

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church
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THE TOWER

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

SEPTEMBER 2017

A WORD FROM REVEREND REBECCA

Hello Church!

As the new program year rolls around, perhaps it has you thinking, “How should I engage my church this year?” Many of you are busy serving teams and volunteering. Others of you are past your volunteer days and get to bless me and one another with your wisdom and kind (and challenging) words. Yet others of you are still thinking, “I hope she doesn’t ask me to do or say anything.” Wherever you are on your journey of church and faith, here are four ways to engage SecondFirst Church this year:

1. **Pray** for our church’s witness in this city and world. Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God’s grace is a bold vision and we cannot do it unless we beg God to show up and show us what to do and how to do it.
2. **Invite** your friends and neighbors to join you here. Whether you live in a nursing home or attend nursery school, an invitation is a powerful thing. I know it is hard (confession: I’m still working up the nerve to invite one of my neighbors). Our church is so great and God does such amazing things in and through us that we really shouldn’t keep it to ourselves.
3. **Enliven** our collective ministry by offering suggestions and tackling new ideas and projects. You do not have to be in leadership to do Jesus’ work on behalf of the church. Have a good idea? Grab another and go do it. Need the church’s support? Reach out to a ministry team or DVT for help.
4. **Thank** God and one another for being a part of this great church in this fine city. Developing a sense of gratitude is biblical and good for your health. See our gratitude board in the South Narthex to express your thanksgiving.

God is still blessing us (spoiler alert: and always will) so we are going to get after another year of worship, learning and serving together. May God be with us as we go.

Peace to you!
Rebecca

A SNIPPET FROM REV. REBECCA'S SERMON ON 8/13 FOR BECKY ERBE'S INSTALLATION

...All of us are to do these things. All of us have vocations. All of us are to be ministers. But every once in awhile there is a special and specific person who rises up out of the body of believers, the body of Christ, the church, who people recognize as a leader of the ministers, a supporter of the sojourners, an equipper of the saints. Long before I knew about this church, the good folks of Second Con, and then quickly affirmed by First Pres, choose Becky Erbe as your pastor and teacher, minister and leader....

I do not need to tell any of you about Becky Erbe. Even if you are visiting with us for the first time today, you have probably already met her and been warmly welcomed. Becky is a caretaker, the first to love and the last to give up. She is a servant, willing to go into the

depths of despair with you and walk with you until life lets up. Becky is a supporter, giving space and sharing resources until you succeed. One of the things I love about Becky is that no matter who you are you have the same A+ standing with her. If you are homeless and in rags needing to take a shower or dressed to the nines making a generous donation, you receive the same gracious love and attention from her....

...Because of Becky, we have opened our showers to those who need one, we have begun sending folks back to their home cities when they get stranded here in Rockford and we have had and will have again successful life-changing ministry in the gym....

Becky, we are grateful for you and delighted you are now our assistant pastor!



Courtney loves Decaffeinated coffee!
Fair Trade now has some \$2.00 sample packs for sale both regular and decaf.



Rich and Karen Olson navigated a great group on a great 24 mile bike trip of Madison, WI.



Merritt challenges the children in a rubber band rocket contest.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER & DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Pilgrim Park Fall Cleanup - September 9

The spring clean-up at the Princeton IL UCC park was cancelled due to a week of rain and has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 9. Contact David Noel at 815-398-6518 or dav_noel@comcast.net if you are interested in assisting the staff at Pilgrim Park. The service project participants will be leaving at 8:15 am and returning by 4:45 pm.

Singers: Come Out of the Woodwork - September 10

Are you a person who would love to sing without making a time commitment to weekly rehearsals? Please consider joining the Woodwork Choir for one special song on one special day, September 10. We will rehearse at 9am, in the choir room, then move to the Sanctuary for this very special service.

Pig Roast on the Lawn - September 16

You're invited! We are having a pig roast hoping to draw the neighborhood with a scrumptious aroma on Saturday, September 16 from 2 - 4 pm. Want to help? Any questions? Contact: johndewaters@peoplepc.com

Leona B. Gordon Circle Meeting - September 21

Ladies, please mark your calendar, Gordon Circle will meet Thursday, September 21, at Noon, in the Church Dining Room. We will start the meeting with a "brown bag" lunch. Dessert and Beverage provided. Our agenda for the afternoon is Fellowship and Discussion regarding future plans for our Circle. Contact Joyce Pogue jlpogue@comcast.net.

