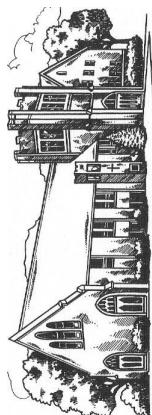


Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockford, IL
Permit No. 4255



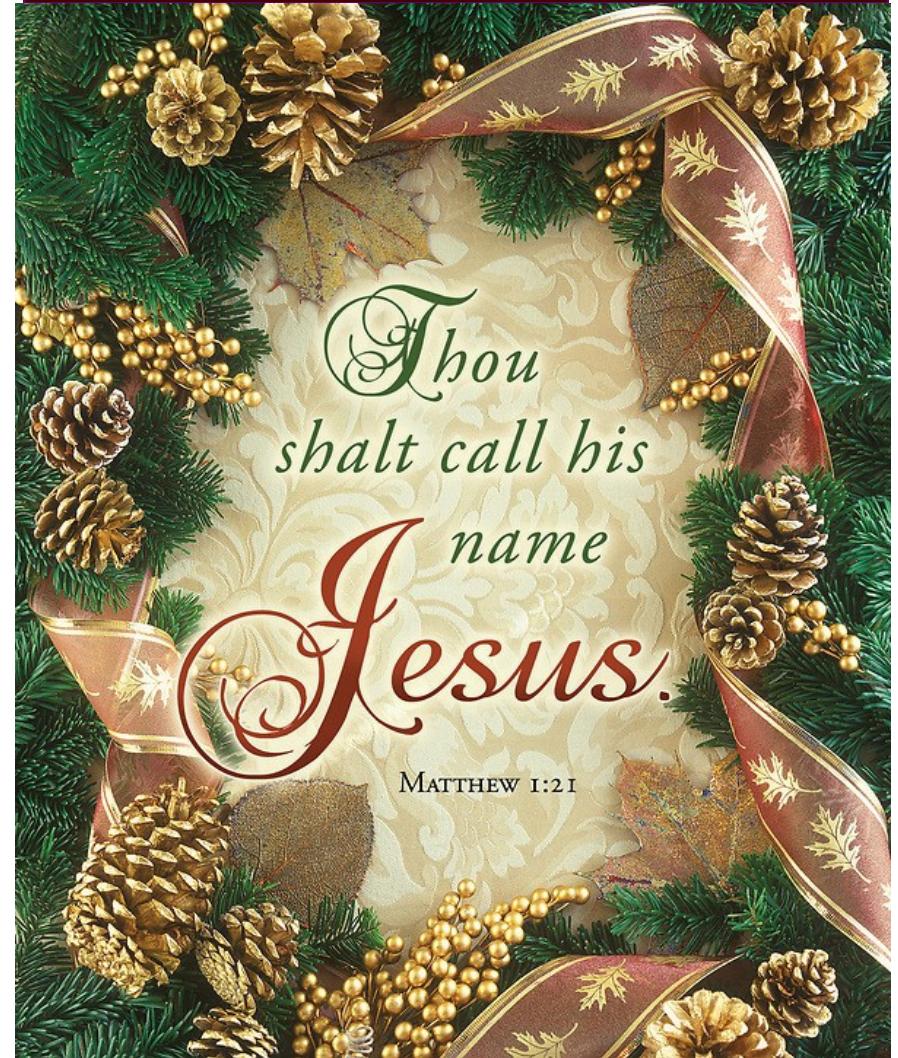
Third Presbyterian Church

1221 Custer Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103
Return Service Requested

Third Pres Times

Volume 25 Issue 12

December 2025



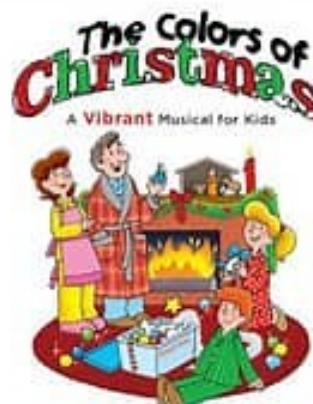
Rev. Dr. Stephen Loch Bowie, Pastor
Phone: (815) 962-7889
thirdpreschurch@yahoo.com
thirdpreschurch.com ♦ www.wtpblp.com

**"Light the Candle
To Watch for Messiah"**

First Sunday of Advent
November 30th
The Candle of Hope
10:15 am Sanctuary Worship
"Prepare for His Coming" - Rev. Greg Albert

