

SECONDPRES

THE CONNECT

CHANGING SEASONS, STEADY FAITH

There is a seasonal aspect to life that closely mirrors the seasons of the year. We are in the middle of a wonderful season of busyness here at the Second Pres, with lots of opportunities for you!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE YOU'LL FIND:
Last Month Recaps • Education Opportunities • Upcoming Events • Ways to Get Involved

► NEW MEMBER CLASS

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A NEW MEMBER OF SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

Join our new member class! Class will begin after the 9:00 a.m. service has finished and will last around 90 minutes. A light brunch will be served.



Date
Sunday, October 22



Time
Following Worship Service



Location
F100C

► UPCOMING COMMUNION

OCT
25

NOV
1

NOV
22

The table is open to all!

**Please note: All bread used for communion at Second Pres is gluten free.*

► FALL KICK-OFF RECAP

SUCCESSFUL KICK-OFF: PROGRAMS AND GROUPS ARE BACK IN SESSION AT SECOND PRES!

On Sunday, September 13 we celebrated our annual Fall Kick-Off, a day where we welcome back all our programs and groups that have been on pause for the summer, as well as look forward to the year to come! The sanctuary was filled with joyful energy and music, as choir returned in full swing, with Family Ministry evenings beginning later in the week.

Along with our Fall Kick-Off, we also began this year's stewardship campaign. Sharing information on what we have been working on this summer, as well as updates and plans to come. If you have any questions regarding your pledge or financial contribution, please call the church and speak with Joanne Randolph, Finance Manager.



► WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

UNITY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH MT. PISGAH BAPTIST SERVICE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

We invite you to join us at Second Pres on Sunday, October 4 for a very special 9:00 a.m. worship service with our friends from Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church! We will spend the morning hearing from Rev. Trey Haddon and Rev. Dr. Timothy Mark Harris, observing World Communion Sunday, celebrating our shared faith, and giving thanks for the unity we have in Christ. We are looking

forward to new faces in our sanctuary! After worship service is over, we will hold a special fellowship brunch prepared by Chef Gerald and the kitchen volunteers. This will be a wonderful time to connect with others from our congregation and Mt. Pisgah's.





► GET INVOLVED

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTESS

submitted by Tammy Haggard

WE NEED YOU!

Do you enjoy entertaining others? Do you like opening your home to guests? Then we need you. Throughout the year, Second Pres hosts several events. Whether it is an Illinois Symphony Dinner and Concert, a Sound of Illinois Concert, a special ministry dinner or other special event, we open our doors to a variety of guests. From the planning and decorating, the greeting and serving, and yes, even the post-event cleaning, it takes many hands. While many of you are already serving in this capacity, we hope to grow this group. If you are interested in being a part of this team, or if you wish to continue serving in this manner, please email Tammy.Haggard@secondpres.com.

► SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BLOOD DRIVE ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

submitted by Karen LaVoie

Fall reminds us that change is in the air — and it's also a chance for each of us to be the change by giving blood. As the leaves turn, the need for blood remains critical, and time after time, you have risen to meet that need with generosity and heart. Your donations have saved lives, strengthened families, and brought hope where it was desperately needed. As we approach our final Blood Drive of 2026, we're asking once again for your lifesaving support for your support. 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.



You will receive an Amazon Gift Card by email PLUS earn 200 bonus points toward exclusive Donor Rewards! See [rcblood.org/Maze](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=SECONDPRES) for details. 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>.



Or you can contact Karen LaVoie at 928-713-6996 or karenlavoie41@gmail.com to sign up for our Blood Drive. She will also be outside the Sanctuary on October 11 and 18 before and after the service.

► GET INVOLVED

EASY STITCHES MEETING

submitted by Karen LaVoie

DO YOU SEW, KNIT, OR CROCHET—OR HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO LEARN?

If so, we'd love to welcome you into a ministry that wraps others in warmth, one stitch at a time. Easy Stitches, founded in 2023 as a ministry of Second Pres, brings handmade love to those in need—locally and globally. In just a few short years, this small but mighty group has created and donated over 3,000 handcrafted items to organizations including Sunday Brunch friends, BroMenn Nursery, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Life Long Friends, OSF Nursery, Salvation Army, Hammitt School, Bright Point, and the international Pads Project. Whether you're a seasoned stitcher or just curious to try, you are wholeheartedly welcome. We meet quarterly at Second Pres to share ideas, encouragement, and a few laughs—then work on our projects at our own pace between gatherings. It's flexible, fulfilling, and full of heart.

