



# THE CONNECT

April 2026

## APRIL SHOWERS OF BLESSINGS HERE AT SECOND PRES

Building updates, special worship services, volunteer opportunities and more fill our time in this season of Spring at our church. Read below for more:

### PALM SUNDAY: A MEANINGFUL MOMENT OF WORSHIP TOGETHER

Sunday, March 29 was a worship service full of powerful music, prayer, and emotion. The Chapel Choir along with Family Ministry students, an orchestra of local musicians, and an all church orchestra performed the choir cantata “Calvary’s Lamb” by Mary McDonald.

“Calvary’s Lamb,’ written by Mary McDonald, is a choir cantata, which in Christian worship is a multi-movement musical work for choir (and often soloists and instruments) centered on a biblical passage or Christian teaching,” explained Music Director Brian Tanaka.

In the quiet moments between each song, narrators Trey Haddon, Jamie Kaiser, Shelly Gant, Madelyn Miller and Asa VanGorder helped to tell the story we will follow throughout Holy Week, into Easter Sunday and Jesus’ resurrection.

We are appreciative all who had a hand in this special worship service from planning, to setting up, to performing, and are especially appreciative of Brian Tanaka and Dr. Dennis Gotkowski who brought this idea to light, and worked tirelessly to prepare musicians for this performance. Brian said, “As we enter Holy Week, may this offering lead us into a time of deeper reflection, guiding our hearts toward the hope and joy of Easter.”



### WATER—ESSENTIAL FOR LIFE AND MARTIN HALL

Martin Hall is used extensively each week by many youth and church groups, and the Assets committee has approved the project to replace all the old plumbing (1954 and 1995) in Martin Hall. Many years ago, the water in Martin Hall was determined not safe to drink so the water fountains were removed and bottled water has been brought in all these years.

The funding for the project has been obtained from donations, so we are ready to start the plumbing project in May at the conclusion of the White Horse and Preschool school year. To prepare for construction, the Music Library will be moved to Grace Hall as well as the Music staff offices, the Heritage committee materials will be moved to F204, the Mary Selk Memorial wall will be moved (location yet to be determined), and the choir robes have been moved behind the Chancel in the church sanctuary.

The scope of work is to replace all Martin Hall pipes, bathroom fixtures, and add working water fountains and bottle refilling stations on all three floors. During construction, there will be a need for some asbestos abatement on the third floor and basement hallways. This work will close the building to only trained workers. Construction should be completed by the time school resumes in August.

The Chapel, Clothing Pantry and Nursery will remain open as well as the gathering area in front of those rooms. The Heritage hallway and Heritage Hallway bathrooms will also be open.

We are very thankful we will be able to provide clean drinking water for all who use Martin Hall. A much-needed upgrade! Water—Essential for Life!

If you have questions about the project, contact David Kaeb, Assets Elder or Tammy Haggard, Church Operations Manager.

# HOLY WEEK

## Worship Services & Adult Christian Education

Sundays: 9 am  
(class following)

## Palm Sunday

March 29: 9 am

## Maundy Thursday Art Show on Display

April 2: 7 pm  
11 am - 7 pm

## Men's Lenten Breakfast

April 2: 7 am  
at DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington  
Register at [ibfoundation.org](http://ibfoundation.org)

## Ecumenical Service

at Centennial Christian Church

April 3: 12 pm

## Good Friday Art Show on Display Artists' Reception

April 3: 7 pm  
11 am - 7 p.m.  
5 pm - 6:30 p.m.

## Easter Sunrise

at Funks Grove Chapel

April 5: 6:30 am

## Easter at Second Pres

April 5 - 9 a.m.

# ACE THIS MONTH:

Adult Christian Education

### Sunday April 12: Faith in Action

Executive Director Darla Heath will share the mission of Faith and Action, as well as opportunities to serve older adults and their caregivers to help them maintain a dignified and fulfilling life.

### Sunday April 19: Water—Essential For Life

Our Earthcare team will present a panel discussion with an Ecology Action Center representative and City of Bloomington Water Department staff on conservation practices and the current situation with water levels in our community.

