reflection

ASSURANCE FOR GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: The One who searches our broken hearts has found the way to mend them and make us new people. The good news is that everything God has done in Christ is for us, that we might be made whole.

All: With kindness, and justice, God makes us new people. We will sing our thanks through all eternity. Great is God, and greatly to be praised! Amen.

***THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Phil Davidson

EARLY WORD Aubrey Barnett

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Mitzi Muntz

ANTHEM "Inner City Bells/O Happy Day" ARR. B. ZARTMAN
Dorothy Paige-Turner soloist, Sanctuary Choir, Carillons

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 65:17-25

SERMON "When Lions Eat Straw" Becky Erbe

***HYMN** #697 vs 1-4 "Take My Life" HENDON

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be, swift and beautiful for thee, swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing, always, only, for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee, filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose, every power as thou shalt choose.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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 OFFERING AND STEWARDSHIP Phil Davidson

God is unwavering in giving to us, so let us give to God. With gratitude for all we are and all we have done as a church and what we can do in the future we invite you to come forward with your pledge cards and offerings. If you have already pledged feel free to take an I've pledged card and drop it in the basket.

SONG OF OFFERING "An American Medley" ARR. A. L. PAGE
Carillons

***DOXOLOGY #606**

***PRAYER FOR DEDICATION** Phil Davidson

***HYMN** #700 "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" A.A. Spiritual

I'm gonna live so – God can use me – anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so – God can use me – anywhere, Lord, anytime.

I'm gonna work….
I'm gonna pray….
I'm gonna sing….

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE "Cornet Voluntary" J. TRAVERS
please remain seated for the postlude

♦written by Joan Stott, based on Psalm 98. posted on *The Timeless Psalms*
♦♦written by Thom Shuman, and posted on *Lectionary Liturgies*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist
Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge sound, video
Katy Paterson, van driver

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Sam Marlow, Cara Keller**,** Vernon Carter, Don Freedlund**,** Shirley Barber (mother of Sandy Williams), Dan Truttmann (nephew of Jan Novak), Kathy Moton, Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, Katy Paterson, Cathy Toepfer, 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: Shirley Anderson, Arlene Snap, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Phyllis Seeman, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, Don Freedlund, and Betty Haegg.

Choose God's Table Today is Stewardship Commitment Sunday. We commit ourselves this morning to choose God's table. Accepting Jesus' invitation to be true partners with him, we are eating the bread of life and drinking the cup of salvation. This means we are rejecting other tables to which we are invited that do not give us life or true salvation – that might be idols which offer us power and security, but cannot possibly fulfill those promises. Come to this table of love. Choose to eat together as partners with Christ building with him the realm of God.

Hybrid Adult Education Sunday School
11/13, 11/20 - Exciting three-week study of Paul Tillich, renowned 20th century theologian, led by our own Bob Bates. Join us in The Gathering Place or on line to attend this special offering. For the zoom link please contact John DeWaters at john.r.dewaters@gmail.com. Coffee Class welcomes you!\

BOOTS FOR HASKELL Boot Sorting Saturday, November 19, 8:30 am in the Sanctuary
As has become our custom, SecondFirst Church will once again be purchasing boots for the Haskell School students. These boots enable the students to go outside for recess year-round, getting the necessary fresh air and exercise that is so important for physical health, mental health, and improved ability to learn. The feet have been sized, the boots have been purchased and now the fun begins. Boots will be tagged for each individual student and sorted by classroom. At 11 am we will drive the church van full of boots to Haskell for distribution. Please let Karen Olson, kolson128@gmail.com, know if you can help on this day. We also need your financial help with this project. Please consider donating to the mission ministry team to help fund this. Donations can be made to the church with the memo "Boots for Haskell" and placed in the offertory or mailed to the church. Contact Karen Olson with any questions. THANK YOU in advance for your support of this wonderful ministry.

Join us for Coffee Hour and Pumpkin Bars on Sunday, November 20, in the gym
Welcome Thanksgiving by staying after church to enjoy pumpkin bars and Coffee Hour with your church friends.

Jubilee Soup Kitchen: November 26, 10:00 am
Marge (and John) Maynard will be heading up this special post-Thanksgiving lunch at the Jubilee Center (the small building between Emmanuel Episcopal Church and Court St). If you and your special friends and family can help, that would be excellent! We will start at 10 am and be finished by 1 pm. Not sure yet what the menu will be, other than delicious! Contact Marge if you are interested or have questions. New teammates are always welcome.

Poinsettia Sunday, December 18
We will be taking orders for poinsettias through ***Monday, December 5.*** 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. Please let us know if you want the poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of a loved one.

Serious Soup Update
Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and donations from our Congregation and the Salvation Army, Serious Soup continues to flourish. We are serving an increasing number of patrons. Each Monday morning, we serve a meal which consists of a hot main dish, a side dish, bread or a sandwich, a vegetable salad, a fruit salad, homemade soup, dessert, and a bottle of water. Our biggest need at this point is monetary donations. We are also looking for people to contribute soup. We have had some delicious homemade soups. We also need soda crackers and desserts. Dessert can be homemade or packages of cookies, etc. purchased from the store. If you have never observed Serious Soup in action, stop by the Dining Room any Monday morning between 9:00 and 1:00. Questions? See Katy or Arlene.

Calendar at a Glance November 13-November 20, 2022

Sunday, Nov. 13 Carillons 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store **Monday, Nov. 14** 11:30 AM – Serious Soup 5:00 PM – Deacons/Fellowship **Tuesday, Nov. 15** 7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Bible Study 5:30 PM - Missions	**Wednesday, Nov. 16** 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 5:30 PM - Trustees 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers **Thursday, Nov. 17** 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	**Friday, Nov. 18** No Scheduled Activities **Saturday, Nov. 19** 8:30 AM – Boot Sorting **Sunday, Nov. 20** 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store 11:15 AM – Coffee Hour-Pumpkin Bars 11:15 AM – Family CE

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Ministers: All Members
Moderator: Phil Davidson moderator@secondfirst.org
Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org
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