

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!

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And like that, Easter is over, April has arrived, spring is here. However, Spring 2024 really began to show up in February in our northwest corner of Illinois. We were blessed early small bulbs blossoming and budding bushes in our flowerbeds and forest floors. March brought an early army of daffodil blooms, towering above all the other early spring bulbs who too began to rise and fill empty gardens. Spring grew while honeysuckles and lilacs teased the landscape with electric fuzzy green. Weeping willows and the red budded maples amazed the canopies, while other budding trees arrived by Easter. Magnolias too began their blossoming while more flowering trees prepare for their grand spring show. Honeybees have collected pollen and nectar growing their brood, promising an early flow of honey. Hyacinths, forsythia and pussy willows bloomed to the pollinators' delight. The show was capped with tulips opening on Easter day. Yes, March was unique in 2024. It was a yo-yo of temperatures. It was in pendulum motion between lion and lamb. And now, April, she has risen. She has come to battle off winter's end. She has come to usher in the pathway for summer. She has come with long periods of cool rain and spotty snow, soon to be followed by a mid-month of temperatures hovering around the perfect lower 70s. And then she will explode the earth in color and life. She shall shoot forth her elusive morel mushrooms. She shall magically call forth blooms upon the rest of the spring bulbs. She shall blanket the tree canopies with green lace. She shall bring humans out of their habitats, calling them to breathe deep, to stroll, to smile, to relax, and to begin again. Easter is gone with winter's end. Spring is here, with our new life ahead of us.

April 1st arrives the day after Easter this year. We recall the doubt

and confusion that shrouded Jesus' main disciples, as well as the thousands of others who had been following him. Had they all been fooled? Who was this man they had been following? How was it that he, who could bring others back to life, was able to be captured and killed? Was he not the Messiah? How could he be their king now that he was dead? What were they to do?

Of course, a few had just learned of Jesus' resurrection. Depending on the story told, some had known it since sunrise the morning after the Sabbath, and others learned it later that evening. Had any of them slept that Easter night? Did they stay awake in wonder and joy? But others, like Thomas, had not seen. He had only been told. He did not yet believe. And the masses who had accumulated over the years; followed Jesus along the sea shores, along the mountain and desert roads; were fed and healed by him; had been taught to think with their higher mind; had learned of God's true love for them and the love that they were to have for one another...they had not yet heard. They were still in the dark. Word needed to spread. The Good News needed to travel. But soon enough, with excitement, the story spread like wildfire. Tales hurried along the roads and trails, proclaiming Jesus' conquering of death, of his absence at the tomb, of his appearance first to the women and then to the men, and that he was present again.

Still, we do not hear of crowds seeking out Jesus after his resurrection. His appearances seemed sudden, and his disappearances common. He came and went. He was no longer on his ministerial journey. He was now in the works of final preparations for his closest disciples, both men and women, to carry on his ministry. They were in their final transition of

being disciples into becoming apostles. Jesus' journey as a human was nearing its end. He had completed his task. Jesus' ministry of teaching and healing was complete with his death on the cross, his triumph over evil, and his secure sealing of the human soul in God's realm. That which can extract love from the life of humans, call them away from living in God's presence, and that which could acquire their breath of God from their being could no longer have control. The light of God closed off all access to the void. Nothing could take humans away from God. Humans can stay ever present with God. Humans were now spiritually free. They were free to receive God's love, and free to love one another. Soon enough, they would be gifted the Holy Spirit, to have, always. Soon they would understand that God is always in and around them, and that God is always offering to work through them. They would embrace that the life eternal starts in the very moment in which we engage love. In love, darkness cannot exist. And, like that, Easter was over, and the spring of their life had appeared. Their apostleship had begun. They were now the conduit to spread the Good News and continue Christ's ministry in their words and actions. The Church had begun.

In our Christian life together, we too are the Church. We are still disciples of Christ as we are always learning from Christ. Yet we are also apostles, as we are the body of Christ, individually and collectively, sent into the world to spread the love of God in our own words and actions. This spring gives us a new opportunity to reflect on our ministries, to continue in our works, and to grow as the Holy Spirit guides us. We too shall always blossom in our ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

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/@firstpresmorrison>

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at Pleasant View Nursing Home on Tuesdays throughout the month.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School will be held on April 14 and 28 starting at 9:15AM. On April 7 and 21, we will instead have the Sunday School class help with the events on those afternoons.

Level the Field Work Day

We have intentions of beginning to use our yard more in 2024, but it needs some work first. On Sunday, April 7, starting at 1PM, we will work on leveling out our yard. We are bringing in loads of dirt to fill in low spots throughout our yard to make it safer to walk through. We

will then be seeding the yard in hopes of fresh grass. We need as many volunteers as possible. Please bring at least a rake, but shovels and wheelbarrows are also needed. We will also be discussing a final plan for the permanent produce shelter. Thanks to Ron Shank procuring the dirt and the know-how.

Golden Oldies Returns

Marian Osborn and Pastor Mike are working together to bring back Golden Oldies lunches. We will meet on April 11th at noon at the Bread Lady (formerly the Donnybrook). All are welcome to attend, regardless of age. Join us for a time of good food and fellowship. Sign up via Marian by Monday, April 8.