Second Sunday of Advent
December 7th
The Candle of Peace
The Lord's Supper
9:00 am Family Church with Advent Project
10:15 am Sanctuary Worship
"The Only Two Seasons" - Pastor Steve
Special Music: Men's Quartet

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14th
The Candle of Joy
10:15 am Worship with Christmas Musical
Lunch Following Worship



Third Presbyterian Church

Looking Ahead



Please join us for VBS
Halsted Road Baptist Church
3326 Halstead Road
Ages 3 thru 12
June 22nd-26th 11:00am-2:30pm
Lunch will be served

Joint event of Halsted Road Baptist Church, Living Stones, Third Presbyterian Church, and community supported with Northwest Neighbors, and other area Churches

2026 Youth Mission Trip Bowling Fundraiser
Sunday, February 1, 2026
Bowling, 50/50 Raffle and Raffle Baskets
Check-In: 1:30pm
\$40.00 per couple
(Pre-pay January 18th to reserve your spot)
Package includes: 3 games of Scotch Doubles 9-Pin No Tap
Bowling Rental shoes included.

Leading the Church

Leadership 2025

Saturday, January 17, 2025 9:00 – 11:30am
First Presbyterian Church Winnebago
Continental Breakfast Provided

Both in-coming officers and continuing officers are invited to attend a leadership event at First PC Winnebago. You will have the chance to share your faith journey, review the role of your office, and learn of the recent reorganization of the P.C.(U.S.A.) General Assembly.

Dates for Leaders—New and Continuing

Tues. Jan. 13 Session Meeting
Elders and newly-elected Deacons

Sat. Jan. 17th Leadership 2025
First PC Winnebago 9-11:30 am

Tues. Jan. 20 Deacons Meeting
Deacons (including newly-elected)

Sun. Jan. 25 Ordination and Installation
Elders, Deacons, Trustees

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21st

The Candle of Love

“The Silence of a Hug” - Pastor Steve
Special Music: “Christmas Sanctus”

All Singers Choir



Christmas Eve

December 24th

2:00 pm Carols, Candles, and Bells
The Lord’s Supper

“The Sermon of the Manger” - Pastor Steve

10 pm Candlelight Reflection

Sunday after Christmas

December 28th

“Following the Star”

Rev. Greg Albert, preaching

Youth

Saturday, December 6th

9:00 am -11:30 am Practice for
“The Colors of Christmas

Saturday, December 13th

9:00 -11:30 am Youth practice for the
Colors of Christmas
Followed by lunch & Trampoline Park

Sunday, December 14th

9:00am - Christmas Program practice
10:15 am Youth Christmas Program
“The Colors of Christmas”

Night Crusaders & Squires

Saturday, December 20th

12:00pm - Meet at TPC for Caroling at Cedar Crest

Friday, January 2nd

Christmas Overnight at TPC Night Crusaders
& Squires

Get ready for an awesome time! Don't forget to bring:
Overnight gear & a change of clothes
(because we're staying the night!)

Can't wait to see you all there – it's going to be a blast!

Third Presbyterian Church

Page 13

Radio News for December 2025

Radio News for December 2025

December is always a great month for radio listening! We play holiday music, and we have more specials airing than any other month! Remember that we are at 99.3 FM on the broadcast dial, and on the internet at www.wtpblp.com and choose “Listen Live” This year we will begin with our Holiday and Christmas music on Monday, December 15 and continue through Friday, December 26! Mike Williamson will have Christmas shows beginning on December 4, including some repeats of his shows from previous years. We will air the St. Olaf College Christmas Concert from Northfield, Minnesota on Wednesday, December 17 at 12:30 PM, and again on Sunday, December 21, at 12:30 PM, We will air several of the Tabernacle Choir Concerts from recent years.

Don Ferguson on Music from Broadway and Hollywood will feature Christmas and Holiday themed shows as well: Annie, Christmas with the Chipmunks, White Christmas, Babes in Toyland, Charlene’s Christmas, and Dolly Parton Christmas.

These one hour shows air in rotation Monday and Friday at 10 AM, and Wednesday and Sunday afternoons at 4 PM.

Dave Fagen (Only Oldies, Night Music) and John Radio Russell (Midwest Ballroom) will have holiday themed music as well during December!