Adult Christian Education classes begin at 10:15 a.m. in F100A

## Communion at Second Pres

Find upcoming dates communion will be at Second Pres during worship service:

- 4/19: Earth Day Celebration
- 5/24: Pentecost
- 5/31: Trinity Sunday
- 6/28: VBS Celebration



# Presbyterian Women



BIBLE STUDY: JANICE LEWIS,  
DEVOTIONS: JAN SMUCKER,  
MISSION: LITTLE CHILDREN OF  
THE PHILIPPINES.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21  
9:30 A.M.  
F100C



HOSTESS: CAROL WHITE,  
BIBLE STUDY: SUSAN RHODES

THURSDAY, APRIL 16  
4:00 P.M.  
F100C

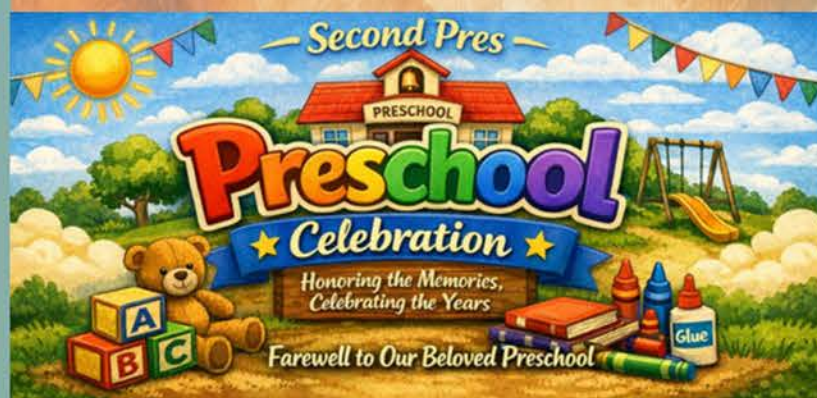
All are welcome to attend. Contact Janet Adkins [randy.janet@frontier.com](mailto:randy.janet@frontier.com) for Lydia Circle or Sandy Groves [slittle@ilstu.edu](mailto:slittle@ilstu.edu) for Ruth Circle information.

17TH ANNUAL  
WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

# ART SHOW

APRIL 11 AM-7 PM  
2 & 3 COMMUNITY RECEPTION  
4/3: 5-6:30 PM

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT JEANNIE SWANSON AT 309-310-1276



On April 26 we will celebrate more than 65 years of learning, playing, creating, singing, and growing with our preschoolers. Our children, ages 2-5, have grown with dedication and love of their families, teachers, and directors.

Please join us as we honor our current and former students, educators, parents, grandparents, Second Pres staff, and community helpers. Celebrate with us during the 2PC church service at 9:00 a.m., and then enjoy a light meal while visiting reconnecting with everyone as we reminisce our wonderful experiences at Second Pres Preshool.

Everyone is invited to share in this joyful day to see how God has worked in the lives of hundreds of children through this ministry. **Please share any photos with them by April 12.**

## CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED MONDAY, APRIL 6

Regular operating  
hours resume on  
Tuesday, April 7.



## EARTH CARE

Serving and Preserving God's Creation

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, APRIL 19

The theme of this year's Earth Day Celebration is **Water: essential for life—both our physical lives here on earth, and our spiritual lives with God.**

Currently in Central Illinois we are experiencing "severe drought status". Bloomington officials have alerted residents to use water conservation efforts such as not leaving the water running when brushing our teeth, washing our dishes, etc.

Similarly, our spiritual walk can sometimes feel like we're in "severe drought status." We don't sense God's presence or can't see what he's doing in our lives. What can we do?

The Earth Care team is hosting an ACE class on "Water: Essential for Life" on Sunday, April 19 at 10:15, following a special Earth Day centered worship service held at 9:00 a.m.



## HELPING HANDS

Spring Landscape Prep Workday

**Sunday, May 2 (Rain date: Saturday, May 9)**

We will plan to meet at Denny's Donuts at 8:30 for coffee, donuts and fellowship before we head out to our tasks. Volunteers are welcome to come and join us. People needing clean up assistance can call Kim at church or Gene Gant at (309) 963-4361.

## SPRING INTO ACTION

### PLANT SEEDS OF HOPE

As the seasons change and new life begins to bloom, we are reminded that small acts can grow into something extraordinary. Every unit of blood donated at our drives has the power to help save up to three lives—a tiny "seed" of generosity that can blossom into hope for someone in crisis. Each recipient of a blood donation has a story uniquely their own.