Resthabe Presbyterian Social Hour

Join us every 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM for "Presbyterian Social Hour" at Resthabe. There will be plenty of coffee and conversation! Join us on April 15!

Bingo at Homestead

Marian Osborn invites one and all to join residents and friends of Homestead to play bingo on Wednesday afternoons at 1:30—2:30PM.

Bulletin-Free Sunday

Our annual Bulletin-Free Sunday, in honor of Earth Day, will be on April 21st. Come celebrate caring for our planet that morning. We will be serving communion during the service.

Earth Day Clean-Up

On Sunday, April 21st we will have our annual Earth Day Clean-Up family event at Rockwood State Park. We will meet at 1PM by the marina and will walk along the lake trail, picking up trash. All are welcome to join us.

May Baskets

Once again this year, we will make May baskets in honor of May Day, in lieu of a cookie frost-off, during our coffee hour on April 28. We'll take these May baskets to members and friends at nursing homes and to those who could use a pick-me-up at home. If you have anyone you would like to add to the list, please contact Pastor Mike. Thanks to the Presbyterian Women for hosting this event.

Newsletter Deadline 04/25

Please get information to be included in the May *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by April 25.

Drive-Up Meals:

15th Anniversary!!!

Our next meal will be on Thursday, April 25. The meal is pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chips and Bread Lady chocolate chip cookies. It begins at **5PM**. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday the 24th at 1:30PM and Thursday at 4:15PM. Meals will remain with the start time of 5PM through October. Thanks to everyone who has been part of the meals over the years!!!

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; Larry & Bev Bealer, Dan Brandon, Janet Johnson, Richard McCoy, Sheila Osborn, the family of Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Jody Tucker, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Triumphant

Cookee Shawver completed this portion of life on February 29, 2024.

We give thanks for the time we had with Cookee, the friendship she gave to so many, and her dedication to our church. It was painful to watch her suffer with dementia the last several years, so we can celebrate that she is able to now live on free from her mental suffering and live into the long journey.

The family will have a private graveside service on April 21.

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.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations in advance to Katie Browning and David Symington on their upcoming wedding on April 20th. After 10 years of being together, they will tie the knot at our church. Katie and David are currently residents of Florida. We are excited to celebrate their love!

New Facebook Page for Earth Care

To promote taking care of our earth in our neck of the woods, we are creating a new Facebook page for the Morrison Community. We are asking groups in Morrison to post pictures and stories of good things they are doing from the earth, from picking up trash to planting trees. The page will be created the first week in April and will be shared via our church's Facebook page.

Yard Events

The Session is planning to utilize our yard more often. In such, we are seeking ideas. If you have an idea for an outdoor event we can host in our yard, please pass it on to Pastor Mike, Stacie Baker (Office Manager/ Clerk of Session) or a Session Elder.

New Permanent Produce Shelter Coming Soon

In April, will be purchasing a square 12'x'12' gazebo shelter kit to permanently cover our produce table. The Session will finalize their decision on which shelter to purchase on April 15th and we'll assemble it with the help of volunteers when it arrives. We will later this spring/ summer build custom tables and sun/element protection. We are hoping to have all of this paid for via donations. We'll let you know the costs ASAP. Likewise, we'll be reaching out for a crew of volunteers to help build the shelter.

Communion Dates for 2024

Communion is planned to be served on the following days in 2023: April 21, May 19, June 16, July 14 or 21, August 18, September 22, October 6, November 24, and December 22.

New Phone System

We have a new phone company at the church which is saving us a lot of money. When you call the church office, it will go straight to a message. Press 1 to be directed to the office phone. Press 2 to leave a message for Pastor Mike, which will be sent to him via an email. This will also help cut down on the amount of unwanted promotional calls.

Upcoming Dates:

May 12: Mothers' Day Service

May 19: Pentecost

Children's Sabbath & Last Day of Sunday School

May 26: Memorial Day Service

FOOD RESOURCES

Golden Meals:

Call 815 626-4442 (Mon—Thurs, 7:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.) Hot meals delivered Mon—Thurs. (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. Now located at the old bowling alley at 629 E. Lincolnway.
morrisonfoodpantry.org

Sauk Valley Food Bank:


Offers drive-up "pantry day giveaways" on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, where food is provided to residents of the Sauk Valley area. 1801 Plant Drive Sterling, IL
saukvalleyfoodbank.org

211

Have other needs? Call 211. This directory of regional help covers a myriad of needs. Part of United Way.

Love
one another.
Feed
each other.

April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30AM Bible Study	3 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead	4	5	6 8AM Rooted in Christ
7 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 1:00PM Level the Field Yard Work Day	8	9 9:30AM Bible Study	10 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead	11 12PM Golden Oldies @ The Bread Lady	12	13
14 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 3PM Resthave 4PM Homestead	15 <i>Tax Day</i> 2PM Resthave Social Hour 6:30PM Session Mtg.	16 9:30AM Worship Service	17 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead	18	19	20 9AM Comm Recycle Day 12PM Katie Browning Wedding
21 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 1:00PM Earth Day Clean Up @ Rockwood	22	23 9:30AM Bible Study	24 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead	25 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 5 PM 15th Anniversary Free Drive Up Community Meal	26	27 11AM Made@Morrison Spring Market
28 <i>5th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	29	30 9:30AM Bible Study				

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry personal items needed. Drop them off in the narthex. Any size is appreciated.

