

# Life Together



The First Presbyterian Church  
of Morrison, Illinois  
~est. March 28, 1855~

*Reaching out to our neighbor with open hearts;  
sharing God's blessings with others.*

*All Are Welcome!*

**June/July 2023 • Vol. 66/No. 6**

The Church is what the followers of Jesus became alongside Jesus. They walked with him. They prayed with him. They ate with him. They healed with him. They preached with him. They suffered with him. Jesus was crucified while they watched from a distance. At 3PM, the Temple curtain tore open. In Jewish theology, God dwelt behind the curtain. The new theology of the Church believed God was released from this dwelling place and entered into the world to dwell among humanity. Three days later, Jesus rose from the grave, gaining the name Christ, Savior, Messiah. Forty days later, the Church watched as Jesus was lifted out of sight in his Ascension. Ten days later, on the day of the celebration of Pentecost, in the capital of Jerusalem, in which the people celebrated wheat harvest, fifty days after Passover, the Holy Spirit entered into the world for all.

Left behind, the Church looked into their hands, and found the Keys to the Kingdom which Jesus had handed to them, with which Jesus instructed them to grow together, into a new world that was filled with Healing Love. The Church gathered people seeking love. The Church opened them to the Great Spirit. The Church taught them about the Word. The Church began to proclaim a Creator—a Creator of all who loved all and called for all to be *one* together, in this Great Spirit, which was poured out upon our world for all to receive. Yet only those who seek love can redeem this gift for the glory it gives.

This is the True Church. They follow the Way, the Truth, and the

Life. They seek to love one another. They seek forgiveness when they fall short of love. They seek to love again. And they seek to let go, in love, when they cannot unite with another. War and fighting, they knew, was never an option. It led in the opposite direction. Instead, in love, they cared for one another. They gave up all their possessions to care for all whom they could. They were willing to sacrifice anything in their gratitude for the spiritual gift in the taking of Jesus' life. As Jesus laid down his own life, the Church seeks to lay down their own life to keep them from falling into the pit of the world. In the world there are empty gifts of lonesome pleasures. In Christ there is love, and everything which stems from love. In love is everything. The world amounts to nothing. Every member of the Church shall one day lay to rest. All shall return to the dust. Each of us was formed of the dust, and given life when God breathed our soul into us. Only the breath of God which we received in our creation continues beyond this world. For the exhaled Breath of God must eventually be inhaled. And there, back in God, our earthly cycle is complete. A new journey begins.

The Church, in such, seeks to embrace the most beauty of this lifetime as it can. Beauty is found in the Creator's natural realm. It is in this very spring and upcoming summer. It is the moment that we are always in. Time passes. However, we are right here, right now. Always. And where exactly is that? In love. That's a valid option open to us. We have been gifted it in Jesus' teaching. We have been gifted it in

the very divine present of our own presence in this world, in this life, and with all in which we encounter. We have been gifted the Spirit of the Risen Lord, falling afresh upon all of us who seek Love, who seek to be the Church. Together, in love, we today carry the torch of the Church. The Keys of the Kingdom have been handed down through two thousand years of generations of believers. Today, the Keys are in our hands.

The First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, IL seeks to be part of the Church. We seek to follow Christ. We seek to receive and utilize the Holy Spirit. We seek to live into the Creation that God provides for us. We seek to love one another. We are always learning. We are always growing. We feed. We teach. We play. Yet to what extent? Do we limit our love? No. We seek to love all whom we encounter. We seek to offer hospitality to those willing to receive it. In a world that is full of hate and darkness, in a world full of division and labeling, in a world filled with sorrow, we seek to be a light. We seek to shine. We seek to let everyone know that they are loved by God, no matter what. We seek to let everyone know they can have a relationship with God, no matter what. We seek to let everyone know that God will always care for them and always be present for them, and God will receive them home when they take this final breath on earth.

God's love is for God to give. We don't get to pick and choose how God loves. But we can't imag-

*Continued on Page 7...*

# Church News

## CHURCH EVENTS

### Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15AM every Sunday morning. NOTE: We are staying at 10:15 all summer. Virtual worship will continue to be provided indefinitely. We livestream each service from our Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmorrison>. The services are also posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurchofm3749>

### Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at Pleasant View Nursing Home on Tuesdays throughout the month. Rick Barr leads the studies that Pastor Mike is unable to attend.

### Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for June & July:  
June 4: Deb Zigler & Lynn Knox  
June 11: The Shanks  
June 18: Worship in the Park/  
Potluck

June 25: Tim Reynolds

July 2:

July 9:

July 16:

July 23:

July 30:

If you would like to volunteer to host coffee hour in July please see the sign up sheet in the entryway or contact the church office.

