



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

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost  
Order of Worship

September 24, 2023  
10:00 am

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

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

**PRELUDE**

“Antiphon III”

M. DUPRÉ

**INTROIT**

“Jesus Loves Me”  
Peanut Bells

A. Warner/W Bradbury

**WELCOME**

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Becky Erbe

**CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

Leader: Come near to the Lord.

**All: Lord, be with us this day.**

Leader: Lift your sorrows and joys to the Lord.

**All: Lord, hear the cries of our hearts.**

Leader: Come, rest in the love and mercy of God.

**All: Bless us, O Lord, that we may be blessings for others in your name.**

Nicholas Archer

**\*HYMN #367** vs 1-4

“Come Ye Thankful People, Come” ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin. God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come to God’s own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God’s own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown. First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we whole-some grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home; from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away; give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in God’s garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home. Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin, there forever purified, in thy presence to abide: come, with all thine angels come; raise the glorious harvest home!

**CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

**God of abundance, forgive us for embracing a worldview that capitalizes on scarcity. Help us to know that you have given us enough for our journey. You have created us wonderfully and uniquely. Forgive us for comparing ourselves with our neighbor when we are called to love them.**

**Help us to embrace how you have made us as individuals who may bring our singular gifts to our common life.**

*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**

Marge Maynard

**EARLY WORD**

Aubrey Barnett

**ANTHEM**

“Jesus and His Love”  
Carillons

B. A. TUCKER

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Exodus 16:2-15

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“What Is It?”

Becky Erbe

**\*HYMN #396** vs 1- 4

“Brethren, We Have Met to Worship”

HOLY MANNA

Brethren, we have met to worship and adore the Lord our God. Will you pray with all your power while we try to preach the word? All is vain unless the Spirit of the holy One comes down. Brethren, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Sisters, will you come and help us: Moses’ sister aided him. Will you help the trembling mourners who are struggling hard with sin? Tell them all about the Savior. Tell them that he will be found. Sisters, pray, and holy manna will be showered all around.

Is there here a trembling jailer, seeking grace and filled with fears? Is there here a weeping Mary pouring forth a flood of tears? Brethren, join your cries to help them; sisters, let your prayers abound! Pray, O pray, that holy manna will be scattered all around.

Let us love our God supremely; let us love each other, too. Let us love and pray for sinners till our God makes all things new. Christ will call us home to heaven; at his table we’ll sit down. Christ will gird himself and serve us with sweet manna all around.

**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

Marge Maynard

*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](http://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](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org).*

## SONG OF OFFERING

“Wherever You May Wander”

TRAD./ARR. A. L. PAGE

## \*DOXOLOGY #606

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### HYMN #542 vs 1-4

“God Be With You Till We Meet Again”

GOD BE WITH YOU

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings protecting hide you, daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; when life's perils thick confound you, put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; keep love's banner floating o'er you; smite death's threatening wave before you: God be with you till we meet again.

## \*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

ARR. M. ARNOLD

Carillons, Peanut Bells, and piano

*please remain seated for the postlude*

◆Ministry Matters

◆◆Worship Ways UCC

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

John Maynard, van driver

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Katy Paterson, van driver

*The Flowers on the Chancel are given by the Hallberg Family in Loving memory of Jeffrey given by Sarah, Justin, Hayden, and Connor Hallberg.*

## **Prayer Requests**

- Continue prayers for Bob Bates, 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.

**On Sunday, October 1, Members of SecondFirst are invited to join our neighbors in ministry, Court Street Methodist Church for a Domestic Violence Walk.** Court Street will meet us in our parking lot at 11:30 after church. We will join with them in a walk of solidarity to the Family Peace Center on Main Street, then to the Jeremiah Development Office on Church Street and Mulberry for refreshments and discussion. They walk will only equal a few blocks.

Domestic violence and the growing presence of commercial human trafficking are threats to public safety and quality of life in our community. The statistics paint a grim picture:

On average, domestic violence accounts for nearly 30 percent of Rockford's violent crime. In 2016, Illinois ranked eighth in the United States for reported human trafficking cases. The City of Rockford Human Services Department reports that an average of 25 percent of our homeless population were without a residence as a result of domestic violence. Hope to see you walking on October 1!

