



THE CONNECT

May 2026

MAY AT SECOND PRES: WHAT'S BLOOMING IN OUR CHURCH?

SECOND PRES PRESCHOOL CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 26 was a joyful day of celebration as the congregation gathered alongside current and former Second Pres Preschool directors, teachers, board members, and students to honor more than 67 years of learning and community. Rev. Eric Vinsel reflected on the preschool's rich history and the strong leadership that has guided it through the decades.

Officially opened in Martin Hall in 1958 by Miss Feussley who had previously run a preschool out of her home, the program has since been led by nine additional directors, supported by countless dedicated teachers, and has nurtured nearly 8,000 students.

During the service, Rev. Vinsel recognized three current teachers for their remarkable commitment of more than 20 years: Sue Menken (22 years), Krissy Roberts (22 years), and Terri Peifer (21 years).



Following worship, guests gathered in Fellowship Hall to share brunch and reminisce, while others visited the preschool classrooms in Martin Hall—revisiting familiar spaces and recalling cherished memories of classmates, teachers, and joyful learning experiences.

As the Second Pres Preschool prepares to hold its final graduation ceremony on May 15, we give thanks for the generations of children and families shaped by its legacy. Though this chapter is coming to a close, the decades of exploration, faith, learning, and community it fostered will endure.



AN IMPORTANT UPDATE FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Second Pres family,

Ecclesiastes 3:1 talks about change “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...” We have been blessed with an exceptional friend in Kim Pare for 35 very special seasons. Though her official title has been “Receptionist”, she has been so much more to us all.

Kim has been the go-to for everything that happens at Second Pres. Throughout challenging times, she has counseled members who were grieving, lonely, and scared, as well as guided neighborhood friends to food, clothing and area agencies. During more joyous times, Kim made sure Deacons had what they needed to serve communions to our shut-ins, made sure Elders had what they needed to lead, and was key in making sure our Staff knew what was needed even when they didn't yet realize they needed it. And of course, she has always been ready to discuss Illini basketball with whomever would listen!

Kim has chosen to go part-time beginning next week, Wednesday, April 15. She will work Monday-Friday, 8:00-12:30 for approximately 1 year. Taylor Johnson will be joining our staff, part-time, on Monday, April 13. Taylor will work Monday – Friday, 12:30-4:30. During this time, there will be numerous opportunities for Kim and Taylor to work together, transitioning knowledge, ideas and details about the of needs of everyone at Second Presbyterian Church and our neighboring communities.

A special celebration of Kim's many seasons at Second Press will occur before she fully retires next year.

During this season of change, we ask that you have patience and show grace. Please respect Kim's new work hours and introduce yourself to Taylor. This is truly an exciting time for the Pare family and all they have given to each of us!

In Christ,

Rev. Trey Haddon
Elder Sara Palmgren

THEOLOGY ON TAP

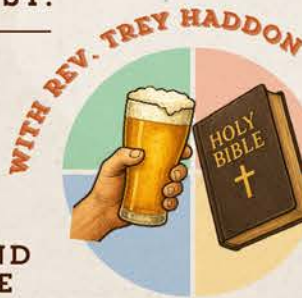
MAY 7

PAXTON BUILDING
207 E WASHINGTON ST.

5:30-7:00 PM

FREE CHILDCARE
AT SECOND PRES

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



HELPING HANDS

Spring Landscape Prep Workday

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. Please bring rakes, other yard tools and gloves. Volunteers are welcome to come and join us. People needing clean up assistance can call Kim at church at (309) 828-6297 or Gene Gant at (309) 963-4361.

ACE THIS MONTH:

Adult Christian Education

Sunday May 17: JOYCARE

Don't miss the final Adult Christian Education class on Sunday, May 17, before classes resume in the fall! Meet Mama Michelle Cook and learn about JOYCARE, a faith-based community organization that meets every Tuesday evening here at Second Pres that provides life-skills coaching and spiritual guidance for individuals recently released from incarceration.

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:

- 5/24: Pentecost
- 5/31: Trinity Sunday
- 6/28: VBS Celebration



Save the Date

50th
ANNIVERSARY

& Widow/Widowers Breakfast

Sunday, May 3

Second Pres will be honoring couples who have been married 50 years or longer, as well as those who have lost their spouse on Sunday, May 3 with a breakfast following worship service. If any members have been married 50 years or longer anytime in 2026 or are a widow/widower, please RSVP by calling the church at 309-828-6297.

Presbyterian Women



SALAD LUNCHEON
DEVOTIONS: KAREN LAVOIE,
MISSION: LITTLE FREE PANTRY
TUESDAY, MAY 19
10:00 A.M.
F100C



SALAD SUPPER
BIBLE STUDY: NANCY PHILLIPS
MISSION: VBS:
THURSDAY, MAY 21
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.

