

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!

January 2023 • Vol. 66/No. 1

Kids. The old year ends in the madness of children. All December long, the kids are getting excited. The closer to Christmas, the more pumped up they are. After Christmas, they aren't quite sure what to do with all that energy while being on break from school. There's a pile of new toys to choose from. There's sometimes cousins and friends to play with. And despite that they think they can be bored, their energy continues to pour from them. All the while, the adults look on, trying to keep their patience, taking deep breaths, and maybe even sneaking in a holiday nap. Still, no matter how hard we try, the energy of children can be overwhelming for adults at times (and sometimes often). A habitual holiday prayer of parents can be for a moment of peace and silence. Yet no matter how close to the brink of insanity adults may feel around kids at the holidays, or any given day, we are behooved to take a deep breath and appreciate who we once were, and who is now in charge of ruling all that energy.

It would be nice to have the energy we once had as children. The older we get, the more exhausted we become just watching all that energy flowing. A common quip among adults is along the line of, "I sure could use some of that energy." However, there is even more that we need to glean from children besides energy. There is much that we lose of our innocence and appreciation of life the older we get. As children, we can't wait to get older. There's so much to look forward to. When we make it to the next 'level' in growing up, it feels like a victory. We have made it to the place where we can do something which we couldn't do before. In such, as we age, we continue to count our 'wins' as we tackle new hurdles of life stages, until we reach a point where we start seeing the next stages as disadvantageous. At a cer-

tain point we say, hey, can't I go back now? Can't I get that do-over? Can I get that energy and excitement back? Can I regain that childhood desire to play? Unfortunately, despite that we can get some of it back if we work at it and stay mindful, we can't ever be a kid again once we grow up. Peter Pan figured that out. He chose to simply never grow up. But not us. We can remain immature, or at least, stay young at heart, but we grow up nonetheless and our childhood passes on to adolescence, and then to the varying stages of adulthood. So why not do our best to protect it, enable it, and enhance it for all children? We shouldn't be asking how to calm it down. We should be asking how we can help children embrace their childhood and live it to their fullest?

There are stories of visitors who come to help the elderly be young for a moment. One of these stories was captured in the 1983 movie *The Twilight Zone: The Movie*, which contained short films of various stories. One short film was about a traveler, an older man, who moved to a nursing home where the residents were not allowed to have any sort of fun. The night of his arrival, he invited the residents to play kick-the-can in the yard. Those who chose to join him turned into children when they went outside. And for a very brief period of time, they were physically young again. Though their minds had remained the same age, the joy of being able to have all the energy of being young made them feel young. But the time came for them to return to their older adult state, of which they had the choice to do. They, in the end, were happy to have had their adult life and knew that they truly wanted to go back and complete all of life. One man refused to do so and ran off. He wanted to be young forever. One woman refused to come out to play and ended up being saddened by her choice to not become

young again for a moment. She would have fit in well with Jesus's society. And the rest, though they chose to go back to their real age, were renewed and young at heart. This is what we can learn from children and all their crazy energy: we can find the spark to kindle the flame of our heart, and we can turn our hearts to the 'young' setting once again. Our childhood has passed, but we don't have to lose it in our heart. We can embrace and give thanks for the life we have had—all of it.

Despite that adults love to believe that children always need adults to learn from, the truth is that adults also need children in their lives to learn from. Children remind us of who we are and give us the crystal ball to see what we have not noticed as the days ticked by, which lets us see who we have become. The choice of who we are at any moment is our own. We can have a closed heart and live life annoyed and grumpy. We can open our heart and live life full of optimism and hopefulness. We can lean toward being crotchety or we can lean toward being loving. Age doesn't matter. It may hinder, but what is of utmost importance is where we find our heart.

If we really want to help children have the best childhood possible, we need to turn to someone who lived in a world where children had the worst of childhoods. This is also someone who also helps us adults understand the importance of childhood and the love that is needed between adults and children. This person is Jesus. He didn't agree with his culture and how they treated women, the sick, the poor, and children. In his time and place, children were looked down upon. It's hard to believe that people can grow up from being a child and then despise children. It makes no rational sense. But that's what they did, and that's often what our inclination today can be.