### Pride Month

On May 21, our congregation became certified as a Safe Place by Clock, Inc, with 30 people in attendance for the training. As we seek to show our care for all people, we will publicly display that we are allies for the LGBTQ+ community in the month of June, which is 'Pride Month' by hanging pride flags outside of our church.

### Yucatan Peninsula Mission

The 6th work trip crew from FPC Morrison will head back to Leona Vicario, Mexico from June 8-15. They will help build columns for the 2nd floor of the 2nd classroom building for the YPM University. They'll bend and shape rebar and then mix, haul, and fill the columns with cement. The crew this year are (the # after the name denotes what trip this will be for them): Aiden Dolieslager (2), Silas Dolieslager (1), Ben Ketelaar (2), Jacob Mitvalsky (1), Noah Mitvalsky (2), Sam Mitvalsky (3), Angela Reamer (2), Jacie Reynolds (1), Tim Reynolds (1), Katie Selburg (2), Mike Selburg (6), Carol Wolf (6). Follow them on the church's Facebook page during the trip. Please send prayers!

### Guest Worship Leader

Rev. John Reynolds will lead worship on June 11 while Pastor Mike & the work trip crew are in Mexico.

### Family & Youth Events

There will be family events, as well as youth events this summer, but as of writing this newsletter, no exact dates have been set. Information will be sent to families and youth later.

### Worship in the Park

We will once again have our Worship in the Park with Brethren in Christ on Sunday, June 18th. We will begin with breakfast at 9:30AM. This is a potluck, so please bring a dish to share if able. If not, no worries, there's always more food than we can eat. If you do not wish to sit at a picnic table for the service, bring a lawn chair with you.

### Session Meeting

Session will meet June 19 (time TBD) and July 17 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

### Newsletter Deadline 07/24

Please get information to be included in the August *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by July 24.

### Drive-Up Meals

Our June meal will be held on Thursday, June 29 and our July meal will be Thursday, July 27. In June, we will be serving brats. In July, we will be serving hot dogs to benefit the Morrison Fire Department. Both meals begin at **5PM**. Help is needed for food prep on the Wednesday before at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 4:15PM.

## Prayer Requests

Those who have served the church in the past month; student Youdelka Philippe, her family and the Mission Starfish Haiti School; Yucatan Peninsula Mission; Victory Center; Sauk Valley Food Bank; Morrison Food Pantry; Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center and Blackhawk Presbytery; and those in need of healing and support: Individuals and families fighting COVID-19 infection, nursing & retirement home residents and staff, medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Bev Bealer, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Janet Johnson, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Michael Vegter, Jr.



## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Blessing of the Bikes

Abate of Iowa, District 21, is holding their 34th Annual Blessing of the Bikes on Sunday, June 4 beginning at 1PM in downtown Fulton.

Officiating the Blessing will be Father Matthew, Pastor Jon and our own Pastor Mike.

There will be vendors, 50/50 drawing, beer garden and more! Bring a canned good to benefit the local food pantries. All vehicles are welcome, including golf carts and side by sides. This will be held rain or shine!

## Earth Care Team

We are still looking for folks to join our new Earth Care Team. We'll begin planning for educational opportunities, explore ways we can further reduce our environmental footprint, and explore what we can do with our church yard. Please contact Angela Reamer, Carol Wolf, or Pastor Mike if you are interested or simply would like more information.

## Presbytery Women Project

PW, which includes all women of our church, is undertaking a new project. Resthave is in need of walker caddy bags. These are cloth bags which attach to the walker and are used for the resident to carry things with while using the walker. I have been assured that they are simple to make and use a minimum of material. You can find a pattern on Pinterest by searching "walker caddy pattern" or contact Deb Zigler.

## VBS

The Morrison Community Vacation Bible School will be held June 12-16, 2023 at the Morrison Junior High School from 6—8 pm. All kids ages 4 through entering 8th grade are welcome. This year's theme is Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light. Children will enjoy fun games, Bible memory verses, cool crafts, music and snacks.

Pre-register before June 9 online at [www.myvbs.org/morrisonvbs](http://www.myvbs.org/morrisonvbs) or mail registration form to Morrison VBS, c/o Ebenezer Reformed Church, 309 East Park Street, Morrison. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Registration after June 9 will be

at the Junior High from 5:30-6 pm on opening night.

For additional info or questions, check out [www.facebook.com/MorrisonVBS](http://www.facebook.com/MorrisonVBS) or contact Lydia Ohlsen at 563-212-0325 or email [lydiaohlsen@yahoo.com](mailto:lydiaohlsen@yahoo.com).



