

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church
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 Rockford, Illinois



THE TOWER

Your monthly update on the church and its members

SEPTEMBER 2016

A NOTE FROM REVEREND REBECCA

Hello Church,

We have an exciting new(ish) development in the life of our church. Julie Cook Ramirez has agreed to be our Interim Director of Handbell Ministries! A great team of folks initiated by the Executive Committee and led by Jennifer Archer took a good look at the Bell Program, where it is now and where we want it to go, and they decided that Julie was the right person to lead this transitional year.



Julie, who has directed one of our bells choirs, has a great rapport with her ringers. She introduces creative and interesting music and has an ear for music that praises God. In the tradition of Dick Litterist, Joe Calkins and now Jim Fry, she will be more than able to create fellowship opportunities and connect the world to the church through bell ministry.

We can be proud of our long standing Bell Ministry (in both churches), and I am looking forward to how Julie will engage our ringers and lead them to make music to the glory of God.

Peace,
 Rebecca

TREADING CAREFULLY - AN ENTRY POINT INTO RACE IN AMERICA

Wednesdays September 14- October 19 at 6:30, room TBD

Dinner served at 6:00pm



Four-and-a-half years ago, the death of Trayvon Martin reignited the desire for many Americans to engage in a national conversation on race. In 2014, Charles Blow of the New York Times said America 'must have' this conversation. The rise of violence against persons of color from Baltimore to Dallas to Chicago to Baton Rouge to Saint Paul to Milwaukee raises the critical question - is this a problem that a conversation can solve? How are people of faith to face this problem? How do we as a faith community tackle a national legacy of white supremacy while tirelessly embracing the

kingdom of God? The questions persist, and while daunting in nature, deserve our attention and reflection. Join us this fall beginning September 14 for a six-part series as we cautiously and prudently address this topic and open ourselves to where God is calling us collectively and individually. Contact Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org.

Staff

Moderator: Carolyn Greenlaw csgreen52@aol.com	Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah@secondfirst.org	Sunday Building Host: Jeff Byrne jbyrne6132@yahoo.com
Senior Pastor: Rev. Rebecca White Newgren rebecca@secondfirst.org	Interim Director of Bells: Julie Cook Ramirez julie@secondfirst.org	Childcare & Thrift Store Coordinator: Stephanie Cooper
Director of Member Care & Neighborhood Connections: Becky Erbe becky@secondfirst.org	Director, The Carillons: Joyce Zartman joycezartman@att.net	Communication Coordinator: Erin Sturm erin@secondfirst.org
Director of Music: Paul Laprade paul@secondfirst.org	Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel nancy@secondfirst.org	Director of Theological Engagement: Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org
Organist: Valerie Blair valerie@secondfirst.org	Office Manager: Debbie Wise debbie@secondfirst.org	Youth Director: Courtney Jonsson courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org
	Building Manager: Kurt Riplinger kurt@secondfirst.org	Family Ministry Coordinator: Dyan Lofgren Dyan.Lofgren@secondfirst.org

Ministry Teams

Christian Education christianed@secondfirst.org	Fellowship fellowship@secondfirst.org	Missions missions@secondfirst.org
Deaconesses deaconesses@secondfirst.org	Governing Council governingcouncil@secondfirst.org	Music music@secondfirst.org
Deacons deacons@secondfirst.org	Membership membership@secondfirst.org	Trustees trustees@secondfirst.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Turkey Roast September 10

The annual church turkey roast will be held on Saturday, September 10 at Conklin's house at 4048 Will Ann Drive. We are saying 6:00 pm for a start time, but won't start eating until about 6:30 pm. Turkey, dressing, beverages and s'mores will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Let Debbie in the office know if you are coming so that we will know how much food to prepare and how many to set up for. If you decide to come at the last minute and have not let anyone know, come anyway! We always set some extra places. Questions? Contact Ed Conklin ejc4048@aol.com

Soup Kitchen Volunteers September 10

Many hands make light work as we prepare, serve, and clean up from lunch at the Jubilee Center on Sept 10. We will start at 10 am and finish by 1:30 pm. You can help for the entire day or only part. It's all welcome! Let Marge Maynard know if you are interested, and especially if you have questions. Contact Marge mtm.home@me.com.