...continued on page 5

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/channel/UCcZiobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

Bible Study

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

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for January:

January 1: No Coffee Hour

January 8: Tim Reynolds

January 15: Marian Osborn

Birthday Party

January 22: Deb Zigler

January 29: Soup Lunch

If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour in February or March please contact the church office.

Epiphany & Baptism of the Lord Sundays

We will celebrate *Epiphany* (which occurs on January 6) on Sunday, January 8th. On January 15th, we will celebrate *Baptism of the Lord*, including Communion.

Un-Decorating

Please stay after worship service on January 8 to help un-decorate the church and pack away the decorations for next year. Many hands make light work. The coffee will be hot and the fellowship priceless!

Family Post-Christmas

Epiphany Party

Due to unexpected illness, our Family Christmas Party is rescheduled to Sunday, January 8 at 5pm at the church. We will enjoy Isle of Rhode's pasta and a white elephant gift exchange. We're asking a \$3 donation per person. Bring a recycled gift with you. Please RSVP no later than January 5.

Marian Osborn 90th

Birthday Party

Marian Osborn turns 90 on Sunday, January 15, and we will have a party with cake and coffee following

the worship service. Come join us! You can also send Marian a card at Homestead of Morrison, 403 Scenic St, Morrison, IL 61270.

Sunday School

Sunday School is for children up through 5th grade, and classes start at 9:15AM. Dates for the rest of the school year are as follows:

January 22, 29

February 5, 12, 26

March 5, 12, 19

April 16, 23, 30

May 7, 21

Drive-Up Meals

Our January meal will be on Thursday, January 26th. We will be serving Vegetable Beef Soup beginning at **4:30PM**. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 3:30PM.

Session Meeting

Session will meet January 16 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 01/23

Please get information to be included in the February *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by January 23.

Annual Meeting &

Soup Lunch

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, IL is called to its Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2023, at 10:15 am during the worship service. Action will be taken on reports and Elders will be ordained/ re-installed. We will have a soup lunch following the service.

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, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker, Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have a Good Idea?

We are looking for good ideas for our church, our community, our region, our nation and our world. It can be just for our church to act upon or something we can do in partnership with other churches, other businesses and organizations. If you've noticed a need and wish something could be done to address it, please send your idea to goodideas.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com.

Prayer Requests

Have a prayer request? You can now email them to prayers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com. Please pass this on to others. If you have an immediate prayer request that you would like passed on to the congregation, please contact Pastor Mike or a Session Member.

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.

Cookie Frost Off

Thank you to all of the volunteers who baked, frosted or delivered the cookies on December 21st. It was a great afternoon of fellowship and fun!



January Scripture

- Jan. 1: Isa. 63:7-9
Ps. 148
Heb. 2:10-18
Matt. 2:13-23
- Jan. 8: Isa. 42:1-9
Ps. 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matt. 3:13-17
- Jan. 15: Isa. 49:1-7
Ps. 40:1-11
1 Cor. 1:1-9
John 1:29-42
- Jan. 22: Isa. 9:1-4
Ps. 27:1, 4-9
1 Cor. 1:10-18
Matt. 4:12-23
- Jan. 29: Micah 6:1-8
Ps. 15
1 Cor. 1:18-31
Matt. 5:1-12

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/>.

JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>1st Sunday of Christmas</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	2 <i>Office Closed</i>	3 9:30AM Bible Study	4	5 Office Hours 9a—3p	6	7
8 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 5PM Family Christmas Party	9	10 9:30AM Bible Study	11	12	13	14
15 <i>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Marian Osborn B-day Party	16	17 9:30AM Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22 <i>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	23 6:30PM Session Mtg.	24 9:30AM Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Annual Mtg & Worship 11:15AM Soup Lunch	30	31 9:30AM Bible Study		4:30PM Free Drive Up Community Meal		

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AARP Volunteers Needed

Looking for something to do this winter? AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax-filing help to those who need it most. We are looking for compassionate and friendly people to join our volunteer team this upcoming tax season. We'll provide the training and you'll get a great feeling from helping someone else. Help is needed from greeting the tax payer to preparing the tax return. You do not need to be an AARP member. We work at the Morrison Library. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Karen Berg at 815-625-5314.

Donations Needed

Resthave 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.

