

THE  
**CONNECT**  
February 2026

## WARM HEARTS AND HANDS THROUGH FEBRUARY

February is a season of love and faith at Second Pres as we reach out to help our community!

### FOX CREEK ELEMENTARY SUPPLY DRIVE FOR FEBRUARY

As many of you know, Second Pres supports Fox Creek Elementary School with Promise Council of McLean county through teacher lunches, supply drives, and more. This month, we have been asked to help support Fox Creek Elementary by gathering supplies to protect their classrooms during flu season. Currently, teachers and classrooms are in need of facial tissues, cleaning wipes, and disinfectant spray (such as Lysol). Student and teacher health is essential to a successful school day, and these supplies will help to keep classrooms germ free.

In addition to these supplies, the school is also asking for donations of gently used children's chapter or picture books. Many of the students at Fox Creek Elementary have few books at home, and the Little Free Library is a vital source of reading materials to these students.



Donations can be dropped off through February on Sunday mornings at the Welcome Center, or throughout the week with Kim Pare.

### LOCAL MISSIONS UPDATE

The Local Missions Committee extends heartfelt thanks for the generous donations to our Reverse Advent collections. Due to your continued support of this event, we are able to keep the Little Free Pantry well stocked with daily essentials that are so greatly needed - especially during this time of year when walking to a store can be brutal. We genuinely appreciate the unwavering support from the members of Second Pres. Reflecting on 2025, the Local Missions Committee is deeply thankful to belong to a church that is committed to supporting our local community. Whether you contributed food to the Little Free Pantry, knitted a hat, donated clothing, engaged in conversation with a Sunday Brunch guest, made a monetary donation, or remembered our missions in your prayers, please know that you have touched someone's life in ways beyond our understanding. The recipients of these gifts feel the love through our outreach efforts, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support.

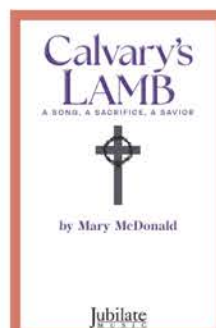


### JOIN CHAPEL CHOIR FOR THE LENTEN SEASON!

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](mailto:music.director@secondpres.com) or call/text 309-533-2724.



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  
LINK COMING SOON!

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

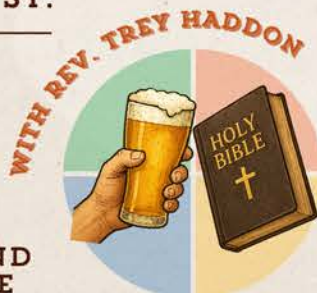
# THEOLOGY ON TAP

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



# ACE

Adult Christian Education

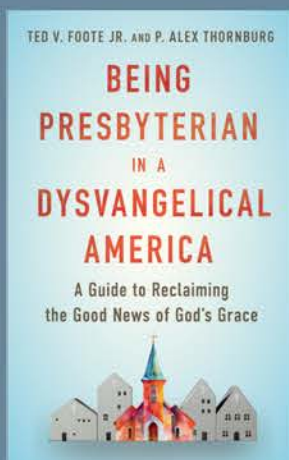
The current Adult Christian Education Class held in February will be a discussion of the book *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical World* by Ted V. Foote Jr., P. Alex Thornburg.

The schedule and facilitator will be:

February 1, Chapter 5	Bryce
February 8 Chapter 6	Jason
February 15, Chapters 7 & 8	Scott

After this class concludes, Rev. Trey Haddon will lead us in an ACE class focused on the Lenten season.

For questions, contact Scott Hamilton at [hamilton.r.scott@comcast.net](mailto:hamilton.r.scott@comcast.net).



## COPING WITH ANGER



Join Integrity Counseling starting February 10<sup>th</sup> for our 6-week group, "**Coping with Anger**." Facilitators Rolaine Walsh, LPC and Cale Adams will guide you through practical tools and insights in a small-group setting.

