



THE CONNECT

August 2025

SUMMER IS QUICKLY WRAPPING UP AT SECOND PRES!

Summer activities are wrapping up at Second Pres, but that doesn't mean we are without opportunities to volunteer, spend time together, learn, or worship the Lord!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

from Janet Frankeberger

We would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who helped with our fantastic Group Sale from start to finish.

- Advertising the sale with many different sign and media
- Setting up the church for this giant activity.
- Organizing the department supply boxes and signage
- Donating their treasures
- Unloading cars and trucks
- Sorting, organizing, and pricing all kinds of items
- Baking goodies for the Bake Sale
- Organizing and helping prepare our delicious lunches
- Working the sale on Saturday and Sunday
- Cleaning up after the sale



This sale was in memory of Barb Phillips and Leon Everman. Barb was our Food Coordinator for many years: from the Sale Barn to the Interstate Center and back to 2PC. Lunches were always wonderful and the Concession stands were always great. Leon was our hardware guy. He was in charge of tools and everything else that was added to that area. Barb and Leon were both quiet, in the background, but always present.

The sale was full of community and outreach, relationships-both old and new, compassion, service, faith, and fun.

WE gave our time, talents, and treasures to this wonderful ministry.

ROBOTICS FIELD TRIP - JULY 2025

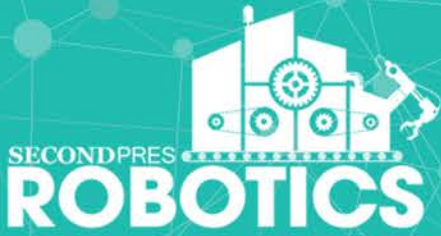
Early in July, Robotics leaders alongside parents and volunteers took students a trip to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site to learn more about Archeology. This year's Lego League Robotics theme was revealed to be "Unearthed," and our students are learning so much!

Robotics students also explored Bottomlands Field School, and learned how to perform an archeological dig. The site they visited is an active dig site!

Robotics students finished the day exploring the St. Louis City Museum.

We are looking forward to seeing all they learn this year, and wish them a "great day" on their next field trip to the Chicago Field Museum where they will visit the famous T-Rex, Sue!





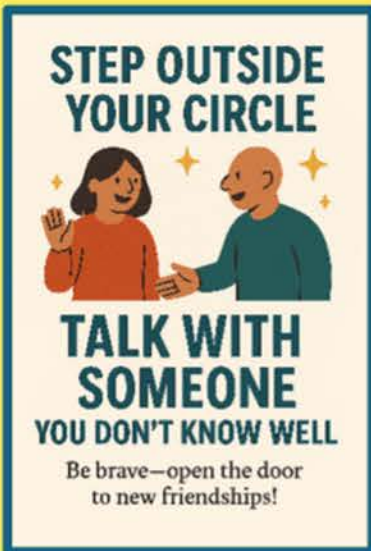
SECONDPRES
ROBOTICS

Problems with your phone, tablet, computer, or even email? Bring your device with you to Martin Hall and let the Second Pres Robotics team help you! Please come any Tuesday in August from 6-7:30pm.

Did you Know? Windows 10 goes end of support on October 14, 2025. This means that you need to either upgrade to Windows 11 or buy a new computer before then. The robotics team can help you determine if your computer is eligible for a free upgrade to Windows 11.

Location: Enter at door 1 (the covered entrance) and head to Martin Hall, the middle floor.

A NOTE FROM HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP:



Every Sunday, we gather as one body—but sometimes we speak only to the same familiar few. Let's take one small leap and see what happens...

Try this: Talk with someone you don't know well.

Yes, you might forget their name five minutes later (no judgment—

we've all been there!). But you might also share a laugh, offer encouragement, or simply be the reason someone walks away feeling welcomed to Second Pres. Imagine the ripple effect—if everyone reached out just once, we'd be a community that grows outward.

So, whether it's someone you've spotted getting coffee, seen ushering at the door, or eating Brunch in the Fellowship Hall—say hello. Ask a question. Share your story. You never know what connection God is waiting to spark through you.

Let's be brave. Let's be curious. Let's open the door to new friendships. Because around here, no one should sit alone—in a pew or in spirit.

Theology on Tap
Thursday, Aug. 7
6:00 p.m.
Paxton Building

Join us for Theology on Tap on Thursday, Aug. 7, 6–7:30 p.m. at the Paxton Building (207 E Washington St.). Parking is available near the building. Dinner is \$5 cash and drinks can be purchased for a donation. Questions? Email communications@secondpres.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

***Location is Second Pres unless otherwise noted**

- **August 7:** Theology on Tap - Paxton Building, 6-7:30 p.m.
- **August 17:** Blessing of the Backpacks, 9 a.m.
- **August 28:** Blood Drive, 1-6 p.m.
- **September 3:** Chapel Choir Resumes & Choir Dinner - 6 p.m.
- **September 4:** Theology on Tap - Paxton Building - 6-7:30 p.m.
- **September 5:** 100 Caring Adults - Fox Creek Elementary, 7:15-7:50 a.m.
- **September 7:** Fall Kickoff - 9 a.m.
- **September 7:** Stewardship Sunday - 9 a.m.
- **September 7:** Volunteer Fair - 10 a.m.
- **September 10:** Communion at Westminster Village - 10:30 a.m.
- **September 10:** Kids and Youth Ministry Resumes - 6-7:30 p.m.

