

Third Presbyterian Church

1221 Custer Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103
Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4255

Third Presbyterian

Volume 19, Issue 9

September 2020

**Welcome back
to Church!!!**

**September 6
10:15 am**



Rev. Stephen Loch Bowie, Pastor
Phone: (815) 962-7889
thirdpreschurch@yahoo.com
WTPB - LP 99.3 FM

Worship in September

September 6th—Labor Day Sunday

10:15 am The Lord's Supper

"Our Part of the Bargain"

Being open to the leading of the Holy Spirit

If you will be worshipping at home, prepare elements to use in celebrating The Lord's Supper!

September 13th-Rally Day

10 am Sunday School Celebration In-Person
Blanket and Backpack Blessing-Brown Park

10:15 am In-Person Worship

"Laying It On The Line:

The Matthew 25 Initiative"

September 20th

10:15 am In-Person Worship

"In For A Penny, In For A Pound"

Virtual Church Picnic at Home

September 27th

10:15 am In-Person Worship

"Knowing Who We Follow"

In addition to the in-person option, Sunday worship will be available by Zoom and on Facebook.

Looking ahead:

October 4th

World Communion Sunday
Blessing of the Animals In-Person

The Matthew 25 Initiative



Fall 2020 at Third PC

Setting the Stage for Becoming
a Matthew 25 Church
Starting September 13th

MATTHEW 25

*Worshiping, preaching, teaching
Toward the Realm of God*

The Matthew 25 Initiative in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) is about engaging congregations like ours in some of the most essential work God would have us do right now.

As we've been learning from The Great Ends of the Church, we are to be about encouraging *the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the Children of God*. We are also to be engaged in *the promotion of social righteousness*.

For the next 12 weeks we will study the Gospel of Matthew and all that Jesus taught about The Kingdom of God. We will also focus on this *initiative*, which invites us to take into our mission focus:

- * *working to be an asset to our neighborhood.*
- * *doing our part to end systemic racism*
- * *adding our efforts to solve the problem of chronic hunger in our region.*

We are God's people—we can do this together!

Pastor Steve

Session, Deacons, Trustees

Session in August 2020

In a Zoom meeting, moderated by Parish Associate Greg Albert, the Session revisited plans to resume in-person worship on September 6th at 10:15 am in the sanctuary. They heard a report from the Trustees about renewal of the sidewalk on Custer Avenue and the installation of carpet in the sanctuary.

(Members: Julie Leber, Dan Chiodini, Debbie Geisler, Don Hartshorn, Kim Ponder, Gene Archer, Pam Reed, Brad Facer, Elizabeth Duckett)

Deacons in August 2020

Moderator Chris Lingelbach opened the meeting with a reflection from scripture. The group discussed how each Deacon has been able to interact with members of their flock over the past weeks. The group addressed the idea of having flock meetings in the future, since they are geographically based. Pastor Steve asked for a Deacon to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2021, and for another to be part of the support team for Joy Turner and her family.

(Members: Chris Lingelbach, moderator, Jen Facer, Nichole Facer, Jen Schroder, Linda Cooper, Christine Cavin, Diane Archer, Nancy Justman and Jody Minnier)

Trustees in August 2020

The Trustees met to review significant work that had recently been accomplished to renew the church and its campus: the sidewalk in front of the church on Custer Avenue and new carpeting in the sanctuary. Members of the board prepared for installation and reset furnishings in the sanctuary.

(Members: Fred Fauerbach-moderator, Leigh Hammer, Rich Williamson, John Sabaka, Carrie Crosby, Brad Claussen, Wes Carlson, Brain Hollenbeck and Bryan Olson)

Opening Day in Worship

Sunday, September 6th

Labor Day Weekend—Worship in person
Including The Lord's Supper

Special Guests

Rev. Eric Heinekamp
General Presbyter,
Blackhawk Presbytery

Rev. Cindy Carlisle
First PC Woodstock

Rev. Mike Selberg
First PC Morrison



We rejoice at being able to once more come together to worship God as one! We will worship following guidelines laid out by the Winnebago County Health Department.

Given the size of our sanctuary and the need for social distancing, a total of 50 people can safely be present in the building. We are confident that we will be able to accommodate everyone who feels that they may safely worship inside at this time.

Communion will be served using one-time-use packets which include both bread and juice.

Notes : a reservation will be required for that morning.

You may reserve space by contacting Debbie Geisler at 815-969-8455.