You've Been Promoted September 11

Attention High School and Middle School students: Transit Youth Ministry wants to promote you! Join us on September 11 from 3:00 - 5:00 pm to find out which small group you will be promoted to and to kick off youth group for the year! Come ready to compete in small group competitions, water games, and a paint war. This event will test your intellect, physical ability, and logic, so come ready for anything. If you have any questions, please contact Courtney Jonsson courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org.

Cider and Donuts September 25

Please join the Congregation after worship on September 25 as we celebrate the Fall Harvest and the bounty of the season. Cider and donuts will be served in the dining room. Contact Dave Noel dav_noel@comcast.net

Wednesday Prime Time Dinner Help

We would love to have you be a part of the Wednesday night team! You can volunteer to prepare at 4:30 pm, sponsor a dessert, or help with clean-up. Here is what volunteering entails: Set up: Get trays, plates, napkins and flatware ready. Help with water and milk or cutting up carrots and celery. Serving: 3-4 people to serve the food, 2 people to help with dessert. Clean up: washing, putting away dishes, wiping down tables. Donations of desserts appreciated. Cupcakes, cookies, brownies, or whatever interests you. If you are interested in finding out more call Debbie 815-963-8431.

Join the CROP Hunger Walk October 16

The CROP Hunger Walk season is here! Hundreds will join together in fighting hunger in Rockford and around the world through the Greater Rockford Pantry Coalition. Last year our congregation raised a record \$13,061 placing 16th out of the top 40 Illinois congregations. Please consider walking in person or in spirit this year. Pick up a CROP envelope from David Jones or Bob Saunders. The Walk is Sunday, October 16th at the Riverfront Museum Park, 711 N. Main. Contact Dave Jones davidj6226@aol.com

Coins for Kids

We are continuing to collect loose change in the collection plates to help support our new after school program for area kids. These coins will assist in funding special field trips and parties for students. Every penny counts!

Calling for Announcements on Sunday

Would you like your church project, or Ministry Team activity to be included in our Sunday Announcements? Please email them to debbie@secondfirst.org by the Wednesday before our Worship Service. Looking forward to hearing from you.

2016 EVENTS

OCTOBER

10/16 - CROP Walk

10/22 - Women's Fellowship Brunch
(Rockford Country Club)

10/30 - Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER

11/5, 10 am - Soup Kitchen

11/6 - Remembering Loved Ones

11/8 - Presbytery Stronghold

11/20 - Stewardship Sunday & Pilgrim Potluck

11/23 - No Prime Time

11/24 - Office closed for Thanksgiving

11/25 - Office closed

DECEMBER

12/3 - Cookie Walk

12/10 - Soup Kitchen

12/15 - Gordon Circle Peterson Meadows

12/18 - Potluck & Caroling

12/24, 4:30 pm - Christmas Eve service

12/25, 10 am - Christmas Day

Worship service

12/26 - Office closed



Blessing of the backpacks



A lovely moment from the Four Church Joint Service



Alice Uphouse painting the Thrift Shop

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Thursday, Sept 1
 9:30 AM - Deaconesses Ministry
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 6:00 PM - JD NOC

Friday, Sept 2
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Saturday, Sept 3
 10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, Sept 4
 Communion
 9:00 AM - Koffee Klass
 10:00 AM - Worship Service
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop

Monday, Sept 5
 Labor Day
 Office closed

Tuesday, Sept 6
 7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 4:30 PM - Stewardship Sub Committee

Wednesday, Sept 7
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
 12:00 PM - JD NIC
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Thursday, Sept 8
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 9:30 AM - Carillons
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 5:30 PM - JD Dev. Board
 6:00 PM - Bellcanto
 7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, Sept 9
 1:00 PM - Horizons Bible Study
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Saturday, Sept 10
 10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic
 10:00 AM - Soup Kitchen
 6:00 PM - Turkey Roast-Conklins

Sunday, Sept 11
 9:00 AM - Koffee Klass
 9:20 AM - Wee Worship
 9:30 AM - Memorials Committee
 10:00 AM - Worship Service
 10:20 AM - Sunday School
 11:00 AM - Sundae Sunday Celebration
 11:15 AM - Christian Education
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop
 3:00 PM - Transit Youth Group Promotions

Monday, Sept 12
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 5:30 PM - Deacons

Tuesday Sept 13
 8:00 AM - Men's Fellowship
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop
 9:30 AM - Presbytery-Joliet
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 6:00 PM - Discernment & Vision