Saturdays @ Odell Library

The first Saturday of the month, kids of all ages and abilities can enjoy the Lego Club from 10:30—12. There is a building challenge/ theme each week or you may choose to build your own creation. The bricks are provided by the library. Duplo & Mega Blocks are available for younger builders.

On the third Saturday of the month you can enjoy the Pokémon Club from 10-12. You can swap cards, play the card game or show off your collection! All ages are welcome.

Magic the Gathering is also held on the third Saturday from 12-3pm. You can also come to play or to learn this card game. Due to the complexity and content of this card game, it is recommended for ages 10 and up.

Seeing is Believing!

On Sunday, January 15, Andresen Nature Center in Fulton is offering a program to learn about animals. The

focus will be on animal adaptations and how those adaptations help them survive. You will join Naturalists for a fun afternoon of playing games and learning about the animals around us. The program will be from 1-3pm.

Storytime @ Odell Library

Join Miss Katie every Thursday evening at 7pm for storytime. There will be stories, songs and rhymes in the children's area. Storytime is designed with preschoolers in mind, but all ages are welcome.

Winter Fun

If you enjoy the cold outdoors, visit the Morrison Winter Park for ice skating (weather permitting) and sledding. The park is located at Waterworks Park and is open 7am – 10pm daily. You may find more updates on their Facebook page by searching Morrison Winter Park.

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Jesus loved children. He understood that we all were once children. He knew that as a child, society looked down upon him and all the other children. In such, the milestones of growing up were all that more important to people, because it put them further away from being at the bottom of society. Then they carried on the hateful torch that they had been handed by their elders. Those they loved and respected the most had placed them in a very lowly place, and in such, they learned to do the same to their children.

Breaking away from this societal norm was one way that Jesus taught others what God's love is really like. As the "chosen children of God", the Jewish people in Jesus' time had difficulty understanding the God they worshiped as a loving God. Despite the old laws, despite the prophets' teachings, and despite the many ways God tried to show the people that he was a loving parent, they had their minds made up that God was a controlling and wrathful God, and that humans were to God what children of their time were to the adults. That leaves a

whole lot of room for the need for therapy for entire nation of people. Jesus brought that therapy. He came as God's son, as God in human form, as their Savior, to let them know that indeed, they are all God's children, as are all the people of the world. God does not view the people of the world as lowly, but rather, God has an unconditional love for all the people of the world, regardless of their age. Jesus showed the people that, just as it happened to all the adults, the children would one day grow up and they would take over. If we keep the children down, how can we teach them to be loving adults? They'll mirror in their adult life whatever they are taught is right as a child. So teach them love. Build a loving relationship with them.

It's not easy for an abused child to ever trust or open up to love of an abusive adult. It's not easy for someone who is taught to believe in a vengeful, wrathful, and always judgmental and selective God to turn around and understand God as loving and seeking a caring personal relationship. Instead, we need to, as adults, instill love in

children...both the love of their community, as well as the love of God. In order to do this, we need to remember how Jesus showed us how to remain loving, and we need to keep paying attention to the innocence and energy of children. Most of all, we can't just say it, we have to live it. Love is the best teacher. Love is the best change agent. Love in action is key.

In our life together, we can embrace people of all ages. We can keep our grumpiness in check, take breaths instead of being annoyed, and embrace the children around us. We can let them teach us. We can help them learn. We can enter into a new year and a new life together, in which, as a family and a community, we keep love and relationships at the forefront. If we do this, our new year, our new life, and every moment that is at hand, can be lived to its fullest. In such, our future can be the most amazing moment at hand, and our past can be part of the most amazing story ever.

Grace and Peace,
Happy New Year,
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
Jan Kelly
Lynn Knox
Jenn Reynolds
Ron Shank
Deb Zigler

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

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

01/03: Jace Velasco
01/09: Stephany Trossbach
01/10: Greg Kruse
01/15: Marian Osborn
01/19: Leah Huizenga
01/22: Kelly Vegter
01/27: Mitch Dolieslager
01/28: Shirley Thompson

Anniversaries

01/14: Clay & Alyssa Sibley

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

2023

Jan. 26: Vegetable Beef Soup

Feb. 23: Chili

Mar. 30: Ham & Potato Soup



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YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

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