

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 2021 • Vol. 64/No. 7

On a very hot July 30th, fifteen years ago, I drove a moving truck to my new rental house. A group of Presbyterians from Morrison, all of whom I barely knew, helped me unload all my possessions into the mid-1800s pioneer cabin that I thought I would only be renting for a few months until I had enough money to buy a house. We worked through the heat, let the sweat pour from us, and my journey in Whiteside County began.

On the last day of my 15th year here, a sweltering hot and humid July 29th, I will be working alongside some of those same people who helped me move in, as well as many other 'new' Presbyterians and non-church members from the community to hand out 500 free meals, in order to raise money for the Morrison Fire Department. (Note, I'm writing this on July 28th).

When I started 15 years ago, I was told I was coming to a dying congregation and that there was little likelihood of them still going in ten years, if nothing changed. And yes, they were dying in the sense that they had lost what they had back in the 1950s and 60s, and that was never coming back. However, pretty much all churches in the United States had lost that and no one is getting that back. The world changed too much. But what I really found was that this was a congregation that was gaining a new life. They were eager to serve Christ. They were excited to use their time, talents and treasures to reach out to the congregation, the local community, and the broader world. They had ambition and hope. They had a glimmer in their eye. They had faith in God working through them. It was a new chapter for a body of Christ that was established back in 1855. And in these 15 years, we have transitioned and transformed in so many ways. We have said goodbye to many people we deeply loved. We have welcomed many people we never expected. Though there have been a few growing pains, the vast amount of work God has performed through us in these years has been amazing. Who would have

thought, fifteen years ago, that we would be giving out 300 free meals twice a month, and that we were about to give out 500 meals?!?! Who would have thought we would have people visiting our property continually every day, dropping off and picking up free produce and food?!?!

Our food ministry is the tip of our iceberg. It's the easy part to see, and it is the part that is most exposed to our community. And there is nothing wrong with that. What an awesome expression of the love of Christ as we show others that you can continually feed people and God will continue to provide for it by opening the hearts of others to donate money and goods toward it! What better way to help people embrace the love God has for everyone. Indeed, there is no need for there to be hunger. We are living proof that we can feed each other, and that both the giving and receiving of food is life giving to all! We are a shining example and inspiration to many.

So what lies beneath? What's the big part of the iceberg that isn't as easily seen? It's the loving hearts of the congregation and our volunteer friends who perform countless smaller good deeds for the community and world. Without trying to create a list of all the small things we do, just take my word for it. We do a LOT that is small but mighty, and maybe it's best that we don't boast or broadcast it.

The First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, IL is a wonderful congregation that I have been blessed to serve all these years. Never had I imagined I would be one of the longest serving pastors of this congregation. But I absolutely have always believed God has wanted me here. Anytime I have considered checking out to see where the grass is greener, God continues to show me that the grass is green enough right here and that God still has work in store for me, my family and for the congregation.

God did not have a plan for this church to die or close its doors in these past years, and I don't believe God has that intended for us anytime soon. Sure,

we REALLY need to do a better job at supporting the budget. Nonetheless, we are striving to physically support the missions and ministries of the congregation. We continue to help meet the needs of our neighbors, both near and far. Our hearts continue to yearn to care for others. We keep pushing our limit. We keep being open to the Holy Spirit. We keep listening to the directing voice of God. We remain open to the potential of God's new creation that is ever present before us. We are nowhere near done serving our Triune God. We are alive and well. Only God knows what's down the road. We are praying that it's to keep on 'reaching out to our neighbor with open hearts, sharing God's blessings with others'. In the new 'emerging beyond COVID era', we see a world yearning to help each other in a way like never before, and we are at the forefront of leading the way in our community. Good things are coming. There is a wave of conviction to make positive changes in our local communities. People are getting excited as the Holy Spirit is moving among our towns. Through God, we can help make it happen.

