

# 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 2024 • Vol. 67/No. 10**

November's beauty is found in the undressing of her summer clothes. Leaf by leaf, she reveals more intricacies in the barren limbs of trees, soon to reveal a marvelous complex structure. Row by row the corn and beans are harvested, letting us see the once-hidden contours and curvatures of the landscape, as well as what has been hiding beyond the tall stalks. The forest floor's growth now has been laid flat with frost and freeze, allowing one to venture off path with little worry of nettles, while hiding thorns are exposed.

November's curse is that she once again takes life away with her. She ushers in winter's hold. The color of the land is transformed to dull browns. Five months we must wait until we see the signs of spring. We are left here, now wearing heavy layers of clothes, windows shut, furnaces humming, porches and patios empty, forgotten tomatoes rotting on the vine, reptiles, amphibians and hibernating mammals now burrowing. The end is here. It is now a new beginning.

Death hurts. It is not the one who dies whom it hurts. It is us who stay behind who feel the pain. When someone we love dies and also when a beloved pet dies, we feel pain. It hurts deeply in our hearts. The trembling in our chest is felt in our lungs. It extends into our eyes, and tears shed with ease. It is exhausting. It takes every ounce out of us. We are torn between continuing with our daily tasks which we know must be done, and yet feel compelled to curl into a ball on the couch and fade away for a moment, hibernating long enough that when we rise, perhaps we will feel a renewed springtime in our life.

Grief hurts. Grief is the process of dealing with loss. It is a fickle process. It begins most often with the most extreme pain. It can bring wailing. It can bring depression. It can bring endless crying sessions. It can make us feel that our heart is being

pulled out of us. It can make us feel that we have been running an ultramarathon up the mountain, and we are not allowed to stop to rest, and we don't know when it will be over. It can leave us hopeless.

Losing someone we love is so very hard. Sometimes we are simply numb when the loss occurs. Grief can take a while to set in. It is said that there are stages to grief. Some say there are five, others seven. There is denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. It can also be described in seven stages that elaborate on the complexities of grief, such as feelings of guilt. But I do not believe grief follows a pattern. That simplifies grief. If grief is the process of dealing with loss, then it is helpful to understand that if we experience any of these stages, we should accept them as natural and part of the healing process. But if we do not have some or any of them, that is alright as well. You cannot tell someone, in my opinion, what to expect when they grieve. It is random. It changes with each loss. We can lose a beloved friend or family member, but never cry. We can simply accept that they are gone, give thanks that we had them in our life, and somehow, we carry on showing and feeling no emotion. Other times, someone we don't know well, or a pet we've only had for a brief time, can send us into the deepest spirals of grief in which we spend days and weeks in agony. And grief moves in waves. These waves cannot be measured. We do not know when and why they hit. But when they do hit us, they can sink us deep into a time of despair and agony. It can be suffocating.

But grief is good. We need grief, no matter its degree. It is how we have developed as humans over the eons. We are compassionate loving mammals who deeply care for other life. We build bonds with life around us. We create connections that intertwine our lives together. We do become one with other lives...human and animal. To separate our own self

from that of another life we so desperately desire to be part of our life is indeed numbing. Just as a dentist will numb our mouth before removing a tooth, our body numbs itself when a life is lost. This is part of the grief. It is good. We need it. It allows us to cope. It allows us to process. It allows us to find healing when a bond is broken—when part of our life is taken from us. The only way we move forward in our life is to process our life without the other life we had grown together with. We need metal, emotional and spiritual healing to do this. It will take pain. It will take suffering. It will take tears. It will take time. And it will also take a community to support us in this time. Good grief is not just personal grief. Rather, good grief is best found in communal grief. Together, we say goodbye. Together, we move forward. Together, we heal. Together, we begin anew.

We celebrate the first day of November remembering those who have walked on to the long journey. The majority of our world dedicates this day to remember the dead. There are those we, together, once shared life with. There are now those who are no longer with us. We miss them. We long to be with them again. So we remember them. We bring them back in our memories. We share their stories. We share their favorite foods. We listen to their favorite music. We remember how we had been connected together. We remember how our community was better connected through them. We embrace the lives that once were. We give thanks. We once again seek to let go, but also to hold them tight once more. We do not want those we have lost to be fully gone from our lives. We want to keep them in our hearts and in our minds. We want to continue to learn from the lessons they shared. We want to embrace the love that was between us. We want to remember that though they are now gone from our presence, that one day, we will reu-

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# 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.

### Pleasant View Ice Cream Socials

On November 5th, and the first Tuesday of every month, we will have an ice cream social at 4:30PM. We switch up the dessert every month. Come enjoy this time of fellowship with the residents and staff.

### Bingo at Homestead

Marian Osborn invites one and all to join residents and friends of Homestead to play bingo on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30—2:30PM. There will be refreshments and prizes!

### Remembrance Sunday & Cherished Recipe Potluck

Remember those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrate our short and delicate lives on Sunday, November 3rd. For the 2nd year, we will have a potluck where we invite you to bring your replica of a cherished recipe of a favorite dish a loved one once made for you.

