

## SecondFirst Church

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)  
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OCTOBER 2021

# THE TOWER

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL UCC/FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PC(USA)

*Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace*



FROM REV. REBECCA WHITE NEWGREN

Hello Church!

Happy Fall. As I have listened and watched and been a pastoral observer over the last years (in the midst of a head injury, all I could do was observe), I've noticed, and the leadership has confirmed, a real desire/need to focus on our

relationships, our fellowship, our own sinew of connectivity, the fabric of being church together. When I came to SecondFirst six years ago, you all had spent two years focusing on yourselves as you federated and you were yearning to get out into the community to continue to serve. We did that, and will continue to do that. But any good church balances caring for their own with outward mission, so this academic year your leadership is focusing on belonging. What does it mean to belong to this church? To one another? And to God? The paradox is many people report a sense of belonging to a church as a coming together to do outward mission, so we will not forsake one for the other.

There are so many ways people sense they belong to one another and to God through SecondFirst Church. For decades, our church(es) has fostered strong caring relationships through shared purpose, mission and ministry. Covid has changed everything though, so this Fall we are embarking on two new efforts that you will read about here in this newsletter. First, your Discernment and Vision Team (DVT) will be interviewing members to ask about when you felt most connected to the church, and to one another, so that we might lead our church to further that sense of belonging. Second, the Deacons will be offering Gatherings for 9, a way to be in community with your SecondFirst friends and fellow pew-sitters (and stream watchers.)

Covid threatens to separate us from every aspect of community, including church. I double dog dare you to bring your whole self here (in person or virtually). As community building expert Peter Block quote says, what you put in is what you will get out. If you dare vulnerability (and I'm not asking for bare-your-soul unbounded and inappropriately sharing to people you barely know – that's dangerous and yucky), but if you are vulnerable and open to new relationship and possibility, those around you will be as well. Then you will quickly find that you belong to one another.

Church is risky, daring and scary. You, SecondFirst, are doing a great job.

Peace,  
Rev. Rebecca



The Hospitality Team serving to-go muffins at our Fall kick-off.



## NEWS FROM OUR DENOMINATIONS

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RELIGIOUS LEADERS DECRY US TREATMENT OF HAITIAN MIGRANTS



United Church of Christ officials have joined other religious leaders in condemning the U.S. treatment of Haitian migrants. They're urging people to campaign on social media for a change in policy, add their signatures to a letter to President Biden and write other elected officials.

The situation began in mid-September, when thousands of Haitians arrived at Del Rio, Tex. The U.S. response – in the words of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas – has been to “ensure that migrants are swiftly taken into custody, processed, and removed from the United States consistent with our laws and policies.” On Sept. 20, he said they would be placed on “return flights to Haiti and other destinations.” Since then, such flights have carried away hundreds of people at a time, according to news reports.

Read more: [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) BUNDLES OF FREE BOOKS SPUR BOTH GRATITUDE AND CREATIVE WAYS TO SHARE: *PC(USA) churches and worshipping communities are using the books to help their young ones grow in their faith*



“Thanks so much.”  
“I am so overwhelmed with gratitude.”  
“We are excited.”  
“This is wonderful news for our congregation.”

These comments are from some of the leaders in more than 200 Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) churches and worshipping communities – each of them with 150 members or fewer – who recently received free book bundles from the denomination. Each book bundle highlights aspects of the PC(USA)'s Matthew 25 vision, which invites congregations to work at building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty. Read more: [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)

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*“To belong is to be related to and a part of something. It is membership, the experience of being at home in the broadest sense of the phrase. Belonging is best created when we join with other people in producing something that makes a place better. It is the opposite of thinking that I must do it on my own. That wherever I am, it is all on my shoulders and that perhaps I would be better off somewhere else. The opposite of belonging is to feel isolated and always (all ways) on the margin, an outsider. ... To belong is to know, even in the middle of the night, that I am among friends”*

- Peter Block

Peter Block has been fostering a sense of belonging in workplace culture and neighbor communities for decades. Learn more at [www.abundantcommunity.com](http://www.abundantcommunity.com)



The Covid Committee recently met by Zoom one day and by email the following day to reach a difficult decision. We decided that everyone attending church services that is eligible and has access to the Covid vaccine must be vaccinated. This was not an easy decision. As you are aware our church denominations don't believe in imposing lots of rules for members to follow. We're all free to have our own religious and political beliefs and still be welcomed at our church.