You will need a face covering or a mask to be in the building.

If the weather permits, we will move this event outdoors!

Come and rejoice in worship together!

Pastor Steve

Praise and Thanksgiving

Congratulations to T.J. and Elizabeth Duckett as they settle into their new home in the Brown Park neighborhood.

Richard Williamson is grateful for his home on N. Main after many uncertain months without shelter.

Heather Lopez is grateful for the new home she is moving into October 3! She is excited to remain working at Third!!!

Glenda Hammer expresses her thanks to everyone who supported her and her family during the days of her sister's illness and following her passing.

Anna Winger said she is feeling a lot better and says "hello" to everyone.

Edie Blank sends hugs and thanks for the surprise drive-by visit on her 99th birthday.



4K CROP WALK GOES VIRTUAL

This year the Rockford Area CROP Hunger Walk on October 18th will be a virtual one. In past years many who were unable to attend the event walked in spirit.

This year everyone will be a spirit walker in our virtual CROP Hunger Walk. Won't you join the Third Pres Spirit Team?

Due to the Covid-19 virus, we will *not* gather at the Riverfront Museum Park to walk. Instead our small group is encouraged to walk or ride around our local community to demonstrate that Third Church is a Community Responding to Overcome Poverty.

Last year our congregation raised \$510. These monies were used locally by the Rock River Valley Pantry Coalition and to feed people around the world through Church World Service.

Finally, when you register to walk order your free t-shirt with the unique CROP logo by calling or emailing Elaine Jacoby, elaineatthirdpres@yahoo.com. Sizes: s,m,l,xl,xxl.

Peace and Global Witness

Here is the most fundamental question we may ask ourselves at Third Presbyterian Church is this: 'why does the church exist, anyway?'

The most true and vibrant answer we can give is this: we exist for the glory of God in the name of Jesus Christ and to advance God's realm on earth. We do that by promoting justice, providing for worship, nurturing new disciples, and otherwise engaging ourselves where our feet have been planted.

What flows from this, of course, is the nurture of a congregation that is capable of living into these initiatives. A community that cares for and supports one another, and then strategizes how to impact the world around us.

Our connection to our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) family comes into play here. Locally, nationally, and globally we connect to that larger purpose of God's realm. This is expressed, among other things, by our participation special offerings during the year. Thank you for supporting the Peace and Global Witness Offering.



Address Changes

Leona Frey has moved to Allure Skilled Care, 1006 N. Lowden Rd., Mt. Carroll, IL 61053

Shannon Shields is at 1103 West Street, #15, Rockford, IL 61102.

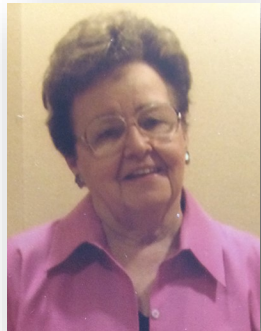
Liz and Ted Duckett have a new home at 2127 N. Court St., Rockford, IL 61103.

Cheri Cuniz is at 713 Wood Ave., Machesney Park, IL 61115

Virginia Cooper's email is ginny.cooper@comcast.net.

Rich Williamson has a new residence at 3208 N. Main, Rockford, IL 61103

Brandon Chiodini is living in Decatur, IL at 3950 Camelot Circle, Apt. 205, zip code 62526



Faith Genrich celebrated her 100th birthday on August 29th.

We Celebrate You!

Leona Frey celebrated her 95th birthday on August 5th.



St. Francis Day 2020
October 4th
3 pm at Brown Park

Bring your furry, feathered, or scaly companion on a leash or in a container for a blessing and a treat.

*Is your pet non-sectarian? No worries—
All God's creatures got a place in the choir!*



Glenda Hammer, whose sister passed away in July.

To the Lovett family, on the death of **Patricia Lovett** on Friday, July 7.

To the Fred Miner family on the death of his brother, **David Miner**, on July 13.

To the Chris and Jody Minnier family on the death of their beloved daughter and sister, **Carrie Minnier** on July 28.

To the family of **Wylde Huffman** who died on July 30.

To the family of **Lois Seiter** who died on August 4.

To the Charlie Raum family on the death of his brother, **Ken Raum**, on August 11.