Wednesday, Sept 14
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 5:00 PM - Trustees
 5:30 PM - Prime Time

Thursday, Sept 15
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 9:30 AM - Carillons
 12:00 PM - Gordon Circle
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 6:00 PM - Bellcanto
 7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, Sept 16
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Saturday, Sept 17
 9:00 AM - Police Neighborhood Basketball Tournament
 10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic
 6:00 PM - Transit Rec Night

Sunday, Sept 18
 9:00 AM - Koffee Klass
 10:00 AM - Worship Service
 10:20 AM - Sunday School
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour
 11:00 AM - Kathi Ferrero Celebration
 11:15 AM - Fellowship Ministry
 11:15 AM - Music Ministry
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop
 5:00 PM - Blue Line Transit Youth Group

Monday, Sept 19
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Tuesday Sept 20
 7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop
 1:00 PM - Executive Committee
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 5:30 PM - Missions Ministry

Wednesday, Sept 21
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 3:00 PM - Literacy Training
 4:30 PM - Membership Ministry
 5:30 PM - Prime Time

Thursday, Sept 22
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 9:30 AM - Carillons
 11:00 AM - Choir Guild
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 5:30 PM - Governing Council
 6:00 PM - Bellcanto
 7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, Sept 23
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Saturday, Sept 24
 9:00 AM - Prairie Association-Sycamore
 10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, Sept 25
 9:00 AM - Koffee Klass
 10:00 AM - Worship Service
 10:20 AM - Sunday School
 11:00 AM - Fellowship Hour
 Cider & Donuts
 11:15 AM - Fair For All Shop
 5:00 PM - Blue Line Transit Youth Group

Monday, Sept 26,
 9:15 AM - Free Showers
 2:00 PM - After School Club

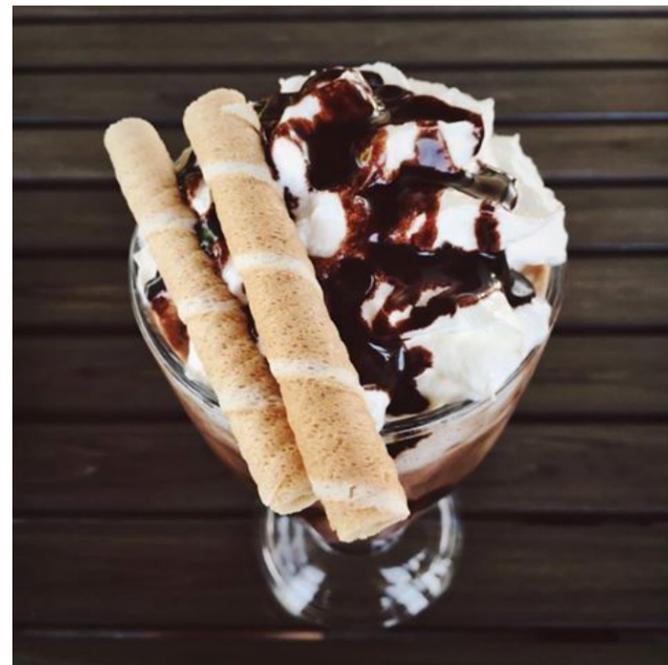
Tuesday, Sept 27
 7:00 AM - Men's Prayer Breakfast
 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop
 2:00 PM - After School Club

Wednesday, Sept 28
 10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 3:00 PM - Literacy Training
 5:30 PM - Prime Time

Thursday, Sept 29
 9:15 AM - Free Shower
 9:30 AM - Carillons
 10:30 AM - Women's Fellowship
 2:00 PM - After School Club
 6:00 PM - Bellcanto
 7:00 PM - Choir

Friday, Sept 30
 2:00 PM - After School Club

SUNDAE SUNDAY VOLUNTEER FAIR SEPTEMBER 11



Sundae Sunday Volunteer Fair will be held after worship on September 11. This is a great kickoff for our Fall start-up and will offer yummy ice-cream and a chance to look over the volunteer opportunities.

Each Ministry Team will have a table set up that highlights their mission and related projects. Come find just what you are looking for: something new to try, a new group, or a new project. Here is an opportunity to bring a friend to Sundae Sunday who may not be a church member but is thinking about getting involved in the life of the church. You may choose to be a part of creating worship or working in a mission area that inspires us all to do deeds for the greater good.

