



THE CONNECT

December 2025

THE SEASON OF ADVENT IS IN FULL SWING AT SECOND PRES

December is a season of Advent, anticipation, fellowship, and light. Second Pres is full of ways to worship, give and more this month! Read below to find out more!

ADVENT CELEBRATION WEEKEND

The first weekend of December is jam-packed with family friendly events and celebrations!

Saturday, December 6 from 12-2 p.m. will hold the Live Nativity, with our own congregation members acting out the scene, and our furry friends from Kamaroo Farms. The Live Nativity will begin at the completion of the Downtown Holiday Parade.

We hope you will join us on Sunday, December 7 as well! The day begins with worship service being led by the KidsMin and Jr. High YOUTHMin students—singing, playing instruments, and telling the Christmas story. ***All are encouraged to wear their best Christmas sweater or pajamas!***

Following worship service will be the Advent Brunch held in the Fellowship Hall! We welcome all who are able to attend. There is a suggested \$10 donation, although not required. Finally, we'll finish our celebrations with the Annual



Gingerbread Build from 12-2 p.m.! For the entry fee of at least one canned good for our Little Free Pantry, you and your family will have an afternoon of sugar, cookies, and fun! Pre-built gingerbread houses will be available (one per family of 4, families of 4 or more will get 2 houses), as well as all the decorating supplies.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: AN ORGAN & PIANO BENEFIT RECITAL

Second Pres will host a festive and meaningful holiday recital on Sunday, December 21, at 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. In an effort to support Home Sweet Home Ministries' new shelter village, the program will feature musical talents of Dr. Dennis Gotkowski and Brian Tanaka, who will present a 60-minute organ and piano performance filled with Christmas favorites and a few sing-along carols the whole family can enjoy.

The event is free to attend, family-friendly, and open to the community. A freewill offering will be collected to support Home Sweet Home Ministries' The Bridge—a project designed to provide stable, dignified housing for individuals and families in need. HSHM CEO Matt Burgess will offer a brief update during the program, sharing how contributions will help build a stronger, more compassionate community.

Guests are invited to stay for a light dessert reception immediately following the recital. We encourage all to come experience the warmth of Christmas music while supporting an important local mission.



THEOLOGY ON TAP

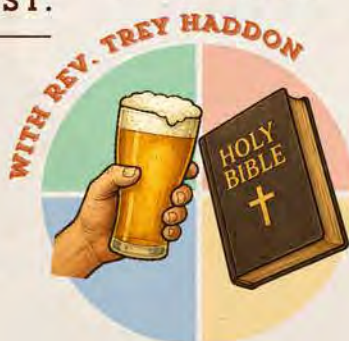
DEC | 4

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



EARTH CARE
Serving and Preserving God's Creation

RECYCLE YOUR OLD LIGHTS!

Do you have your Christmas decorating done? As you pulled out your stash of Christmas lights, you may have run across some strands of lights that didn't work. If so, remember to recycle Christmas lights at St. Luke's Union Church, 2101 E. Washington, Bloomington, corner of Washington and Regency Dr. The Church has a garage off of their parking lot south of the church where there is a bin you can drop in those non-working strands of lights. Be sure to Recycle!

Communion at Second Pres

Look below to see the 2025 dates that communion will be available at Second Pres during worship service:

- **December 7:** Children's Program
- **December 24:** Christmas Eve



ACE
Adult Christian Education

The Advent ACE class will be held on Sundays December 14 and 21 with Rev. Trey Haddon in the Chapel. For questions, please contact Scott Hamilton at hamilton.r.scott@comcast.net.



Presbyterian Women



DECEMBER MEETING

BIBLE STUDY BY KAREN LAVOIE,
DEVOTIONS BY JANET ADKINS,
MISSION: SUNDAY BRUNCH
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
F100C
9:30 A.M.



BIBLE LESSON 2

FINDING OUR RESILIENCE: MARY
"OF A CERTAIN VILLAGE"
BY JOAN NEWGREN
MISSION: 2PC HOLIDAY MISSION
CONCLUDING WITH COOKIE
EXCHANGE.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
F100C
4:00 P.M.

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

HOSPITALITY & MEMBERSHIP



Don't forget the 10-foot rule! Take responsibility for greeting those seated or standing within 10 feet of you at any church activity.

That connection makes all the difference!

Poinsettia Donations

The Deacons have purchased poinsettias from Casey's for our members in nursing homes, retirement communities, and for our members who are homebound. These live flowers will be delivered before Christmas. If you would like to remember or honor a loved one, please consider filling out a card at the Connection Point of at Kim's desk during the week. The names of these folks will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Donations are due by Wednesday, December 17. The suggested donation is \$20.00



IMMANUEL BIBLE FOUNDATION WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

IBF Women's Christmas Celebration
The Immanuel Bible Foundation's (IBF) annual Women's Christmas Celebration will take place Saturday morning, December 6, from 8:00-11:00 am, at the DoubleTree by Hilton, in Bloomington. The gathering, attended each year by nearly 600 women, includes fellowship, music, a hot breakfast, and an inspirational message from featured speaker Debbie Alsdorf. In addition to the program, attendees will have the opportunity to shop local artisans at an Artisans Showcase before and after the event. A raffle also will occur.

Tickets are \$40 per person (which includes breakfast, the message, and Artisans Showcase). Tickets are available at Broadview Mansion (1301 S. Fell, Normal) from 8:00 am-12:00 noon, Tuesday and Thursday, by mail-in orders, or by visiting ibfoundation.org.



NEWS FROM ASSETS (TRUSTEES) COMMITTEE

Great news! Recently, the 18 brown post lights around the Portico and South Entrances to the church were changed from regular bulbs to LED as the regular bulbs use so much more energy than the LED bulbs. These lights are on all night long for safety and security reasons and the new bulbs will save 1.4 kilowatt (1400 watts) per hour which saves energy usage of 5,533 kw per year.