In our life together, I give thanks that I have been able to be a part of this unique ministry with the Presbyterians of Morrison. I also give great thanks for the support you have given me and my family through the years. You have paid me a salary that has housed, clothed and fed, and provided transportation for me and my family; you put me through my doctoral program; you have paid all my medical bills; you have helped me be able to retire some day; you have taught me to be the much-more-mature pastor that I am today; you have helped me learn to feed the masses; you guide me to be the best I can be. I am forever grateful for this congregation and our community. God has blessed me with you. God has also blessed our community and world with you. God is good, and so are you. Keep it up! Here's to whatever God has in store for us!!!

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

Worship Staying the Same

We are back in person for our worship services. Come join us at 10:15! Sit where you want. Masks not required (but please wear one if you haven't been vaccinated).

You are free to choose to continue worshipping virtually: we will livestream it at 10:15 still from our Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison>. The services are now posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcZiobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

Coffee Hour

If you'd like to be a coffee hour host, please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex or contact Mike.

We have purchased a new coffee maker for the kitchen through a generous donation from Nancy Glazier in honor of Rich, as well as utilizing the Jane Fransen memorial. The new coffee maker is automatic (hooked up to the plumbing) and has a hot water spout. We brew directly into a hand pump airpot (much safer and easier than what we had before).

We have also purchased several new items for the kitchen through a generous donation from Lynn Knox in honor of Spencer.

Bible Study

We're swapping back and forth between Zoom and in-person at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd (& 5th) Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome to attend. If you'd like to join, please contact Mike.

Family Events

We are back to having family events for our children, youth and parents. Our next event is a cook-out/bonfire/chicken chasing (literally)/ and sunset hiking at the Selburg's on August 1 at 5:30PM.

Finance Team Meeting

The Finance Team will meet Thursday, August 12 at 11:00 a.m. A link to the meeting will be sent to members.

Drive-Up Meals

We'll be serving up chicken salad sandwiches on August 12th and grilling brats on August 26th. If you're interested in helping, contact Mike or the church office.

Our last Community Meal was held on July 29 and was dedicated to benefit the Morrison Fire Department. (Happening the evening of the printing of the newsletter. We made 500 1/4lb all-beef hotdog meals!

All donations went directly to the Morrison Fire Department!

Thanks to: Family Chef Restaurant for donating hotdogs; Isle of Rhodes Restaurant & Morrison Community Hospital for donating pasta salad; Resthave Home for donating cookies; Community State Bank for donating the chips and buns; TBK Bank for donating the packaging for the meal as well as bottled water for those who 'dine in'; Morrison True Value for donating charcoal

In June we gave out 210 sloppy joe meals and 300 brat meals. Our first meal in July gave out 300 BBQ beef sandwiches. Thanks Sauk Valley Food Bank for donating the meat!

Thank you for your support!

Produce Table

Our Free Community Produce Table has a sunshade over it now for the rest of the summer (thanks to Shanna & Dennis Welch for donating it). Produce is coming and going throughout each day. We are planning to have a permanent shelter in place by mid-fall at the northwest corner of the yard, with a cement pad hopefully being in place by the end of August.

Deacons Meeting

Deacons will meet again, in person at the church, on August 16th at 10AM. The Deacons have been spending the summer praying for you. They are going through our membership list and saying prayers for one and all. If you'd like to talk to a Deacon, their names are listed on the back of the newsletter.

Session Meeting

Session will meet August 16, in person at the church, at 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline 8/23

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations!

Laura Osborn, Daughter-in-Law of Marian Osborn, has been nominated as Woman Entrepreneur in New Jersey in 2021. She is one of 25 nominees.

Zack Osborn is going to Puerto Rico for studies in Optometry. Stephen Osborn is going to University of Utah for studies in Marketing. Both young men are grandsons of Marian.