Our agreement about requiring Covid vaccines was reached after much discussion. We felt that protecting the health of our members overrode the right of free choice of some of our members. We're confident and thankful that most of our eligible members have chosen to be vaccinated. Hopefully some of our members who have not felt safe coming to church will feel safer about returning to in-person services.

Praying for the good health of all our members,  
Katy Paterson

### Governing Council Highlights

By Katy Paterson: Updates from the August meeting

- » Reverend Rebecca reported that we are considering implementing “Dinners for 9” which Donna Schaad told us about at the Governing Council retreat.
- » Pastor Becky is currently on vacation.
- » Treasurer John DeWaters reported that we will likely end the year in the black. However, he is concerned about the trend of having a decreased number of pledging units.
- » Trustees reported on several projects for improvement or repair around the church and grounds.
- » The Video Improvement Fund is close to having enough funds to complete it.
- » The Covid Committee reported that a member who had been in church the past Sunday was later diagnosed with Covid. We will worship outside on August 29th.
- » Valerie Blair has agreed to serve as our Interim Music Director.
- » Jeremiah Development has written a grant requesting funds to start a small engine repair class for teenagers at risk; especially those who attend Roosevelt. They would use our garage for the class.
- » DVT is working on belonging. They have a committee who will set up a questionnaire to be used to interview many members of our congregation. Questions such as “How do you feel you belong or don't” would be asked.
- » Deacons/Fellowship continues to shepherd new members and serve communion to shut-ins and members in nursing homes. The church picnic was very successful.
- » Worship, Music, Arts will work on surveying the congregation about music preferences. Their team is looking for more ushers.
- » Hospitality reported serving about 40 people at Serious Soup each week. Soup makers are needed.

## OCTOBER worship schedule

### OCTOBER 3: WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

God's Name Is Revealed, Preacher Rev. Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

### OCTOBER 10: CIDER AND DONUTS OUTSIDE

God Provides Manna, Preacher Rev. Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Hayley Gotzsche

### OCTOBER 17: CROP WALK

Guest Preacher  
Music: Dorothy Paige-Turner

### OCTOBER 24: STEWARDSHIP KICK-OFF

God Calls David, Preacher Rev. Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Kathryn Siegel and Marty Hackl

### OCTOBER 31

Solomon's Temple, Preacher Rev. Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Bob Bates

### A LITTLE BIT FROM PASTOR BECKY E.

I think fall is almost everyone's favorite time of year. It also seems to be the busiest time as well. We can go to football games, have bonfires and watch the leaves turn. I have a saying taped to my wall in my office. I am not sure of the author but it goes like this;

*“The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go.”*

Letting go of things can be very hard. But all around us are signs that we can let go gracefully. Maybe you need to let go of things around your house or maybe let go of a bad relationship. Try letting go of a hard feeling or bad memory. It can take time but remember God is there to help you through whatever it is you need to let go of.

### FROM THE ORGAN BENCH BY VALERIE BLAIR

Do you ever wonder what makes all those different sounds made by the organ? Every single organ in the world is a unique instrument, unlike other instruments. A piano, violin or trumpet here is the same as one in Japan, or Austria, or anywhere. But each organ is constructed according to the space it will occupy, specific requests of the organization ordering the organ, and each organ builder's take on what will sound good. A lot of variables. An organ is an amazing feat of engineering, with more moving parts than you might imagine.

Here is a brief introduction to the organ of SecondFirst. The 4 keyboards are called manuals, the pedalboard is a keyboard for the feet, and the knobs that are pulled are called the stops, which are in 5 groups, one for each manual and the pedals. Each stop corresponds to a set of pipes that make up the different sounds: flutes, strings, brass, and diapasons (what sounds like an organ) are the main stops and are the most used for hymns and organ solos. Then there are various wind instruments, the chimes, the harp, celesta, and the cymbalstern (that tingly thing I use on the Toccata at Easter), which are like decorations on a cake. Extra fun. [I'm not sure how old I was, but I was definitely not young when I figured out where the saying “pull out all the stops” originated. If all the stops were literally pulled out, it would sound horrible, but be loud. I have not actually ever tried it]. The organ at SecondFirst is a wonderful instrument; it has especially rich and lovely strings and flutes, (and a really great pedal stop called the Bombarde. Sounds exactly like the word. Very loud. Use sparingly).