Even better news, the \$3,300 expense of the installation was paid from the proceeds of the City of Bloomington parking lot rent of the south parking lot. The parking lot rent is to be used to pay maintenance expenses of all our parking lots. A total win for the church and for our efforts to reduce energy usage!

Christmas Eve Worship Service



**Thursday, December 24
4 p.m.**

ADVENT

at Second Pres

12/3: Holiday Decorating at Home Sweet Home Ministries

9 a.m.

12/4: Theology on Tap

6:30 p.m. – Paxton Building

12/6: Immanuel Bible Foundation Women's Christmas Celebration

8–11 a.m. – DoubleTree by Hilton

12/6: Live Nativity

12–2 p.m. in parking lot off of East Street

12/7: Children's Program

9 a.m. Worship Service

12/7: Advent Brunch

Following Worship Service

12/7: Gingerbread Build

12 p.m.–2 p.m.

12/14: Advent Week 3 with Rev. Trey Haddon

9 a.m. Worship Service

12/14: Advent Class with Rev. Trey Haddon

Following Worship Service

12/18: Preschool Christmas Program

6 p.m.

12/21: Advent Week 4 with Rev. Trey Haddon

9 a.m. Worship Service

12/21: Advent Class with Rev. Trey Haddon

Following Service

12/21: Home for Christmas: An Organ & Piano Benefit for The Bridge (HSHM)

2 p.m. in the Sanctuary

12/24: Christmas Eve Worship Service

4 p.m. Worship Service



Second Pres will once again hold "Reverse Advent," a time where we come together as a congregation and give a daily gift instead of receiving one like traditionally done in an Advent calendar. All donations will be used in our Clothing Pantry and Little Free Pantry to help our downtown neighbors in need this holiday season. This year we are asking for items such as gloves, canned goods, ramen noodles, deodorant, fruit and grain bars, and more. Items may be donated at any time. Full calendars are available at the Connection Point. For questions, please contact Jan Harrell.



FROM THE HERITAGE ARCHIVES

ADVENT DINNER MADRIGAL 2017

Advent dinners at Second Pres have been a social and spiritual highlight for many years. In 2016 and 2017 the décor and entertainment transported the diners back in time to the Renaissance. Minstrels, madrigal singers and a comedy written by our own Regina Foehr provided entertainment while Gerald Safford, Director of Food Ministries outdid himself with a lavish meal. The Fellowship Hall glowed with the warmth of the season.



**Thursday, December 4
10:30 a.m.**

Who is that new guy directing the choir? Join Just Older Youth Fellowship on Thursday, December 4 at 10:30 a.m. alongside Music Director Brian Tanaka as he tells us his life story, plays some piano, and leads us in Christmas carols. Of course there will be some holiday treats and punch!

SOUND OF ILLINOIS CHORUS
PRESENTS



Westminster Village Communion

We hope our Westminster Village folks will join us in the Club Room on Wednesday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. as we come together for a morning of fellowship, worship, and Communion.

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

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1: Mary Bobell

1: Frank Mitchell

1: Sathvik Namburi

1: Aaron Shields

2: Mark Bateman

2: Joe Jackson

2: Steve Knitter

2: Diresha Mitchell

4: Dee Driscoll

4: Stephanie Nold

5: Grayson Schmale

5: Caroline Winterland

6: Barbara Meek

6: Nathan Nicolas

7: Dana Plunkett

8: Charleen Burns

8: Saharsh Nimmala

10: Carol Jackson

11: Greg Clark

11: Deana Moore

Schoolcraft

11: Walker Parker

11: Mark Ulbrich

12: Al Bates

12: Jim Murphy

13: Jeff Jackson

14: John Moore

14: Ron Richmond

15: Mauri Jones

16: Andrew Briggs
- 16: Madelyn Miller

16: Debbie Smith

16: Steve Snyder

17: Sallie Boge

17: Bob Lewis

18: Hannah Crowe

19: Jon Crowe

19: Dan Schaefer

21: Julie Laudeman

21: Derwin Staley

22: Don Lee

22: Rajas Patil

23: Ellie Stanley

24: Carol Nyweide

25: Dan Brucker

27: Angela Bulhof

27: Kevin Chrisman

27: Michael Mardis

28: Kyle Hurley

28: Ben Pounds

29: Scott Hamilton

30: David Hill

30: David Strand

31: Barb Booth

31: Ken Davis

31: Greg Klawitter

31: Thelma Lockhart

31: Everett Nold

31: Hunter Smith

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Summary through October 31, 2025 - Actuals compared to the Prorated Budget

	Actual	Prorated Budget	Net Result
Contributions	\$877,552	\$840,596	\$36,956
Other Receipts	\$216,978	\$166,154	\$50,824
Estate Gift	\$19,989	\$ -	\$19,989
Foundation Support	\$200,000	\$150,000	\$50,000
Expenses	\$1,335,464	\$1,274,980	-\$60,484
Net Total	-\$20,945	-\$118,230	\$97,285

Contributions are favorable compared to the prorated budget by \$36,956. Other Receipts are favorable being \$50,824 greater than the prorated budget and include \$80,516 transferred from Foundation for the door repairs and sanctuary caulk repairs. Additionally, during the first ten months of the year 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 \$60,484 greater than the prorated 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 \$97,285 favorable variance for the first ten months of 2025. The 2025 annual budget includes a \$51,214 deficit.

Stewardship Sunday was Sunday, September 7th. As of November 24th, the church collected 129 stewardship cards totaling \$845,510. 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.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube!



fb.com/secondpres



@secondpresblono



youtube.com/secondpres