Jazz Sunday - September 24

Donald Miller once said, "There is something beautiful about a billion stars held steady by a God who knows what He is doing. They hang there, the stars, like notes on a page of music, free-form verse, silent mysteries swirling in the like like jazz." Come hear the stars proclaim God's majesty through jazz in worship, with Ken Stein, Guy Fiorenza, and many more wonderful players!



Sundae Sunday - September 10, after worship

Come join us for ice cream sundaes on Sunday, September 10 after the worship service! Governing Council will again be hosting Sundae Sunday. This event will be a chance for the congregation to learn about all of the great work our ministry teams are doing and enjoy some great ice cream and toppings! If you're interested in helping with the event, please contact Sarah Reinold at moderator@secondfirst.org.

Soup Kitchen Returns This Fall

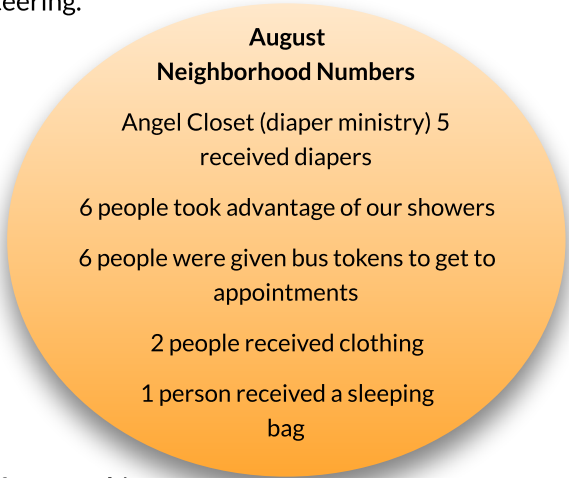
Jean Herro will be heading up the Soup Kitchen team on October 14. We are looking for smiling faces to help prepare, set up, serve and clean up a delicious lunch at the Jubilee Center off the parking lot at Emmanuel Episcopal Church which is across Park Street. We generally work from 10 am to around 1:30 pm and you can participate for the whole time or just part. No special training is needed! Contact Jean Herro (815-399-7213) if you would like to sign up or if you have questions.

Haskell School Uniform Support

Instead of providing school supplies to Haskell School this year, Principal Leathers has indicated a real need for help with uniforms for the students. In September, the Mission Team will collect clothing items and cash donations to support this effort. For a cash donation, you can make out your check to the church and include 'Haskell Uniforms' on the memo line. FYI, a typical pair of pants runs around \$20 and a typical shirt runs around \$12. For those who are in a shopping mood, uniforms can be purchased from area stores like Kohl's and need to meet the following guidelines: Pants, shorts, and skirts need to be navy, gray or khaki in color; Shirts should be PLAIN with a collar (no stripes, designs or words) but can be any color; polo shirts are fine. Sizes most needed are 6-8 and 10-12 (both boys and girls. Thank you for your support of our partner school! Contact Marge Maynard mtmhome@me.com

Be on the Lookout for Welcome Walkers

Tues & Thurs in October from 11-1pm
Inviting walkers within the area to come and walk on their lunch hour. Needed at least two volunteers to staff this event. Please contact the church office if you are interested in volunteering.



INTRODUCING OUR NEW PARTNERS - KFACT AND JUST BREATHE

KFACT, a newly approved (by the mission committee) partner of SecondFirst Church, had their official ribbon cutting on August 15 (815 Day!). KFACT intensively mentors 230 girls from 6th grade through post secondary, with a 100% graduation rate from high school. Their new space will provide a quiet and safe place with access for computers for studying, applying for college, assistance with FAFSA financial aid applications, and a home base for the Lady All Stars to build their futures together. Meet Shamika Williams, the founder and executive director, at our Sundae Sunday in the gym on Sunday, September 10 after worship.



Just Breathe is an organization that meets on our campus on the last Saturday of the month. Homeless teens in Rockford have an opportunity to get gently used clothing to wear back to school. We are proud to be partnering with this great organization. Stayed tuned for more news!

JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT UPDATES



Work has begun in earnest on one of the Coronado Haskell Rehab homes. As you can see, a new roof is being put on the home. Just moments before this photo was shot, one of the roofers had just been on the front peak, standing tall and slinging a packet of roofing material over his back. Scary! But, not to fear, they are using safety harnesses.

