

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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August arrives, always too early. As we enjoy the merriment and beauty of summer, the days rush past us and soon we find that Autumn is heading our way. Though the 1st of August is only the halfway point from the summer solstice to the autumnal equinox, the calendar we put on our wall sets us looking toward a new school year and fall activities. Although the tomatoes are just beginning to ripen, bean stalks are bustling with pods, and peppers turn yellow, orange and red, the loom of what lies ahead rushes toward us.

This time of the year always brings to mind the Shell Silverstein poem *Here Comes* from his 1981 book, *A Light in the Attic*:

*Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Chirping robin, budding rose.
Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Gentle showers, summer clothes.
Here comes summer,
Here comes summer,
Whoosh—shiver—there it goes.*

I recognize that the beginning of August doesn't seem like the end of summer to everyone. For those who are not teachers or students, and for those without children or youth in school, summer doesn't end until the autumnal equinox. For different people around the state, country and world, school years are different and seasons don't always change. And heck, for half the globe, this is heading toward the end of winter. But for us in Whiteside County, we feel the change starting with the county fair and schools heading back into session. For parents and teachers alike, the norm of summer is soon to be the norm of the school year.

For parents like me, we recognize that there are only a few precious days of summer freedom with our children before they are off to the classroom for over nine long months. As a father of two young boys, I feel the uncontrollable movement of time slip out of my

grasp, beyond my fingers and flying past me. What opportunities have I not taken yet with the boys? What has been left undone, unfinished, unimagined? There are always hopes and dreams for a summer full of exploring, experiencing, and learning. There is always so much to do, so much to see, and so much to embrace. But the clock keeps ticking. We check off items on our wish list, but time squeezes past us. The way in which a second soon becomes a year brings a melancholy ache to our hearts and souls. And so, if we have been paying attention, and if we have become wise enough, we have learned that we must take advantage of the moment at hand. Our tomorrow is uncertain. The date and time of our last breath is a secret kept from us. The opportunities that visit will soon pass. Every moment is a gift, and we must not let any of it go to waste.

The Gospel reading for July 31st was from Luke 12:13-21, which is known as *The Parable of the Rich Fool*. There are many sermons to be written on this subject, and the sermon I gave yesterday is not how I am viewing it today. For today I look differently at the story of the rich man whose land produced abundantly and he decided to tear down his barns and build bigger buildings and store his grains and his goods. He was so excited that he could now relax, eat, drink and be merry. But the man then dies that night, and all was for naught. This is a story that is a warning against greed and the need for sharing. But as the freedom of summer marches swiftly away, I look at it today as a story also of missed opportunity. The man had been caught up in his life. He was caught up in his business. He was caught up in the security of his wealth. He seemed to have the right idea according to the norm of our society: work hard and store up for retirement. But what he forgot was that life can be taken from us at any moment. If we are only working to enjoy life at what we believe will be the end,

then we are betting on us making it that far, and that our health and mind will allow us to relax, eat, drink and be merry. However, not everyone is blessed with a healthy retirement, and not everyone makes it there at all. Our time to relax, eat, drink and be merry is always at hand. Surely, we each have our daily toils. We need to pay for the day, every day. But we also need to enjoy each and every day. We need to enjoy all the moments possible throughout each day. Then, as each day passes by, we have lived each day. And though not all our goals will ever be reached, though some hopes and dreams will remain unachieved, we will find that we did the best we could do to live each day. Further, as we embrace life, the beauty of the gifts we are blessed with, we can understand what our true needs in our life are, and what all it is that we have. We can understand what is actually an abundance in our life, and what we have left over to share. As we pay attention to our life and are trying to embrace life all around us, we find that we are seeing the needs in others, and empathetically desire to help them. We look to ourselves for how we can offer what we can in order to help their needs be met. In these caring actions of love, we begin to fully live a life of living like Christ and for Christ. Our days no longer are full of meaninglessness, but rather, are completely meaning-full. And each day builds upon the other, and the stores we save up are those of good works, relationships built, and love piled upon love. In such, it doesn't matter what season of life we find ourselves in, for we are always living life fully within the love of God.

