



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 15, 2024
10:00 am

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

PRELUDE "Prelude on 'The Old Rugged Cross'" G. Bennard/arr.J. Dixon

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Becky Erbe

CALL TO WORSHIP♦ Marge Maynard

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God

All: May our worship reflect God's glory.

Leader: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

All: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

Leader: Let our prayer and praise, our singing and proclamation project the love of God.

**All: We commune with Christians around the world,
with Christians throughout time.**

Leader: With Christians across geography and across time,

All: Let us worship!

*HYMN #625 vs.1-4

"O Lord My God"

HOW GREAT THOU ART

CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦ Becky Erbe

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION Becky Erbe

Leader: God, we humble ourselves now as we ask for transformation:

**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.

Silence is kept

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.

EARLY WORD

Aubrey Barnett

SCRIPTURE READING

James 2:1-10

ANTHEM

“Hear My Words”

S. Paulus

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 8: 27-39

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

All: Thanks be to God.

LATER WORD

“Must Be Important. We are hearing it twice!”

Becky Erbe

**HYMN #718 vs. 1,2,4
vs. 3(choir only)**

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

BOURBON

PASTORAL PRAYER

Darlene Riddle

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

“God Is Here”

L. Larson

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN #611 vs. 1-3**

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

HYMN TO JOY

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Toccata”

E. Gigout

please remain seated for the postlude

The flowers on the chancel are given by Liz Dickinson in honor of her many past and present friends in our church.

◆—from Jesus Sets the Table, resources by the United Church of Christ, posted on their Worship Ways website.

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

Val Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Liz Dickinson, greeter

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Tim Riddle, van driver

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Joyce Pogue, Peg Joachim, Chris Bayar (son-in-law of Holly Beeman), Brad Delmore, John Livermore, Jeanne Page, Ron and Donna Schaad, Linda Miller, Jacob Crow (Adrian and Joshua Crow’s nephew), Randy Beeman (Holly Beeman’s brother), Brian and Patty Breuhaus and family (Lenore Lund and John DeWaters Son), Hayden Hallberg, Lenore Lund, Sharon Ockerlander, Bethany Stiltner, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Katy Paterson, Sally Baker, 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, Jan Elliott, Wally Gayle, Charles Rosche.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Back To School in Saut-d’Eau, Haiti Fall 2024:

As we have strived to Share God’s Grace in Downtown Rockford and Beyond (even all the way to Saut-d’Eau, Haiti), SecondFirst Church has supported self-determination of families through food security and education. In Haiti, we have family gardens producing plenty of food through our Garden Tools & Heritage Seeds program...and 52 children in school each year since 2018. Four Children have graduated on our watch! James and Odette Casimir visit with the children every year and want all of us to know these kids say: “Thank you for helping us go to school!” and “We want to meet you in person someday”.

This fall our 52 Kids are eager to return to school with our help. We know that 50% of Haitian children cannot afford to attend school. The annual \$250 (\$100 tuition and \$150 for uniforms, books, supplies and lunch) is out of reach for many Haitian families. The 54 kids who are supported by SecondFirst Church are divided among 7 different schools.

The Haiti Mission Project of SecondFirst Church needs our donations now to get ‘our kids’ ready for school this Fall. If you would like to support this project, please send your check to the church office with Haiti Education in the memo line.

Rock River Valley Pantry needs --- Boxes of cereal, pasta, cans/jars of spaghetti sauce, and/or canned vegetables and fruits. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller

Pig Roast for All! All members and neighbors are invited to join us **Saturday, October 5th** for a delicious meal of roast pork, sides and dessert. The pork is prepared by Penguin Foods. Join us at the church side yard and driveway off of Park Street. Meal begins at 3 pm and goes until there is no more!

Serious Soup is looking for volunteers to join in the fun and fellowship in the kitchen preparing and serving lunch for our neighborhood guests and travelers. Call Katy Paterson or Arlene Noel to sign up today!

**Calendar at a Glance
September 15, 2024 – September 22, 2024**

<p>Sunday, September 15 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p> <p>Monday, September 16 11:30: AM Serious Soup</p> <p>Tuesday, September 17 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop</p>	<p>Wednesday, September 18 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM – Martin Ringers</p> <p>Thursday, September 19 9:30 AM- Carillons 6:00 PM- Bellcantos 7:00 PM- Choir</p> <p>Friday, September 20 No Scheduled Activities Office closed</p>	<p>Saturday, September 21 No Scheduled Activities</p> <p>Sunday, September 22 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p>
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Ministers: All Members

Moderator: Marge Maynard moderator@secondfirst.org

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

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

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

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

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

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Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org

Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano

Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

