

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!

November 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 10

November never knows fully what she does. It's just in her nature. On a morning that finds children rubbing their tummies from too much candy, and parents rubbing their eyes from exhaustion, she shows up nearly naked and ready to lay waste to the land. November strips the trees bare, save for the pin oaks and sycamores. She freezes off the final green in the gardens and forests. Perhaps only kale and brussels sprouts will see her exit. Her harvested fields now show her so recently hidden curves. She taunts creation with cold rain and possibly blankets of ice and snow. However, she gives light blue beautiful skies amidst days of wind and gloom. Perhaps she'll bless us with an Indian summer in which we can shed layers and let the sun kiss our skin once more. But daytime is limited as she brings the earliest sunsets of the year, while rapidly diminishing the length of days. All the while, she honors the dead, brings in the votes, salutes the veterans, invokes stewardship campaigns at churches, takes cover for shotgun deer season, brings families together over turkey dinners, turns on the ski lifts at the slopes, and welcomes in the season of Advent.

Here in northwest Illinois, as November nudges us to stop thinking about summer and preparing for winter, we find that we need a new mindset. Since late August, we have slowly begun to say goodbye to late sunsets, fireflies, nighttime noises of frogs, cicadas and crickets, bursting gardens and the general freedom felt in the warmer long days. The sun sets early now. Furnaces are turned on. Nighttime noises are just those made by humans. The landscape turns dull and Christmas lights are not yet been lit to bring color to our evenings. We rely on the beauty of sunrises and sunsets to stimulate our senses. Though always sad to say goodbye to our summer ways, and though reluctant we may be, it's always nice to say hello to the onset of winter. Warmer and heavier clothes and blankets securely hug our body. Our pets begin to snuggle closer. People turn back to baking in their kitchens, looking for friends with whom they can share their goods and their time. Our minds turn to reuniting with loved ones and celebrate the opportunity to give thanks.

At churches, sermons follow Jesus to the end of his ministry in, and suddenly turn to the beginning of the Gospels, anticipating the Christ Child to be born and the Word Incarnate to return. November ends in sanctuaries transformed with garland,

wreathes, candles and lights. Pastors and leaders point to the next year's budget and plans, and ask prayerfully for the congregation to help ensure another year of ministry and mission. The church calendar ends celebrating Christ as King, and a new church year begins with Advent.

As we study Jesus at the end of his ministry, we recognize that a man has lived a short life, and has performed a very short ministry. He knows he is walking toward his impending death, yet he still makes his way to Jerusalem, and once there, he does not back down from his adversaries. No matter what gets tossed at Jesus, he meets it head on, and counters everything with mindful non-violent actions that teach a lesson to all who are willing to watch, listen, and comprehend. He continually preaches love and all that stems from love. He calls for justice, equality, peace, sharing, kindness, and community building. He asks for us to be humbled and exalted, so that we can all find ourselves on the same level, justly treating one another with mutual love. He offers forgiveness to us, no matter how far from God we may feel, and calls us to offer and receive forgiveness with others. He keeps at it because he knows how important it is for humanity. In our busy lives, we forget to pay attention to our bond with God, our own selves, and with one another. Jesus perseveres no matter what, showing us that we too can persevere in the hardships of our lives. Jesus was a human just as we are. Yet Jesus had mastered the control of his mind and his actions. Jesus taught us how he did it...through his relationship with his Father in heaven and through the power of the Holy Spirit, he was able to keep his faith, live with hope, and stay true to his own being. His own people would eventually kill him. His closest followers would soon deny him, while one would betray him. But Jesus kept going at it, all the way to the cross. And even then, death could not keep him down, and with a triumphant resurrection, he returned to finish developing the initial leaders of what would become the Christian Church.

Our lives are no harder than the life Jesus lived. In so many ways, we have a far better life than anyone in Jesus' time. Yet hardships are relative to the individual. There are times that no advice, no direction, and no foresight can seem to help. It is easy to feel sunk deep into the gloomiest days that November has to offer. As we can feel with an onset of seasonal depression, knowing that the winter journey will

be long, we can feel the onset of our times of trial, and imagine that there can be no end. It is easy to want to give up. It is easy to turn inward, focus only on our own self, and fight for our own survival, no matter how it affects others, despite that it's the opposite of what Jesus taught and showed us.

