



March 2026

WE'RE LUCKY TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY THIS SPRING!

Second Pres members and groups are making changes and impact in the community! Read for more.

FOX CREEK LUNCHEON PROVIDED BY RUTH CIRCLE

The women of Ruth Circle recently blessed the teachers and staff of Fox Creek Elementary School in a meaningful and delicious way by hosting a special early-release luncheon. Thanks to the many hands who prepared food, delivered dishes, served with smiles, cleaned up afterward, and offered their support, more than 40 teachers and staff members were treated to a delicious and thoughtful meal.

As educators made their way through the teacher's lounge and into the library with platefuls of lasagna, salad, and fresh bread, they expressed heartfelt gratitude. Our serving and cleaning crew were the grateful recipients of countless "thank yous" and words of appreciation throughout the event.

Elizabeth's brownies were fondly remembered from last year, and her infamous pretzels were once again a highlight. So much care went into the preparation that there were even leftovers, which were tucked away in the refrigerator for teachers and staff to enjoy in the days ahead.

This luncheon was truly a team effort. Heartfelt thanks go to everyone who pitched in to make the day a success, and special appreciation to Janet F. and Sally for shepherding the process from start to finish. Through simple acts of service and shared food, Ruth Circle made a meaningful impact and reminded our local educators just how valued they are.

Special thanks go to Janet F. and Sally for shepherding the process and ensuring every detail was thoughtfully handled.



BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESS IN FEBRUARY

Our February Red Cross Blood Drive at 2PC was truly something to celebrate! Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we had 29 appointment slots and collected 25 units with our goal of 27 of lifesaving blood – one of our best drives yet. What a gift to our community.

We also collected two African American units to help support the Sickle Cell Initiative, which makes a meaningful difference for patients who rely on closely matched blood. To everyone who donated, attempted to donate, or volunteered to welcome and care for our guests, THANK YOU! Your willingness to show up makes all the difference, and this success simply would not have been possible without you.

We're already looking ahead to our next opportunity to share this kind of love and support. Join us for the upcoming drive on Thursday, April 16, from 1:00–6:00 pm. To reserve your appointment, contact Karen LaVoie at 928-713-6996 or karenlavoie41@gmail.com – she'll be happy to get you scheduled. You can schedule your appointment now.



EASTER LILY DONATIONS

The Deacons have purchased Easter lillies for our members in nursing homes, retirement communities, and for our members who are homebound. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one, please consider filling out a card at the



Connection Point or at Kim's desk during the week. The names of these folks will be printed in the Easter bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20.00.

Cards must be filled out by FRIDAY, MARCH 27.

Presbyterian Women



BIBLE STUDY: SANDY MCGHEE
DEVOTIONS: BARB TAYLOR
MISSION: VBS.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
9:30 A.M.
F100C



HOSTESS: SALLY CUMMINS
BIBLE STUDY: LINDA SCHAEFER

THURSDAY, MARCH 19
4:00 P.M.
F100C

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

THEOLOGY ON TAP

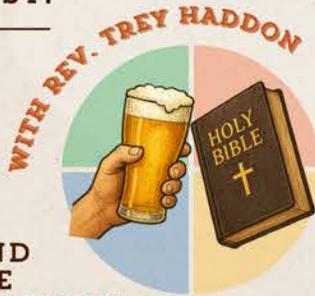
MAR 5

PAXTON BUILDING
207 E WASHINGTON ST.

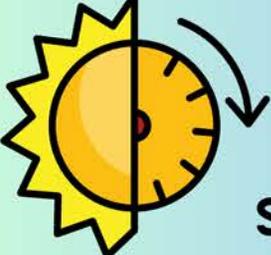
6-7:30 PM

FREE CHILDCARE
AT SECOND PRES

PARKING CAN BE FOUND
ON THE STREET, IN THE
PNC LOT, OR AT SECOND PRES



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS SUNDAY, MARCH 8



Don't forget to "spring forward" and move your clocks one hour forward before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7. Worship service on Sunday, March 8 will remain at 9:00 a.m.

NEW MEMBER CLASS: SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Class will begin after the 9:00 a.m. service has finished. Class will last about 90 minutes and a light brunch will be served. If you are interested, please call the church office to reserve a spot at 309-828-6297.