Also looking good, the Jeremiah Garden. A big thank you to Richard Lierman and Tim Carter for donating and delivering mulch. The gardeners have been working hard to spread the mulch and keep weeds at bay. If any of you are home-gardeners, you know what a lot of work that is. We have just a few dedicated volunteers doing all of the garden work this year. Whether you have a green thumb, love being outdoors, or just want to be helpful and social, we would love to have your help

in the garden. There is still plenty to do before the end of the gardening season. This year, the gardeners are meeting Monday evenings. Please let me know if you would like to join them – michelle@jeremiahdevelopment.com. Or, just come at 6:00 PM any Monday. Our gardeners would love to meet you!

NOTES FROM THE JULY 28 GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING

The July meeting began with the approval of May minutes and presentation of the church report. The treasurer reported that our finances are in good shape at the moment. The chair of the Trustees added that we increased our revenue slightly by renting a few spaces in our parking lot to a company involved with the library conversion. We have also had some unexpected expenses including repairing our sanctuary air conditioning units and repairing our alarm system.

In new business, the moderator asked the ministry team chairs to submit the events that they have planned for the year for the master calendar. We are excited that SecondFirst's fifth anniversary is coming up in January. We are looking forward to the celebration on January 21! We discussed Sundae Sunday and the group decided to hold it again this year on September 10 and would like to include some of our partnering community organizations. Pastor Rebecca would like the ministry teams to start thinking about writing individual mission statements for their teams.

In unfinished business, DVT stated that they have been working on compiling the strategic planning information and will be bringing it back to Governing Council soon. Jim Delmore reviewed the IL Conference of the UCC retreat he attended in June. The next meeting of Governing Council will be Thursday, September 28 at 5:30 in the 4th floor meeting room. Everyone is welcome to attend as a non-voting guest.

MINISTRY TEAM SPOTLIGHT: MISSION MINISTRY TEAM

The Mission Ministry Team spends its time exploring ways for our congregation to be active in the work of God in our world. This activity can be financial (e.g. denominational offerings for disaster relief) or personal (e.g. Soup Kitchen). The activity can be a one-time event (e.g. Love Rockford) or yearly (e.g. Boots for Haskell School) or at a regular interval (e.g. Fair Trade Store and ARC rec nights). We like to think about local needs and are very excited to be partnering this year with KFACT (mentoring program for girls in grades 6-12) and Just Breathe 815 (clothes closet for homeless teens), and we are educating ourselves about issues of immigration. There is a place for you in all of this: we need your thoughts, and interests, and energy, and talents, and, yes, your financial support. We, all of us, are the Mission Ministry Team, the eyes and hands and heart of our God in our community and beyond. Contact Marge Maynard mtm.home@me.com.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Friday, September 1
No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, September 2
No Bridge Clinic

Sunday, September 3
Communion
9:00 AM – Koffee Klass
10:00 AM – Worship Service
Kids in Worship
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

Monday, September 4
Labor Day Office Closed

Tuesday September 5
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast
6:00 PM – Adult Christian Ed
Ministry Team Meeting

Wednesday, September 6
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
5:00 PM – Membership Ministry Team

Thursday, September 7
9:30 AM - Deaconesses
9:30 AM - Carillons
9:30 AM – Free Showers
5:30 PM – 100 Men Mentoring
7:00 PM – Choir rehearsal

Friday, September 8
1:00 PM - Horizons

Saturday, September 9
8:15 AM – Pilgrim Park Clean Up
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, September 10
Sundae Sunday Kickoff
9:00 AM – Koffee Klass
9:20 AM – Teen Worship
10:00 AM – Worship Service
10:20 AM – Sunday School
11:15 AM – Sundae Sunday
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop

Monday, September 11
9:30 AM – Free Showers
5:00 PM – Deacons Ministry Team

Tuesday September 12
8:00 AM – Men’s Fellowship
9:30 AM – Presbytery Manteno
6:00 PM – Discernment & Vision

Wednesday, September 13
10:00 AM - Staff Meeting
5:00 PM - Trustees
5:30 Prime Time Begins

Thursday, September 14
9:30 AM - Free Showers
5:30 PM – JD Board meeting

Friday, September 15
No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, September 16
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic
2:00 PM - Pig Roast

Sunday, September 17
9:00 AM – Koffee Klass
10:00 AM – Worship Service
10:20 AM – Sunday School
11:00 AM – Fellowship Hour
11:15 AM – Fair For All Shop
11:15 AM – Family Christian Education Ministry Team
11:15 AM - Music Ministry Team
11:15 AM – Fellowship Ministry Team

