

## SecondFirst Church

Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)  
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DECEMBER 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!

As the days grow shorter and the sun streams through the newly bare trees, we brace ourselves for winter. We have had to do a lot of bracing recently. Bracing for bad news. Bracing against grief. Bracing for a return of higher COVID numbers.

For those of you who are walking through this season unscathed, please do share your wisdom and joy with the rest of us. For those of you who are still missing the normal rhythms of life, yearning to share meals with friends and family, and know painfully that it's been 20+ months since we had coffee hour after worship (... but who's counting? Me!), we know that we are strong together.

Conference Minister Rev. Molly Carlson in the opening worship of the Annual Illinois Conference Celebration demonstrated how yarn is made. Given she is a fiber artist, she knows! Single strands of wool are easily broken. After they wound around one another, they are strong.

As a church, we are wound around one another. We are strong because the Holy Spirit binds us together with and through our beautiful differences and diversities. While individually we may be weak, together we can withstand pandemics. And we are... with amazing resilience and grace.

I'm grateful for those of you who have reached out recently to say, I'm not okay. I'm grateful for those of you who are carrying one another through these uncertain and strange days. No one knows what the next months will bring, but God has blessed us with church.

Peace,  
Rev. Rebecca

## PRAYER STATIONS

Once again, we will be hosting prayer stations in the Sanctuary for a time of quiet reflection, a spiritual pause in a busy and complicated season. The dates are Monday Dec. 20 from 3:30 pm until 7:00 pm, Tuesday Dec. 21 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm, Wednesday Dec. 22 if needed.

If you haven't yet ventured back to the Sanctuary due to COVID concerns please consider the prayer stations as an opportunity. The Sanctuary will be yours. Contact is very minimal to others. Come and enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary and meditate at the prayer stations. Give the church a call to schedule your time. Questions? Contact: Becky Erbe



## NEWS FROM OUR DENOMINATIONS

### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST WORSHIP RESOURCES SUPPORT MAKING CHANGE, ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

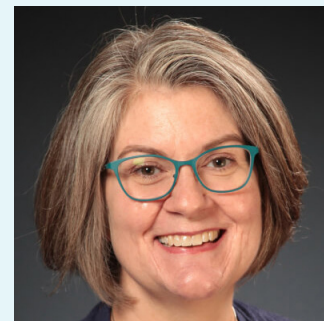


It's a pandemic within a pandemic. Violence against women and girls has intensified with COVID-19, so much so that the United Nations refers to it as "the Shadow Pandemic."

As COVID-19 cases tax health services, other essential services — like domestic violence shelters and help lines — are at capacity, U.N. research shows, noting that "more needs to be done to prioritize addressing violence against women in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts."

It's violence that will take a global collective effort to quash. That's why the United Church of Christ is engaged in the Thursdays in Black campaign. It's also why this year the UCC is offering liturgical resources for Thursday, Nov. 25, the International Day of Elimination of Violence Against Women.. **Read more:** [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org)

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.) HOW TO RESIST 'THE FEAR AND OUTRAGE THAT IS BEING ENCOURAGED'



Even in the midst of sabbatical, Dr. Shannon Craigo-Snell was happy to join the Rev. Dr. Lee Hinson-Hasty for his Facebook Live show Leading Theologically on Wednesday.

"A hazard of sabbatical is I miss getting to talk theology with students and other professors. I'm grateful to talk to you,"

she said, then added, "I'm sure the neighbors are really grateful too." Craigo-Snell joined the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary faculty in 2011 as a constructive systematic theologian. Her most recent book is "Disciplined Hope: Prayer, Politics and Resistance."

"I think theology has never been more important than it is now, especially among white Christians who are not racists or xenophobes," Craigo-Snell told Hinson-Hasty. **Read more:** [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org)



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 24, 4:30 p.m.

Join us for Christmas Eve! December 24, 2021, 4:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and Facebook Live. In a shortened format to accomodate Covid protocols and watching by video, we will proclaim Christ is born through word and song! A fun children's message with Pastor Becky and Rachel Huffman, a Christmas message from Rev. Rebecca and special music by Nanette Felix (harp), a string quartet, Valerie Blair (piano and organ) and our very own sanctuary choir. It will be a night to remember. Masks required. Vaccinations required for all who have access and are medically eligible.



## FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS & BONFIRE

Friday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.

We are taking a trip to the Festival of Lights at Sinnissippi Park. Meet at church at 6:30 pm. Afterwards there will be hot chocolate and a bonfire in the parking lot. Call the church if you are interested. Questions? Contact: Becky Erbe

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE MODERATOR

Recently I was privileged to attend the UCC Prairie Association fall meeting by Zoom. Our church ministers and several lay leaders also attended. We heard several speakers and were also placed in small groups for discussion. One of the discussion topics was what does your church do with its resources. As other members of my group shared about their churches, I was furiously making a list of all our church does for our community. After I proudly shared some of our projects someone asked where I was from. When I told them, they acknowledged they'd heard about some of our projects. We are definitely the largest church of the 36 churches in the Prairie Association. As another person shared, I added to my list of projects, and shared the rest of the list later.

Another small group discussion focused on becoming "that church". I reflected on how often Rebecca has been on television speaking about something that is happening in our church or commenting on a news item as a minister. Several of my friends have commented about seeing our church on television. I think we're well on our way to becoming "that church".

Please take a moment to reflect on how many ways our church helps our community. All of these things depend on volunteers from our congregation. Some of these things depend on our financial support. Other times we're asked for items to be donated. Other times we're asked to contribute our time and labor. Hopefully you can be involved in many projects.

I continue to be extremely proud of our church and our outreach both in our community and globally.

Proudly,  
Katy Paterson

## DECEMBER worship schedule

### DECEMBER 5: EZEKIEL: VALLEY OF DRY BONES

Preacher Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Madeline Archer, flute

### DECEMBER 12: WORD ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PURPOSE

Preacher Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Peanut Bells, Bellcantos, Martin Ringers

### DECEMBER 19: WORD MADE FLESH

Annual Pop Up Christmas Pageant  
Preacher Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Sanctuary Choir

### DECEMBER 24: BIRTH OF JESUS

Preacher Rebecca White Newgren  
Music: Nanette Felix, Harp, Sanctuary Choir, String Quartet  
(R. Handlin, M. Beert, B. Lamm, H. Lamm)

### DECEMBER 26: A VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS

Preacher Rev. Norm Shirk

## HEARING DEVICES

By Katy Paterson

As we age some of us aren't able to hear as well as we used to. Fortunately our church provides hearing devices that connect directly into the microphone the speaker is using. The hearing devices are in small rectangular cardboard boxes located in the low cupboard with two candles on top in the old Narthex or ask an usher or Wes Hegge to help you. You can either use the headphones or the ear bud. I've been using one for several weeks now. I can testify that it works great!

## A little bit from Becky E.

Christmas can be a time of joy, family and good cheer. It also can be a time of loneliness and sadness. For some it is the empty chair at the table, or a stocking on the hearth that will not be opened that takes all your breath away. The pain of missing loved ones is somehow worse at Christmas.

During this month of outings and parties with family and friends, remember those among us who may be alone or sad with grief. Give them a call or send a note. And if you find yourself alone this Christmas, Christmas comes just the same. Rejoice in the birth of our savior who brings light and joy.

It may be corny but I like to remember a quote of the Grinch. "He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming! IT CAME! Somehow or other, it came just the same!"

We can't stop Christmas because we are sad, mad, hungry, poor, happy or alone. Somehow or another Christ comes to us all.

May Peace find you this season.  
Love to you all!

## ADVENT COFFEE CLASS: INCARNATE MYSTERIES

8:30 a.m. Sundays, December 5, 12, 19

Hybrid series - Zoom and in the Gathering Place.  
Join however is most comfortable to you.

The mystery of the incarnation is not only central to the Christian tradition but the reason we sing those beloved Christmas carols and hymns from "Go Tell it on the Mountain" to "Joy to the World." The essence of the Trinity remains a mystery in itself, but focused on how God is enfleshed in Jesus Christ is another mystery. This series will seek to live into the mystery through theology, biblical studies, and liturgy. Come with questions prepared to leave with more as we explore and reflect together. Led by Andy Newgren.