## **Bible Study Returns Tuesday, October 3, 12:00-1:00**

Join Pastor Becky for Lunch and Bible Study. We will study the given Lectionary text for the week using the Lectio Divina method. Lectio Divina is a slow, rhythmic reading and praying of a Scripture passage. Grab your lunch and Bible. Join us on Zoom. Call the office if you are interested and we will send you the zoom link.

## **Annual Edwards Apple Orchard Trip Thursday, October 12, Rain or Shine.**

Back by popular demand we will be taking a trip to Edwards Apple Orchard East. We will be taking the church bus for those who need a ride. If riding the bus meet at church by 12:30. If you are driving meet us at the Apple Orchard at 1:00 pm. Cider and Doughnuts are on us!

## **UCC and PCUSA Special Offerings**

Our two denominations ask our gifts to their October 1<sup>st</sup> Special Offerings. Watch for more information as we approach World Communion Sunday.

In Madagascar, Rev. Helivao Poget, director of ministry to marginalized people for the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar, a Presbyterian World Mission partner, works to prevent human trafficking and to stop children from being exploited. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you are able.

This summer, with a grant from the United Church of Christ's Neighbors in Need offering, 24 high school students from an economically challenged Houston neighborhood learned about activism and carried out a local campaign for a \$15 minimum-wage law. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you are able.

## Calendar at a Glance September 24-October 1, 2023

<p><b>Sunday, Sept. 24</b>  Carillons and Peanut Bells  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  3:15 PM – AGO Organ Walk</p> <p><b>Monday, Sept. 25</b>  11:30 AM – Serious Soup  6:30 PM Worship Music Team</p> <p><b>Tuesday, Sept. 26</b>  7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast  9:00 AM – Thrift Shop</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Sept. 27</b>  10:00 AM – Staff Meeting  6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p><b>Thursday, Sept 28</b>  9:30 AM – Carillons  5:30 PM – Governing Council  6:00 PM - Bellcantos  7:00 PM - Choir</p> <p><b>Friday, Sept. 29</b>  No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p><b>Saturday, Sept. 30</b>  9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic</p> <p><b>Sunday, October 1</b>  World Wide Communion  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  11:30 AM – Domestic Violence Walk  3:15 PM – AGO Organ Walk</p>
--	--	---

**Second Congregational (UCC) / First Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)**  
*Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God’s grace*

**Ministers: All Members**

**Moderator: Darlene Riddle** [moderator@secondfirst.org](mailto:moderator@secondfirst.org)

**Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe** [becky.erbe@secondfirst.org](mailto:becky.erbe@secondfirst.org)

**Children and Family Coordinator: Aubrey Barnett** [aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org](mailto:aubrey.barnett@secondfirst.org)

**Youth Director: Rachel Huffman** [rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org](mailto:rachel.huffman@secondfirst.org)

**Director of Music, Organist/Pianist: Valerie Blair** [valerie.blair@secondfirst.org](mailto:valerie.blair@secondfirst.org)

**Choir Director: Richard Stiltner** [rlstiltner@aol.com](mailto:rlstiltner@aol.com)

**Director of Handbell Ministries: Julie Cook Ramirez** [julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org](mailto:julie.cookramirez@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg** [sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org](mailto:sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org)

**Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman** [joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org](mailto:joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org)

**Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Nancy Yoeckel** [nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org](mailto:nancy.yoeckel@secondfirst.org)

**Office Manager: Debbie Wise** [debbie.wise@secondfirst.org](mailto:debbie.wise@secondfirst.org)

**Graphic Designer: Mitzi Muntz** [mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org](mailto:mitzi.muntz@secondfirst.org)

**Building Manager: Jeff Byrne** [jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org](mailto:jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org)

**318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101 • 815.963.8431 • [www.secondfirst.org](http://www.secondfirst.org)**