We look forward to a new year of involvement as we: Seek to know, love and worship God while welcoming all people, serve our neighbors and sharing God's grace.

See you at the Sundae Sunday as we continue our journey of Energizing Downtown Rockford and beyond with God's Grace. Contact Carolyn Greenlaw csgreen52@aol.com

KEEPING OUR CHURCH BEAUTIFUL - TUCK POINTING AND MORE

by Zan Picchioni

Peter Joachim and his crew, Ramon and Jerome, have completed a long project to clean up the outside of the building. They hand-ground all the crumbled mortar (aka. tuck pointing) out from between the stones up to 12 feet around the entire church and replaced it with new mortar. They had to mix 5 different colors of mortar to match the assortment they found. It took them many weeks in the very hot summer heat.

But that wasn't enough. While they were there, Peter and the guys fixed broken glazing on the Gordon Chapel windows, repaired steps on the church street side and fixed the broken sidewalks near the North entrance. They even did a little tuck pointing high above the windows on the Park Ave. side (see photo). Thank you Peter, Ramon and Jerome for giving the entire building a loving touch. It looks tremendous!



JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT CHANGES

by Reverend Rebecca White Newgren

There is news about Jeremiah Development: Kathi Ferrero is now teaching high school history, which she is perfectly suited to do and really excited about. Because of this new endeavor, she has stepped down as the executive director of Jeremiah Development (JD). As one of the founding board members, Kathi was instrumental in the creation of Jeremiah and has ably led the organization to both fulfill her mission and move toward sustainability.



Jeremiah was formed in 2008 by four downtown churches (now three) who recognized both the need of the neighborhood and their ability to make a difference. Jeremiah's mission is to promote the well-being of our neighborhood. This mission was influenced by the following passage from the Bible "seek the well-being of the city...for in its well-being you will find your well-being." (Jeremiah 27:9)

Kathi has fostered many relationships with people and organizations in the city that have opened doors for our neighbors and JD as an organization. We will certainly miss Kathi's hands-on work with Jeremiah. Michelle Ryan, a child of Court Street UMC and an integral part of a few Rockford non-profits, will ably take the reigns. Kathi is not going too far; however, on Thursday the Governing Council voted to make Kathi one of our two representatives to the executive council and board of JD.

Many thanks to Kathi for her dedication and hard work, which has made us a more faithful church. Please join us after worship for coffee hour on Sunday, September 18 to show our love and gratitude.

BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS FROM JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT

by Michelle Ryan, Associate Director of Jeremiah Development

July and August have been very busy months for Jeremiah Development. We introduced our new Coronado Haskell Housing Rehabilitation Program to the neighborhood. The program will receive funding from the City of Rockford Community and Economic Development department to assist our neighbors with home repairs, accessibility issues, sewer connections and local code issues. Qualified homeowners could receive up to \$40,250 in forgivable loan funds.

Over the last couple of weeks, volunteers from the churches, Jeremiah board and committees have been out walking door-to-door with 2016 Neighborhood Surveys. As you may recall, in 2013 we partnered with HomeStart to complete a survey of the Jeremiah Development neighborhood. This included block surveys, building surveys, as well as 175 one-on-one resident surveys. This time around, volunteers have interviewed 185 residents! Final results are still to come, but we have learned that many residents report they have seen some positive change over the past three years. Thank you to all of the volunteers who took the time, and braved the heat, to make this happen!

Jeremiah Development is saying a grateful farewell and extending our overwhelming thanks to Kathleen Ferrero who has been our Executive Director for the last six years. Kathi has been a tireless and passionate visionary for Jeremiah Development. She has guided neighborhood involvement, and developed important partnerships that will carry Jeremiah into the future. Kathi will be returning to a former passion – teaching. We wish her much success and happiness.

Join us Sunday, September 18 for Jazz Worship and to celebrate Kathi Ferrero's work with Jeremiah Development

CHILDREN'S BOOK DONATION FOR THE LITTLE FREE

The Little Library is in need of children's books of all levels. Do you have some that are gathering dust on a shelf or taking up space in your basement? We can use them! Let Anne Stratemeyer know to expect them and she will let you know where to leave them.

Don't have books but would like to support the project?