Monday, September 18
9:30 AM – Free Showers
5:00 PM – JD NOC

Tuesday September 19
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast
1:00 PM - Executive Committee
5:30 PM - Mission Ministry Team

Wednesday, September 20
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

Thursday, September 21
9:30 AM - Free Showers
12:00 PM – Gordon Circle
5:30 PM – 100 Men Mentoring

Friday, September 22
No scheduled activities

Saturday, September 23
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic

Sunday, September 24
Baptism
9:00 AM – Koffee Klass
10:00 AM – Worship Service
11:00 AM – Cider & Donuts
11:30 AM – Fair For All Shop

Monday, September 25
9:30 AM – Free Showers

Tuesday September 26
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast

Wednesday, September 27, 2017
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2017
9:30 AM - Free Showers
5:30 PM – 100 Men Mentoring
5:30 PM – Governing Council

Friday, September 29, 2017
No Scheduled Activities

Saturday, September 30, 2017
10:00 AM - Bridge Clinic 11:00 AM – Teen Closet

Save the Date: September - January

Sept 7: Carillons 9:30 am, Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm

Sept 9: Pilgrim Park Fall Clean-Up 8:15

Sept 10: Kick Off Sunday Sundae Sunday and Teen Worship

Sept 13: Prime Time Starts 5:30 pm

Sept. 16: Pig Roast 2:00 pm

Sept 21: Gordon Circle

Oct 1: World Communion Sunday

Oct 5: Pop Up Dinner 6:00 pm

Oct 8: Wee Worship Returns

Oct 13: Horizons Bible Study

Oct 13: Transit Rec Night 6:00 pm

Oct 14: Soup Kitchen 10:00 am

Oct 15: CROP Walk 1:00 pm

Oct 25: Family Swim Night

Oct 29: Trunk or Treat 4:30

Nov 5: Remembering Loved Ones

Nov 17: Transit Rec Night 6:00 pm

Nov 19: Pilgrim Potluck after Church

Dec 1: Cookie Walk 11:00

Dec 9: Christmas Vibrations

Dec 13: Christmas Party 6:00 pm

Dec 17: Wassail Sunday

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Worship 10:00-kids to remain in Worship, Christmas Eve Service 4:30

Jan 5: Snow Camp

Jan 21: Celebrate 5 year Anniversary Merge of SecondFirst Church

HANDBELL REHEARSALS BEGIN SOON

by Julie Cook Ramirez , Director of Handbell Ministries

We’re gearing up for the 2017-18 bell season. Lots of exciting things are in store, including our Christmas concert benefitting Carpenter’s Place. Here are the start dates for the respective groups:

Carillons -- Thursday, September 7 at 9:30 am

Tower Ringers (formerly Angelus Ringers) -- Wednesday, September 13 at 5:30 pm

Martin Ringers -- Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30 pm

Bellcanto Ringers -- Thursday, September 14 at 6:00 pm

Peanut Ringers -- TBD

All rehearsals take place in Emerson Hall. New (or returning) ringers are welcome and encouraged. Please contact julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org or 815-543-9739 or simply show up! We’ll find a place for you.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING OUR CHOIR

SecondFirst always appreciates membership in its choir, and nothing can be as easy as coming to our first rehearsal, on Thursday, September 7 at 7pm, to get a taste of our music. We sing to praise God through the offering of our voices, a gift, and through the presentation of song. Join our joyful voices in making a joyful noise. Contact paul.laprade@secondfirst.org.

DINNER AND A MOVIE CONTINUES

Thank you to all who participated in the discussions after church about the Wednesday Night Movies. We are pleased to announce that the movie class will continue. We will have different facilitators leading the movies. Although things will be different without Pastor Fred’s passion, we do promise to present quality movies and discussion. In the next few weeks we will be advertising the complete movie schedule and their facilitators.

To get us started, our first movie will be the 1956 classic, ‘The Searchers.’ It is considered one of the best westerns of all times and is directed by John Ford. The Searchers features a large cast of beloved character actors like Ward Bond. The main character is Ethan Edwards, a flawed man, full of hate and vengeance played by none other than John Wayne. The movie is about acceptance, racism, redemption and theological overtones. The movie will be led by Becky Erbe who has a love for older movies.