As always we will be able to hear messages that are based on the scripture readings for the season on our Sunday and Wednesday morning and afternoon programs: Words of Life from the Salvation Army (11:40 AM); Day1:The best of Protestant Preaching (noon); Sing For Joy (from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota (12:30 PM) and The Lutheran Hour at 1:30 PM. And, of course, Third Presbyterian Worship at 10:15 AM Sunday and Wednesday! In addition, we will air Westminster Presbyterian Worship (recorded) at 1 PM Wednesday and Sundays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Rev. Murray Hanson, Station Manager

Volume 25 Issue 12

December 2025

Stronghold Youth Retreat



Thank You

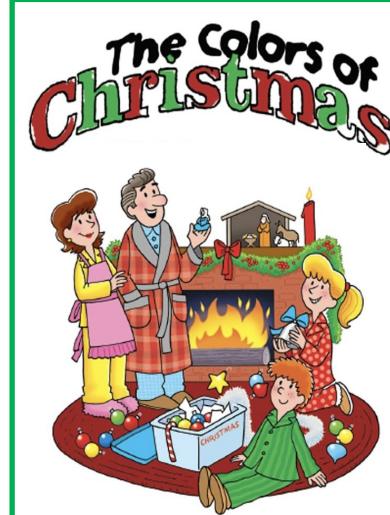
Awesome Congregation!!

Thank you so much for supporting our coat drive. We took 20 coats to Carpenters Place just in time for the chilly weather. Thank you for helping us spread God's love in our community.

K thru 5th grade
Sunday School Class



Annual Christmas Program



**Sun. December 14th
"The Colors of
Christmas"
10:15 am**

The youth at Third Presbyterian Church will present *The Colors of Christmas*, a special program that celebrates the meaning we can find in the colors used at Christmas time. Through storytelling and song, our

youth will help us reflect on how each color points to the love, purity and eternal life we find in Jesus. We invite everyone to join us for this uplifting and meaningful presentation as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus.



We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Director Kim Ponder, Music Leaders Julie Leber and Pastor Steve, Assistant Director Jeannette Sheehan and all the volunteers for their outstanding leadership in bringing this program to life. Your dedication, creativity, and guidance are making *The Colors of Christmas* a meaningful experience, we look forward to seeing it on Dec. 14th at 10:15am. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Dec 1	Sean Sheehan	Dec 25	Kathleen Raymer
Dec 3	June Sabaka	Dec 26	Robert Genrich
Dec 4	Stefan Sovina		Eric Milner
Dec 7	Jamie Molsberry	Dec 27	Elaine Jacoby
Dec 12	Wyatt Tufte	Dec 28	Diane Archer
Dec 14	Eric Claussen		Brandon Raum
	Kaylee Raymer		Danielle Barker
Dec 15	Doug Raum		Austin Herring
	Bill Leese		Kathryn Rowland
	Dajsha Barbour	Dec 29	John Archer
Dec 16	Karen Jones	Dec 31	Pastor Steve
Dec 18	Daniel Watton		
Dec 21	Lindsay Crosby		
Dec 23	Don Hartshorn		
	Nolan Hollenbeck		
	Amy Dawn Monroe		

Married 20+ Years!

12-8	Glenda and Leigh Hammer
12-18	Barbara and Ben Clay
12-26	Murray and Mary Hanson

Address Changes



Larry & Anna Bergquist (1/1/2026)
 122 12th Street—Lower
 Rockford, IL 61104

Rick Martinez
 548 N. Railroad street
 Braidwood, IL 60408

Richard Williamson
 540 Clifford Ave. #1105
 Loves Park, IL 61111



Poinsettias



<i>Dan & Laura Chiodini</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Chris & Jody Minnier</i>	<i>Carrie</i>
<i>Steve & Kristin Bowie</i>	<i>Our Parents</i>
<i>Malnor/Sabaka Family</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Alan & Nancy Justman</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Bill & Julie Leber</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Alyce Lutzow</i>	<i>Earl, Brad & Brian</i>
<i>Lorie Michaelis</i>	<i>Loved Ones</i>
<i>Marion Lingel</i>	<i>Family who have passed</i>
<i>Pam Reed</i>	<i>Family who have passed</i>
<i>Cindy Watton</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Robbin & Greg Albert</i>	<i>Family</i>
<i>Tom & Elaine Jacoby</i>	<i>For our families</i>
<i>Anne Pritz-Hall</i>	<i>Family</i>



Thank you!