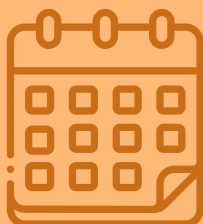


NEXT MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

9:30 AM IN GRACE HALL

Come see what we're all about—we'd love to meet you and share the joy of stitching with purpose. For more information, contact: Karen LaVoie at 928-713-6996 or karenlavoie41@gmail.com.



OCT

THIS MONTH AT A GLANCE:

- 1** **Theology On Tap**
5:30-7:00 p.m., Paxton Building
- 4** **Unity Worship Service & Brunch**
9:00 a.m., Brunch to follow
- 11** **Adult Christian Education**
I Choose Love by Chip Ingram
10:15 a.m., F100A
- NOV 1**
- 13** **Presbyterian Women Ruth Circle**
4:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- 14** **Family Ministry Pumpkin Decorating**
6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m.
- 18** **New Member Class**
Following worship service, F100C
- 20** **Presbyterian Women Lydia Circle**
9:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- 22** **Blood Drive**
1:00-6:00 p.m., F100A
- 25** **Reformation Sunday (Communion)**
9:00 a.m. worship service



THEOLOGY ON TAP THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Have good food, drinks, and theological conversation with friends! Parking can be found outside the Paxton building on the street, PNC Bank lot, or at Second Pres. Dinner is \$5 and local beverages can be purchased with cash donation.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAYS, OCT 11-NOV 1 10:15 A.M., F100A

Explore the book "I Choose Love" by Chip Ingram. Dive deep into the topic of "love your neighbor as yourself" with different class leaders throughout the month of October and first Sunday of December.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN RUTH CIRCLE GATHERING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13 4:00 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

Program: Brian Tanaka/Music Ministry;
Mission - PW Pledge/Joy Care Center;
Bible Study Lesson One "Unity in Christ, Wisdom in God" - Sandy Groves;
Contact Sandy Groves slittle@ilstu.edu or 309-830-1517.



FAMILY MINISTRY PUMPKIN DECORATING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Paint or carve pumpkins with Family Ministry! Each child/youth will be given their own pumpkin to either carve or decorate using permanent markers, paints, carving tools and other supplies. This is a family event; we are asking parents to be present and take part. There is no fee; we ask those who attend to bring food pantry donations. Dinner is provided to all. Please register by October 7 at <https://bit.ly/4h73mPu>. If you would like to donate to the pumpkin decorating or volunteer, please contact Jamie Kaiser via email or phone.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LYDIA CIRCLE GATHERING TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20 9:30 A.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

Program: "Getting to Know You"/Birthday Lunch;
Mission-2PC Tech Update;
Devotions; Carole Cronin; Contact Janet Adkins randy.janet@frontier.com or 309-838-3712

FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES

Oct. 2026

submitted by the Heritage Committee

WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVORITE?

Which giant picture in the spacious south entry is your favorite? It's a tough decision, I know. It can't compare to the complex decisions required to turn that large, curved masonry wall into a warm and inviting display. The trustees led by Mark Sprague were responsible for changes to the walls and so a committee was formed. Betty Toland was enlisted as the photographer. She can tell the rest. *Jeanie Wendt*

"Before I was asked to take pictures, the Wall Project had a committee: Irene DenBesten, Chair, Barby Pratt-Mecherle, Joan Guenther, Gretchen Cetin, Nancy Harvey, Laurie Sprague, and Darlene Sommers. They had chosen the Scripture which is on the wall, and wanted pictures to support the Scripture. Darlene, a graphic designer, designed a prototype for a layout. I was called in to be the photographer.

The Wall Project was a work in progress, as many creative ventures are. You get started and then things morph, and just get better...and better.

There were three stages of parameters. The first was... they wanted pictures that did not show faces, but did show action. Second, they wanted pictures of activities inside the church. And third, they wanted images of outreach outside our church. I listened to what the committee wanted and tried to capture their vision on film. I took hundreds and hundreds of pictures, spontaneous and planned, and got releases, especially of children.