Dinner for movie goers will begin at 5:30 pm. Movies will begin promptly at 6:30 pm. We will conclude the evening by 8:00 pm, allowing our participants to get home earlier. We are looking forward to another great year of entertainment and discussion. See you at the movies!

CHILDREN MINISTRIES UPDATE

YOU’VE BEEN PROMOTED!!! Sunday, September 10
We will KICK-OFF the second year of the HOLY MOLY! Series. Children entering 2nd grade - 5th grade will meet upstairs on the third floor in the Art Room. PreK 3's -1st graders will meet in the tiled portion of the nursery. Not sure where to go...have no fear. There will be helpers to point you in the right direction!

PRIMETIME starts Wednesday, September 13 for PreK 3's - 5th grade. Here is a schedule for Primetime:

- 5:30 - Tower Ringers Rehearsals
- 6:00 - Dinner in Art Room on the 3rd floor
- 6:20 - Bible Lesson
- 7:00 - Free time in gym
- 7:30 - End of Primetime for the evening

Wee Worship will resume on Wednesday, October 9 at 9:20am in Backstage Bethlehem located on the 3rd floor. Wee Worship will take place the second Sunday of every month. We will send a reminder email each month. Please join us for music, story time and a light snack!

Contact: dyan.lofgren@secondfirst.org

Music Lineup

September 3: Paul and Val
September 10: Woodwork Choir
September 17: Choir
September 24: The SecondFirst Jazz Band is back!

HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY 2017-2018

Our Bible Study will begin its new study, Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews, on the Friday, September 8, at 1:00 pm in the Heritage Room at Church. We plan to meet the second Friday from September through May. This study will use the materials of author Melissa Bane Sevier and suggestions of Sung Hee Chang and led by Joyce Pogue. Rev. Sevier is an ordained pastor in the PCUSA and focuses on her long time ministry of writing and photography. She invites us to explore themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community. The community for which Hebrews was written interacts, in a sense, with all communities of which we are a part. All women are invited and welcomed to join this challenging study and discussion. The study book is provided. (Between now and September 8, read the book of Hebrews). Contact: Joyce Pogue jlpogue@comcast.net.

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADULT EDUCATION: YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE THE POOR -- WAIT, WHAT?!

Wednesdays September 13 – October 18, 6:30 pm
Fourth Floor Chapel

In the Gospel of John, Jesus says something quite striking. Mary anoints his feet with an expensive perfume and continues to wipe his feet. As criticism arises about the correct use of this costly product, Jesus states, “You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.” For the pragmatic among us, this might be troubling. Surely Jesus, who spent his earthly ministry working against the grain of the social structure of the day, did not mean that we are to ignore the poor, did he? Contemporary discussion has focused on combating global poverty, and our church has led and joined local and global efforts to remedy the problem. This six-week series will examine “the poor” and problems of poverty from a variety of perspectives and wrestle with interpreting Jesus’s ministry towards the poor for our context today. There promises to be no easy answers, but your voice will help shape our discussions. Below is a preliminary schedule.

Sept. 13: What is Jesus talking about when he says, “You’ll always have the poor?” An in-depth look at John 12:1-9

Sept. 20: Transform Rockford’s effort to address poverty locally

Sept. 27: FILM: Waste Land: Filmed over three years, artist Vik Muniz visits the world’s largest landfill in Brazil to learn about the lives of catadores – garbage. This powerful film looks closely at their lives of poverty and wonderfully captures portraits of dignified people who often are on the brink of despair.

Oct 4: Global poverty: We will enter an ongoing dialogue between two leading advocates for the poor - Paul Farmer, a physician and humanitarian, and Gustavo Gutierrez, a catholic priest and father of liberation theology.

Oct 11: Examining Haiti: Insights from James Casimir and family

Oct 18: What now? Reflecting theologically and mapping out next steps

TRANSIT UPDATE

by Courtney Jonsson

We are gearing up for another school year and are ready to be back to our regular schedule for Transit! Things are going to be a little bit different this year, and here is how:

- ▶ Teen Worship has been added on the second Sunday of every month. The teens will meet in the 4th floor youth room at 9:20am to partake in their own worship service. The goal of this is for the teens to be able to actively participate in worship by choosing scripture, liturgy, and music for each gathering.
- ▶ On the second Sunday of every month, teens will be invited to be the lay worship leader. This will include speaking during worship and/or writing pieces of the worship service. The high schoolers will practice writing the Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession and Pastoral Prayer. Students will be welcome to read their own work or have another student read it.
- ▶ Wednesday Nights resume on September 13th. Bell rehearsal begins at 5:30pm followed by dinner at 6:00pm. Youth group will gather from 6:30pm to 7:30pm in the 4th floor youth room. It is asked that your student is picked up promptly at 7:30pm. It is our goal to end all programming at the same time. All middle school and high school students are welcome to youth group on Wednesday nights.
- ▶ High schoolers, in addition to Wednesday nights, will meet on the first and third Sunday of the month directly after worship until 1:00 pm. Meet Courtney in her office following worship.