In these times of trial in our life, and when thinking about Jesus and his teachings, and the hardships of his life don't bring us comfort and direction, we can pause, and contemplate what the end of November brings us...the hope of something new that will save us. If we do not have hope in what can be, then we are lost in an oblivion. There must be at least an initial spark to create a flame. In the darkness, Jesus came to us two thousand years ago. In the darkness of our life now, Jesus is waiting at our side, willing to enter our hearts and minds with love. We just have to open up to the possibility that God is really with us and that there is something to hope for. But to stoke that spark, we are going to need to rely on our faith. We need to push out the weight of the moment and recollect that God has been in our life before and that we have overcome other hardships. We need to believe that this too can be overcome. Faith sparks hope. Hope ignites a deeper faith. Our faith then leads us into the next stage of our relationship with the Triune God, and keeps us in that relationship, in which we can find the path we need to travel. And then we can continue along that path and enter into our new life.

In our life together, we need to lean on one another. As we say goodbye to the remnants of summer and move into winter, we are behooved to not hide in our dens until spring, but rather, we must be emerged to shine our light on others and help them in their dark times. And we find ourselves in the darkness, we can call out to others for help. We have a beloved community around us. We must not forget that. And our community must care for one another, and seek to expand its reach so that God's love may be shared and received by all. In this love, we will find the justice, equality, peace, sharing, kindness, and continued community building that we need. Further, as we turn our minds soon enough to the Thanksgiving holiday, we can begin to explore in our own lives, individually and corporately, how blessed we are and how grateful we can be to God for all we have. As we seek to hope and have faith for a better life

Continued on page 3

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/groups/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 October:
November 6: Angela Reamer
November 13: Tim Reynolds & Pastor Mike
November 20: Pastor Mike
November 27: Rick Barr
December 4: John & Cynthia Reynolds
December 11: Ron & Nancy Shank
If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour in December please contact the church office.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on November 6, 13 and 20 for children up through 5th grade. Classes begin at 9:15AM in the youth group room. Our class on the 6th will meet at FPC at 9:10 and we will head over to United Methodist Church to pack "Operation Children" shoe boxes.

Confirmation

We have five youth in our confirmation class this year. In November, they will have a meeting on the 6th, to learn about why and how we worship in our church, and will help plan and lead the worship service on November 20th.

Remembrance Sunday

Remember those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrate our short and delicate lives on Sunday, November 6th.

Presbytery Assembly Mtg

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8. This is a hybrid meeting on Zoom and in person at Rockford Westminster beginning at 10am.

Drive-Up Meals

Our November meal will be on the 10th. We will be serving **chicken**

vegetable soup beginning at **4:30PM**. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 3:30PM.

Session Meeting

Session will meet November 14 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Christ the King Sunday, Communion, Christmas Decorating

Christmas is on its way! On November 20, we will have our annual Christ the King Sunday in which Communion will be served. Stick around after to help decorate (or watch) the church for Advent/Christmas. Coffee hour will be served in the narthex and sanctuary!

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Thursday, November 24 in observance of Thanksgiving. Stacie will be in the office extended hours Monday, November 21.

Newsletter Deadline 11/21

Please get information to be included in the December *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by November 21.

Advent 2022, Hanging of the Greens, Christmas Eve, Christmas & New Years

Advent begins on November 27th. Join us as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child! We will once again have our *Hanging of the Greens* worship service on the 27th. Our Christmas Eve service will start at 4PM again this year. Plan ahead and bring your extended family with you! Note, Christmas and New Years are on Sundays this year. We will have worship services both of those days, but they will last about 1/2 hour. Feel free to come in your pajamas!

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, Glenda Hegwood, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Scott Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacons Are Here For You

Feeling a little down or lonely? Do you have physical, spiritual or emotional needs that we can maybe help with? The Deacons exist to help members and friends of the congregation in their times of need. You can utilize this ministry by calling one of your friendly Deacons. They want to help! Their names are listed on page 6.

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 deacon.

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.

Continued from page 1

and a better world, we must give thanks through the process. When we live with a thankful heart, we can better see where the gifts of life are present, and we can see how they connect to the love and generosity of God. In these thanksgiving observances, we are able to increase our hope and our faith. When we really know that God is with us and that God is providing for us, then our life becomes more spiritual than physical. Our moments become less and less about our wants and desires as we find humility in the process. Meanwhile, we become exalted in embracing our true being, and our true community. That which holds us back in our minds will diminish as we grow our relationships with God, self and one another spiritu-

Sending Prayers

Please send prayers to David & Sharon Gaulrapp at the passing of their daughter Deborah Gaulrapp.