Your gift may support: an accident or trauma patient, a cancer patient, childbirth complications, a premature baby, a transplant recipient, or a surgical patient. And just like a garden that nourishes more than the soil it grows in, your donation touches far more than the patient alone. Families, friends, and loved ones all feel the impact of that lifesaving gift. There is truly no better feeling than knowing your donation may give someone a second chance at life.

The American Red Cross depends on community partners like Second Pres Church to help meet patient needs across the country. We are proud to continue planting seeds of hope—right here in McLean County and beyond—through our ongoing support of the Red Cross mission.

According to the Red Cross, all blood types are needed, with a special call for O Negative, A negative, and B Negative donors. You can give blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma. As a thank-you, all who come to give in April will receive a \$15 e-gift card. Terms and details are available at [RedCrossBlood.org/Hope](https://www.redcrossblood.org/Hope).

**Thursday, April 16  
1:00 – 6:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall**



Ready to make your appointment? Use the direct link below or scan the QR code:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=SECONDPRES>. To speed up your visit, you are encouraged to complete your Rapid Pass using the QR code provided.

Or you can contact Karen LaVoie at 928-713-6996 or [karenlavoie41@gmail.com](mailto:karenlavoie41@gmail.com) to sign up for our Blood Drive. She will also be outside the Sanctuary on April 5 and 12 before and after the service.

## LITURGISTS' TRAINING: APRIL 26, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Liturgists' training is scheduled for April 26, 2026, immediately after worship beginning in the Parlor with breakfast. We will move to the sanctuary when we've finished in the Parlor. We will conclude at noon. Please bring a passage of your choosing. Also, please ask Shelly Gant if you have questions.



# 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

Facilitated by Dennis Goodwin

## MODERN CHAOS - TIMELESS PRINCIPLES

---A SIX WEEK WORKSHOP---

Transform your personal and professional effectiveness by grounding your daily actions in proven, character-driven principles.

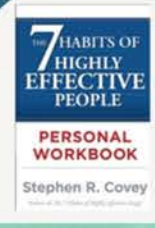
When: Thursdays, 5:30 - 8:00 pm April 9<sup>th</sup> until May 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Where: INtegrity's Conference Center, 502 S Morris, Bloomington  
 Cost: \$15 to register - includes workbook  
*a light meal will be provided at the beginning of each session*

**"Your habits determine your destiny." - Covey**

SCAN ME



Scan QR code or visit [bit.ly/ic7](http://bit.ly/ic7) for more information or to sign up.



(309)827-9100  
 502 S Morris Ave., Bloomington  
[www.integrityhelps.org](http://www.integrityhelps.org)



# JUNE 22-26

Explore the nature of God during Second Pres Vacation Bible School! Register by June 1 to secure your spot!

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[secondpres.com/vbs](http://secondpres.com/vbs)



## FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES Heritage Hallway

Clearly Second Presbyterian Church has a story. Our campus is unique. Our story is unique. And the way we tell our story is unique.

In the 1895-2005 church building, portraits of the senior pastors were displayed on the wall behind Grace's reception area. Framed Choir Sunday photos lined the hallway that led to the Sunday School rooms in Martin Hall. There was a sense of being part of a long tradition.

The Building Committee for our new sanctuary honored our history by incorporating stained glass windows and wainscoting and the gorgeous exterior façade of the East Street entrance from the 1895 sanctuary.

Since its formation in 2010, the Heritage Committee wrestled with how to keep that tradition alive. Then Pastor Kathy Stoner-Lasala came to us as our transitional pastor in October of 2016. She was charged with leading us toward the selection of a new senior pastor. Pastor Kathy already knew our church well for she first came to us in 1983 as our Educational Ministries Director. One of her roles as a young woman was Director of the Senior High Camp at Conference Point in Lake Geneva. She went on to seminary with the financial and emotional support of Second Pres. She knew the impact of this church on people's lives, and she knew that any pastor coming to this church deserved to know the story of its long history.

Kathy addressed Session in May 2017  
 I have a request for the Heritage Committee to conduct a congregation-wide historical exercise in which we create a visual representation, broken into decades, of local/cultural/global events juxtaposed with events in our congregational history including staff tenures.

The completed history exercise would look like a timeline that's several feet long... Eventually we'd examine the finished product to look for patterns that we, so close to events as we are, haven't perceived before. That information will be critical for the work of the eventual PNC to discern God's call.