Please contact Courtney Jonsson courtney.jonsson@secondfirst.org if you have any questions.

FROM THE MODERATOR, SARAH REINOLD

As I’m writing this, I’m sitting on a plane headed from San Diego to Chicago. My oldest son, Seth, starts second grade in two days and my younger son, Sebastian, starts preschool in a few more weeks. Summer has come to an end. It’s sad to say goodbye to summer and it’s tempting to feel down. However, it’s exciting to think forward to the upcoming school year.

In the life of our church, the slower summer days are also coming to an end and we’re gearing up for a busy and exciting program year! The ministry teams have been busy planning events and programming. Staff have also been busy. Can you believe they are already talking about the seasons of Advent and Pentecost? Everyone is working hard to give us meaningful experiences throughout the year!

As you’re considering what this program year will look like for you, I challenge you to take advantage of some of the things that the people at SecondFirst have been busy working on. Don’t give up your favorite events, but try adding something new! Need some ideas? Go to an Adult Education class, try a fellowship event, attend a potluck, visit during Coffee Hour, volunteer at the soup kitchen, offer to serve Communion, teach Sunday School, weed and mulch the church grounds, sing in the choir, serve at a pop-up dinner, help implement new ideas! With all of the things happening at our church, I’m looking forward to a great program year!

As always, if you have any church matters that you would like to discuss, please give me a call at 815-979-2190 or email me at moderator@secondfirst.org

FROM PASTOR BECKY E.

Words cannot express my sincere thanks for this past Sunday, my Installation day. The day was perfect and I was so proud to “show off,’ my church family to my family who came for the occasion. Thank you for the stoles, the lovely luncheon and the beautiful service. Thank you for all the cards and well-wishes. I am truly blessed to be serving this church as your Pastor of Member Care and Neighborhood Connections. Thank you all again.



SUCCESS WITH THE NARRATIVE LECTIONARY

According to the surveys done in worship in June, many of you enjoyed and learned from the Narrative Lectionary, which we trialed last year. I enjoyed using it for our Sunday focus and preaching alongside creative churches around the world. We are going to do it again this year! Get ready for a dive into the Old Testament and a focus on the Gospel of John.

What is the Narrative Lectionary you might ask? Developed a few years ago by Luther Seminary, the Narrative Lectionary seeks to share the stories of scripture in a way we can follow throughout the year. Beginning with Genesis in September and moving through the stories of Israel’s early history through the Fall. From Christmas to Easter we will use readings from one of the four Gospels. Then from Easter to Pentecost we will move through Acts and Paul’s letters. The summer is set aside for sermon series on themes (e.g. Forgiveness) or books of the Bible.

May God bless our reading of God’s holy word!

SEPTEMBER KOFFEE KLASS SERIES: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES - SUNDAYS 9 AM

In today's world of extreme partisanship, "us versus them" rhetoric, and choosing of sides, how are we to understand and act on Jesus' command to "love your enemies." This two week series will examine the imperative present in Matthew and Luke and incorporate work from Union Theological Seminary President Emeritus Donald Shriver's important work, An Ethic for Enemies: Forgiveness in Politics. While Shriver’s work will be a crucial resource, discussion will also focus in areas outside of politics.

Sept 10: Matthew 5:39-48

Sept 17: Luke 6:22-32

PRAYER REQUESTS

Continue prayers for William Oake (Eleanor Babel's brother), Arvis Martin, (Marsha Martin's mother), Dick Lapp, Kathy Moton, Linda Burright, Lola Church, Scott Anderson, and Philip & Shirley Davidson.

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: Thomas Hill (Bob Saunder’s uncle), Jim & Nora Jean Rollins, Miriam Richardson, Wayne Nicholson, Nancy Bert, Jan Elliott, Marge Kildow, Ruthann Lenard, Beverly Lindsey, Marilyn Thayer, Ruth Todd, and Willene Ziebell.