VOLUNTEER FAIR

The Hospitality & Membership Committee will be hosting a volunteer fair on Sunday, September 7 after the Fall Kickoff Worship Service. All are welcome and encouraged to attend to learn more about volunteering with Second Pres!



Clothing Pantry Update

We are excited to share some updates with you from the clothing pantry crew.

Who is the crew?

Molly Achord, Jan Harrell, Susan Rhodes, Elizabeth Rust, Jane Sumrall, and Jeannie Swanson.

What is the clothing pantry?

We have basic clothing for men, women and children in need. They do not need a referral but are allowed to come twice a year to get seasonal clothing.

When does this happen?

Every Wednesday from 1-2:30.

Where is the clothing pantry?

It is in Martin Hall in the old parlor.

How did these missions start?

Recognizing the need for free clothing for individuals living below the poverty line, Donna Brunner initiated the Clad Tidings ministry to provide essential garments to men, women, and children. Nancy Harvey collaborated with the prison to launch Start Fresh, a program dedicated to providing clothing for men reentering society after incarceration.

Over the past four months, our clothing pantry has provided essential garments to more than 100 individuals. If you know of anyone in need of clothing, please let them know as we are eager to help! If you know someone facing an emergency need, reach out to Jan Harrell. We will gladly arrange for two clothing pantry workers to assist them during this critical time. We've received an abundance of positive feedback, and the buzz is that our pantry is beautifully organized and offers the best clothes around! If you'd like to visit, let us know—we'd be delighted to show you around. Thank you for your support and interest in our clothing pantry.

- Jan Harrell

Presbyterian Women

FALL GATHERING & DINNER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

6:00 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP HALL

COST: DONATION AT EVENT

You're invited to the Second Pres Gathering of Women on Resilience and Joy, a fellowship dinner featuring an inspirational message by Rev. Lori Bultemier on "Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ" on Thursday, September 11 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

This event is open to all Second Pres women and hosted by Lydia and Ruth Circles.

Sign ups will be outside the Sanctuary on August 24, 31, and September 7. For reservations made outside of those Sundays, contact Kim Pare at Kim.Pare@secondpres.com or call the church office at (309) 828-6297



JOIN US FOR BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 9AM

Bring your child's backpack to worship service so that we may pray for a safe and successful school year!

THE HEAT IS ON FOR DONORS!



As summer winds down and our schedules fill up with adventures and activities, it's important to remember the impact we can make by giving blood, platelets, or AB Elite plasma. Your donation can help

patients in need enjoy more sunny days!

During our August Drive, the American Red Cross will offer hemoglobin A1C (A1C) testing, commonly used to screen for prediabetes and diabetes, to all donors who successfully give blood, platelets, or plasma. No fasting is required! Only successful donations are sent to our laboratory for testing, so make sure to donate to receive your A1C result. As an added bonus, you'll receive a \$15.00 E-Gift card!

Thursday, August 28
1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Karen LaVoie will be outside the Sanctuary before and after service on August 17 and 24. Stop by the recruitment table and sign up or contact her at 928-713-6996 or karenlavoie41@gmail.com to schedule a time. You can also visit the Red Cross website at redcrossblood.org to choose your preferred time slot.



Welcoming New International Students: You can make a big impact in the lives of international students, and they will make a big impact in your life! We are looking for Christian individuals and families to welcome newly arriving international students. Most will be arriving during the first week of August. New student orientation at ISU will begin the week of August 11. Classes begin on August 18. You could help in any of the following ways:

- Hosting a student(s) in your home for 1-3 days.
- Providing transportation from Uptown Station in Normal or Central Illinois Regional Airport to the student's apartment or residence hall.
- Hosting a student for a meal or taking them to the store.
- Providing items for a welcome pack. Good small group project!
- Providing a meal for a monthly, Friday evening event. Good small group project!

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact John and Linda Berger, serving with International Students, Inc., at jberger@internationalstudents.org 309.664.0377. Training, online or in person, is provided.



ACE
Adult Christian Education

**REV. TREY HADDON
PRESENTS:
OUR CHURCH**

**Sundays:
August 10, 17, & 24**

Join Rev. Trey Haddon for his upcoming Adult Christian Education class about our groups, partners, and mission here at Second Pres! Learn more about who we share our space with, as well as partners in the town that help to spread the heart of Christ in the heart of our community. This class will be held on Sundays, August 10, 17, and 24.



FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES: TIRED OF CHANGE?

Changes in our name, our buildings, our membership, our pastors, our leaders, and our programs have kept the light of Christ shining for 170 years.

Take a look at the year: **1908**.

