



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Order of Worship

May 14, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Ave Maria”

F. SCHUBERT/ARR. N. HAWTHORNE

INTROIT

“It’s a Wonderful World”
Peanut Ringers

L. ARMSTRONG

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Katy Paterson

Leader: Come, God gathers us for worship, like a mother hen gathers her brood under her wings.

All: Our God, loving, nurturing.

Leader: In love, God saves and supports us, teaching us the way we should go.

All: Trusting in God, we continually offer our praise!

***HYMN #366 vs 1-4**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” (alternate tune) BEECHER

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast; let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest. Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: Gracious God, we confess our doubts that stifle our joy. Forgive us when we lack faith in you, and comfort us when our fears outweigh our praise. God, forgive us when we fail to trust you, and help us when we do not live as your faithful witnesses. Guiding God, forgive us when we are self-consumed and lack the time needed to serve our neighbors.

All: In these times, have mercy on us, O God, and encourage us to be your love-lived, by renewing us daily in your strength. We pray...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

***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

Marge Maynard

EARLY WORD

Aubrey Barnett

ANTHEM

“If You Love Me”
Sanctuary Choir

J. RANEY

SCRIPTURE READING

John 14:15-21

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Orphaned

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #462 vs 1-3**

“I Love to Tell the Story”

HANKEY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know ‘tis true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else could do. **REFRAIN**

REFRAIN: I love to tell the story; ‘twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story; ‘tis pleasant to repeat what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet! I love to tell the story, for some have never heard the message of salvation from God’s own holy Word.

REFRAIN

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best seem hungering and thirsting to hear it, like the rest. And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song, ‘twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. **REFRAIN**

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 THE OFFERING

Marge Maynard

There are many ways to give of yourself to the church: The obvious, money. You can mail in your offering or click the orange DONATE button top right at secondfirst.org. Text to give is live! Text Give \$__ to 815-335-9911 and follow the instructions. Please send your prayer requests to Pastor Becky: becky.erbe@secondfirst.org.

SONG OF OFFERING

“I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light”
Sanctuary Choir and Children

K. THOMERSON

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Marge Maynard

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

“Joyful Joyful”

BEETHOVEN/ARR. J. RANEY

please remain seated for the postlude

♦ written by Rev. Danyelle Ditmer, *little people big word.com*

♦♦ *Worship Ways*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, interim director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

John Maynard, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

The Flowers are given by Jan Novak in Honor of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchild.

Join us in the Dining Room immediately after worship for a special coffee hour, “Muffins for Mom!”

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for **Maria, Ann Stites**, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Sharon, Roseva Massenat, Richard Lierman, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Lenore Lund, Winona Beeman (mother of Holly), Sam Marlow, Cara Keller, Vernon Carter, Dan Truttmann (nephew of Jan Novak), Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, 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, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

New Date! Ring in Spring Concert Sunday, May 21, 4:00 pm

Spring has sprung-and you know what that means! Our annual Ring in Spring concert is just around the corner. Please join for an afternoon of music and mission as our handbell/handchime ensembles present an array of enjoyable selections. This year's concert will benefit Get Connected, a local organization dedicated to helping high-risk individuals impacted by incarceration re-enter the community successfully and self-sustainably. You can learn more about their mission <https://getconnectedtoo815.org>

Serious Soup Needs your Help

We are nearly out of saltine **crackers** and **ranch dressing**. Donations may be left in the office or Kitchen/Dining Room. We also need soup makers. We have some ingredients for you to use. We have chicken and ground beef in the freezer. We also have rice, pasta, beans, tomato sauce, canned vegetables, beef, and chicken broth. Sometimes we also have fresh potatoes and onions. See Arlene or Katy.

Strengthen the Church/Pentecost Offering Sunday, May 28

We will celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of the future. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Special Offering which nurtures the faith of both the young and the old. The United Church of Christ uses your special offering to Strengthen the Church. The Presbyterian Church USA devotes it to ministry with children at-risk, youth and young adults.

Calendar at a Glance May 14, 2023-May 21, 2023

Sunday, May 14 Mother's Day 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Muffins for Mom Monday, May 15 11:30 AM - Serious Soup Tuesday, May 16 7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Store 5:30 PM – Missions Ministry	Wednesday, May 17 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting 5:30 PM - Trustees 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers Thursday, May 18 9:30 AM – Carillons 5:15 PM – Bellcantos 7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal	Friday, May 19 No Scheduled Activities Saturday, May 20 2:00 PM – Bell Rehearsal Sunday, May, 21 8:30 AM – Coffee Class 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:15 AM – Family CE 4:00 PM – Ring in Spring Concert
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Darlene Riddle moderator@secondfirst.org

Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org

Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org

Youth Director: Rachel Huffman rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org

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

Choir Director: Richard Stiltner richard.stiltner@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

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