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

ART SHOW

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

REGISTER BY MARCH 19
BIT.LY/2PCARTSHOW26

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



THURSDAY, MARCH 26, F100A LAURIE BERGER: "COME ROAM WITH ME"

Join Laurie Berger, President of the local KodaRoamers photography camera club to learn more about their travels and experiences through photography in the community!

Contact Rich Schroeder for more information at rsclarinet@gmail.com



Faith and Family Night

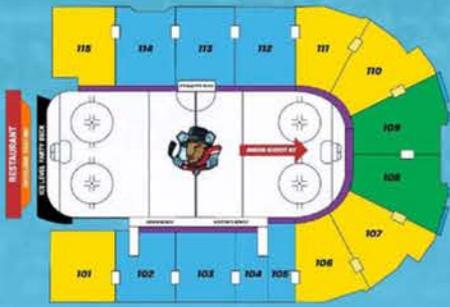
Saturday, March 14th – 7:00 PM
Grossinger Motors Arena



Special Pricing

Platinum	\$26
Gold	\$22
Attack Zone	\$18
Overlook Seating	\$68
Food and Beverage Included	
Ice Level Party Deck	\$58
Food and Beverage Included	

Tax & Assessment Fee Not Included



- Special in-game recognition for all congregations in attendance
- Celebration of faith in the community

Scan the QR code to learn more!

If purchasing as a group, please call
Jonathon Rubin (309) 965-4375



[bloomingtonbisonhockey.com](https://www.bloomingtonbisonhockey.com)
[@bisonhockeychl](https://www.instagram.com/bisonhockeychl)

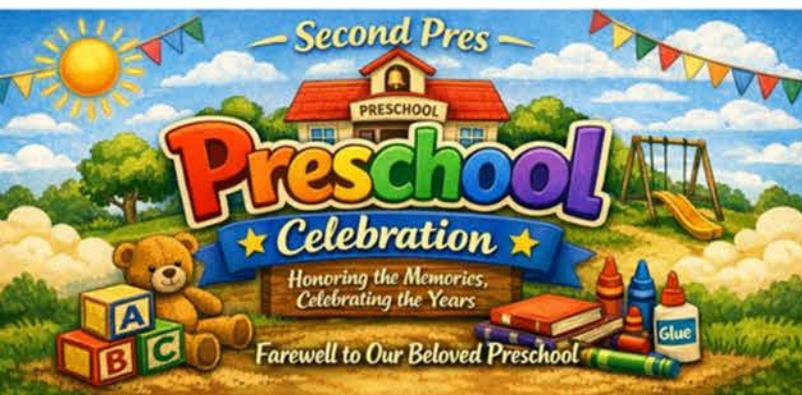
Valet Parking

Hospitality & Membership is exploring the possibility of offering valet parking on Sunday mornings to make arriving for worship service a little easier and more welcoming. Would you be interested in using valet service when you come to Second Pres for church? Please let us know! Your feedback will help us decide if this would be a helpful addition to our Sunday experience. Contact Barb Meek at bmeek1206@gmail.com or 309-242-8350.



BLOOMINGTON BISON FAITH & FAMILY NIGHT MARCH 14, 7:00 PM

The Bloomington Bison hockey team has invited congregations from across Bloomington/Normal to join them for a special in-game recognition and celebration of faith in the community. Special pricing for this event is included in the image above. Help us to represent Second Pres at the game!



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.



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 26 at 10:15, following a special Earth Day centered worship service held at 9:00 a.m.





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 9th until May 14th
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 for more information or to sign up.



(309)827-9100
502 S Morris Ave., Bloomington
www.integrityhelps.org

FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES

"Our nursery school has a church!"

Thus proclaimed a happy four-year-old. Pat Ficca quoted this tyke in her full-page report in the 1973 Annual Report on the Weekday Nursery School. Yes, the nursery school has always had a home in our church. How many happy memories there must be from the children and teachers who came together to learn and grow in creative interest areas and daily play within a preschool curriculum.



Here is how it happened that the nursery school has a church and the church has a nursery school. In 1958, Miss Elizabeth Fuessley, who had a preschool for a few youngsters in her home, petitioned the church to have a weekday preschool in the brand-new Christian Education Building, Martin Hall. Preschool was a new concept in the 1950's, but the church granted permission and the Week Day Nursery School became a reality. Miss Fuessley, founder and director, served until 1969.