Please feel free to come up to the organ after any service and see the console up close. I'm happy to answer any questions and demonstrate the many colors of our fabulous organ at SecondFirst.

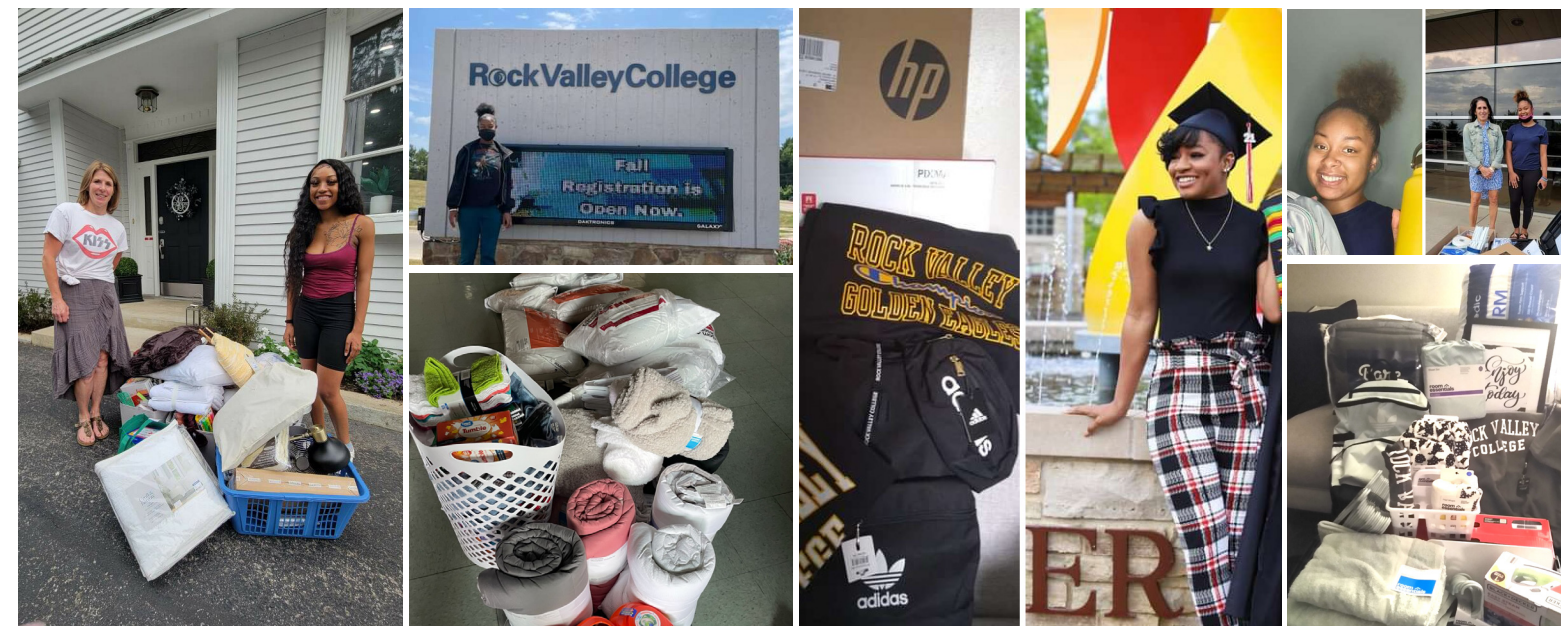
### KFACT UPDATE

The past few weeks have been crazy busy for KFACT staff! We have been multitasking and dividing and conquering with transporting college girls back to campus, assisting the incoming seniors with credit recovery and providing daily mentorship to all the girls! KFACT will be conducting a meeting with the YMCA about a possible partnership to leverage program resources and capacity for the girls and families we serve, stay tuned for more information!

### Thankful and Blessed Beyond Measure!

This fall we had a graduating class of 16 KFACT Scholars and because of friends like SecondFirst Church, Mr. Goodwater, Bischoff Dentistry, Blackhawk Bank, 510 Threads, Theide Family, Martha and Dr. Hutt, Courtney Geiger and our community friends and supporters the graduating class of 2021 was well prepared for their post-secondary education journey this fall! We have a small incoming class of just 9 Seniors this year and we are excited to launch their individual college and career plans during our weekly evening program on Tuesday and Thursday nights at KFACT's girls space!