In our life together, may we embrace our gifts from God that are found in the gift of time. May we share what we have so we may each fully live and love. May these accumulate in love.

Grace and Peace, Mike

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

In-Person Worship

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15AM every Sunday morning.

Virtual worship will continue to be provided indefinitely. We livestream it at 10:15 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 August 9th & 30th.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for August are:

August 7: Lynn Knox

August 14: John Reynolds

August 21: Rick Barr

August 28: OPEN

We have August 28 available as well as all of September. If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour please contact the church office.

Deacon Meeting

Deacons will meet August 15 in person at 10AM at the church.

Session Meeting

Session will meet August 15 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 08/25

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

Drive-Up Meals

There will be one meal in August on the 25th. We will be serving brats beginning at **5:00PM**. Help will be needed beginning at 1PM on Wednesday the 24th and at 3:30PM on the 25th.

Family Events

All families with children and youth are invited to a bonfire and cookout at the Selburg's on Sunday, August 28th, beginning at 5PM. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks, hotdogs and brats, and s'mores will be provided. Please RSVP by Sunday, August 21st to Pastor Mike.

Rally Day

Sunday School will start back up on Sunday, September 11th. More information to come.

Tie-Dye Event

It's back! Get your bright colors swirling!!! We will have a tie-dye event in the church yard on Sunday, September 11th from 3-5PM. All you need is white cotton materials to dye.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Triumphant: Omar Manchester

Omar Manchester, grandson of Judy Manchester and son of Josh and Bea Manchester, completed this portion of life on June 10th. Omar, who turned 14 at the end of May, fought osteosarcoma, which he was diagnosed with in April 2021. He had a very rough struggle over the past year, yet maintained a positive attitude through it all.

Laurie Adolph

Laurie Adolph was a newcomer to our church, but was a long time friend of many congregation members. We were excited to have her as a part of our church family and deeply grieve her sudden death caused by complications after a knee replacement surgery. She completed this portion of life on July 31st, 2021.

Fire Department Meal a Success

Our 2nd Annual Fire Department Benefit Meal was a success once again. We handed out 359 hotdog meals, which consisted of 1/4lb beef franks, baked beans, chips and fresh Resthove Home Cookies. \$1,520.20 was raised for the Morrison Fire Department! Monetary and in-kind sponsors were: Community State Bank, Resthove Home, TBK

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; the family of Laurie Adolph, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, the family of Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Scott Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

Bank, Imperial Inc (Vending), Co-Z Corner, True Value, Sullivan's Foods, Happy Joe's, and Ben's Barbershop.

Farewell Doug Harridge

Our former choir director and organist Doug Harridge is moving to Las Vegas on August 8th. Doug has continued to fill in for us on the organ over the last few years. We are thankful for his commitment to our church and community and wish him well.

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.

Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, from 9:30AM to 2:30PM at Stronghold Camp. You can email Loreen Stravers loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org for more information.

Presbytery Women

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.



August Scripture

- Aug 7: Gen. 15:1-6
Ps. 33:12-22
Heb. 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40
- Aug 14: Jer. 23:23-29
Ps. 82
Heb. 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56
- Aug 21: Isa. 58:9b-14
Ps. 103:1-8
Heb. 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17
- Aug 28: Prov. 25:6-7
Ps. 112
Heb. 13:1-8, 15-16
Luke 14:1, 7-14

Continued Prayers

Scott Vandermyde's knee replacement surgery has been re-scheduled for Sunday, August 15. He will play the organ up through the 14th and availability after that will be variable.

He would also like to share that he allegedly tested positive for Covid on July 11 so if you were in contact with him prior to that date, particularly on Sunday the 10th, please either get tested or carefully monitor any symptoms you may have. Scott and Richard quarantined seven days and Scott had two negative tests during that time period. He thinks his positive test was either a false positive or an extremely mild case.

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/>.

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
Junee Cortes '24
Nancy Glazier '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, Angela Reamer,
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

08/01: Carol Wolf
08/02: Shirley Mills
08/06: Riley Pohren
08/13: April Pohren
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

Aug. 25: Brats
Sept. 8: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes
Oct. 13: Chili
Nov. 10: Turkey Meal
Dec. 8: Christmas Ham Dinner



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