Our own Nancy Fleming Snyder attended the nursery school along with her sister Libby. Nancy remembers their mother taking them in their station wagon with the wood side panels and dropping them off at the nursery school where she felt safe in the loving motherly presence of Miss Fuessley.



By 1972, preschools had gained popularity with more mothers working outside the home, and many mothers were eager to have their little ones share experiences with others to learn about the world around them. Pat Ficca, a former kindergarten teacher, served as director for sixteen years and grew the program, teaching over 600 preschoolers with the help of five new teachers. How many of you remember Pat Ficca? If you have a picture of her, please share it with the Heritage Committee; we will scan it and return it to you. Wouldn't it be nice to see photos of these women who enjoyed children so much?

And what about the children? Did you attend Second Pres Preschool? Do you remember these directors of the preschool? Judy MacFeeley, Molly Harrison, Cathy Strader, Marijane Galvan, Christine Siebring, Miranda Frank, Teri Parker and Sue Menken? These directors staffed the preschool with scores of teachers who have given so much of their time and talent.

If you have sweet memories of our preschool don't keep them to yourself. Come to church on April 26 when we celebrate the successful run of the Second Pres Preschool and share stories with others at the meal following the service. All are invited. If you have pictures related to the people and activities of the preschool, please take them to church and leave them with Kim Pare during the week or the Welcome Center on Sunday. Please mark them in an envelope with your name and Heritage, Jeanie Wendt. We will scan them and save them in the church archives and return them to you.

Deadline for photos: April 1. Celebration: April 26
Worship and Light Meal

LENT

at Second Pres

Worship Services & Adult Christian Education Sundays: 9 am (class following)

Palm Sunday March 29: 9 am

Maundy Thursday April 2: 7 pm
Art Show on Display 11 am - 7 pm

Men's Lenten Breakfast April 2: 7 am
at DoubleTree by Hilton in Bloomington
Register at ibfoundation.org

Ecumenical Service April 3: 12 pm
at Centennial Christian Church

Good Friday April 3: 7 pm
Art Show on Display 11 am - 7 p.m.
Artists' Reception 5 pm - 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunrise April 5: 6:30 am
at Funks Grove Chapel

Easter at Second Pres April 5 - 9 a.m.

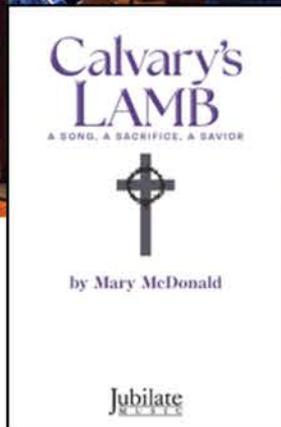
Communion at Second Pres

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

- 4/2: Maundy Thursday
- 4/5: Easter Sunday
- 4/19: Earth Day Celebration
- 5/24: Pentecost



SING WITH US THIS LENT!



Join the Chapel Choir for the season without making a long-term commitment. All are welcome from within and outside the Second Pres community.

We will sing "Calvary's Lamb" by Mary McDonald on Palm Sunday, with chamber orchestra and narrators. The season will journey through reflection, hope, and renewal. On Easter Sunday, Northside Brass will join us for a joyous worship celebration. The choir will also participate in the Good Friday service. Do you play an instrument? Stay tuned for the "All-Church-Orchestra" with more details to come. Rehearsals are Wednesdays February 25 – April 1 from 6:30pm-8:00pm in the sanctuary choir loft, with Sunday morning rehearsal at 8:15am before worship. If you have children in grades K-8th, they are warmly invited to take part in our Wednesday night family ministry programming at the same time. Questions or interested in joining? Contact Brian Tanaka at music.director@secondpres.com or call/text 309-533-2724.



This month join Rev. Trey Haddon for a special Adult Christian Education class focused on the Lenten Season. This contemplative class will help us to dive deeper into the journey of Lent, and allow us to come together in faith over these 40 days.

This class will be held in The Chapel after worship service concludes unless otherwise noted.

Global Mission Partner I-HUB Dinner Christian Fellowship & Love with International Students!