**Feb 17** Tuesdays | 6:00–7:30 PM | Feb 10<sup>th</sup> to Mar 17<sup>th</sup>

\$10 Registration Fee

Small Group (Max 8 people)

Register early —spots fill up quickly!  
Call 309-827-9100 for more information.



Scan or visit  
[bit.ly/iccpe](https://bit.ly/iccpe) to  
sign up and pay  
the registration fee

**INtegrity**  
counseling  
Do. Be. Heal.

502 S. Morris Ave, Bloomington, IL, 61701

309 827 9100

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, globally, and everywhere in between. In just a few

short years, this small but mighty group has created and donated over 2,500 handcrafted items to organizations including Sunday Brunch friends, Home Sweet Home Ministries, Life Long Friends, 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, February 11, 2026  
9:30 am, Green Room, 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](mailto:karenlavoie41@gmail.com).





**NEXT COMMUNION DATE:**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**FEBRUARY 11**  
**10:30 A.M.**  
**RC3**

### LITURGIST TRAINING

If anyone is interested in serving in worship as a Liturgist, please contact Shelly Gant no later than February 15, 2026. Training will be scheduled after Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026.

If you have any questions please contact Shelly Gant.

### Communion at Second Pres

Look below to see the upcoming dates that communion will be available at Second Pres during worship service:

- February 15: Transfiguration Sunday
- February 18: Ash Wednesday
- March 29: Palm Sunday
- April 5: Easter Sunday



# ASH WEDNESDAY

## FEBRUARY 18

### 6:00 PM



**Pickup your Lent Devotion beginning Sunday, February 15! Booklets will be available at the welcome center or at Kim Pare's Desk (during the week).**

**A NEW YEAR  
ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIVES!**



**Don't be  
a chicken.  
Give blood.**



Second Pres Church has a long and proud tradition of supporting the American Red Cross by hosting five Blood Drives each year. Thanks to your generosity and commitment in 2025, we helped make an extraordinary impact:

- Over 6.5 million blood products were distributed to hospitals nationwide.
- The donor base grew by 2% after 15 years of decline, with first-time donors increasing by 5%.
- The Red Cross achieved its best donor retention rate in more than 30 years.
- A more diverse donor base ensured better matches for patients who rely on specific blood types.
- Power Red donations reached a new all-time high, rising nearly 20% from 2024.

These are not just numbers—they represent lives saved, families supported, and hope restored. And you helped make it happen.

Let's keep the momentum going in 2026! Our first Blood Drive of the year is:

**Thursday, February 19**

**1:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**

Our goal is to have 32 donors sign up for this drive. To thank you for stepping up, all attempting donors will receive a \$20 Amazon gift card by email.

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're encouraged to complete your Rapid Pass using the QR code provided.



## Spring 2026 Helping Hands Cleanup Day

Helping Hands has been working with the Earth Care Committee about ways we can clean up our yards and gardens and be environmentally friendly. Additional information to follow.



## Presbyterian Women



**THURSDAY, FEB. 19  
4:00 PM  
F100C**

**HOSTESS: CHRIS LEONARD  
BIBLE STUDY: "FINDING OUR  
JOY: THE PRODIGAL CHILD, THE  
ELDEST CHILD, AND THE  
DEVOTED PARENT" LEAD BY  
MARTHA EVERMAN**

All are welcome to attend. Contact Sandy Groves [slittle@ilstu.edu](mailto:slittle@ilstu.edu) for more information.

## 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.

# LENT

at Second Pres

**Ash Wednesday**  
Dinner begins 5 pm

February 18: 6:00 pm

**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

**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.

## FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES Greenland Revisited



**Paul R. Nelson, M.D.,  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
Term of Service:  
December 1941-1945  
Main Duty: Greenland**

In 2010 a collective story from church members who served in World War II was undertaken through interviews. One of our veterans, Dr. Paul Nelson served most of his duty in Greenland. Here is what Paul had to say.

In 1941, when it happened, I was a sophomore in medical school. And we thought, "Oh, my gosh, will we be taken right out of school?" We were offered a choice of going into the uniform, staying in school or taking your chance to be drafted. I decided to go into the service. Most of the service I spent in Greenland. And that as a very, well, it's hard to describe it. There were a few men there but an awful lot of snow and cold weather.

