



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2023

Order of Worship

10:00 am

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

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

PRELUDE

“Adagio” from *Symphony no. 1*

L. VIERNE

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Katy Paterson

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: We come to worship this morning for different reasons.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: We experience the presence of the Spirit in different ways.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: We hear Jesus' words with different ears.

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: “Deny yourselves.”

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: “Take up your cross.”

All: O God, do not be far from us.

Leader: “Follow me.”

All: O God, we thank you for drawing near to us in this place, in our lives.

***Hymn #15 vs 1-4**

“All Creatures of Our God and King” LASST UNS ERFREUEN

All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing, Alleluia! Alleluia! O brother sun with golden beam, O sister moon with silver gleam, Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, brother wind with clouds and rain, you nurture gifts of fruit and grain. Alleluia! Alleluia! O sister water, flowing clear, make music for you Lord to hear. Sing praises Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, brother fire so warm and bright, chase off the shadows of the night. Alleluia! Alleluia! Dear mother earth, who day by day unfolds such blessings on our way, Sing praises Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All who for love of God forgive, all who in pain or sorrow grieve, Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ bears your burdens and your fears; so, even in the midst of tears, Sing praises! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Leader: Abandon the illusion you're a self-contained individual.

All: Be a part of this wounded world, and find yourself with Christ.

Leader: Set aside your own desires,

All: give yourself fully for others; be the hands and heart of Jesus.

Leader: Renounce self-protection,

All: accept your brokenness, and reach out for love.

Leader: Let go of your own plans.

All: Join in the healing of the world. You will not be alone.

Leader: Follow your soul, not your ego.

All: Follow it right into people's suffering. Follow it right into the heart of God.

Leader: Pour yourself out;

All: let the world pour in; then you are one with the Beloved...

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

Aubrey Barnett

ANTHEM

“ A”

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 12:1-14

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“Traditions and Rituals, Good or Bad?”

Becky Erbe

***Hymn #753 vs 1-4**

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

ANON./S. TEMPLE

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me bring your love. Where there is injury, your pardon, Lord, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.

Make me a channel of your peace. Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope. Where there is darkness, only light, and where there's sadness, ever joy.

O Master, grant that I may never seek so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood, as to understand, to be loved as to love, with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, in giving of ourselves that we receive, and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

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

“Let Everything That Has Breath”

ARR. J. RANEY

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #611 vs 1-3

“Joyful, Joyful”

HYMN TO JOY

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love! Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays; stars and angels sing around thee, center of the unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began. Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan., Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife. Joyful music leads us onward, in the triumph song of life.

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Finale” from *Symphony no. 1*
please remain seated for the postlude

L. VIERNE

Please join us in the dining room for Coffee and Conversation

◆written by Joanna Harader, *posted on Spacious Faith*

◆◆written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *posted on Unfolding Light*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Tim Riddle, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

The Altar flowers are given by the Wyatt-Parker families in honor and memory of William and Jane Wyatt and Henry and Ruth Pieper.

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Sharon Ockerlander, Sherry Lynn McDonald, 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: Betty Klingensmith, 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.

Neighborhood Soup Kitchen: Saturday, September 16, 10:00 am

Our next day to serve lunch at the Jubilee Center is Saturday, Sept. 16. Last week we prepared 100 lunches and all were distributed within 20 minutes! The line was long! Whether you are a first time volunteer or an old hand at it, you are needed! We work preparing and serving a nutritious and delicious meal from 10 am to about 1 pm. Let Marge Maynard know if you can be part of the team or if you have questions. Thanks!

Church/Neighborhood Pig Roast Good Food!! and Fellowship! Saturday, September 16, 3:00 pm

Join the Mission Ministry for freshly roasted pulled pork, rice and red beans, green bean casserole, cornbread, cookies, and water!! To help make this another successful event, we NEED your help with the cornbread and cookies!!! If you can bake one of these, let us know! A Sign-up poster will be available on Sundays! Come meet our church neighbors and catch up with friends!! See you there!!!!
By Karen Hill

UCC and PCUSA Special Offerings

Our two denominations ask our gifts to their October 1st Special Offerings. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is an offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Gifts to the Presbyterian (USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering promotes the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world.

Watch for more information as we approach the October 1st World Communion Sunday.

The Thrift Store is gearing up for fall. We are Open every Tuesday from 9:00-1:00. We need men's large and extra-large clean and gently used clothing items; men's t-shirts, men's jeans, men's everyday shirts long and short sleeve. Pots and pans that are in good cooking shape are needed as well. Please see Alice or Ann with questions.

Calendar at a Glance September 10 - September 17, 2023

<p>Sunday, Sept. 10 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p> <p>Monday, Sept. 11 11:30 AM – Serious Soup 1:00 PM – Hospitality Team 5:00 PM – Deacons/Fellowship</p>	<p>Tuesday, Sept. 12 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 9:30 AM – Presbytery 4:30 PM – Stewardship Committee 5:00 PM – Adult Ed Team 6:00 PM – Missions Ministry</p> <p>Wednesday, Sept. 13 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, Sept 14 9:30 AM – Carillons 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir</p>	<p>Friday, Sept. 15 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Saturday, Sept. 16 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic 3:00 PM – Pig Roast</p> <p>Sunday, Sept. 17 8:30 AM – Adult Ed 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM – Kid Choir 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

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