## GOVERNING COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

By Katy Paterson

### Staff Reports

- » Becky reported she has done two memorials, helped organize activities for the CROP walk and the ARC party.
- » Rebecca reported she was honored to be in a Women in Business panel for the Chamber of Commerce. Both she and Becky are working on plans for the Overnight Café.

### Treasurer's Report

- » John Dewaters reported congregant giving is down. He stressed that it's important to discuss a ten year plan so that we can prioritize the funds we have.
- » Trustees Financial Comments on the Building
- » Jim Delmore reported on completed projects which include new Gordon Chapel windows, new doors in the south Narthex, and the skylight and "bathtub" repaired. Projects to be completed are outside front steps repair, painting of the bell room, replacement of basketball hoop, replacement of mural panels, new fence around AC, and refrigerator repair. The water main break will be worked on soon, and the damage caused by it will be repaired.

### Ongoing Business

- » VIP will probably not be completed before January.

### New Business

- » Karen Olson from DVT reported on Becoming a Matthew 25 church which is a PCUSA initiative dedicated to congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Karen will send out more information to all of us. We will discuss it again at the next meeting.
- » Terry Mohaupt reported on a recent session meeting where it was decided to recommend Andy Newgren be called to be ordained to his current position. After discussion it was referred to the Executive Committee.

### One Minute Ministry Team Highlights

- » Worship, Music and Arts are reviewing best practices for music ministry staffing and are studying a book on diversity.
- » Deacons will distribute pumpkin bars on November 21st. A Special Memorial Service will be held on December 12th, Dinners for 7 are launching.
- » DVT continues to hold belonging interviews.
- » Adult Ed went to be a hybrid model which went well.
- » Hospitality reported that Serious Soup is on hold due to water issues.
- » Family Christian Ed reported on the upcoming Trunk or Treat and an older kids event scheduled in November.
- » Missions reported that OCWM pledge will be paid off early due to a UCC request.



## \$11,000 FOR CROP HUNGER WALK

By David Jones

Our congregation members have raised nearly \$11,000 for the CROP Hunger Walk this fall thus overwhelming our goal of \$8,000. That is our best effort ever, beating last year's record of \$7,707. How is this possible? It is mainly due to the efforts of two people, the Rev. Bob Saunders and Janet Hendricks. These two members have raised \$6,785. Bob alone raised \$5,665. How did they do it you ask? They used the old fashioned method of speaking to people face to face. While others, including myself, asked from a distance using the internet, they were bold enough to do it in person. Thank you, Janet and Bob, along with everyone who helped raise funds to feed others in Rockford and beyond.

But wait - there is even more. The Mission Ministry Team pledged to match up to \$2,000. Therefore our congregation has given \$13,073 this year. Way to go Church!

## ROCKFORD OVERNIGHT CAFÉ

The Café will open its doors January 4, 2022. Times are 8:00 pm-7:00 am. We hope we can stay open through Sunday, March 13. There are plenty of opportunities to support the Café. We will be seeking volunteers from 7:30 pm-10:30 pm and again from 5:30 am-7:00 am. We are also seeking donations of meals: soups, casseroles or carry-ins are appreciated. The Meal Train sign up will begin December 20. If you have any questions? Contact Becky Erbe.



Rev. Rebecca and Pastor Becky gathered an advisory committee comprised of leaders from Carpenter's Place, Rosecrance, NAMI, the Fire Department, Swedes, the Health Department, the city's Human Services...and adding. We are grateful for their support and guidance as we seek to provide the best service for our overnight cafe guests. Many thanks to Kay Larrick from Carpenter's Place who hosted the press conference from our gym for the mayor to announce Hunger and Homelessness Week.

