



Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

October 29, 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

“Leoni”

R. PROULX

WELCOME

Becky Erbe

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP♦

Darlene Riddle

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: We are called to love with all our heart and soul.

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: We are called to love with all our mind and strength.

Leader: We are called to love the Lord our God.

All: And we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves.

Leader: Come, let us love our God and share God's love in this time of worship!

***HYMN #749** vs 1-3

“Come Live in the Light”

WE ARE CALLED

Come, live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord, we are called

To be light for the kingdom, to live in the freedom of the city of God.

REFRAIN: We are called to act with justice; we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and violence will be no more. **REFRAIN**

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when we will be one! God will reign and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers, united in love. **REFRAIN**

CALL FOR TRANSFORMATION♦♦

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you; you call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped up in our own concerns. We have gone along with evil, with pride, quarrelling, and divisiveness. Holy God, help us to face up to ourselves, so that, as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord...

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 Huffman

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Phil Davidson

ANTHEM

“Melody”

F. MENDELSSOHN-HENSEL

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 34:1-12

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

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON

“And the Baton Goes To...”

Becky Erbe

***HYMN #49** vs 1-4

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above, the Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven confessed, we bow before your name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will. In prophet’s word you spoke of old and you speak still. Established is your law, and changeless it shall stand, deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest, a land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest. There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound, and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul; your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll. We praise you, living god! We praise your holy name, the first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

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

“Sing Low Sweet Chariot”

A. A. SPIRITUAL/ARR. V. LABENSKE

*DOXOLOGY #606

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN #275 vs. 1-4

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

EIN’ FESTE BURG

A mighty Fortress is our God, A Bulwark never failing; Our Helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing: For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And, armed with cruel hate, On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, Our striving would be losing; Were not the right Man on our side, The Man of God’s own choosing: Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He; Lord Sabaoth His Name, From age to age the same, And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, Should threaten to undo us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us: The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure, One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, No thanks to them, abideth; The Spirit and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sideth: Let goods and kindred go, This mortal life also; The body they may kill: God’s truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.

*BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Toccatina and fugue in D minor”

ATTR. J.S. BACH

please remain seated for the postlude

◆Written by Rev. Mindi and posted on *Rev-o-lution*

◆◆Posted on the *PCUSA website*

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Richard Stiltner, choir director

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge, sound, video

Tim Riddle, van driver

DON’T FORGET SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, WE CHANGE OUR CLOCKS “WE FALL BACK”

Prayer Requests

- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Sherry Lynn McDonald, wife of Bryan McDonald, who passed away Thursday, October 26.**
- **We offer prayers, sympathy, and support for friends and family of Lois Calhoun, who passed away Wednesday, October 25. A Memorial Service will be announced at a later date.**
- Continue prayers for, Judy Diehl, Lenore Lund, Sharon Ockerlander, Bethany Stiltner, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Beckett Krieg, 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, Charles Rosche, Lillian Smith, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

New Member Class Coming Soon! Sunday, November 5, After Church

We will be offering a New Member class after church for those interested in joining Secondfirst Church. Lunch will be provided. New Member Sunday will be November 19, during worship. Please contact Pastor Becky or call Debbie in the office if you are interested.

Do you like to play Euchre? Here is your chance. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 6:30 in the Dining Room.

Join your friends at an evening of Euchre. Please bring a snack to share and your own drink. Call the office, 815-963-8431 to register so we know how many are coming.

Our 2023 Final Neighborhood Soup Kitchen at the Jubilee Center will take place on Saturday, November 25, Yes, that is right after Thanksgiving! Hopefully we will all be refreshed after some good naps and energized for preparing and serving our neighbors. Marge will organize our day so let her know if you are able to help. Maybe you will be hosting out of town guests who would like to participate? Thanks and hope to see YOU there! Marge Maynard

Because of YOU our Church changes lives.

When we look to the future as a congregation we travel the road to mission clarity - an increasing awareness of and commitment to the role our church must play in God's kingdom, the one we ask for in the Lord's prayer. As this clarity grows so does the need for increased fund raising. Many of us give to make a difference in the world – and want to know what kind of impact our ministry is making.

Our Congregation has addressed this question. We have created the vision – “Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace.” Because of you our church changes lives.

It is this mission clarity that assures our next called pastor will have the visionary skills to shepherd us as visionary Christians. It is this mission clarity that excites and motivates us to offer more dollars assuring that skilled pastor is called.

Blessings on you, faithful one, as you help our church raise resources to continue energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace.

Calendar at a Glance October 29,-November 5, 2023

<p>Sunday, Oct. 29 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 3:00 PM – AGO Halloween</p> <p>Monday, Oct. 30 11:30 AM – Serious Soup</p> <p>Tuesday, Oct. 31 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM – Thrift Shop 12:00 PM – Bible Study</p>	<p>Wednesday, Nov. 1 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, Nov. 2 9:30 AM – Carillons 10:00 AM – Clergy Training 6:00 PM - Bellcantos 7:00 PM - Choir</p> <p>Friday, Nov. 3 No Scheduled Activities</p>	<p>Saturday, Nov. 4 <u>Turn Clocks Back</u> No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Sunday, Nov. 5 Communion Remembering Loved Ones 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 11:00 AM – New Member Class</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, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org

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

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