Starting October, each week KFACT provides mentorship to 100 6th through 12th grade girls at their schools and at our Girls Space at KFACT! If you would like to support the mentoring program in any capacity, we would love to have your support, time and/or talent! Here's some ways to support our mission of “Building Healthy Futures for Girls through Holistic Mentoring”: gift cards to be use as program incentives, gas card for the KFACT van to provide weekly transportation, come share your life experience as a guest presenter on a Tuesday or Thursday evening, snacks for evening programming and anything you think would help KFACT and the girls we serve!





# OCTOBER CALENDAR

**Friday, Oct 1**  
No scheduled activities

**Saturday, October 2**  
3:30 PM – Community Memorial Service

**Sunday, Oct 3 World Communion**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

**Monday, Oct 4**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, Oct 5**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study

**Wednesday, Oct 6**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Covid Committee  
7:00 PM – Worship Team

**Thursday, Oct 7**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
4:00 PM – Hospitality Team  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, Oct 8**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, Oct 9**  
9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, Oct 10 Cider and Donuts**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

**Monday, Oct 11**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup  
5:00 PM – Deacons Ministry

**Tuesday, Oct 12**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study  
6:00 PM – DVT

**Wednesday, Oct 13**  
No Staff Meeting

**Thursday, Oct. 14**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
9:30 AM – Edwards Apple Orchard  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, Oct 15**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, Oct 16**  
No scheduled activities

**Sunday, Oct 17**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:15 AM – Family CE Ministry Team  
CROP Walk – 1:00 pm

**Monday, Oct 18**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, Oct 19**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study  
5:00 PM – Missions Ministry

**Wednesday, Oct 20**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM – Trustees

**Thursday, Oct 21**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, Oct 22**  
No scheduled activities

**Saturday, Oct 23**  
9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, Oct 24 Stewardship Kickoff**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

**Monday, Oct 25**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, Oct 26**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study

**Wednesday, Oct 27**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
6:00 PM – ARC Halloween Party

**Thursday, Oct 28**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
5:30 PM – Governing Council  
7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, Oct 29**  
No scheduled activities

**Saturday, Oct 30**  
9:30 AM – Prairie Assn. Meeting  
4:00 PM – Trunk or Treat

**Sunday, Oct 31**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

## COMMUNITY MEMORIAL

Saturday, October 2 at 3:30pm

You are invited to join Scandinavian Cemetery for a Community Memorial Service to bring closure and peace to all those who lost loved ones during the pandemic. The event is on Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 3:30 pm in the Memorial Gardens Gazebo in Scandinavian Cemetery 1700 Rural Street., Rockford. Shuttle services from the old Highlander at 5 Points to the cemetery will be available if needed.

## SPECIAL UCC AND PCUSA OFFERING

Sunday, October 3

Opportunity for Giving: Neighbors in Need/Peace and Global Witness Offering. This month we receive a denominational support offering for both the UCC and the PCUSA. Neighbors in Need (NIN) supports UCC ministries of justice and compassion throughout our country; the Council for American Indian Ministry, and Justice and Witness Ministries. NIN funds projects that address systemic injustice. Peace and Global Witness (PGW) supports PCUSA programs in justice and reconciliation in cultures of violence, both locally and world-wide. Your support for this vital work is greatly appreciated. Checks can be sent to the church with notation.

## THE ARC PARTY

Wednesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm

The ARC will be hosting the annual Halloween/Fall gathering here in the gym on Wednesday, October 27 at 6:00 pm. COVID restrictions will be in place including a limited number of guests attending. If you would like to volunteer for this fun night or have questions, please contact Becky Erbe.



## TRUCK-OR-TREAT

Saturday, October 30 at 4:00 pm

The Family Christian Education ministry Team will once again host the Neighborhood Trunk or Treat in our parking lot. The event is Saturday October 30 beginning at 4:00 pm. We will be accepting donations of candy beginning October 1. We also will need trunks!! We are looking for at least 30 cars. Call the office if you can participate in this fun event!

## COFFEE CLASS

Sundays at 8:30 am

Coffee Class continues to gather each Sunday at 8:30 with a wide range of topics. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others. Contact Andy Newgren to receive the Zoom invite or be added to the email distribution list.