Presbytery Meetings

The 2021 upcoming Presbytery of Blackhawk meetings are September 14 and November 9. Scott Vandermyde will attend as our delegate. Any member of First Presbyterian can attend any meeting, though not have voting rights. Contact Mike for more information or contact Loreen Stravers at 779-771-2088 or loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Back to School Supply Drive

Resthave Care & Rehabilitation is collecting school supplies. If you would like to donate please drop off in the boxes located by the entrances at Resthave by August 10.

Suggested items include:

- Back Packs
- Scissors
- Colored Pencils
- Yellow Highlighters
- 12 inch ruler (with inches & cm)
- Box of #2 pencils or mechanical pencils
- Box of black or blue pens
- Composition notebooks—wide rule
- Plastic or strong paper folders with pockets
- Hand held pencil sharpener
- Package of loose leaf paper—wide ruled
- Package of 3 x 5 white ruled index cards
- 3-ring binders
- Scotch tape
- Set of red pens
- Book covers
- Monetary donations welcome too.

Drive through Resthave to pick up supplies on Thursday, August 12 from 4—6PM. Supplies will be handed out until gone.

Contact Karla at Resthave with any questions 815-535-6591.

Between the Stacks

Don't forget to tune in to Odell Public Library's original podcast, *Between the Stacks!*

Listen to find out what is happening at the library and in the community.

You can find them on Anchor, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and more.

Drive Through BBQ

To thank the community for supporting them and keeping spirits up through COVID, Resthave Care & Rehabilitation will be hosting a FREE Drive Through BBQ for all! All Morrison community is welcome and encouraged to come.

This will be held on Tuesday, August 31 from 5—6:30PM. Dinner will include a sandwich, chips, water and dessert. Bring your family and friends and continue your support.

Lifescape RSVP

Lifescape's AmeriCorps Seniors Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is newly expanded to Whiteside County. They are currently seeking individuals who are 55 years and older, who are interested in volunteering, or just want to get out and do something to give back to the community.

Flyers have been placed in the Narthex if you are interested in more info or you can contact Amy Ortiz, RSVP Volunteer Coordinator of Whiteside County 800-779-1189 (toll free), 815-490-1124 (direct) or

email to aortiz@lifescapeservices.org.

Morrison Chamber of Commerce Pop-Up Farmers Market

This year the Morrison Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a Pop-Up Farmers Market on Thursday, August 5 from 3-7 PM at the Whiteside County Fairgrounds. Please come out and support our local farmers and small business owners while also celebrating National Farmers Market Week.

Contact the Morrison Chamber of Commerce with any questions at 815-772-3757.

Odell Public Library

Odell Public Library is once again open to visitors. They are still asking that you continue to wear a mask in the building and keep your visits short. Computer time is limited to 45 minutes. They are still providing curbside services if you need them.

They have also purchased several Large Print books to add to its collection. Stop in and check them out!

(Continued on page 5)

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; Bob Atherton, Richard Black, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Kurt Mills, Ken & Shirley Mills, Ruth Mitick, Nancy Rector, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde.

August 2021



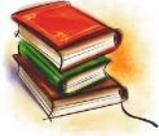
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour <i>10th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	2	3 9:30AM Bible Study	4	5 3-7PM Morrison Chamber of Commerce Pop Up Farmers Market	6	7
8 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	9	10 9:30AM Bible Study	11	12	13	14
15 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	16 10AM Deacons Mtg. 6:30PM Session Mtg.	17 9:30AM Bible Study	18 <i>First Day of School</i>	19	20	21
22 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	23	24	25	26 4:30-6PM Free Community Drive-up Meal	27	28 10AM Ted Luther Celebration of Life & Luncheon
29 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i>	30	31 9:30AM Bible Study				

COMMUNITY NEWS

(Continued from page 3)

Their new hours are Monday 10-6, Tuesday 2-8, Wednesday 10-6, Thursday 2-8, Friday 2-5, and Saturday 10-3.

You can contact the library with any questions 815-772-7323.



