

# 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!*

**August 2023 • Vol. 66/No. 7**

August? Why? Why now? Why not wait a bit longer? Can't the school doors stay shut past Labor Day? Can't there be more time for catching fireflies, swimming at the pool, tromping in creeks, paddling rivers, riding bikes, climbing trees, leaping fences, watching fuzzy bumble bees and delicate butterflies...adventuring to new places near and far, returning to some seldom visited favorite spots... running through yards way past bedtime, shouting among the cicadas, going to bed dirty because you can? Why, August, must you take the freedom of the children and youth?

But August brings a new era within lives of those whom everything is always brand new in their innocence of young age. It is a new time filled with excitement and hope... final adventures and late bedtimes, a week at the county fair, new shoes and backpacks, reuniting with friends who seem to have been gone for an eternity, fall sports, new and renewed extracurriculars, new chances at friendships and romance, and opportunities to expand the mind.

As though summer just started, summer is soon to end for the children and youth. For adults who have not had their own children, or for those whose children have grown, summer lasts until the autumnal equinox. For adults with children, their seasons revolve around the life of their offspring. And their summer is soon over too with the ringing of the school bell. Gone all too soon. Just when the rhythm of summer has settled in, the rhythm of the school year steals it away, with nine long months to wait.

I have always wished summer was longer. Summer struggles to be a top season for me as too often heat and insects force folks inside more than the cold of winter. Spring is by far the most elegant and delightful season, awakening the long dead earth to boundless life. Autumn is majestic and nostalgic. Winter brings freedom in many ways, and offers a time of

rest and reflection. But summer...to any person who ever grew up in a nine month school year, summer is a time of freedom and opportunity to enjoy life to its fullest. Yet now it's nearly gone. What can we do with what's left of it? What can we embrace? How can we stop wasting time with non-essentials and how can we savor every last sip? How can we build relationships and cherish our time together?

The month of July brought loss in my life. Our church said goodbye to three gems...Bud Thompson, Joyce Mathew and Shirley Mills. I believe I have also said my last goodbye to my final remaining cat, who was born in my closet 14 years ago. She's been gone for over a week, and though that was once normal for her, I don't expect to see her back. Her disappearance brought questions of life and death to my five year old's inquisitive mind. He forgets about death. He forgets about the passing of time. He can only live in the moment at his age. And so, he asked about death again. Will our dog die? Will he die? Will we all die? Yes, everything dies. Nothing can live forever on this earth. This life is only for a little bit of time. This life is fragile. We never know how long we have. Some lives don't make it out of the womb. Some lives last well over a hundred years. We just don't know how long we have. Also, we don't know when it is that we will say goodbye to another for the last time on earth. We naturally assume that we will see others again. But this is not the case. There is always a final time, and we do not know when that is.

If we knew that when we said goodbye to someone, or a pet, was the last time we would ever have the opportunity to see them, then how would that affect the time we spend with them? How would that affect our final embrace? How would we ever let go? We would show kindness, compassion, empathy, and deep love. We would share everything we have with

them. We would cease our distractions and give them all of our attention. We would push the business of life away and take more time to be together. We would look at them differently, with a love that we can only understand through the love God has for us. We would live, actually, the way Jesus taught us to live. We would love one another. And if we all did this, what a different world it would be! Heaven on earth would be built.

Moments will always be fleeting. Summer will never be long enough. Time will always be far too short when we are enjoying the beauty of this experience on earth. (Though often all too long when we are faced with troubles and illness.) All we have is right now. All we can do is embrace the moment at hand, and plan the best we can to manage our future so we get the most out of it. For one day, sooner or later, we will say goodbye to this world.

However, we do not ever need to say, "Goodbye." We only need to say, "Until we meet again." For we can have faith that this life is only the beginning. There is a long journey to come. This time on earth is a time to be connected to the physical and the spiritual. The life to come is that of only the spiritual. In such, this life is certainly a gift. As our soul dwells in our body, we get the opportunity to experience all this world has to offer, in good times and in bad. And when it is over, the physical returns to the dust, and the spirit journeys on. There, we will meet again.

In our life together, let us remember how precious and fragile this life is. May we embrace the time we have together. May we seek love. May we be kind. May we rejoice. May we live it fully, together. It will be gone, all too soon. Why waste it? Let's live it! Let's love it. Let's love one another.

Grace and Peace,  
Mike

# Church News

## CHURCH EVENTS

### Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15AM every Sunday morning. 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 August  
August 6: Lexie Laughlin  
August 13: Deb Zigler  
August 20:  
August 27: Rick Barr

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

### Office Closed

The church office will be closed July 31-August 4. Stacie will be back in the office on Monday, August 7.