We had several meetings and made layouts for each set of favorite pictures. Then, we arranged, and rearranged photos. Eventually a vision of the final product evolved and was chosen. Darlene and I spent untold hours at our computers with Photoshop, editing decisions, and resizing. Then we worked with the graphic designer at GDS Display, a local company, and made several trips to their Bloomington West Side address to make sure that we had the right colorization, hue, etc. Had it not been for Darlene's expertise in graphic design this printing process would not have worked. She was absolutely invaluable to the project. In fact, I would say she's the one that made the final display work." *Betty A. Toland*

The display was completed in 2014. The same company produced the Heritage Hallway in 2019. (Trustee Mark Sprague working, left; Mark Sprague work complete, right)



For more Heritage Highlights or information on the history of Second Presbyterian Church, its buildings, or its members, contact the Heritage committee by calling the church at 309-828-6297, or emailing Jeanie Wendt at wendtfarm@gmail.com.

► FINANCE UPDATE

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$42,565. Other Receipts are favorable being \$35,632 more than the prorated budget. Additionally, during the first eight months of 2026, \$100,000 of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are favorable as they are \$33,619 less than the prorated budget. This provides a \$61,816 favorable variance for the first eight months of 2026. The 2026 annual budget includes a \$40,575 deficit. Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 13th. Please have your 2027 pledge returned by Sunday, November 15, 2026 to have your pledge included in the 2027 annual budget. 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. (Numbers chart on following page.)



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

1 Mike Ireland	16 Jonathan Brunner
1 Susanna Juvinal	16 Tej Shah
1 Mike Laffey	16 Laurie Sprague
1 Jean Pankonin	17 Gawyn Edel
1 Sam Schmale	17 Sri Gurijala
2 Janet Adkins	19 Gary Fleming
2 Mary Moore	19 Tracy Klawitter
2 Asa VanGorder	20 Dave Brownell
3 Natalia Komar	20 Mary Flannery
3 Mateo Miranda	20 Vicky VanCauwenberge
3 Elaina Murphy	21 Jack Harris
3 Paul Outlaw	21 Alison Kennedy
3 Sawyer Worth	22 Asher Nicolas
4 Noah Nold	24 Brinda Maddha
4 Hillary Schmale	25 Peter Brandt
8 Jane Kuchefski	25 Maria Lamb
10 Dennis Brent	26 Constance Busch
10 Jack Crowe	26 Stevie Joslin
10 Terry Fry	27 Arnav Chauk
10 Trey Haddon	27 Brittany Howes
10 Ronith Janjam	28 Lyn Hruska
10 Angie Orrick	29 Steven Brucker
11 Brent Bucker	29 Ashley Haddon
12 Ruth Breuer	30 Laura Amble
13 Cheryl Jackson	30 Barry Weer
14 Dawn Laffey	
15 Micah Worth	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2026

Actuals compared to the Prorated Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$738,551	\$695,986	\$42,565
Other Receipts	\$173,985	\$138,353	\$35,632
Foundation Support	\$100,000	\$150,000	-\$50,000
Expenses	\$1,015,207	\$1,048,826	\$33,619
Net Total	-\$2,671	-\$64,487	\$61,816

► UPCOMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

NOV
5

THEOLOGY ON TAP THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5 5:30-7:00 P.M.

Have good food, drinks, and theological conversation with friends! Parking can be found outside the Paxton building on the street, PNC Bank lot, or at Second Pres. Dinner is \$5 and local beverages can be purchased with cash donation.

NOV
7

SECOND HALF FALL HELPING HANDS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Volunteers will meet at 8:30 at Denny's Donuts for coffee, donuts and fellowship before heading out to work assignments. Contact Gene Gant at (309) 963-4361 or thegants@frontiernet.net to request help with leaves or ask about volunteering. Rain date will be held on Saturday, November 14.

NOV
8

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 10:30 A.M.

Join Second Half during this special Adult Christian Education that focuses on the topic of "Balancing Between Loss and Gain...Life's Ebbs & Flows and Sometimes We Get Stuck." This class will be presented by Rebecca Lynn, licensed clinical professional counselor at Blue Skies Counseling, specializing in grief, loss, and trauma. Contact Gene Gant at thegants@frontiernet.net. for more info.