### Stronghold Youth Retreat

A crew of our youth and adult leaders will head to the castle at Stronghold for the annual Youth Retreat. We have nearly 100 youth and leaders attending this year from various churches of Blackhawk Presbytery as well as a few surrounding presbyteries. This will be a wonderful weekend for youth to step away from their busy young lives and find a time in Christian community and allow themselves to focus on their spirituality in a safe and loving environment.

### November Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School classes in November. The children of our church are invited on Sunday, November 17, to help the children at Morrison United Methodist Church pack shoe boxes with toys and other gifts which will be shipped to children in need around

the world. More info will be sent to families.

### Drive-Up Meals

Our next meal will be on Thursday, November 14 beginning at 4:30PM. Note, we will have our meals at 4:30 from November through February. The meal is chicken vegetable soup. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday the 13th at 1:30PM and Thursday at 3:45PM. We will be continuing to offer in-person dining for our meals. Anyone who arrives early will be asked to help volunteer until the actual meal begins.

### Thanksgiving Worship

Join us at 10:15AM on November 17th as we celebrate Thanksgiving and give thanks to our Creator, Risen Lord and the Great Spirit for our life and all our blessings.

### Resthove Presbyterian Social Hour

Join us every 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM for "Presbyterian Social Hour" at Resthove. There will be plenty of coffee and conversation! Join us on November 18!

### Transfiguration of the Lord & Communion Service

The Christian Calendar ends the Sunday before Advent begins. We celebrate it by remembering the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mountaintop, upon which began his final journey toward Jerusalem. This year it is celebrated on November 24th. We will serve Holy Communion on this day as well. Join us for a casual service at the end of Thanksgiving week!

### Newsletter Deadline 11/25

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

## 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, Brandy Claeys (a friend of Stacie's), the family of David Hoffman, the family of Janet Johnson, the family of Richard McCoy, Wayne Osborn, Jody Tucker, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker



## Office Closed

Office hours for the week of Thanksgiving will be Monday, November 25 from 8:30am—2pm and closed Thursday, November 28. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

## Coffee In Your Corner with Blackhawk Presbytery

Our General Presbyter/ Stated Clerk Eric Heinekamp and Blackhawk Presbytery Office Administrator Loreen Stravers are continuing with their outreach effort they are calling “Coffee in Your Corner”. They will be traveling around the Presbytery every 4-6 weeks to meet at a coffee shop where folks from surrounding churches can drop in and have conversation, ask questions and just generally get to know us and each other. Our next stop will be Tuesday, November 26 from 2-3:30 pm in Morrison at the Bread Lady at Donnybrook Corner (203 West Main Street). Please join us if you can and encourage any of your members to join us as well.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Presbyterian Women Project

PW, which includes all women of our church, has undertaken a project. Rest-have 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. You can find a pattern on Pinterest by searching “walker caddy pattern” or contact Deb Zigler.

### Communion Dates for 2024

Communion is planned to be served on the following days in 2023: November 24, and December 22.

### Stewardship Campaign 2025

On November 6 at 7PM, the Session will be having their 2nd special meeting to discuss church finances and the 2025 Stewardship Campaign. We know that the time is now to increase giving. In 2025, we will be setting a goal of increasing donations by \$35,000. We are looking to church members as well as friends of the church to help us in this

endeavor.

More information about the upcoming campaign will be mailed to members by mid-November. We have an amazing church which performs wonderful works of mission and ministry for Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. In order to ensure the continuation of our works as apostles of Christ, the time is now to increase our financial giving. Let us remember, together, the words of St. Teresa of Avila:

*“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”*

## LOOKING AHEAD— SAVE THE DATE

*December 1:* Advent begins; Decorate the church for Christmas @ 9:15AM; Hanging of the Greens Worship Service @ 10:15AMish; Record Breaking Party following (Pastor Mike breaks the longest pastorate in the church’s history that day)

*December 8:* Congregational Meeting following worship to approve incoming 2025 Session Elders

*December 15:* Cookie Frost-off during coffee hour

*December 24:* Christmas Eve Worship Service @ 4PM

### Reminder: Every month...

*1st Tuesday, 4:30PM:* Ice Cream Social at Pleasant View

*3rd Monday, 2PM:* Resthabe Presbyterian Social Hour

## 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](http://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](http://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.

# November 24



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Potluck	4	5 No School 9:30AM Bible Study 4:30PM Ice Cream Social @ PV	6	7	8	9
10 25th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	11	12 9:30AM Bible Study	13 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead 1:30PM Meal Prep	14	15	16
17 26th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	18 2PM Social Hour @ Resthave 6:30PM Session Mtg	19 9:30AM Bible Study	20 1:30PM BINGO @ Resthave	21 4:30PM Free Drive Up Community Meal 8AM Social Hour @ The Loft 12PM Lunch & Learn	22	23
24 Christ the King 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	25 No School	26 No School 9:30AM Bible Study 2pm Coffee in Your Corner @ The Bread Lady	27 No School	28 Office Closed No School 	29 No School	30 9AM 2nd Annual Fun Run Turkey Trot

## 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.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to the Morrison Garden Club for celebrating 75 years! Thank you for helping keep Morrison beautiful.