The Heritage Committee accepted the challenge. Research began in June 2017 and continued until the final printing and installation of the Heritage Walls in August 2019.



Research: Janet Frankeberger, Janella Cooley, Bee Reinthaler, Allene Gregory



Structure preserving Martin Hall wall: John Meek and Felmley Dickerson Construction



Graphic Designer:  
 Lauren Scott Gautier



Heritage Hallway - final layout



Hanging the fabric mural: GDS Display

# WEEKLY AT SECOND PRES

## EVERY SUNDAY

- 8:30 am: Sunday Morning Brunch
- 9:00 am: Worship Service
- 10:15 am: ACE (Adult Christian Education)
- 10:15 am: High School Brunch

## EVERY TUESDAY

- 6:00-8:00 pm: FTC Robotics  
Lego League Robotics
- 7:00 pm: Scouts Troops 903 and 9903

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

- 6:00-7:30 pm: Preschool Ministry (90 min.)
- 6:00-7:30 pm: K-5th Kid's Ministry (90 min.)
- 6:00-7:30 pm: 6-8th YOUth Ministry (90 min.)
- 6:30-8:00 pm: Chapel Choir Rehearsal

## EVERY THURSDAY

- 11:30 am: Thursday Prayer Lunch
- 12:00 pm: Rotary Club Luncheon

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Terri Peifer
- 1: Eric Tweeten
- 3: Becca Johnson
- 3: Jacob Walls
- 4: Kristen Scalf
- 5: Jurgen Nuesken
- 5: Selah Rakstad
- 6: Marjorie Hauge
- 6: Stella Hoffman
- 6: Willow Hoffman
- 7: Linda Steele
- 8: Sivansh Parasa
- 8: Joanne Randolph
- 8: Scott Stanley
- 8: Ann Sullivan
- 9: Harvey Styron
- 9: Brian Tanaka
- 10: Sandy Ireland
- 11: Kim Pare
- 11: Joshua Secord
- 12: Yvonnell Du Toit
- 12: Michele Southerd
- 12: Morgan Marquardt
- 12: Copeland Willams
- 13: Robbie Brent
- 13: Eric Meister
- 14: Jay Chrisman
- 15: Kim Hamilton
- 15: Robert Maxey
- 15: Tobie Schroeder
- 15: Sally Wilson
- 17: Mary Crowe
- 17: Wesley Gyuran
- 18: Stacey Barger
- 18: Scott Hamilton
- 18: Gail Lamb
- 18: Harbour Marquardt
- 18: Talia Meade
- 18: Richard Savage
- 20: Ruth Oesch
- 20: Lesley Richmond
- 20: Florian Rueck
- 21: Jaci Dixon
- 21: John Grootenhuis
- 21: Tammy Haggard
- 21: Connie Holloway
- 21: Sue Pouliot
- 22: Jon Scholl
- 23: Joel Speer
- 24: Maggie Juvinall
- 24: Marilyn Mertz
- 25: Yaodi Hu
- 25: Ryan Nayak
- 26: Darrel Oehler
- 27: Guy Fraker
- 27: Kate Lamb
- 27: Janice Lewis
- 28: Kathy Frank
- 28: Janet Polzin
- 29: Ilene Beach
- 29: Gretchen Cetin
- 29: Marin Marquardt
- 30: Kate Springer



*& Widow/Widowers Breakfast  
Sunday, May 3*

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Summary through January 31, 2026 - Actuals compared to the Prorated Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$270,215	\$263,100	\$7,115
Other Receipts	\$30,187	\$45,655	-\$15,468
Foundation Support	\$ -	\$50,000	-\$50,000
Expenses	\$278,387	\$280,883	\$2,496
Net Total	\$22,015	\$77,872	-\$55,857

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$7,115. Other Receipts are unfavorable being \$15,468 less than the prorated budget. Additionally, during the first two months of 2026 none of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are favorable as they are \$2,496 less than the prorated budget. This provides a \$55,857 unfavorable variance for the first two months of 2026. The 2026 annual budget includes a \$40,575 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. As of March 17<sup>th</sup>, the church collected 137 stewardship cards totaling \$886,094. It is never too late to turn in a pledge. Thank you for continuing your gifts and supporting our mission.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Wylie, the finance elder, or Joanne Randolph in the church's finance office.

