



**Second Congregational UCC/First Presbyterian Church PC(USA)**

*Energizing downtown Rockford and beyond with God's grace*

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Second Sunday in Lent  
Order of Worship

February 25, 2024  
10:00 am

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

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

**PRELUDE**

“Prelude on LEONI”

R. Proulx

**WELCOME**

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Becky Erbe

**INTROIT #314** vs 1-2 and refrain

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

B. Farrell

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP♦**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We follow Christ,

**All: Who says take up your cross.**

Leader: We follow Christ,

**All: Who bids us come and offer our lives.**

Leader: We follow Christ,

**All: Who summons us to new life. Come, let us worship our Creator.**

Kris Harden

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

“The God of Abraham Praise”

LEONI

**CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦**

**PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION**

Phil Davidson

Leader: God, we humble ourselves now in confession:

**All: We want to be followers of Jesus, but we do not always want to follow Jesus. We don't even want to listen when the conversation turns toward darkness and death. We prefer to indulge ourselves. We are eager to put down our crosses. We cling tightly to our lives. We grasp at worldly rewards.**

Leader: Holy and loving God, forgive all of our thoughts and actions that would protect us from the path of Christ.

*One Minute of silent reflection*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**\*THE PEACE**

Leader: Peace be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marge Maynard

**EARLY WORD**

Aubrey Barnett

**ANTHEM**

“Seek Ye First”  
Bellcantos

K. Lafferty/arr. J. Honore

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Mark 8:31-38

Becky Erbe

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**LATER WORD**

“Letting Go”

Becky Erbe

**\*HYMN # 320 vs 1-5**

“The Church of Christ in Every Age”

WAREHAM

**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**

“Offertory”  
Martin Ringers

J. N. Beck/arr. J. Muschick

**\*DOXOLOGY #606**

**\*PRAYER FOR DEDICATION**

Marge Maynard

**\*HYMN # 546 1-3**

“Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

SICILIAN MARINERS

**\*BENEDICTION**

Becky Erbe

**POSTLUDE**

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”  
Martin Ringers  
*please remain seated for the postlude*

J. Rutter/arr. J. Caulkins

◆ ~ written by Rosemary Lamie, and posted on the website of the First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

◆◆ ~ written by Joanna Harader, and posted on Spacious Faith. <http://spaciousfaith.com>

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist

Steve Muntz, Wes Hegge sound, video

Bob Lanford, van driver

### **Prayer Requests**

- Continue prayers Randy Beeman (Holly Beeman's brother), Brian and Patty Breuhaus and family (Lenore Lund and John DeWaters Son), Hayden Hallberg, Lenore Lund, Jayne Pheiffer, Sharon Ockerlander, Bethany Stiltner, Linda Miller, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Peter Joachim, Sally Baker, Stephanie Cooper, Beckett Krieg, 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, Jeanne Page, Marsha Martin, Billye Vernam, Nancy Gallegos, Willene Ziebell, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Charles Rosche, Carol Eggleston, and Ruby Beckman.

**Lenten Worship Experience** is from Wednesday, February 21 through Wednesday, March 20. We invite all to our Lenten Worship Experience. The evening starts with a Soup Supper at 5:30pm. in our Dining Room. The service will be in the Sanctuary beginning at 6:45pm and ending at 7:30pm. There will be music, prayer and meditation.

**Calling all folks with bright smiles and friendly greetings.** We would like to re-institute the practice of having greeters in the narthex before our Sunday Worship service. It would require arriving 20 to 30 minutes early and greet those arriving to welcome them to our worship. Please contact Jim Burrigh (815-218-9131 or [jnlburr@comcast.net](mailto:jnlburr@comcast.net)) or the church office if you are interested."

**Easter Flower orders are being taken now!** It's time to think about our Easter Flower Garden for the chancel and what blooming Spring Bulbs and plants you would like to see. You may order from this list:

Double stemmed white Easter lilies - \$18.00

Deep Rose Pink Hydrangeas - \$18.25

Tulips: Purple, Light Pink or Yellow - \$11.00

Please get your orders into the office by March 10th to make sure your color request is available.

Use the Order Form Envelopes that are on the Ushers table and in the Atrium Narthex on the tables and the Information Center. Place your envelope in the offering basket during the service. Please indicate if you are honoring loved ones when ordering your flowers.

**Altar Flower** contributors, if you are interested in greeting on the day your flowers are on the Alter, please let Jim Burrigh (815-218-9131 or [jnlburr@comcast.net](mailto:jnlburr@comcast.net)) or the church office know.

### **One Great Hour of Sharing- March 10**

Join with the PCUSA and the UCC in sharing God's love with our neighbors. In a world of disasters, hunger and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food, clean water, sanitation. Please consider donating to this worthy joint mission. Envelopes are on the Usher Table. Note OGHS- and which denomination you would like to receive your donation in the memo line of your checks.

## Calendar at a Glance February 25, 2024 – March 3, 2024

<p><b>Sunday, February 25 Bells Sunday Peanuts</b>              8:30 AM – Adult Ed              10:00 AM – Worship Service              10:20 AM – Sunday School              11:00 AM – Fair Trade Store</p> <p><b>Monday, February 26</b>              11:30 AM – Serious Soup              5:30 PM – Worship/Music Team</p> <p><b>Tuesday, February 27</b>              7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast              9:00 AM – Thrift Shop              12:00 PM – Bible Study</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, February 28</b>              10:00 AM – Staff Meeting              5:30 PM – Soup Supper              5:30 PM – Martins              5:30 PM – Governing Council Hybrid              6:45 PM – Lenten Worship Experience</p> <p><b>Thursday, February 29 Leap Day</b>              9:30 AM – Carillons              7:00 PM – Bellcantos              7:00 PM – Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>Friday, March 1</b>              No Scheduled Activities</p> <p><b>Saturday, March 2</b>              9:00 AM – Bridge Clinic</p> <p><b>Sunday, March 3 Communion Choir</b>              8:30 AM – Adult Ed              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](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)  
**Music Director, Organist/Pianist:** Valerie Blair [valerie.blair@secondfirst.org](mailto:valerie.blair@secondfirst.org)  
**Choir Director:** Richard Stiltner [richard.stiltner@secondfirst.org](mailto:richard.stiltner@secondfirst.org)  
**Director, Peanut Bells:** Sarah Hallberg [sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org](mailto:sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org)  
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**Housekeeper:** Maria Mandujano  
**Gatekeepers:** Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

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