*These people are now fully in the hands of God.
Give thanks for their faithful lives!*

Wednesday Evening Vespers



**Beginning
September 9th
A Zoom Bible Study
7:00 pm**

Meeting Number 544 624 9951 Passcode: 1221

Let us once again gather in the evening to reflect on passages in God's word that will inform our worship the following Sunday. We'll sing, read, and pray together. Bring your Bible and an intention to be led by the Holy Spirit!

*"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)*



June Sabaka shows off her craft from our "Peace Lab" West Side Day Camp. This year camp was done virtually. We collaborated with four other churches to provide a virtual Vacation Bible School. Children of all ages received a box with craft supplies, lesson materials and a workbook.

Jace Leber holds his new sister,
Spencer Lillian Grace Leber,
born July 17th.

Congratulations to parents
Brandi Cardey and Taylor Leber
Grandparents, Bill and Julie Leber
Great Grandmother, Lillian Leber



A Tribute to Our Friend Eurley

In August, we gave thanks for one of the people whose gifts that enabled the church to install new doors. Gene Archer reminded us of a good friend, a Deacon, a father, and grandfather Eurley Lingelbach.



"Eurley was a man who never met a stranger, a gentle giant who loved his Savior, family, friends, all people he met. He was a jack of all trades and always willing to reach out and help others. He would greet you with a smile, a big hug, and concerns about you. If you had a problem, he would offer to help."

"Eurley was so proud of his church and his family that he would invite people to come and visit Third Presbyterian. I often ate breakfast with him and he would ask the wait staff whether they had a church. If they did not he would invite them to Third Pres. If they did, he would say "thank you and God bless." Eurley said that all people were God's children. He wanted all to know the Savior and friend, Jesus."

"Many lives have been changed because they have entered the doors of our church as a result of Eurley's and Jackie's love for their Savior. Today as we dedicate these doors, let us reflect upon Eurley, his pride of the church and the need for All people to enter into Christ's kingdom. "

*"May those who enter these doors feel the presence
of Our Lord, His Love, strength, and forgiveness."*

Gene Archer

Celebrations

Happy Birthday
to youuuu!



9/1 Kirsten Birch	9/16 Isaac Gray
Arianna Edwards	Bradley Baker
9/3 Jayden Dieter	9/17 Marlene Thompson
9/4 Jeanne Fauerbach	Eleanor Hanson
Dave Minnick	9/20 Vernon Taylor III
9/6 Jalen Craglione	9/21 Steve Birch
9/7 Becky Martin	Mary Hanson
9/11 Sara DeNio	9/23 Elaine Zimmerman
Amy Hollenbeck	9/25 Shirley Johnson
9/12 Neil Medlar	Mike Adams
9/14 Alyssa Archer	Jody Minnier
Brennan O'Connell	Elyjah Baker
9/15 Karen Gray	9/28 Kimberly Cowen
	Calvin Smith



Married 40+ Years

9/1	Jerry and Cindy Genrich
9/4	Wes and Ginny Carlson
9/5	Dale and Connie Hollenbeck
9/9	George and Marion Lingel 60 years!!!
9/9	Robert and Linda Zinnecker
9/10	Robert and Heather Genrich
9/12	Dick and Dixie Lindsey
9/24	Earl & Alyce Lutzow 65 years

Education News

Backpack and Blanket Blessing 10 am Sunday In-Person Brown Park Sunday School Rally



It that time for a start of another year of Sunday school at Third Presbyterian Church!

The start of this year will be a little different from past years. Following the guidance of the Winnebago County Health Department, the Reopening Committee and Session, Third Presbyterian Church will not be holding any in person Sunday school classes inside of our church until it is deemed safe to do so. But that does not mean that Sunday school will not happen.

On Sunday September 13th, to celebrate the start of our new Sunday school year, we will be holding a Sunday school rally at Brown Park. Highlights include a "Blessing of the Back Packs," an energizer and music. Please bring a blanket to sit on, your backpack and your masks and be prepared for a "rally" great time.

Starting on Sunday September 20th, in place of our traditional in-person Sunday school class time, we will be offering an expanded Convocation via Zoom. This will be for all ages with music, a weekly energizer, weekly challenges and a memory verse of the week.

Watch your emails and Sunday bulletins for start times.
Peace and Grace,
Your Christian Education Team

Memories of Summer at Third

Crowds gather to worship outside.



Our beautiful Lu!



The Milner family
enjoying some
time away in
beautiful Colorado.



Chris Lingelbach prepares
for worship and a family
baptism of three.



Enjoying the
evening on the
patio with the
Bergquists.



Gustafson's Garden