## VIDEO IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

We did it! We raised \$12,500, which was matched by the First Pres Endowment to reach our goal of \$25,000. This includes \$20,000 for a new video streaming system, which will easily take worship into all of our homes. \$5,000 was presented to Pilgrim Park for video and building upgrades to the Cleveland Chapel, which Second Con built in honor of Rev. Dr. Joe Cleveland, our longtime and beloved pastor. Our own system is on order and in a typical year would be installed before Christmas, but Covid delays, so keep praying.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE PRAIRIE ASSOCIATION MEETING

Saturday, October 30

Open to all SecondFirst members, the Prairie Association of the Illinois Conference United Church of Christ will host their fall meeting on Saturday October 30. More info will follow as to times and the Zoom Link.

## WE WANT YOUR STORIES OF FAITH

Where have you seen God at work in your life? It may be over the course of time. It may be in one interaction or situation. Your stories of faith are what woven together make us the church. They are just as important as our collective action and faith. This Fall, Rev. Rebecca would like to share those stories, to have you share those stories. They bind us together and point us toward God. Are you willing to share? Please call/ email/snail-mail/text/fax/message Rev. Rebecca.

## STRONGHOLD EARNS 501c3 DESIGNATION

With many thanks to our own Elder Terry Mohaupt who chaired the effort, Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center is now a 501c3 non-profit. While it remains under the umbrella of the Blackhawk Presbytery in order to keep her mission and vision aligned with Jesus, Stronghold can now fund raise as its own entity. The hope is by clarifying the lines of responsibility, both the presbytery and Stronghold will be stronger for years to come. Rev. Rebecca served as an early cheerleader and adviser on this committee. Our own member Kristine Youman did the initial brilliant heavy lifting legal work to make this possible. Danny Pierce, the Executive Director, is wisely and tirelessly leading Stronghold through the uncharted waters of Covid restrictions. What a gem we have just a short drive from Rockford! May God continue to use Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center to God’s glory.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR USHERING

We are looking for women and men who would be willing to make a commitment to be Head Usher for one month. That person would be responsible for recruiting a team of ushers for each Sunday. Those who do not wish to be Head Usher but are willing to help usher can be included on a list for the Head Usher to recruit their team for a particular Sunday. Please contact Jim Burrig if you are interested or have any questions at 815-218-9131 or [jnlburr@comcast.net](mailto:jnlburr@comcast.net). Thanks, Jim Burrig



Donna Schaad and Eleanor Babel made our Fair Trade shop mobile for after worship purchases or coffee and chocolate.



## STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Dave Jones and the Stewardship Committee

### Do You Know Your Roots?

Our stewardship season begins Sunday, October 26. This year's theme is 'Rooted in Love'. Do you know your roots is the question Rev. Rebecca Turner, UCC pastor in Missouri, asks us. "All of us have complex histories", she writes. "No matter who we are and where we live, every one of us has ancestral roots that are filled with varied expressions of bravery/cowardice, education/illiteracy, owning/indebtedness, rule-making/rule-breaking, and generosity/greed. As we delve into our roots and learn the stories of our past, we typically celebrate the discovery of ancestors who did the right thing in a difficult time. We also need to acknowledge those who made errors and atone for those who did harm."

"Rooted in radical love for God and humankind," she continues, "I vow to use my resources to repair the damage wrought by my ancestors. I give direct reparations to people and tribes who have been harmed by violent and duplicitous land grabs. I give to legal organizations that fight for those impacted by unjust laws because justice will not come without those who are willing to challenge injustice in the courts. These priorities help to reorder our world toward justice."

"Likewise, giving to my church is at the top of my priorities because it is a force for racial and economic atonement in my local community. Dismantling racism, offering sanctuary, collaborating with our school district, seeking solutions to housing and food crises, breaking the school-to-prison pipeline—these are ways that my church puts faith into action and feet to our prayers."

Will you join Pastor Turner and the United Church of Christ in making a vow to become a good ancestor, a root planted in a loving world for generations yet to come?



### CROP HUNGER WALK NEEDS US

The Dominican Republic, Haiti's neighbor, is a country full of extremes. It has both the tallest mountain and the lowest elevation in the Caribbean. It deals with droughts, floods, earthquakes and hurricanes, all in one stretch of land that's smaller than West Virginia. The extremes don't stop there: nearly one third of the population faces poverty. Rural communities are hit hard because people live farther from basic services. Many daily needs - including food - cost more. Hunger is an issue. And, with an unpredictable climate, there can't be just one solution.