A donation of \$20 will enable us to purchase used books and this will keep the library humming for two weeks. Indicate 'little library' on your check or envelope to make sure it gets to the right place. Thanks for helping to encourage a love of reading! Contact Marge Maynard mtm.home@me.com.



AED AND CPR CLASS OFFERED ON OCTOBER 4

What's an AED? An automatic external defibrillator (AED) is a portable electronic device used in the event of a cardiac arrest (heart stoppage). It was designed to be simple for any layperson to use. Does our church own one? We sure do, it is currently stored in the back of the sanctuary, ready for use in an emergency. Who can use it? We have some members of the congregation and staff trained in the use of the AED, but we would love to have more. It would be great to know that there was always someone in the building who knew how to use the AED. Karen Olson will be offering a basic heart-saver CPR class including AED use on Tuesday, October 4 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Please call Debbie in the office, 815-963-8431, to sign up. If you are interested but this particular date doesn't work, give Debbie your name and if there is enough interest, we may offer an additional class. Contact Karen Olson, kareno128@comcast.net, with any questions.

UNDERSTANDING DIVERSITY TO BUILD TRUST ON SEPTEMBER 16

Hearing a lot about diversity these days, but not sure what it means, why it's important, or where to start? Join our leadership team in attending the CASA presentation on Starting the Conversation: Understanding Diversity to Build Trust. LaDonna Wattlely will be speaking on developing interpersonal relationships, debunking stereotypes, and creating effective service delivery.

The presentation on September 16 from 8 am - 2:30 pm at the Tebala Event Center (7910 Newburg Road). Cost is \$40 per person. Contact Pastor Becky at 815-963-8431.

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 Wes Hegge's father, Cara Keller, Amy & Janet Stringer, Julie Rollins, Phil Turner, Mike Marvell, the Stratemeyer Family, Leah Baskin, Philip & Shirley Davidson, and Miriam Richardson.

And we pray for all those at home and in long-term care facilities, who are not able to be in worship regularly, but who remain part of our family of faith: Keith Mulford, Thomas Hill, Jim & Nora Jean Rollins, Norma & Wayne Nicholson, Nancy Bert, Linda Burrig, Jan Elliott, Elsie Kayser, Marge Kildow, Ruthann Lenard, Beverly Lindsey, Russell Morgan, John Showers, Marilyn Thayer, Ruth Todd, Ward Wallace, and Willene Ziebell.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS

Do you know we have a thrift shop? Do you know it is open on Tuesdays, September through May? Do you know it is open from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm? Do you know we serve the community when there is an emergency need for clothes, socks, underwear or pots and pans? Do you know that the Thrift Shop is now the home to a plus-size women's clothing closet for those going to a job interview? Do you know that donations of clothing and shoes for men and women as well as kitchen items are always appreciated? Come down on Tuesday, September 6 to see what the Thrift Shop has to offer and how we are continually serving our community! Many thanks for the items that has come in over the Summer! Contact Jean Reese jeanwreese@yahoo.com.

MEMBER'S PHOTOS NEEDED

Our Church is transferring our records to a new church database called Fellowship One! In order to complete the process, we will need a photo of every individual, adult and child, in our congregation, members and frequent visitors alike. We will not be able to use old photos published in the directory, for many of them are group photos, so please be sure to get a new photo taken. Please stop by after church to get your picture taken. Questions? Contact courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org

VOLUNTEER WITH THE LITERACY COUNCIL

What's on your bucket list? How about teaching someone to read? Second First Church is offering the Literacy Council's new 5-week class on Wednesday afternoons, starting September 14. Five 2.5 hour sessions to teach you how to be an effective tutor for adults who can't read. We know there are too many functionally illiterate adults in Rockford, many American-born who had to leave school. Imagine not being able to read the Bible, road signs, doctors' prescriptions, food labels, or driver's license questions. Even worse, imagine two illiterate parents not able to read to their children, putting them at least two years behind kids with reading parents, dooming them to the vicious cycle of more unemployment and poverty.

This is your moment! Five weeks, 12 hrs, then a possible commitment of two hours per week with one student for a year. After training, you can then decide to continue or not. This would be like giving up one Netflix show per week. There are currently over 60 adults motivated to learn to read who are registered and waiting for a tutor. Sign up now. Call the Literacy Council (815-963-7323) to join the Second First class.

