



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

Third Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship

March 23, 2025
10:00 am

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

No matter where you are on life's journey, no matter who you are, where you are from, whatever doubts and joys you bring, no matter who you love you are and always will be welcome here to worship at SecondFirst Church!

PRELUDE

"I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger"
Jan Novak, organ

Robert J. Hughes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP♦

Marge Maynard

Leader: Soft summer rain falling on parched earth

All: Waters of God, flow down upon us.

Leader: Torrential floods ripping lives into pieces

All: Waters of God, have mercy upon us.

Leader: Soaking waters which nourish the seed

All: Waters of God, replenish us.

HYMN #307 vs. 1-4

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦

Leader: God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be. Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence so that may prepare our hearts for change.

PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Darlene Riddle

We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from seeing our missteps; Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce, and systems designed to kill We are called to be the change that sustains generations.

Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

One Minute of silent reflection

WORDS OF GRACE

Leader: God's grace and mercy abounds.

All: God is with us in the change.

Leader: God's everlasting arms embrace us.

All: Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.

*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

ANTHEM

"Danza Brasileira"
Julie Cook Ramirez, classical guitar

Jorge Morel

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 13: 1-9

Reader: The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

LATER WORD

"A Man Had a Fig Tree"

Marge Maynard

HYMN #418 vs. 1-3

"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"

SOFTLY AND TENDERLY

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. 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

"Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended"

H. Walcha

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION*POSTLUDE**

"Softly and Tenderly"
please remain seated for the postlude

W. Thompson/arr. J. Raney

♦ *written by Katherine Hawker, and posted on Liturgies Outside. <http://liturgyoutside.net/>*

♦♦ *Lent 3C- Worship Ways- United Church of Christ*

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Hayley Gotzsche, choir director

Jim Burrigh, greeter

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Katy Paterson, van driver

Today's flowers (and guitar piece) are given in loving memory of Viola Johnson by her forever grateful granddaughter, Julie Cook Ramirez.

Prayer Requests

- Continue prayers for Wes Hegge, Katy Paterson, Nina Jawnyj (Aunt of Jess Lindblade), David Jones, Doug and Pom Olson, Richard Cook, Christopher Scharnweber (John Lindblade's cousin in law), Rick Gallegos, Jean Reese, Joyce Pogue, John Livermore, Jeanne Page, Linda Miller, Jacob Crow (Adrian and Joshua Crow's nephew), Randy Beeman (Holly Beeman's brother), Hayden Hallberg, Lenore Lund, Kathy Moton, Ann Stites, Sally Baker, 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

JOIN US in worship on March 30 for Pastor Becky's goodbye Sunday. Rev Kathy Lawes will preach and lead the farewell liturgy. Afterwards, all are welcomed to gather in the Dining Room for cake and punch, and expressions of thanks to Becky. Per Becky's wishes, there is **no program** but you can leave a card for her. If you don't have a card at home, there will be some available for you to use. Becky's time with us has been nurturing and fruitful and we cannot thank her enough for her faithful ministry.

ONA Task Force Update: Last week's information session discussed the various ways that humans determine how a person is identified as male or female. Briefly, there are 4 general ways: by examination of external and/or internal anatomy, by examination of chromosomes, and by measuring hormones such as testosterone and estrogen. We spent a lot of time on the chromosomes because even though having two X chromosomes (female) or one X and one Y

(male) are typical for our species, there are many more possibilities, some of which have significant effects on the person. Even when measuring hormones, most males have higher levels of testosterone than most females for example but there is much variation in range that complicates things. Biology is complicated. There will be a second session on this topic on Sunday, April 6, in which we will focus on what it means to have a sense of self and a gender identity. You are welcome to attend even if you missed the first session.

Jubilee Center Soup Kitchen: Didn't we just serve here? Yes, we did! And we will again before taking a bit of a break. Our upcoming date is Saturday, April 5, regular hours of 10 am to 1 pm, and as usual if you can be part of the team for only some of the hours, that's fine. Let Marge Maynard know to expect you. It's a fun time in an important hands-on ministry to the world outside the walls of the church.

Calendar at a Glance
March 23, 2025- March 30, 2025

<p><u>Sunday, March 23</u> Marge Maynard 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School</p> <p><u>Monday, March 24</u> 8:00 AM- Park District 11:30 AM- Serious Soup 6:30 PM- Worship/Music</p> <p><u>Tuesday, March 25</u> 7:00 AM – Men's Prayer Breakfast 8:00 AM- Park District 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, March 26</u> 8:00 AM- Park District 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM- Martin Ringers</p> <p><u>Thursday, March 27</u> 8:00 AM- Park District 9:30 AM- Carillons 5:30 PM- Governing Council 7:00 PM- Choir 7:30 PM- El Shaddai (Library)</p> <p><u>Friday, March 28</u> Office is closed</p>	<p><u>Saturday, March 29</u> 9:00 AM- Bridge Clinic</p> <p><u>Sunday, March 30</u> Kathy Lawes 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM- Coffee Hour</p>
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Ministers: All Members
Moderator: Marge Maynard moderator@secondfirst.org
Acting Senior Pastor: Becky Erbe becky.erbe@secondfirst.org
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Graphic Designer: Charles Fernandez graphicdesign@secondfirst.org
Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org
Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano
Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERS

We will again have colorful pots of Spring flowers for the Chancel area of the Sanctuary, to celebrate Easter morning. Tulips in yellow, pink or purple will cost \$11.00. Easter Lilies cost \$19.25, and Pink hydrangeas cost \$18.50. Orders are due by March 24th. If you would like to acknowledge a loved one please provide that information at the time you order. If you prefer to mail your order in, please use this form or just send a note telling us what you would like.

Your Name:

Names of loved ones:

Type of flower and color:

No. of plants:

\$Amount:
