



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

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Order of Worship

March 30, 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

“O Sacred Head Now Wounded”

D. Buxtehude

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP♦

Marge Maynard

Leader: Come, let us celebrate the forgiving, reconciling love of God.

All: For once we were lost and felt so far away; now we have been found and welcomed home.

Leader: Know that God's love is lavished upon you forever.

All: We rejoice at the news of forgiveness and hope! Come, let us celebrate and praise the God of Love.

HYMN #366 vs. 1-4

“Love Divine, all Loves Excelling (alt. tune)”

BEECHER

CALL TO TRANSFORM♦♦

-PRAYER OF TRANSFORMATION

Darlene Riddle

Leader: Holy One, The space between us is too great—

All: this agonizing expanse between you and us:

Leader: The rift we have created by demanding our share.

All: The distance we have put between us as we flee to a far country.

Leader: The resentment we hold when things don't seem fair.

All: Our refusal to join your gracious party.

Leader: Forgive each selfish request

All: each step away

Leader: each bitter thought

All: each joyless rejection.

Leader: Forgive us

All: and run toward us with open arms.

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

ANTHEM

“Canticle of Trust”
Sanctuary Choir

P. Kern

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Reader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

LATER WORD

“Where Was This Child’s Mother”

Kathy Lawes

HYMN #37 vs. 1-2

“Let All Things Now Living”

ASH GROVE

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

“Lenten Chorale”
Sanctuary Choir

C. L. Bass

***DOXOLOGY**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

HYMN #339 vs. 1-3

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

***BLESSING AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

“Clair de Lune”
please remain seated for the postlude

C. Debussy

◆written by Nancy Townley, and posted on the *Worship Connection* page of the *Ministry Matters* website.

<http://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3623/worship-connection-march-6-2016>

◆◆written by Rev. Joanna Harader, and posted on *LiturgyLink*. <https://www.liturgylink.net/> Joanna blogs at *Spacious Faith*. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

Valerie Blair, organist, pianist, director of music

Hayley Gotzsche, choir director

Judy Wyatt, greeter

Wes Hegge, sound, video

Tim Riddle, van driver

*The flowers on the chancel are from Jim Burrigh to the glory of God
and in memory of my parents, Leon and Joyce Burrigh.*

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, Katy Paterson, 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 after worship today for Pastor Becky's goodbye celebration. After worship, all are welcome 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. Becky's time with us has been nurturing and fruitful and we cannot thank her enough for her faithful ministry.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: At SecondFirst Church we feel it is important for families to worship together. Do not feel that your child must be absolutely quiet and still. We can't overlook children's ability to worship even though they wiggle, giggle and drop hymnals. We are glad to have our children in worship! As Christ taught us, "Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me." (Matt. 18:5) For those who prefer, we do offer Sunday school for preschool through elementary school age children. Class meets on the third floor. We also offer childcare which is also on the third floor.

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.

Jubilee Center Soup Kitchen: 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 30, 2025-April 6, 2025

<p><u>Sunday, March 30</u> Kathy Lawes 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM- Coffee Hour</p> <p><u>Monday, March 31</u> 11:30 AM- Serious Soup</p> <p><u>Tuesday, April 1</u> 7:00 AM – Men’s Prayer Breakfast 9:00 AM - Thrift Shop</p>	<p><u>Wednesday, April 2</u> 10:00 AM – Staff Meeting 6:00 PM- Martin Ringers</p> <p><u>Thursday, April 3</u> 9:30 AM- Carillons 7:00 PM- Choir 7:30 PM- El Shaddai (Heritage Library)</p> <p><u>Friday, April 4</u> Office is closed</p>	<p><u>Saturday, April 5</u> 10:00 AM- Jubilee Soup Kitchen</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 6</u> 10:00 AM – Worship Service 10:20 AM – Sunday School 11:00 AM- Welcome Coffee Hour 11:00 AM- ONA Meeting</p>
---	--	---

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

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
Choir Director: Hayley Gotzsche choirdirector@secondfirst.org
Director, Peanut Bells: Sarah Hallberg sarah.hallberg@secondfirst.org
Director, Carillons: Joyce Zartman joyce.zartman@secondfirst.org
Bookkeeper/Business Manager: Caryl Hay caryl.hay@secondfirst.org
Childcare: Tantalaya (TT) Ford
Church Receptionist: Jacqueline Bradford jacqueline.bradford@secondfirst.org
Graphic Designer: Charles Fernandez charles.fernandez@secondfirst.org
Building Manager: Jeff Byrne jeff.byrne@secondfirst.org
Housekeeper: Maria Mandujano
Gatekeepers: Todd Wilson, Christoffer Banks

318 N. Church Street Rockford, IL 61101 • 815.963.8431 • www.secondfirst.org