ROCKFORD URBAN MINISTRIES PRESENTS EFFECTS OF SLOTS

We will be presenting a program on the economic effects of slots on Winnebago County on September 22, beginning at 7:00 pm hosted at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 4848 Turner Street in Rockford.

Anita Bedell, executive director of Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems, will share with us the latest statistics of Winnebago County's receipts for slot machines and how they rank in the state. The program will begin at 7:00 p.m.

According to Ms. Bedell, the state is trying to increase the number of slots available. Sen. Severson is leading the way for the increase, especially at truck stops. Right now Rockford ranks second in the state (having been ousted out of first place by Springfield) in the amount of money lost – over TWO MILLION DOLLARS A MONTH! Rockford has over 450 machines. Unincorporated Cook County and DuPage County are the only areas of the state that have vetoed slots.

The program is free and open to the public, and everyone is encouraged to attend to hear how we are losing money to the slot machine owners. RUM will also present some resources for the gambling addict, and information about how to get involved state-wide.

NEWS FROM EMERSON HALL - BELL SEASON SCHEDULE

The start of the 2016-17 Bell Season is approaching fast and each of the directors have been hard at work planning for the new program year. Here are the start dates and times for the bell groups:

Carillons: Thursday, September 8 at 9:30 am (directed by Joyce Zartman)

Bellcanto Ringers: Thursday, September 8 at 6:00 pm (directed by Julie Cook Ramirez)

Angelus Ringers: Wednesday, September 14 at 5:30 pm (directed by Julie Cook Ramirez)

Martin Ringers: Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 pm (directed by Julie Cook Ramirez)

Peanut Bells: Sunday, October 2 during Sunday School (directed by Sarah Hallberg)

If you or your child is interested in joining one of the bell groups, please contact me or the respective director. We always welcome new (or returning) ringers.

We look forward to an exciting year of ringing with joy for the Glory of God! Julie Cook Ramirez, Interim Director of Handbell Ministries (julie@secondfirst.org or 815-543-9739).

SPECIAL UCC AND PCUSA OFFERING ON OCTOBER 2

On October 2, World Communion Sunday, you are asked to support the work of the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) and the United Church of Christ (UCC) through their special offerings. Presbyterians call it their Peace & Global Witness Offering (PGW). The UCC Church calls theirs Neighbors In Need (NIN). While their purposes are the same, to aid those desperate for help, each makes a specific focus.

The PGW Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace in their communities. The NIN Offering supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Your gift will be shared proportionally with both offerings.

AUGUST GOVERNING COUNCIL IN BRIEF

In August, the Governing Council came in out of the Summer sun to meet under Moderator Carolyn Greenlaw's direction. Marge Maynard reviewed the work of the Mission Team, and the council passed a motion to support Jeremiah Development's LOVE ROCKFORD Day, April 29, 2017 which will be a festival of services offered by our downtown churches (contact: Holly Beeman). Mary Spindler explained the Deacon's worship enhancement ministry, which uses decorations in line with the liturgical season and corresponding themes and colors. Holly Hegge reported that Membership Team is making progress on new interior and exterior signage. DVT Ministry Team Chair Sally Hoff received Governing Council support for the Literacy Council partnership. She also shared that Tito Cevallos made a presentation to DVT about the possibility of a Second First Church outreach to Hispanic people. Jim Burrright stated the Deacons are reviewing the Wedding Policy. Pastor Rebecca shared Kathi Ferrero is teaching high school history and has resigned as the executive director of Jeremiah Development, and the council voted enthusiastically to support Kathi's continued service as a representative of Second First on the Jeremiah Development Board. Carolyn Greenlaw rallied the team chairs to share their ministries at Sundae Sunday on September 11. The Governing Council minutes are available by calling the church office. Questions? Carolyn Greenlaw csgreen52@aol.com.

PRIME TIME FALL MOVIE NIGHT

September 14 & 21: **"Gigi"** This was Lerner and Lowe's first major work following their huge success with "My Fair Lady." It was also their first musical written specifically for the movie screen. It starred Leslie Caron as "Gigi", with Maurice Chevalier, Louis Jourdan, Hermione Gingold and Ava Gabor as part of the cast. Critically acclaimed, it was nominated for 9 Academy Awards and won all of them.