### Birthday Party for Jane James

PW will be hosting a birthday party for Jane James at Resthave on August 15 at 2pm. Please join us if you are able. If you would like to send a card and well wishes, her address is:

Resthave Care & Rehabilitation  
408 Maple Ave C107  
Morrison, IL 61270

### Session Meeting

Session will meet August 21 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

### Newsletter Deadline 08/24

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

### Drive-Up Meals

Our August meal will be on Thursday, August 31. The meal is pulled pork sandwiches and begins at **5:00PM**. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 4:15PM.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Church Triumphant

Bud Thompson, friend of our church, completed this portion of life on July 5. Bud and his wife Shirley were regular worship attendees at our church for several years pre-COVID. Bud truly was an amazing person. We give thanks for having him as part of our church family. Please keep Shirley and their family in your prayers.

Joyce Mathew completed this portion of life early on the morning of July 6. We give thanks for her dedication to our church throughout her life and the friendships she offered to us. We give thanks that her struggle on earth is over and that her life eternal has begun. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Shirley Mills completed this portion of life on July 11. Her health had severely diminished over the past week, and in such, we give thanks that she is no longer suffering. Shirley was a friend to all, eager to have a conversation, and always full of smiles and love. We truly give thanks for her presence in our lives. Please keep Ken and their family in your prayers. Thanks to Rev. Dr. Jim Camp for officiating the service in Pastor Mike's absence.

### Birthday Greetings

If you haven't yet wished Glenda Hegwood a happy 97th birthday on July 29th, you may still do so:

Lutheran Hillside Village  
6901 N Galena Rd  
SP 1303  
Peoria, IL 61614

## 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; Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Janet Johnson, the family of Joyce Mathew, the family of Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, the family of Bud Thompson, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker, Michael Vegter, Jr.

## Earth Care Team

We are now officially an Earth Care Congregation through the PC (USA). We are only one of four such congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery! We are assembling a team that will oversee this mission of our church, to ensure we are being the best stewards of God's creation as possible. 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. Resthaves are 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.

## Corner Renovation

Our City Council is in the process of approving a renovation to all four corners at Lincolnway and Genesee. Here are the current hopes of the City Council: All four stop lights will be removed and new street lights and concrete ADA approved corners will be put in. Genesee between Lincolnway and Knox St. will become one-way to the north. Genesee between Lincolnway and Main St. will be either permanently blocked off or will become one-way to the south. Drainage will also be updated. Further, the church will receive a new sidewalk and curb alongside Lincolnway. The money is already available for this project and the City hopes to complete it by this fall, as there is already a construction crew hired to do other street work in town. We will then beautify our area along Lincolnway.

Yay!!!! Thanks to our sidewalk for caving in this summer, which has prompted this project to be a top priority. Many thanks to the City of Morrison for the care they've given to our corner this summer already.



## August Scripture

- August 6: Isa. 55:1-5  
Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21  
Rom. 9:1-5  
Matt. 14:13-21
- August 13: 1 Kgs. 19:9-18  
Ps. 85: 8-13  
Rom. 10:5-15  
Matt. 14:22-33
- August 20: Isa. 56:1, 6-8  
Ps. 67  
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32  
Matt. 15:(10-20) 21-28
- August 27: Isa. 51:1-6  
Ps. 138  
Rom. 12:1-8  
Matt. 16:13-20

## 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.

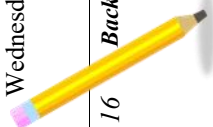
**City News:** Keep up on local news at our city's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/thecityofmorrison>

**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/>.

# FAST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30AM Bible Study	2	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4	5 12 Noon 1st Annual Adult Wiffleball Tournament
6 <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	7	8 9:30AM Bible Study	9 4:30PM "Winesday" Wednesday Walk 	10 4PM Pop Up Farmers Market	11	12
13 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	14	15 9:30AM Bible Study 2PM Jane James Bday Party Whiteside County Fair	16 <i>Back to School!</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour & PW Board Mtg.	21 6:30PM Session Mtg.	22 9:30AM Bible Study	23	24 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	25	26
27 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	28	29 9:30AM Bible Study	30	31 <b>5PM</b> Free Drive Up Community Meal		

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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. Drop them off in the narthex.

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, Family Dollar and Walmart usually have the small size.

### Pie-in-the-Face

On the Move with Parks and Recreation is working to raise donations for their next project, Children's Playground Equipment at Farmers National Bank, Morrison.