# DECEMBER CALENDAR \* held via zoom

**Wednesday, Dec 1**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
7:00 PM – Worship Ministry

**Thursday, Dec 2**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
4:00 PM – Hospitality Team  
5:00 PM – JD Board Meeting

**Friday, Dec 3**  
6:30 PM – Festival of Lights Bus Trip

**Saturday, Dec 4**  
9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, Dec 5 Communion**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

**Monday, Dec 6**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup

**Tuesday, Dec 7**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study  
No DVT  
5:30 PM – Governing Council

**Wednesday, Dec 8**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
12:00 PM – Covid Committee  
4:00 PM – Executive Committee

**Thursday, Dec 9**  
9:30 AM – Carillons  
4:00 PM – FPC Endowment Committee

**Friday, Dec 10**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, Dec 11**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Sunday, Dec 12**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
5:00 PM – Memorial Service

**Monday, Dec 13**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup  
5:00 PM – Deacons Ministry

**Tuesday, Dec 14**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study  
5:00 PM – Missions Ministry

**Wednesday, Dec 15**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  
5:00 PM – Trustees Ministry  
6:00 PM – Children & Family Virtual Christmas Party

**Thursday, Dec 16**  
9:30 AM – Carillons

**Friday, Dec 17**  
No Scheduled Activities

**Saturday, Dec 18**  
9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic

**Sunday, Dec 19**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School  
11:15 AM – Family CE Ministry Team

**Monday, Dec 20**  
11:30 AM – Serious Soup  
3:30 PM – Prayer Stations

**Tuesday, Dec 21**  
7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  
10:00 AM – Prayer Stations  
12:00 PM – Narrative Bible Study

**Wednesday, Dec 22**  
10:00 AM – Staff Meeting

**Thursday, Dec 23**  
No scheduled activities

**Friday, Dec 24**  
4:30 PM – Christmas Eve Service

**Saturday, Dec 25**  
Christmas Day

**Sunday, Dec 26**  
8:30 AM – Coffee Class  
10:00 AM – Worship Service  
10:20 AM – Sunday School

**Monday, Dec 27**  
Office Closed  
No Serious Soup

**Tuesday, Dec 28**  
Office Closed

**Wednesday, Dec 29**  
No Staff Meeting

**Thursday, Dec 30**  
No scheduled activities

**Friday, Dec 31**  
No scheduled activities



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS

We will be taking orders for poinsettias through Wednesday, December 8. The cost is \$14.00 and you can call or [email Debbie](mailto:Debbie@secondfirst.org) with your order. Please mail your check to the church and note Poinsettia. Please let us know if you want the poinsettia to be in memory or in honor of a loved one

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING / CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Sunday, December 19

We will receive gifts to the UCC and PCUSA funds that support current and retired church workers in need. The funds are used to help with emergency situations, housing, long-term care, health care costs, and supplements to small pensions. In this season of giving, we extend our gifts to those who were called to serve our churches with love and faithfulness. Thank you.



## CHURCH MEMORIAL SERVICE

December 12, 5:00 p.m.

COVID has changed our lives in so many ways. We have lost loved ones, family members and friends during the year and a half, and we haven’t been able to properly say goodbye. Join us December 12 at 5 pm to say goodbye and celebrate new life in Christ. The service will include beautiful music, scripture and prayer. Call Becky Erbe with any questions.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIES

Sunday, December 19

Join us after church on December 19 for Christmas cookies. If you are with us that day, take a few home to munch on to celebrate the season. Remember, life is short. Eat Christmas cookies. :)

## VIRTUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday, December 15, 6:00 p.m.

Come one, come all for some good old-fashioned virtual fun. Join for singing, crafts and an all-out race-through-the-house scavenger hunt (spectators welcome). Sign up with Debbie. [Wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:Wise@secondfirst.org) for the Zoom link. Questions? [Rachel Huffman@secondfirst.org](mailto:Huffman@secondfirst.org)

## POP-UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday Worship, December 19

Who will be the star this year? What will the story be? It will all unfold before our eyes as we participate (no practice required or allowed) in our now annual and beloved pop-up Christmas Pageant.



## NOVEMBER UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

The church now has water. As stated last month we never lost water to the sprinklers or the gym restrooms. The new two inch copper piping has been connected to the water supply that is used in the gym. Carpet squares have been selected for the floor covering that was destroyed. Installation will be starting soon. Help will be needed to move items back to the Historian’s Room and the old office after the carpet is installed. If you are willing to help, please call the office and request that your name be put on a list to call when it is time to return the items.