## June & July Scripture

June 4:	Gen. 1:1-2:4a Ps. 8:2 Cor. 13:11-13 Matt. 28:16-20
June 11:	Hos. 5:15-6:6 Ps. 50:7-15 Rom. 4:13-25 Matt. 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18:	Ex. 19:2-8a Ps. 100 Rom. 5:1-8 Matt. 9:35-10:8 (9-23)
June 25:	Jer. 20:7-13 Ps. 69:7-10 (11-15), 16-18 Rom. 6:1b-11 Matt. 10:24-39
July 2:	Jer. 28:5-9 Ps. 89:1-4:15-18 Rom. 6:12-23 Matt. 10:40-42
July 9:	Zech. 9:9-12 Ps. 145:8-14 Rom. 7:15-25a Matt. 11:16-19, 25-30
July 16:	Isa. 55:10-13 Ps. 65:(1-8) 9-13 Rom. 8:1-11 Matt. 13:1-9, 18-23
July 23:	Isa. 44:6-8 Ps. 86:11-17 Rom. 8:12-25 Matt. 13:24-30, 36-43
July 30:	1 Kgs. 3:5-12 Ps. 119:129-136 Rom. 8:26-39 Matt. 13:31-33, 44-52

## LOCAL AND OTHER RESOURCES

**Golden Meals:** Call 815 626-4442 (Monday-Thursday, 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) Hot meals delivered Monday-Thursday. (With frozen/sack meals for weekends.)

### Morrison Food Pantry:

Open Thursday mornings, 8-10 a.m., for curbside pick-up of food and dry goods.

### Sauk Valley Food Bank:

Offers drive-up "pantry day giveaways" on some Saturdays where food is provided to residents of the Sauk Valley area. Call 815-626-4556 for details.

**Sullivan's Foods:** The Morrison location has also begun online grocery ordering for curbside pick-up or delivery. Call 772-4696 or see <https://www.sullivansfoods.net/>

### Local Restaurants:

Some are offering pick-up, curb-side pick-up and delivery. Call for details.

**City News:** Keep up on local news at our city's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecityofmorrison>

**Morrison Hospital:** The hospital's Facebook page provides information on new check-in procedures and other updates: <https://www.facebook.com/MorrisonCommunityHospital>

### Whiteside County Senior Center:

The Center is not open for walk-ins or events but some services are being provided by phone. Call 815-622-9230 and see their Facebook page or website: <https://www.wc-seniorcenter.org>.

**PC(USA):** The PC(USA) COVID-19 dedicated webpage adds new information and resources regularly in many areas: <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>.

## *Building & Property Projects and Financial Assistance Needed*

2023 is proving to be an expensive year with many building and property projects. There are also several expensive projects that will need completed in the upcoming years. Here is an update of our projects and costs, if known. The Session has requested for all members and friends of the church contribute to our building fund to help cover these costs. So far, we are looking at costs exceeding \$38,633.98.

### *CONCRETE WORK:*

We will be replacing the sidewalk along Knox Street, creating a pad for the produce table, and a pad for the lending library. This job is being done at cost. Ron Shank is volunteering to remove all the concrete. Josh Gowan, grandson of Mary Bull, will use his company to do the rest of the work. Out of appreciation of his grandma's love for our church, he is only charging us for materials and his employee's wages. This was to be finished in May, but weather and scheduling issues has pushed it back. Estimated Cost: \$3,000 minus \$500 refund from the City of Morrison.

### *ELECTRIC WORK:*

Mandated by our insurance company, the old fuse box in the back hallway of the dining room that runs most of the church building has been updated to a breaker box. Likewise, so has the fuse box for the sanctuary. Two emergency exit lights were added to either side of the door on the 2nd floor between the educational wing and the main building. Total Cost: \$6,800

### *PLUMBING:*

A clogged sink in the kitchen was fixed by Alvarados. Total Cost: \$296.48

A leak for one of the boiler pipes in the boiler room was also fixed by Alvarados. Total Cost: \$605.26

We will have Alvarado back this

summer to fix a radiator pipe that occasionally leaks in the youth group room. Cost unknown.

### *DISHWASHER:*

The dishwasher was broken so we had to hire out the work to get it fixed. It required a new pump. Total Cost: \$1014.20

### *NEW AC UNIT FOR FELLOWSHIP ROOM/ OFFICES:*

Our 26 year old AC unit has completed this portion of its life. Workman's will replace the unit ASAP. Estimated Cost: \$4,802.