- **1908** M. L. Moore retired after serving as Clerk of Session for **40** years and Elder for **49** years
- **1908** Chalmers C. Marquis elected Clerk of Session. He served **26** years.
- **Jan. 28, 1908** Our Rev. Frederick Hawley led a ministerial group to sponsor a Billy Sunday revival in Bloomington that reached more than 4,000 people. **108** new members were received at Second Presbyterian Church, with others joining in succeeding weeks.



Billy Shelper attended the revival meeting and dedicated his "life to God and the service of others" and he vowed to quit drinking. He was as good as his word. He joined Second Presbyterian Church and served several years as an elder. By 1917, he had organized The Bloomington City Rescue Mission, now known as Home Sweet Home Mission today.

- **Feb. 8, 1908** Men's Brotherhood Bible Class organized. Dr. Jay Whitefield teaches class 21 years (1908-1929)



- **Feb. 24, 1908** Session meeting: New church directory planned. **Free pews are discussed.**
- **Mar. 9, 1908** **George J. Mecherle**, founder of State Farm Insurance, joined the church.
- **Mar. 22, 1908** Congregation voted 151 yes and 316 no on the question, "*Shall we continue to meet the expenses of the church by the present system of pew rentals?*"
- **Apr. 1908** Annual Report is **typed**. Additions to the committee reports: Boys Club, Brotherhood Bible Study, **Temperance**, and Auditing. **4** employees listed: Pastor, Chorister (Assistant to the Pastor), janitor, and organist.
- **Apr. 1908** By-Laws and Constitution **changes** approved with all members voting. Annual meeting changed to first Monday in April. Nine trustees serve 3-year terms, seven Deacons serve 7-year terms, an indefinite number of elders serve indefinite terms.
- **Apr. 1908** First Brokaw Hospital Trustees elected: Mr. H. A. Soper and Mr. F. Y. Hamilton
- **July 8, 1908** Mr. Scrogin from the Anti-Saloon League invited to **speak from pulpit**
- **Sep. 27, 1908** Rally Day for Sunday School held.
- **Dec. 27, 1908** Handel's "*Messiah*" **presented to community**. Cost covered by collection: \$72.

From dedicated lay and ordained leadership to support of the Freedmen's Bureau to hosting the Anti-Saloon League to creating multiple musical groups, to forming a Robotics Ministry, 2PC continues to be relevant in the community and in its members' lives.

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: K-5th Kid's Min (90 min.) - *Resumes Sep.*
- 6:00-7:30 pm: 6-8th YOUth Min (90 min.) - *Resumes Sep.*
- 6:30-8:00 pm: Chapel Choir Rehearsal - *Resumes Sep.*

EVERY THURSDAY

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Tom Harrell

2: Lee Reardon

3: Barb Flint

4: Ann Crittenden

4: Sumi Yarlagadda

5: Colton Buckley

6: Sean Pare

8: Barbara Ulbrich

8: Sally Cummins

8: Shreyas Gasireddy

8: Jack Preston

9: Charla Cullen

11: Patsy Bowles

11: Eeshna Arumilli

11: Prajna Arumilli

11: Ethan Ng

12: Lee Moulic

12: Shloka Chebolu

14: Susan Manahan

14: Ethan Claver

15: Beth Brucker

15: Sue Poole

15: John Willard

15: Rtuh Chin

16: Toni Young

16: Joan Weisbecker

16: Ashley Peterson

16: Samarth Singh
- 17: Dee Thompson

17: Meredith Pounds

18: George Wendt

18: Linda Pendell

19: Lucille Engelkes

19: Jane Sumrall

20: Kari McGhee

20: Sylvia Rueck

21: Brad Secord

22: Carole Dolan

23: Josey Campbell

23: Carol Brownell

23: Anuraag Kadiyala

23: Amulya Kadiyala

25: Jack North

26: Jaclyn Secord

26: Don Crittenden

26: Bill Jackson

27: Linda Crowe

28: Jack Schwab

29: Luke Peifer

29: Steve White

29: Karen LaVoie

30: LuAnn Bateman

30: Jim Butler

30: Don Ray

30: Addison Phillips

31: Ray Reed

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Summary through June 30, 2025 - Actuals compared to the Prorated Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$593,246	\$563,518	\$29,728
Other Receipts	\$149,953	\$89,648	\$60,305
Estate Gift	\$19,989	\$ -	\$19,989
Foundation Support	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$ -
Expenses	\$835,867	\$733,048	-\$102,819
Net Total	\$27,321	\$20,118	\$7,203

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$29,728. Other Receipts are favorable, being \$60,305 greater than the prorated budget and include \$80,516 transferred from Foundation for the door repairs and sanctuary caulk repairs. Additionally, during the first six months of the year \$100,000 of the budgeted Foundation support was needed to support church operations. Expenses are unfavorable as they are \$102,819 greater than the prorated budget and include \$33,125 spent to fix the Prairie Street and Jefferson Street doors and \$47,391 spent to repair the caulk around the sanctuary stone. This provides a \$7,203 favorable variance for the first six months of 2025. The 2025 annual budget includes a \$51,214 deficit.

As of April 7th, the church collected 145 stewardship cards totaling \$885,009. Stewardship Sunday is Sunday, September 7th. More information to follow.

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



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