Please send prayers to Rachel Tucker and her parents.

Thanks to God for the completion of Wayne Osborn's radiation treatment and prayers for continued healing. ~Marian Osborn



November Scripture

- Nov. 6: Job 19:23-27a
Ps. 17:1-9
2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17
Luke 20:27-38
- Nov. 13: Mal. 4:1-2a
Ps. 98
2 Thess. 3:6-13
Luke 21:5-19
- Nov. 20: Jer. 23:1-6
Ps. 46
Col. 1:11-20
Luke 23:33-43
- Nov. 27: Isa. 2:1-5
Ps. 122
Rom 13:11-14
Matt. 24:36-44

ally. After all, Jesus was able to continue to persevere not because of some superhuman physicality. Rather, Jesus was able to do what Jesus was able to do because of his spirituality. He embraced his relationship with God. He empowered himself to overcome all obstacles because his faith. God's presence in his life was strong enough to keep moving forward. Together, in Christ, with thanksgiving, we can move forward beyond the snares of the world and into the kingdom of heaven on earth.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

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/>.

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30AM Bible Study	2	3	4	5 9AM Odell Library Book & Bake Sale
6 22nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	7 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	8 9:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM Bible Study Election Day	9 9:30AM Bible Study	10 4:30PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	11 Veterans Day	12
13 23rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	14 6:30PM Session Mtg.	15 9:30AM Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 Christ the King 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	21 6:30PM Session Mtg.	22 9:30AM Bible Study	23	24 Office Closed  Thanksgiving	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	28	29 9:30AM Bible Study	30			

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.

Mini Book & Bake Sale

Come out to support Odell Public Library Friends by shopping their mini book and bake sale on Saturday, November 5 from 9am—2pm in the Program Room at the library. There will be book selections for all ages!

Ornament Painting

Stop in at The Loft on Tuesday, November 8 between 10am—4pm for an ornament painting party. There is no charge for this event. Salt clay ornaments will be available to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. Tempera paint is donated by CAPA. All ages are welcome.

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.



Poinsettias to the Glory of God!

Order beautiful poinsettias, provided by K & R Greenhouse, for use in the sanctuary this Christmas season. Bring them home after the Christmas Eve service, if you wish, to enjoy for additional weeks. Single plants with 5-8 blooms are \$12.80 each. Double plants with 12-15 blooms are \$18.80 each. Please order poinsettias

no later than **Thursday, November 17**. Payment may be made in the offering plate, in the church office or mailed to FPC, 100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison IL 61270. Please note "poinsettia" on your check, *made payable to First Presbyterian Church*.

Total number of **SINGLE** plants _____ at \$12.80 each

Indicate the **NUMBER** of single plants of each color you would like:

Red _____ Burgundy _____ White _____
 Marble _____ Pink _____ Red Glitter _____
 (salmon & white) (red & white)

Total number of **DOUBLE** plants _____ at \$18.80 each

Indicate the **NUMBER** of double plants of each color you would like:

Red _____ Burgundy _____ White _____
 Marble _____ Pink _____ Red Glitter _____
 (salmon & white) (red & white)

Who would you like to commemorate with the poinsettia (s)?

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In celebration of _____

Given by _____

Please indicate the **NUMBER** of poinsettia (s) you will take and/or leave after the Christmas Eve Service:

I will take _____ (#) poinsettia (s)

Please use _____ (#) poinsettia (s) in the church ministry

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Leadership and Staff

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

Lexie Laughlin '22
Scott Vandermyde '22
Carol Wolf '23
Lynn Knox '23*
Tim Reynolds '23*
Jim Palmer '24*
Angela Reamer '24*
Deb Zigler '24*
Stacie Baker, Clerk

Deacons

Mavis Best '22
June Cortes '24
Doris Robertson '23*
Jody Tucker '24

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 Board of Directors

Stephany Trossbach,
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 and Deacons in their
second consecutive term*

Birthdays

11/13: Katie Selburg
11/20: June Cortes
11/21: Kevin Kuehl
11/21: Elijah Palmer
11/21: Mike Selburg
11/23: Kristina Cortes
11/25: Hailey Zigler
11/27: Joe Sage



Don't forget to turn
your clocks back one
hour on November 6!

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Nov. 10: Chicken and Veggie Soup
Dec. 8: Christmas 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
www.firstpresmorrison.org

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

Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com



Life Together is published 11 times per year by the
First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL.



Please Recycle