Roast Beef Supper

Erie United Methodist Church is having a Roast Beef Supper to benefit their missions. It will be held on Wednesday, September 22 from 5—7 PM.

They will be serving roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, rolls, pies and beverages. You may dine or carry out.

If you have any questions, you may contact the church office at 309-659-2541.

Tractor Drive

The Tractor Drive for Whiteside County Agriculture in the Classroom will be held on Monday, August 16.

The tractor drive is sponsored by Whiteside County Farm Bureau Foundation. It begins and ends at A.C McCartney in Fulton (formerly the Merema Brothers dealership).

You can find information at <https://www.wcfbfoundation.org> or call 815-772-2165.

Whiteside County Fair

The 150th Whiteside County Fair will run August 17—21 at the fairgrounds in Morrison. The fan-favorite group “Home Free” will perform on Wednesday, August 18 at 7:00PM.

More information and a schedule of events can be found at <https://whitesidecountyfair.org>.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!



August Scripture Readings

- Aug 1:** John 6:24-35
Eph. 4:1-16
Exod. 16:2-4
Ps. 78:23-29
- Aug 8:** John 6:35, 41-51
Eph. 4:25-5:2
1 Kings 19:4-8
Ps. 34:1-8
- Aug 15:** John 6:51-58
Eph. 5:15-20
Proverbs 9:1-6
Ps. 34:9-14
- Aug 22:** John 6:56-69
Eph. 6:10-20
Josh. 24:1-2a, 14-18
Ps. 34:15-22
- Aug 29:** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
James 1:17-27
Deut. 4:1-2
Ps 15

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.)

United Way: Will deliver groceries and restaurant orders. Call 815 441-7456.

Morrison Food Pantry: Open Thursday mornings, 7:30-9:30 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: Tuesday and Thursdays 7-8:00 a.m. shopping is reserved for senior citizens and at-risk individuals. The Morrison location has also begun online grocery ordering for curbside pick-up or delivery. Call 772-4696 or see <https://www.sullivansfoods.net/>

Dollar General: Shopping reserved for seniors during the first hour of business each day, 8-9:00 a.m.

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/>.



Leadership and Staff

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

Rick Barr '21*
Jim Palmer '21
Angela Reamer '21
Lexie Laughlin '22
Scott Vandermyde '22
Carol Wolf '23
Lynn Knox '23*
Tim Reynolds '23*
Jan Kelly, Clerk

Deacons

June Cortes '21*
Jan Kelly '21
Greg Kruse '21
Marian Osborn '21*
Mavis Best '22
Jane James '22*
Doris Robertson '23*

Nominating Committee

Rick Barr
Greg Kruse
Marian Osborn
Tim Reynolds
Nancy Shank
Deb Zigler

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Jane James, Secretary
Angela Reamer,
Treasurer

**Resthave Home
Board of Directors**

Stephany Trossbach,
FPC Representative

**Resthave Home
Women's Auxiliary
Board**

Deb Zigler

Finance Team

Lynn Knox, Angela Reamer,
Scott Vandermyde,

Staff

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Pastor
Stacie Baker, Office Mngr.
Scott Vandermyde, Organist
Jenn Reynolds, Custodian

**Elders and Deacons in their second consecutive term*

BIRTHDAYS



8/1: Carol Wolf
8/2: Shirley Mills
8/6: Riley Pohren
8/13: April Pohren
8/13: Jacie Reynolds
8/15: Jane James
8/15: Leala Reynolds
8/16: Ken Mills
8/21: Jan Kelly
8/22: Robert Van Osdol
8/29: Mavis Best
8/29: Daniel Cortes

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

Aug. 12: Chicken Salad Sandwiches
Aug. 26: Grilled Brats
Sept. 9: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes
Sept. 30: Grilled Pork Chops
Oct. 14: Autumn Harvest Chili
Oct. 28: Chicken & Rice Casserole
Nov. 11: Lasagna
Dec. 9: Holiday Ham

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www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison

Youtube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com



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