You can vote for who you would like to get a pie-in-the-face! Every \$5 donation gets you a chance to win "pie thrower", and a \$25 donation guaran-

tees you a turn at throwing a pie!

Be sure to cast your vote in the Blue Building at the Fair! Your choices?? MHS Principal Cory Bielema, School Superintendent Scott Vance, MJHS Principal Joe Robbins, City Administrator Brian Melton, Mayor Scott Vandermyde, or Sheriff John Booker.

### Pop Up Farmers Market

On Thursday, August 10 from 4-8pm, you can stroll along Morrison's Genesee Street, north and south of Main Street, to enjoy baked goods, fresh produce, food and more. Come out, visit local shops and enjoy the evening, sponsored by Morrison Chamber of Commerce.

### Whiteside County Fair

The 152nd Annual Whiteside County Fair is scheduled August 15-19, 2023! The attraction line up includes Next Level Bull Riding on Tuesday, Next Level Bronc Riding on Wednesday, new this year, Full Throttle Monster Trucks, including "Big Foot" on Thursday, ISP Tractor, Truck Pulls on Friday, and everyone's favorite, the Demo Derby on Saturday.

You can also enjoy the carnival, Granpa Cratchet, food vendors, exhibits, and so much more. You can find more info, including the daily schedule, at [www.whitesidecountyfair.org](http://www.whitesidecountyfair.org).

### Wiffleball Tournament

The 1st Annual \*Adult Wiffleball\* Tournament will be held on Saturday, August 5 at the Morrison Sports Complex. Registration begins at 10am with the tournament beginning at 12 noon.

Teams can consist of up to 10 players and players must be at least 18 to participate.

To sign up, visit [www.quickscores.com/morrisonssports](http://www.quickscores.com/morrisonssports). For more information, contact Nathan Jacobs at [njacobs@morrisonil.org](mailto:njacobs@morrisonil.org) or call 815-535-1105.

### Winesday Wednesday Walk

Join Morrison Department of Fun for a stroll through downtown and wine sampling on Wednesday, August 9 beginning at 4:30pm. You can indulge with a little shopping and a little wine. They are expecting about 15 "stops" along the way.

The Wine Walk is \$15 which includes a wine glass, wristband, and wine passport. You must show a valid photo ID to register. The day of the event, tickets are \$20. You can register online at <https://WinesdayWednesday-Walk.eventbrite.com>.

## MONETARY DONATIONS NEEDED

2023 has been an expensive year for our church. We have had some planned and unplanned building and property expenses. To date, we have not received any donations toward these projects. We still have approximately \$38,632.24 to go, though we know our need will be higher than this amount due to other projects in queue.

### CONCRETE WORK:

Approximately \$2,500. Still waiting on the bill.

**ELECTRIC WORK:** \$6,800

### PLUMBING: \$900+

We are contracting Alvarado's to fix a leak that we have been patching ourselves for several years in the youth group room. It is time to have it professionally fixed.

**DISHWASHER REPAIR:** \$1,014.20  
Daycare is paying for half.

**NEW AC UNIT FOR FELLOWSHIP ROOM/ OFFICES:** \$4,802

**OLDS BOILER COMPANY:**  
(Invoices dating back to 2020, including major work in 2023):  
\$20,116.04

**MEN'S BASEMENT BATHROOM RENOVATION:** \$2,500 to cover insurance deductible due to water damage via boiler pipe

**BELL TOWER/ ROOF LEAK:** We are in need of patching the roof around the bell tower yet a plan has not yet been finalized, so we don't know the amount yet.

**FREE PRODUCE TABLE:** Same as above. TBD.

**LINCOLNWAY BEAUTIFICATION:** Once the city fixes our corner and puts in a new sidewalk along Lincolnway, we plan to beautify our Lincolnway property, including repairing/blacktopping parking lot, fencing in the dumpster, landscaping in front of the church, and anything else we see needs improved.

And there are definitely several more projects that need worked on.

# 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

**Resthabe Home  
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox  
FPC Representative

**Resthabe 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

08/01: Carol Wolf  
08/02: Shirley Mills  
08/13: Jacie Reynolds  
08/15: Jane James  
08/15: Leala Reynolds  
08/16: Ken Mills  
08/21: Jan Kelly  
08/22: Robert Van Osdol  
08/29: Mavis Best  
08/29: Daniel Cortes

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

August 31: Pulled Pork Sandwiches  
September 14: Baked Potato Sloppy Joes  
October 12: Chili  
November 9: Soup  
December 14: Ham Dinner



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YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

**Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com**



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