### Lunch & Learn

The Morrison Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Lunch & Learn on November 21 from 12 –1pm at the Briefing Room. Presenters from Farmers National Bank will discuss the growing threat of financial scams due to the rise of the internet, common scams and tips to avoid falling victim to scams. This is free to Chamber members and \$10 for non-members. A light lunch will be served.

Contact the Chamber office at 815-772-3757 or email [morrisonchamber@morrisonil.org](mailto:morrisonchamber@morrisonil.org) to reserve your seat as spots are limited.

### Annual Book & Bake Sale

Odell Public Library will be holding their Friends Annual Book & Bake sale on Saturday, November 2 from 9am-2pm. They have a great assortment of gently used books, yummy treats and book themed ornaments!

### 2nd Annual Turkey

#### Trot

The Morrison IL Parks and Recreation will be hosting their 2nd Annual Fun Run Turkey Trot 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, November 30 beginning at 9am at Morrison High School. They will be collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations to benefit the Morrison Food Pantry.

You can register at [www.quickscores.com/morrisonports](http://www.quickscores.com/morrisonports). The cost is \$20 per person. For more information, contact Nathan Jacobs at [njacobs@morrisonil.org](mailto:njacobs@morrisonil.org) or 815-535-1105.

### Save the Date!

Morrison's annual Christmas Walk will be held on Saturday, December 7 from 3-7pm.

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nite. We never say goodbye. We simply say, until we meet again.

November ends in the United States with Thanksgiving. We join together with loved ones, celebrating the goodness of life. We feast, we laugh, we indulge, we celebrate and we remember the importance of family and community.

November will fade into Advent. We will prepare for the Christ Child to be born. We will anticipate our return to God. We will celebrate God's love for us. Time will quickly move forward to spring, and life will return soon enough. In this time, we will celebrate the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, and remember God's unending love for us, how God has grafted us into the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. We will remember how we belong to God in this time on earth and in the long journey to come. We will remember God's forgiveness for when we go astray, when we mess up, and when we go against the ways of love. We will remember that God calls us, most of all, to love one another. We will remember that we are part of a beloved community.

Grief will happen individually and collectively. We will experience a loss differently than others who have experienced the same loss. In part, it is be-

cause we have embraced that love in our own unique way. No one else had that exact same experience. What and how that life was connected to us, and what it meant, is also unique to the individual. But in community, we can recognize that we are all going through a process of loss. Some will go through the process in a way that makes them lash out and seemingly unapproachable, or simply, someone we want to stay away from. Other people will seem to have the process perfected. Most of us will find ourselves somewhere in between. And how we dealt with the last loss is not likely to be how we will deal with the next. Grief is surely random in how we process it. But grief can always be communal. What we must remember most of all is that we are not alone. We are all in this together.

When a loved one dies, we do not send them to the grave uncelebrated and unrecognized. We do not each approach the celebration of one's life by our self. There is not a separate private funeral for people to attend on their own for a loved one. No. Instead, we gather together, in community, to show our love for the one who has departed from us, and to show our love for one another as well as our support for each other in our time of grief. This is love—love for one another.

In our life together, we can remember we are not alone. We have the love of God. We have the love of others. We can enter into this upcoming winter knowing we are part of a great community, built up of smaller communities. We can begin November with remembering those who are no longer with us. We can end November celebrating life with thanksgiving among those who are still with us. And as our hearts will ache on and off, and as tears will sporadically come to our eyes when we remember what once was, we can embrace that we have the love of God, and that in the love of God, through the marvelous Creator, the compassionate and empathetic Christ, and through the healing and uniting power of the Holy Spirit, we have each other. We have had the chance to have what was. We have what is right now. And we have what will be. Let this process of dealing with loss be filled with love in community. Let our grief be good. Let us remember that God is good, God is love, and in God's love, we are one. In this healing, we will find that what has ended, truly, has ushered us into a new beginning, together.

Grace and Peace,  
Mike

# 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

**Resthave Home  
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox  
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 in their 2nd consecutive term*

## Birthdays

11/13: Katie Selburg  
11/20: Junee 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



## November Scripture

Nov. 3: Deut. 6:1-9  
Ps. 119:1-8  
Heb. 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34  
Nov. 10: 1Kgs. 17:8-16  
Ps. 146  
Heb. 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44  
Nov. 17: Dan. 12:1-3  
Ps. 16  
Heb. 10:11-14  
(15-18) 19-25  
Mark 13:1-8  
Nov. 24: Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14  
Ps. 93  
Rev. 1:4b-8  
John 18:33-37

### Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Nov 14: Chicken & Veggie Soup  
Dec. 12: Christmas Ham Dinner



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www.firstpresmorrison.org

https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmorrison

YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

**Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com**



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