Third Presbyterian Church extends our thanks to everyone who purchased a poinsettias this year. Your gifts, given in honor of loved ones and in remembrance of those who have passed, bring beauty, warmth, and meaning to our sanctuary during this blessed season. Please remember to take your poinsettia home with you after Sunday service on December 26th. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping the worship space so special this Christmas.

Third Presbyterian Church

Being Presbyterian

A New Name for the Presbytery:
“Illinois Prairie Presbytery”

For the past several months, the 66 member churches of Blackhawk Presbytery have taken part in a discernment process to consider a new name. This process came about as the result of reflection on the use of the name “Blackhawk.” Blackhawk was a 19th-century member and leader of the Sauk tribe in the Illinois territory. The name “Blackhawk” was assigned to the Presbytery without reflection on the effect its use had on Sauk culture, where names are considered sacred.

After possible names were solicited from members of the churches, several rounds of ranked-voting took place to whittle the list down to one. The final two candidates included the word “Prairie.” The final choice, by two votes, was “Illinois Prairie.”

Pastor Steve

Congregation and Corporation Annual Meeting

Sun. January 18, 2025 10:15 am
In person and on Zoom
Take Home Chicken and Chili Lunch

Sun. January 25, 2025 10:15
Ordination and Installation of Officers
Reception following

Christmas Season



Christmas Soup and Sandwich Luncheon

Wednesday, December 3, 2025
Featuring Tom Jacoby

Christmas Memories

12:00 pm—2:00 pm

Luncheon and a program to follow
Hosted by the Women's Association

Everyone is welcome
Third Presbyterian Church



Family Worship
December 7th 9:00am
Advent Project



Paint a
watercolor
of Third
Presbyterian
Church
& decorate
Christmas
Cookies.

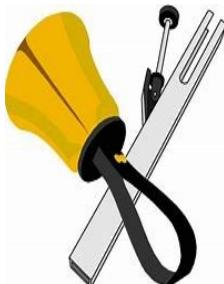
Christmas Season

**Saturday,
Dec. 13th
10:30am-
2:00pm**



We would love to have you come and help us! We also gladly take donations of paper goods and food. Sign up forms are in the fellowship room. We have a good time serving and getting to know our church family better. We also offer coffee and donuts. If you have any questions, call Jeanne at 815-742-7890 or Sue at 815-988-5246.

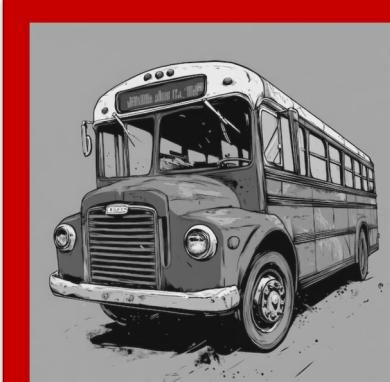
**Sunday, Dec. 7th
At 3:00pm
Grace Untied
Methodist
Church
3555 McFarland
Rd.
Rockford, IL**



**ECHO
Ringers
Handbell Choir
Christmas
Concert**

Ride the Blue Bus
To see the
Sinnissippi Lights

Wednesday Dec. 17th
4:00 pm at the Church



Third Presbyterian Church

The Pastor's Corner

**"The Culture of Christmas"
By Pastor Steve**

Pop some corn, grab a blanket, settle in, and watch a Christmas movie! Doesn't that sound like a good thing to do on a cold December day? "The Top Tens" lists these as the most popular Christmas movies. Are any of them on your list?

1. Home Alone
2. Elf
3. A Christmas Story
4. It's A Wonderful Life
5. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
6. Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer
7. The Polar Express
8. Home Alone 2: Lost In New York
9. How The Grinch Stole Christmas
10. The Nightmare Before Christmas

Let me add a few that relate more directly to the miracle of God's love expressed through Jesus: Check them out!

1. The Nativity Story (2006)- a wonderfully acted depiction of the birth of the Christ Child.
2. A Christmas Carol (Any version) - Charles Dickens' story of a one man's redemption from a self-focused life.
3. Joshua (2002) - not specifically a Christmas movie, this one tells of a mysterious man who appears in a small town and changes the lives of everyone he meets.

Oh, and don't forget to put plenty of butter on the popcorn!
Merry Christmas.

Pastor Steve