A heat circulation pump gasket went bad and caused a leak in the third floor mechanical room above the Gathering Place Room. Unfortunately the leak dripped through the ceiling on to the table and the floor. Two ceiling tiles were destroyed. Thanks to Alice Uphouse and Mary Spindler for discovering the leak and keeping the damage to a minimum. The pump gasket was replaced and Duraclean dried and cleaned everything. The table is fine. The Trustees have agreed to get leak detectors for all the mechanical rooms.

Many other items have been repaired or replaced for a complete list of Trustees activities please look at the meeting minutes in the office.

Please note that the church is no longer collecting batteries; alkaline batteries can now be put in the garbage. Rechargeable Batteries can be taken to Battery Plus or Best Buy. Do not put them in the garbage or the recycle bin. Rechargeable Batteries have caused fires.

**FROM THE ORGAN BENCH**

By Valerie Blair

*Why learn Lift Every Voice and Sing?*

This is a song known as the Black national anthem. Written first as a poem by James Weldon Johnson, then set to music by his brother J. Rosamund Johnson, and first performed by elementary students in Jacksonville, Florida in 1900, this is a song that has truly had a life of its own. Soon after the performance, the Johnson brothers moved to New York and gave no more thought to the song. But the text and tune were compelling enough, that those children carried the song with them, and spread it to the community and beyond, and taught it to their children, who taught it to theirs, and it eventually became the National Negro Anthem, or National Negro Hymn.

Our exploration of Lift Every Voice and Sing is being bumped to January, as we had a full November with our Remembering Loved Ones, and Bells on Dedication Sunday. And just like that, it is Advent. I hope you look forward to singing familiar Advent hymns, with our usual sneak peek at Christmas. We will hear bells again during this season, and anthems of expectation and longing from the choir, as well as hearing our own Madeline Archer on flute. After our four weeks of preparation, we celebrate the birth of Christ with Harp, String Quartet, choir, and more bells at our Christmas Eve service.

**CHILDREN AND FAMILY UPDATE**

By Rachel Huffman

I have to admit it. Christmas is my absolute favorite holiday. Everything about it just brings a smile to my face and a song to my heart. I grew up in this very church building, singing songs in this very sanctuary with the choir, ringing handbells, and participating in the pageant. We also had Christmas Craft Sunday, which was a popular event held in the dining room and often involving now forbidden crafting materials such as glitter and potentially sharp objects, like aluminum. My parents still proudly hang all of me and my brothers Christmas Craft Sunday creations on their Christmas tree because we share some of our favorite Christmas memories from that very event. While this tradition ended over the years, new things have taken its place. Indeed, with the pandemic continuing to impact the nation, the state, and our community we are still not back to a point where all families are able to gather with us in person.

Last year we did a virtual family Christmas party via Zoom, and it was a massive success! The kids had a great time making crafts and doing an at-home, high speed Christmas scavenger hunt. We will be doing the same thing this year, making this a new annual tradition that I hope is a cherished memory for our youth as they grow. I will be encouraging our youth to think of the ways that they can give to those in need during not just the Christmas season, but all year long. As the line in one of my favorite songs from my all-time favorite Christmas movie, The Muppets Christmas Carol, goes: "It is the season of the heart, a special time of caring, the ways of love made clear. It is the season of the spirit, the message if we hear it is making it last all year." I am wishing love, peace, and great joy to all of you this Christmas season and all year long.

**KFACT**

KFACT staff hosted a virtual college fair party for our 11th and 12th grade girls! Each girl interacted with colleges, admission and financial aid representatives about college life and preparing for a post-secondary education journey!

KFACT's Tuesday and Thursday evening programming has been a great time for tutoring, enrichment activities and connecting with the girls in a small group setting. We are also facilitating school-based education groups at Rockford Public Schools middle and girls.

KFACT will be doing Labor of Love volunteering over the next few weeks to give back to our local community and most importantly to teach our girls the vital importance of volunteerism and being a catalyst for change!

KFACT will be collecting new pajamas and fuzzy socks to provide to each KFACT girl for our annual Holiday Pajama Party which will be held Friday, December 17th. If you would like to bless a girl with pajamas, please drop off to KFACT or church office before December 15th!