September 28: **"Lili"** This is the small but beautifully made little film that gave Leslie Caron a nomination as best actress of 1953. She was filming "Lili" when Arthur Freed approached her about making another film with him, which led to the role she played in "Gigi." Caron plays a young orphan who becomes infatuated with a carnival magician and has some magical moments with a group of puppets, including the song "Hi Lili, Hi Lili, Hi Lo." Mel Ferrar is the puppet master and the puppet sequences were inspired by "Kukla, Fran, and Ollie." Based on a novella by Paul Gallico.

October 12 & 19: **"Secondhand Lions"** Robert Duvall and Michael Caine star in this coming-of-age story about a shy, young boy (Haley Joel Osment) whose irresponsible mother sends him to spend the summer with his eccentric uncles in rural Texas. We last saw Duvall in "Tender Mercies," and this film is another example of this fine actor's craft.

October 26: **"Heaven Is For Real"** Another fanciful look at what heaven may be like, this time through the eyes of a three-year-old boy. Based on the book of the same name written by Todd Burpo and Lynn Vincent, it tells the story of Colton, Burpo's 3 year old son, who in a near death experience tells of visits that he made to heaven. Can these experiences be believed? Or are they the fanciful work of a child's brain under stress?

November 9 & 16: **"The Hundred Foot Journey"** Helen Mirren stars in this film that deals with culture clashes in the world of fine dining and is "bursting with flavor." An Indian family moves to France and opens a restaurant across the street from a Michelin-starred French restaurant owned by Mirren's character. Helen Mirren is always worth watching and this role garnered her best actress nomination from the Golden Globe Awards.

December 7 & 14: **"Mr. Turner"** For consideration as our December film, "Mr. Turner" is the 2014 British, French, and German biographical drama of the life of a painter J. M. W. Turner (1775–1851). Turner is described as a great artist and a radical, revolutionary painter, of whom writer/director Mike Leigh explained, "I felt there was scope for a film examining the tension between this very mortal, flawed individual, and the epic work, the spiritual way he had of distilling the world."

THIS SUMMER'S NEIGHBORHOOD CARE

by Becky Erbe

The warm weather has kept the church busy with those in need. Here are the outreach statistics for the summer.

- 15 people received 2 local Bus tokens each
- 4 people were sent home by Greyhound or Van Galder Buses
- 6 regular homeless came for weekly showers
- 5 people came to the Thrift Store for emergency needs
- 3 people came for emergency diapers
- 1 person lodged for a week for emergency housing

This list does not reflect the many that came for prayer, food or water. Contact: Becky Erbe, becky@secondfirst.org

WEDNESDAY NIGHT PRIME TIME IS BACK SEPTEMBER 14

Wednesday Night Prime Time begins September 14 at 5:30 pm.

Come join the fun and spend time with your church family and friends. Here is our new schedule:

3:00 pm - 5:30 pm Literacy Council Training (beginning Sept 21)

5:30 pm - Children and Youth Bell Choir

6:00 pm - Orange Line Transit Youth Group and Children's Bible Time begins with Dinner at 6:00 pm in the dining room

After dinner, groups will then move to their space, Youth 4th floor, children 3rd floor.

6:30 pm - Movie

7:00 pm - Martin Ringers

7:15 pm - Free time in the gym

7:30 pm - End of programming

Contact Courtney Jonsson (Youth), courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org, Dyan Lofgren (Children) dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org or Julie Cook-Ramirez (Bells) julie@secondfirst.org.

BUILDING THE CITY - A STUDY ON THE BOOK OF NEHEMIAH

Koffee Klass Series, Sundays September 11 – October 16, 9:00 am in the Heritage Room
Led by Kathi Ferrero and Andy Newgren

The book of Nehemiah, spanning the sixth and fifth centuries BCE, is central to Israel's story of restoration following the Babylonian exile. Being in a position of authority in the Persian king Artaxerxes' court, Nehemiah became governor and returned to Jerusalem to revive the city and ensure its defense and protection against potential invaders. As opposed to Ezra, Nehemiah's work was primarily political in nature yet utterly dependent on God. A look at the fortunes of ancient Jerusalem resonate in Rockford today as we examine how this determined ancient leader relentlessly orchestrated the restoration of his beloved city.

Join us for this series as we explore Nehemiah and draw inspiration and parallels for how to enrich our present community.

Questions? Contact Andy Newgren andy.newgren@secondfirst.org