### *OLDS BOILER COMPANY*

We have recently been in touch with the boiler company that let us know we have several outstanding invoices from work done in 2020 and 2021. We also received an invoice for work done in May 2023. Total Cost: \$20,116.04

### *BOILER PIPE AND BATHROOM RENOVATION:*

In November 2021, a pipe began to leak between the men's bathroom in the dining room and the boiler room. The leak was somewhat stopped (still leaks occasionally). The boiler company forgot to fix it last summer despite many requests. They plan to fix it this June. Once fixed, we will hire Deerview Construction to renovate the bathroom, of which some of the walls are destroyed. All of this will be covered by insurance, except for the deductible of \$2,500.

### *PERMANENT PRODUCE TABLE SHELTER:*

The goal is to build a permanent produce table with a shelter this summer on the new pad. We will seek a \$1,000 grant from Blackhawk Presbytery's Mission Committee. Total cost TBD.

### *ROOF:*

There are leaks on the roof around the bell tower. Boss Roofing has

given us a few options, all which cost a few thousand dollars. Member Tommy Genz who spent his career as an industrial roofer, is looking into doing the work with a small crew, at the cost of materials. The building is now leaking again between the old building and the education wing. This is still under warranty. Boss Roofing is slated to come fix it this summer.

### *SANCTUARY LIGHTING:*

We are beginning to investigate (again) improving the lighting in the sanctuary. More info as that unfolds.

### *TUCKPOINTING, BELL TOWER & SANCTUARY PLASTERING/ PAINTING:*

Future projects will be very expensive. Over half of the church building still needs tuckpointed (we are patiently waiting for a company to do this for us). Also, we are awaiting the engineer's report on the bell tower. No matter what we need to do for it, it will be very expensive. Once we have the leak that is coming into the sanctuary under control, there are several areas that will need re-plastered and painted.

### *STAINED GLASS COVERINGS:*

Some of the metal areas on both of the stained glass window coverings have begun to pop out. This is assumed to be do to shifting in the building. As this work was performed in 2015, it is no longer under warranty. However, the company who installed the coverings have said they will likely do it for free this summer when they have another project in the area. We are awaiting more information.

# STAY HOME

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 1PM Blessing of the Bikes	5	6 9:30AM Bible Study	7	8 <i>LGBTQ+ Pride Month</i> YPM Mission Trip	9 YPM Mission Trip Morrison City Wide Garage Sales	10 YPM Mission Trip
11 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	12 <i>YPM Mission Trip</i> Summer Reading Club Begins	13 <i>YPM Mission Trip</i> 9:30AM Bible Study	14 <i>YPM Mission Trip</i>	15 <i>YPM Mission Trip</i>	16	17
<i>YPM Mission Trip</i>	6-8PM VBS	6-8PM VBS	6-8PM VBS	6-8PM VBS	6-8PM VBS	
18 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:30AM Worship in the Park	19	20 9:30AM Bible Study	21	22	23	24
<i>Father's Day</i>	TBD Session Mtg.					
25 <i>4th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	26	27 9:30AM Bible Study	28	29 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	30	



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>5th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	3	4 9:30AM Bible Study	5	6	7	8
9 <i>6th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	10 Summer Reading Club Ends	11 9:30AM Bible Study	12 <i>Independence Day</i>	13	14	15
16 <i>7th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	17 6:30PM Session Mtg.	18 9:30AM Bible Study	19	20	21	22
23 <i>8th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	24 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25 9:30AM Bible Study	26	27 <b>5PM</b> Free Drive Up Community Meal — Fire Dept. Benefit	28	29 Morrison Chamber of Commerce Shuckfest
30 <i>9th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	31					

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### City-Wide Garage Sales

Morrison's city-wide garage sales will be held the weekend of June 9-10 from 8 am to 3 pm, unless otherwise stated. You can find more information by searching "Morrison City Wide Garage Sale" on Facebook.

### Donations Needed

Resthove is asking for donations of shampoo and conditioner 2-in-1, such as Pantene, and scented body wash for their residents. If you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the church or contact Deb Zigler.

### From the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry personal items needed.

Toilet Paper  
Paper Towels  
Kleenex  
Shampoo  
Bleach  
Bar Soap  
Laundry Soap  
Dish Soap  
Men's & Women's Deodorant

We do not need the full size products. Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Fam-

ily Dollar and Walmart usually have the small size.

### Pleasant View Donations

The Activities Department at Pleasant View is requesting donations for upcoming activities.