**HASKELL BOOTS THANK YOU!**

By Karen Olson, Mission Ministry Team

On Monday, November 22, 254 Haskell School students will be presented with a new pair of boots thanks to this congregation's generosity. All students will be able to go outside for recess throughout the winter months and come in with dry, warm feet! Thanks to the many people who were part of the boot sorting party in the sanctuary. We have elementary, middle school and high school age children as well as adults of all ages. Thanks to Holly Beeman's family and friends for making the name tags to label all the boots, and to Darlene Riddle for driving the van to deliver the boots to Haskell. But most of all, thanks to this congregation for supporting this project every year! The Mission Ministry Team is accepting funds to help defray the cost of this project. Funds may be donated to the church with a memo of "Haskell Boots". Your generous donations in the past allows us to continue this project on a yearly basis. Thank you for your kindness.

**JEREMIAH DEVELOPMENT SAYS THANK YOU!**

On September 25th, Jeremiah Development implemented its fourth LOVE Rockford event for the Rockford community. This could not have happened without the tremendous support of the pastors, congregations and community volunteers and agencies. We are grateful for your time, prayers, and support in creating another successful experience. THANK YOU!

*Let us give you some information of this event:*

- » Jeremiah Development, in collaboration with thirty-one agencies and organizations, reached out with support services to the under-served population of Rockford.
- » With three city blocks filled with physical health care, mental health and social service organizations and agencies, this outdoor event fulfilled its goal of creating access to resources, education, and support.
- » While residents connected with local resource organizations, they were also able to have their bike repaired, get a haircut, and choose clothing and winter gear.
- » Hot nutritious lunches were available, as well as fresh produce, protein, and dairy to take home.
- » Flu and Covid vaccinations were given and books for all reading levels were distributed.
- » One-hundred forty-four (144) households registered at the main campus, and one-hundred twenty-four (124) households registered at the drive-thru food distribution site.
- » In total, four-hundred sixty-three (463) individuals were served by this event. In the planning and implementation of LOVE Rockford, we had twenty-four (24) leaders, and multiple sub-committees working to make this event successful and safe.
- » In total, we had eighty-nine (89) volunteers providing 1,094 hours of time, energy, and skill for LOVE Rockford 2021.

Thank you so much for giving of yourself to serve others!



*Rooted in Love*

*They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season.*

Psalm 1:3a



Dear friends,

Our annual Stewardship season reached its climax on Stewardship Sunday, November 21st. This year we asked you to get in touch with your roots recalling times that help explain why you go to church. Perhaps you found a shared reality with others. Maybe it was the opportunity to share your leadership skills. It might have been shared in a collective body to work for greater justice and equity. It could have been the challenge to align your behavior with those of our precious savior, Jesus Christ. It can even be all of the above and much more.

Whatever reasons you've discovered in yourself thank you for your financial support that helps continue a 170-plus year-old ministry to downtown Rockford and beyond. While there are many ways to support the congregation, your annual pledge provides a chance to think in a particular and prayerful way about the choices we make with your money in support of the church. Perhaps you give regularly without making a pledge. We remind you that pledges are never binding. Their purpose is to allow our Governing Counsel to budget in a responsible way.

If you have not yet made a financial pledge please prayerfully consider doing so now. It will add to the confidence our Council seeks to continue our crucial ministry to members, friends, our local community and the world beyond.

Your generosity will make a real difference.

With gratitude,  
Our Trustees Stewardship subcommittee,  
Phil Davidson, Karen Hill, David Jones, David Noel,  
Katy Paterson, Darlene Riddle, Ann Stites

**STEWARDSHIP MESSAGES**

Throughout Stewardship season, many members of our church shared stories of how they joined the SecondFirst congregation. We have been sharing these Stewardship moments each week in The Tower e-Word, and now they can all be found on our website. We encourage you to take some time to read their experiences, and why they are committed to continue to support the church through leadership roles and financial support.

*Read all the messages:*  
[www.secondfirst.org/stewardship-season/](http://www.secondfirst.org/stewardship-season/)