



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

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

July 30, 2023
10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“I Want Jesus to Walk With Me”

arr. J. Raney

WELCOME

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Becky Erbe

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Leader: Called to be branches in Christ's body,

All: we yearn to be connected to the vine.

Leader: Called to be mustard bushes offering shade to God's creatures,

All: we search for places to plant the seeds of faith.

Leader: Called to be growing with God in the midst of this world's painful questions,

All: we seek God's nurturing presence.

Jim Burright

***HYMN #761 vs 1-4**

“Called As Partners In Christ's Service”

J. HUBER/J. ZUNDEL

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend, equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old, blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words that challenge, said with care, bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase, messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

When we don't know how or what to pray, the Spirit knows.

When all we can muster are sighs and groans, the Spirit knows those also.

When we feel that we aren't even worthy to approach God,

the Spirit goes before us and with us and God welcomes us with arms open.

Let us confess to our God in this silence...

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

*THE PEACE

Leader: Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

***GLORIA PATRI** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost: as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen Amen.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Darlene Riddle

EARLY WORD

Rachel Demis

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 13:31-33; 44-52

Phil Davidson

ANTHEM

“Give Me a Clean Heart”
Dorothy Paige-Turner, vocalist

M. P. DOUROUX

SCRIPTURE READING

Thessalonians 1:1-10

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Movie Series Part Four-Imitation of Life

Becky Erbe

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Soon-a Will be Done”
Dorothy Paige-Turner, vocalist

A. A. SPIRITUAL

PASTORAL PRAYER

Phil Davidson

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Darlene Riddle

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

SONG OF OFFERING

“Give of Your Best to the Master”
Dorothy Paige-Turner, vocalist

BARNARD

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Darlene Riddle

HYMN #769 vs 1-3,5

“For Everyone Born”

S. MURRAY/B. MANN

For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread, a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,

REFRAIN: and God will delight when are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace: yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice, and joy!

For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share, with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman and man, a system that’s fair, **REFRAIN**

For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong, **REFRAIN**

For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be, to work, to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free, **REFRAIN**

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“I Love to Tell the Story”

ARR. J. RANEY

please remain seated for the postlude

◆written by Katherine Hawker-Posted on *Liturgy Outside*

◆◆written by Rev. Matthew Thompson-posted on *Liturgy Link*

Dorothy Paige-Turner, Vocalist

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Tim Riddle, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

*The Flowers are given by Marilyn Hartzog in Memory of Grandparents
Hazel and Lamar Misegades and Belle and Everett Wiegand*

Prayer Requests

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support of friends and family of Cara Keller, who passed away Tuesday, July 25. A Fall Memorial Service to be held at a later date.**
- Continue prayers for Linda Roy, Bethany Stiltner, Marianne Marlow, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Rick Gallegos, Lenore Lund, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Roseva Massenat, Richard Lierman, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Vernon Carter, Dustin Eklund, Bill and Becky Kallmann, Beckett Krieg, Cathy Toepfer, and Philip and Shirley Davidson.
- And we pray for all those at home and in long-term care facilities, who may not be in worship regularly, but who remain part of our family of faith: Shirley Anderson, Arlene Snap, Jeanne Page, Joyce Pennow, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Lois Calhoun, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

Happy August Church Family!! Annual Picnic Sunday, August 20, 11:30 am Paige Park Pavilion
Deacons Fellowship are excited to announce the return of the “potluck” portion of the church picnic. We will be returning to Anna Paige Park for our annual church picnic! Dig out your go to dish to pass recipes and join us us August 20th after church. The bus will be running and we will be offering snacks to those waiting for festivities to begin. We will be having some children’s activities led by our Christian Ed Ministry team and are excited to ask everyone to stay for our new annual drone photo.

We are so excited to see everyone and go back to a great time of fellowship and gathering. We will be providing brats, hot dogs, and vegan hot dogs. We will also have water and lemonade. Desserts, salads, and other favorite dishes will be up to you! We cannot wait to see you all there!

Sincerely,
Your Deacons Fellowship Team

It's here! The SecondFirst Merchandise Store is open!

We know you want shirts and hats to wear to church events, fellowship and volunteering and we now have many options for you to choose from. You can get the church logo on the upper right chest, the church logo full front OR you can choose the church logo on the upper right chest and a custom WordCloud on the back (Make sure to choose a shirt with "wordcloud" in the description). You can pick them up from Embroid This on North Second St. or choose to have them picked up at Church. If you have any questions, please reach out to Jennifer Archer.

Place your order at https://stores.inksoft.com/second_first

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 27

Our annual Blessing of the Backpacks will be August 27, during Sunday Worship. Make sure to invite anyone who has a child who might benefit from a positive sending off into the new school year, so of course make sure to bring your backpacks on that day!

We are Seeking... Maybe it's YOU!

Firstly, we are seeking any adults who have a passion for fishing and a knowledge or local spots! We have fishing rods and lures enough to take all the kids out for a fall fishing trip, but we need experts to come along to guide us. If you are interested, please contact Aubrey at aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org right away. We are hoping to have a late September date.

Calendar at a Glance July 30,-August 6, 2023

<p>Sunday, July 30 Dorothy Paige-Turner 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p> <p>Monday, July 31 11:30 AM – Serious Soup</p> <p>Tuesday, August 1 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast</p>	<p>Wednesday, August 2 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting</p> <p>Thursday, August 3 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Friday, August 4 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>Saturday, August 5 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Sunday, August 6 Pulpit Talk Richard Stiltner 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p>
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Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
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Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Darlene Riddle moderator@secondfirst.org

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

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

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

Director of Music, Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair valerie.blair@secondfirst.org

Choir Director: Richard Stiltner rstiltner@aol.com

Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org

Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org

Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org

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