- \* Body wash and body wash puffs
- \* Brushes and combs
- \* Keurig cup pods
- \* Hot chocolate
- \* Individual wrapped snack size candy bars
- \* Cloth tablecloths (seasonal also)
- \* Cheese puffs or puff corn
- \* Hot glue gun glue sticks
- \* Glue sticks
- \* Elmer's glue
- \* Construction paper
- \* Markers
- \* Crayons

### Summer Reading Program

Odell Public Library will be holding their annual Children's Summer Reading Club June 12—July 10. The theme this year is "Camp Odell". They will learn about local animals, create art, enjoy camp stories and so much more! The SRC is sponsored by United Way of White-

side County and is open to pre-school through 8th grade. Registration is open until June 3. Promote reading is FUN and sign up TODAY!

### Summer Time!

School is now out for the summer. Please slow down and watch for children enjoying their time outside. They won't always watch out for you.

### United Way

United Way is again providing free meals for kids and teens this summer. Meals are served every Wednesday beginning May 31 through August 9 from 12—12:30pm. Grab and go meals will be provided free of charge. There is no registration or paperwork required. Pick up meal location in Morrison is at Crossroads Community Center.

...continued from Page 1

ine a God who is not always loving, no matter what. We were created by God. We did not create God, though we try by limiting God with our theology and our societal norms. We divide ourselves. But God does not divide us. God offers us all life and love. God tells us to follow the love, and have a full life—build a beloved community, care for one another, live in heaven on earth. But humans do not all choose love, and in such, choose a life limited in potential. Humans easily create a painful world around us, instead of creating heaven. Indeed, we divide ourselves from one another. But love can stop that. Love can heal that. Love can bind us. As Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, we will find that

when we seek love in fullness, we live following the Way, we live into the Truth, and we live our life alongside the true Life. This is the path for the Church to follow. Any other way is not the Way. It is untrue. It leads to death.

In our life together, we can be the true Church, just like the one which walked alongside Jesus and received the Keys. Were those people perfect? No! Did they doubt, misunderstand, scratch their heads a lot, misdirect, have a hard time forgiving, and sometimes just downright mess up? Of course they did. They were humans, just as we are. But they possessed what we too possess—we all have a life gifted to us, we all have a community to be part of, we all have the gift of love and the pow-

er of the Holy Spirit. God gives us what we need. It's up to us to love one another so we can continue being the Church and spread the healing and empowering love of the Triune God throughout the world. We can do this. Our small church in Morrison, IL is striving to do this. Walk with us as we follow Christ. Let's see where this love takes us!

Grace and Peace,  
Mike

# Leadership and Staff

**Session Elders/  
Board of Trustees/  
Personnel Committee/  
Safety Team/  
Stewardship Team**

Carol Wolf '23  
Lynn Knox '23\*  
Tim Reynolds '23\*  
Angela Reamer '24\*  
Ron Shank '24  
Deb Zigler '24\*  
Lexie Laughlin '25\*  
Scott Vandermyde '25\*

Stacie Baker, Clerk

**Nominating Committee**

Rick Barr  
Mavis Best  
Jan Kelly  
Lynn Knox  
Jenn Reynolds  
Deb Zigler

**PW Coordinating Team**

Lynn Knox, Moderator  
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

**Resthave Home  
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox  
FPC Representative

**Resthave Home  
Women's Auxiliary Board**

Deb Zigler

**Finance Team**

Lynn Knox  
Tim Reynolds  
Scott Vandermyde

**Staff**

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Pastor  
Stacie Baker, Office Manager  
Scott Vandermyde, Organist  
Courtney Bruckner, Custodian

*\*Elders in their 2nd consecutive term*

## Birthdays

06/01: John Reynolds  
06/10: Orville Goodenough  
06/10: Joyce Mathew  
06/10: Xavior Velasco  
06/16: Susan Davenport  
06/27: Henry Selburg  
06/29: Jenn Reynolds  
07/01: Kari Horack  
07/02: Chad Huizenga  
07/05: Ella Laughlin  
07/08: Shanna Hudson  
07/20: Stacie Baker  
07/23: Erica Wolf  
07/28: Glenda Hegwood

## Anniversaries

06/14: Larry & Bev Bealer  
06/14: Arlyn & Sally Hayen  
06/23: Mike & Katie Selburg  
07/15: Tim & Jenn Reynolds  
07/19: John & Cynthia Reynolds

### Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

June 29: Brats  
July 27: Hot Dogs (Fire Dept. Benefit)  
August 31: Pulled Pork Sandwich  
September 14: Baked Potato Sloppy Joes  
October 12: Chili  
November 9: Soup  
December 14: Ham Dinner



**First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL**  
100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison IL 61270  
Phone: 815-772-3510

firstpresmorrison@gmail.com  
prayers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com  
goodideas.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com  
www.firstpresmorrison.org

https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmorrison  
YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com



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