SAVE THE DATE:



SECOND PRES

GROUP Sale

JULY 24 & 25



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



We are grateful to have received every item on our donation list! If you did not yet donate and feel called, we have opened up monetary donation opportunities to cover the cost of daily snacks, and to provide scholarships for children who may not otherwise be able to attend. Links to register, donate, and volunteer are all available at secondpres.com/vbs.

THANK YOU!


Thanks to our wonderful 2PC volunteers and Red Cross support, we had another successful Blood Drive in April. Because of everyone's dedication and teamwork, we collected 26 blood products and even welcomed six walk-ins — a rare and exciting boost.

A special joy of the day was recognizing several milestone donors, including one who has given an incredible 74 units. Moments like these remind us of why this ministry is so meaningful.

Mark your calendars - Our next drive is June 11 — another chance to shine together!

JOY
fellowship
JUST OLDER YOUTH

THURSDAY, MAY 14
12:00 NOON
F100B - WITH ROTARY

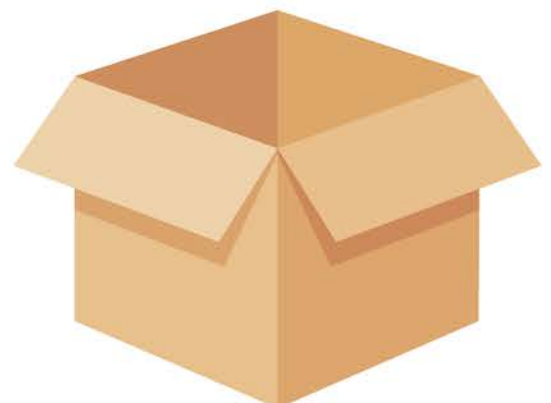
JOY Fellowship will meet with Rotary for their annual joint lunch program, and learn about how ARC (Activity & Recreation Center) came to be and the programs and services offered by ARC to the 55+ community, from fitness and recreation to nutrition support and assistance services. The presentation will also cover how to get involved through volunteering and provide a scrapbook-like look at ARC in action through a variety of photo snapshots.

Thursday Prayer Lunch will also meet at this time. The program will follow lunch and a short Rotary weekly meeting in F100B.



Group Sale needs storage space!

In order to house all of the items that will be sold during this year's Group Sale, we are in need of storage space! If you have a storage space or unit you would be willing to allow the Group Sale folks to use for the time being, please contact Janet Frankeberger at 309-824-9777 or sjfrankeberger@aol.com as soon as possible. Thank you in advance!



A NEW HOME

FOR THE MUSIC LIBRARY

The music library has begun its move from Martin Hall to Grace Hall! The recent move marks more than a change in location, it represents a thoughtful investment in stewardship, accessibility, and the future of the music ministry. Over the years, the collection had grown extensively, spanning choral anthems, instrumental scores, hymnals, and special arrangements. Relocating the library creates a valuable opportunity to take full inventory of these materials, rediscover long-unused pieces, and thoughtfully organize them for renewed use.

Central to this transition was the installation of custom-built shelving units designed specifically to house the collection. These new shelves not only provide a permanent and organized home for the music but also make it far easier for directors, musicians, and volunteers to locate and return materials efficiently.

Equally important was the process itself. Sorting, cataloging, and re-shelving each piece allows leaders to assess the breadth of the library, identifying gaps, highlighting treasures, and ensuring that the collection reflects both the church's musical heritage and its evolving vision. In Grace Hall, the music library will stand as a well-ordered, accessible resource, ready to support worship and inspire musicians for years to come.

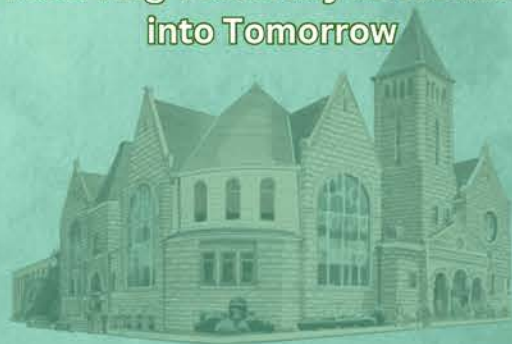
The new shelves have been installed in Grace Hall, and are ready for the music to begin filling the space!



FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES

TREASURES IN TRANSIT

Preserving Yesterday as We Move
into Tomorrow

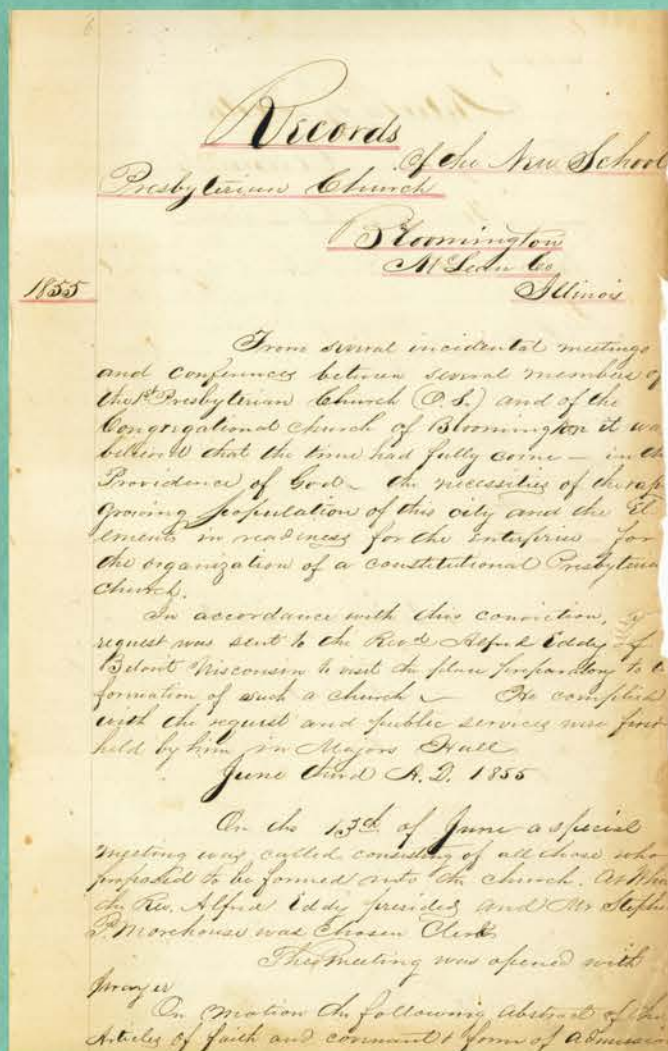


An exciting opportunity has arisen for us to honor our past while preparing for our future. In early May, the Heritage Room will be moving out of Martin Hall and into its new home in Room F204, just down the hall from the Parlor.

Relocating 175 years of Second Pres history is no small task, but this move ensures that our precious and unique records will continue to be preserved with care. As we pack up the past and unpack the future, we are reminded of the many remarkable collections and artifacts entrusted to the Heritage Committee.

Once the move is complete, we warmly invite you to stop by and explore our new space. We look forward to sharing the rich and inspiring story of 2PC with all who visit.

Our heritage continues forward as we live out our calling to be “The Heart of Christ in the Heart of Our Community” – and around the world.



The original charter from June 3, 1855

WEEKLY AT SECOND PRES

EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Emily Rueck
- 2: Bob Bork
- 2: Mary Ann Cullen
- 2: Andy Juvinal
- 4: Sukyong Hamilton
- 4: Judy Lehmann
- 4: Jack Secord
- 5: Becky Huizer
- 5: David Schumm
- 6: Ryker Springer
- 9: Emmy Buckley
- 10: Jim Stahly
- 11: Bob Huizer
- 12: Suharshith Kattempudi
- 12: Carmen Thompson
- 13: Cliff Grill
- 13: Tanya Murphy
- 13: Graham Parker
- 13: Lakin Parker
- 15: Megan Peterson
- 15: Kathy Butler
- 16: Dave Polzin
- 17: Karen Mayes
- 18: Mark Briggs
- 18: Steve Parker
- 19: Tracey Boyd
- 19: Sharon Lenyard
- 19: Kent Meister
- 20: Ken Newgren
- 20: Danny Worth
- 21: Grace Jennings
- 21: Louise Krueger
- 21: Ishaan Lella
- 22: Sue Briggs
- 23: Mike Manahan
- 23: Lathika Manchikanti
- 24: Rod Brent
- 24: Leathea Speer
- 24: Don Wilcox
- 25: Kim Casali
- 25: Kaushik Dheeravath
- 26: Amy Brandt
- 26: Pam Fleming
- 26: Emery Gonzalez
- 27: Renate Brent
- 28: Anita Gibb
- 30: Janet Smucker

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

| | Actual | Prorated Budget | Net Result |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributions | \$342,558 | \$315,998 | \$26,560 |
| Other Receipts | \$85,139 | \$60,174 | \$24,965 |
| Foundation Support | \$ - | \$100,000 | -\$100,000 |
| Expenses | \$428,166 | \$426,247 | -\$1,919 |
| Net Total | -\$469 | \$49,925 | -\$50,394 |

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$26,560. Other Receipts are favorable being \$24,965 more than the prorated budget. Additionally, during the first three months of 2026 none of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are unfavorable as they are \$1,919 more than the prorated budget. This provides a \$50,394 unfavorable variance for the first three months of 2026. The 2026 annual budget includes a \$40,575 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 7th. As of March 17th, the church collected 138 stewardship cards totaling \$887,894. 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.