We would see people going through Greenland on the way from the battle in Europe. There was a pretty good hospital in Greenland. Some of them would stay there for awhile before they went back to the States. I was in Greenland for about three weeks. I got my orders to go to an outpost in Ikateq, Greenland where there were fifteen men, one other officer and myself. We were on the east coast of Greenland on afjord about five miles from the Arctic Circle. I have pictures that show where we were.

They had a big hospital but there was only one other officer and myself and I had one helper. We didn't have much in the way of hospital care. The hospital was I

think a hundred beds, but we only used one or two rooms and had very few people in the hospital at any one time. We had fellas that would injure themselves. We didn't have anybody shooting at us but if you look at some of those pictures you can see that it was a pretty rough place to be. It was just an outpost for weather. Weather was predicted for Europe from Greenland. I was there for almost a year.



When we heard about VE Day, we thought right away we were going home. But it didn't happen that way. We were in for awhile afterwards.

### VE Day in Greenland

Paul Nelson's transcript is available in its entirety in the Heritage World War II Oral History

Collection in the Heritage Room. We interviewed twenty of our church members to learn the personal stories of their experiences.

If you are interested in reading these transcripts, contact Jeanie Wendt by calling 309-838-3506.



# 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

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2: Brian Hamilton

2: Levi Juvinall

2: Ananya Veligeti

2: Jen Walls

4: Brynlee Fehr

4: Braden Fehr

4: Pranav Kosaraju

5: Ardelle Deckert

5: Ken Pouliot

6: T.J. Barger

6: Harshith Gottapu

7: Marurine Berg

7: Meredith Lovelass

7: Ella Peifer

7: Marty Traxler

9: Meredith Knitter

9: Tom Lovelass

9: Jai Mokashi

9: Terry Schaefer

10: Dorris Hill

11: Bill Cummins

11: Barb Taylor

12: Charlotte Coleman

12: Hannah Meade

13: Sally Smith
- 14: Roger Hanson

15: Connie Gentry

15: Joan Newgren

16: Julie Cross

16: Eliza Plunkett

19: Limin Write

20: Gerti Clark

20: Harper Lamb

20: Carolyn Newberg

20: Jim Shirk

21: Fox Ackroyd

21: David Anderson

21: Betty Salch

22: Judy Duvall

23: Bryce Jones

23: Kay Queen

24: Ved Parasa

25: Paul Jefferson

25: Umika Vadlamudi

26: Cindy Johnson

26: Anya McCormick

27: Shirley Esch

27: Beth Objartel

28: Crystal Weer

29: Joyce Scholl

# NEXT MONTH AT SECOND PRES:

- 3/5: Theology on Tap
- 3/8: New Member Class
- 3/17: Lydia Circle
- 3/26: Art Show Setup
- 3/29: Palm Sunday



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Summary through December 31, 2025 - Actuals compared to the Annual Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$1,080,880	\$1,037,791	\$43,089
Other Receipts	\$248,556	\$181,153	\$67,403
Estate Gift	\$19,989	\$ -	\$19,989
Foundation Support	\$200,000	\$250,000	-\$50,000
Expenses	\$1,606,370	\$1,520,158	-\$86,212
Net Total	-\$56,945	-\$51,214	-\$5,731

Contributions are favorable compared to the annual budget by \$43,089. Other Receipts are favorable being \$67,4036 greater than the annual budget and include \$80,516 transferred from Foundation for the door repairs and sanctuary caulk repairs. Additionally, during 2025 the church received a generous estate gift of \$19,989 and \$200,000 of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are unfavorable as they are \$86,212 greater than the annual budget and include \$33,125 spent to fix the Prairie Street and Jefferson Street doors, \$47,391 spent to repair the caulk around the sanctuary stone and \$23,811.57 to repair/upgrade the Martin Hall fire safe doors.This provides a \$5,731 unfavorable variance for 2025. The 2025 annual budget includes a \$51,214 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. As of January 20<sup>th</sup>, 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.