On January 23, seven members of our congregation joined with I-HUB (international students Christian ministry at ISU), one of our Global Mission Partners, in providing a meal and Christian fellowship/love to 60 young people from all over the world. What a fun time we had! The students were so anxious to show us on a world map where they were from, and surprised if we indicated we had been there. One student remarked that it made him feel good when one of our group could speak his native language - it was the first time anyone had spoken to him in French since his arrival. The leader during the evening gently wove in God's Word and Jesus. The evening was a blessing to us and to the students. I-HUB has four outreach programs: Meet and Greet, Supper Club, Friday Nights, and Professional Growth & Mentorship. We had Friday Night which meets twice monthly from mid August until early May. I-HUB's vision is to give every international student the opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel, and to be discipled for a lifetime of ministry, wherever God leads them.



EXPLORE THE NATURE OF GOD WITH SECOND PRES!

Step through the mist into Rainforest Falls, on June 22-26 with Second Pres!

In a landscape overflowing with wild waterfalls, towering trees, and colorful creatures, kids plunge into a lifelong adventure of discovering the nature of God. Beneath a canopy of chattering birds and howling monkeys, they'll explore what it means to be rooted in relationship with God, their creator, a safe place in life's storms.

For more information, visit secondpres.com/vbs or email Jamie Kaiser, Family Ministry Director at jamie.kaiser@secondpres.com

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Shelly Gant
- 1: Rhea Kingman
- 1: Lathika Manchikanti
- 1: Hanvika Manchikanti
- 2: Cathy Anderson
- 3: Myra Verma
- 4: Leo Nold
- 5: Beverly Brucker
- 6: Sue Jefferson
- 6: David Marquardt
- 6: Lyndsey Tipsord
- 6: Finley Wilson
- 7: Sydney Gyuran
- 7: Allison Haning
- 7: Jonas Nicolas
- 7: Nathan Ringle
- 8: Tim Peifer
- 8: Judy Wright Bartolone
- 9: Jeanette Baumgart
- 9: Bob Bobell
- 9: Bob Watson
- 10: Ember Vinsel
- 11: Srisourya Karuturi
- 11: Chris Nyweide
- 11: Lamont Woodworth
- 12: Tony Wey
- 13: Terry Nichols
- 13: Linda Schaefer
- 13: Lora Way
- 14: Dave Hiltabrand
- 16: Steve Pare
- 16: Luke Phillips
- 16: Kenzie Wilson
- 17: Laverne McGrath
- 18: Jacob Barger
- 18: Russell Johnson
- 18: Don Murphy
- 18: Betty Ann Zimmer
- 19: Ben Rhodes
- 21: Lowell Thompson
- 23: Warren Booth
- 23: Phyllip Connell
- 23: Mara Dimitroff
- 23: Jan Harrell
- 23: Nancy Stevens
- 25: Rachel Ackroyd
- 25: Steve Barger
- 25: Sai Polepalli
- 25: Haley Southerd
- 26: Nihar Jagadeeswara Krishna
- 26: Deacon Springer
- 27: Evelyn Claver
- 27: Jennifer Vinsel
- 28: Joy Haning
- 28: John Lamb
- 29: Praneeth Bhukya
- 30: Don Holloway
- 30: Shaunak Singh

NEXT MONTH AT SECOND PRES:



- 4/2: Maundy Thursday
- 4/3: Good Friday
- 4/2-4/3: Art Show
- 4/5: Easter Sunrise and Morning Service
- 4/6: Second Pres offices CLOSED
- 4/19: Earth Day Celebration
- 4/26: Second Pres Preschool Celebration

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$158,943	\$145,437	\$13,506
Other Receipts	\$20,088	\$19,769	\$319
Foundation Support	\$ -	\$50,000	-\$50,000
Expenses	\$145,536	\$155,144	\$9,608
Net Total	\$33,495	\$60,062	-\$26,567

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$13,506. Other Receipts are favorable being \$319 greater than the prorated budget. Additionally, during January none of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are favorable as they are \$9,608 less than the prorated budget. This provides a \$26,567 unfavorable variance for the first month of 2026. The 2026 annual budget includes a \$40,575 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 7th. As of February 23rd, the church collected 137 stewardship cards totaling \$877,494. 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.