That's why Rockford's CROP Hunger Walk is so important. We're helping families develop their own gardens, farms and fishing ponds so they have many ways to stand strong in extreme situations. Our support means affordable and homegrown food for families. CROP Hunger Walks help 30,000 people who are vulnerable in the Dominican Republic. But there's still a great need. Around 3,000 families hope that these life-changing food solutions will reach them. When you give to the CROP Hunger Walk, you're reaching out to them.

Go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/rockfordil](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/rockfordil). There you will find our church web page. Register as a team member and start recruiting friends to help you end hunger in Rockford and around the world.

Thank you for your support again this year.  
Dave Jones



### JOIN SECONDFIRST FOR THE CROP WALK

SecondFirst Church has always been a big supporter of this great Mission effort, raising money and supplying food for those in need. We want to make sure we are supporting again in a big way. Since the event is virtual this year, our church will be walking around our campus and around the park beginning at 12:00pm. There will be activities for children and families to do as we walk. Ice cream treats when we are done walking. Our Mission Ministry Team will be matching what our members bring in. If you are interested in collecting money for Crop Walk go to the website listed below. Give Becky E a call if you and family are interested in supporting and walking. We walk for those that can't.

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/2nd-1st-church-of-rockford>

## YOUTH UPDATE FROM RACHEL HUFFMAN, CHILDREN AND FAMILY COORDINATOR

Finally fall has arrived! Our youth are headed back to school, mostly in person, and I pray for each of them to get the challenges that lie ahead with kindness, curiosity, bravery and faith. Blessing the kids backpacks was a great honor and I'm thrilled to report that the shrinky dink backpack tags were a hit! We had a very successful fundraiser for Summerfield Zoo and we made a journey to deliver the donations and visit with the animals. Feeding baby goats from bottles, seeing all sorts of creatures, and basking in one of the last days of summer was great fun and we had a big group of kids attend.

This fall is still somewhat uncertain because of the ever-changing conditions of COVID but we have an exciting new Sunday School curriculum called *Shine* that spans ALL ages! The Family Christian Education team and I are excited because there are writers from both of our denominations and includes a huge variety to keep conversations flowing and make each week different and exciting. One week we may be acting out a scene from the Bible and discussing the message in the context of our own lives. The next week we may be going on a field trip through the church to discuss accessibility and inclusivity. The focus of this quarter's curriculum is Seeking Justice. Just this last week we talked about playing favorites and judging others by their outward appearance. These discussions help the students to better understand Jesus' message in ways that relate to them. We prayed for people we know who have been treated unfairly and committed to leaving our assumptions about others at the door. I hope that as this new school year progresses, they take these lessons with them and view their own world through a Christ-like lens and treat others with the loving kindness of Jesus.



Sunday School fun in the Sanctuary, social distance style.



The Lindblade family's successfully shrunken Shrinky Dinks!



Blessing of the Backpacks during outdoor worship.

### GATHERINGS FOR 9! (VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON)

Wanting to connect to the amazing people sitting in your pew or commenting online with you? This is your chance. Originally "Dinners for Nine," but Covid calls for creativity and flexibility. First, you sign up if you wish to participate in getting to know fellow church attenders better by sharing a meal/experience with them on 4 occasions over the next year (you will be asked whether you prefer virtual or in-person, inside/outside). You will be assigned to a group of 9 people. Note the odd number is intentional so singles are encouraged to join in. Second, the person(s) hosting the first gathering will contact all in their group to set a time and place for your group's outing. At the first gathering, the group will set their schedule of dates and times for dinners/gatherings for the year.

That's it! Donna Schaad, who is bringing this idea to us, says, "We were in two different dinner groups during our 2 ½ years in Alaska. It is friends from those groups that we still keep in touch with. What better way to really get to know someone than to share a meal, stories, and laughter!?" Interested in hosting or participating? Let Debbie know in the office: [debbie.wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:debbie.wise@secondfirst.org) or 815-963-8431.

### SECONDFIRST TRIP TO EDWARDS APPLE ORCHARD EAST

Thursday, October 14

Join Pastor Becky E. and your church family for a fun morning at Edwards Apple Orchard in Poplar Grove on Thursday, October 14. We will meet at church at 9:30 am. We will be taking anyone interested in riding the church bus. If you'd rather drive, meet us at 10:00 am at the Orchard. We can enjoy the fall, eating doughnuts, drinking cider and having good conversations. Plus, there is great stuff in the apple barn. Sign up before October 13 if you are interested. Call Debbie in the Church office 815-963-8431 or Becky E.