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

Social Hour at The Loft

The Board of The Loft hosts a Third Thursday social hour each month, on — you guessed it — the Third Thursday of each month from 8-10AM. The Loft is a non-profit

business on Main Street. Please stop in and check it out!

Made@Morrison Spring Market

The Made@Morrison Spring Market will be held Saturday, April 27 from 11am—2pm at Morrison Institute of Technology.

All handcrafted items including garden décor, bird feeders and houses, clocks, picture frames, and so much more will be available.

God's Will

God's Will Giving Center is a non-profit organization located in Morrison, IL run by local resident, Lori Snow. Everything in the store is 100% free for those in need. They are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:30am-2pm. Stop in or call Lori 815-499-8806 with any questions.

BUILDING LOVE

THE MONEY PIT: DONATIONS ALWAYS NEEDED

Our only issues with our building in March came from the boiler. There were still several issues with the boiler which required a handful of visits from the boiler company. A new motor was placed in the louvers to the basement door (the old motor was not working well, keeping the boiler from firing). Also, two “traps” needed to be replaced in the boiler. On top of that, our new water pump (from last year) recently sprung a leak. Meanwhile, a pipe near the boiler started to leak at a joint. All of these issues have been addressed. There are still a few gremlins in the lines, that haven't been tracked down yet as they come and go, and remain elusive. We don't have the bills for all this work yet, but we can be sure to add a few thousand more dollars to our unexpected building costs in 2024.

GOOD NEWS:

We have a lot of good news about the building and property:

In April we will begin sharing internet with the Daycare which will cut way down on office expenses.

We intend to utilize new live streaming hardware to provide a better online worship experience. We are hoping to have this installed and operating in April, but there is a big

learning curve and possibly a new computer needs purchased. Thanks to Pastor Mike's sister, Kara Mitvalsky, for donating the video hardware.

More good news is that we have a great crew working on the men's bathroom in the dining room. So far, Carol and Steve Wolf and Ron Shank have done a lot of prepping, including taking out the wall paper and sanding/painting the stalls. Goal date for this is to be finished the week of April 15.

We have chosen a new insurance carrier, with coverage beginning April 1. We are now using Insurance Board, which is a smaller company based out of Bloomington, IL which focuses on religious organizations and only a handful of denominations, including the PC(USA). We have chosen to currently raise our primary deductible to \$5,000 to save us approximately \$2,000 per year. Overall, our insurance will go up about \$3,000 annually, but this is far less compared to the national average of the rise in insurance costs. Our coverage is also much better than it was with Grinnell, who let go of all churches with buildings older than 1950. Insurance Board also offers quite a bit of free resources to help keep churches safe and operating in the current times. For more information on the company: <https://www.insuranceboard.org/>

Our insurance money has arrived

for the corner youth group room, which was destroyed in January. The Carpet House will be in soon to lay new carpet. Then Steve Wolf will be creating a cover for the radiator vents and pipes. Then we will acquire a ping-pong table, and possibly an air hockey table as well as a foosball table. If you or anyone you know has any of these that are in good shape and would like to donate them, please contact Pastor Mike. We are looking at repurposing the center “nursery room” to become a “game room” which will also house these game tables.

Finally in good news, we will be leveling out our yard. It has settled over the years and we want to make it as safe as possible for people to walk upon. This will give us more opportunities to use the yard. Also, we will be creating a permanent shelter for the produce table soon. See page 2 & 3 for more information.

Leadership and Staff

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

Angela Reamer '24*
Ron Shank '24
Deb Zigler '24*
Lexie Laughlin '25*
Scott Vandermyde '25*
Rick Barr '26
Carol Wolf '26

Stacie Baker, Clerk

Nominating Committee

Lexie Laughlin
Deb Zigler
Jan Kelly
Tim Reynolds
Nancy Shank

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

**Resthaves Home
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox
FPC Representative

Resthaves 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

04/14: Rick Barr
04/14: Justin Knox
04/22: Alyssa Sibley
04/29: Miguel Velasco

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



April 25: Pulled Pork Sandwiches
May 30: Sloppy Joe Sandwiches
June 27: Brats
July 25: Hot Dogs (Fire Dept. Benefit)
Aug 29: Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Sept 12: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes
Oct 10: Chili & Cinnamon Roll
Nov 14: Soup (TBD)
Dec. 12: Christmas Ham Dinner



April Scripture

Apr. 7: Isa. 65:17-25
Ps. 3
1John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Apr. 14: Isa. 6:1-9a
Ps. 40:1-5
1John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Apr. 21: Zech. 10:1-12
Ps. 80:1-7
1John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18

Apr. 28: Acts 8:26-40
Ps. 22:25-31
Ex. 19:1-6
Ps. 118:19-25
1John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

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Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com

