

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 2023 • Vol. 66/No. 10

Spend Your Love Stewardship Campaign 2024

While on a short fishing trip to Sheboygan, WI in late September, I spotted random inspirational graffiti messages littered along the length of the old north pier. One read, "Spend Your Love." That struck me. Immediately I said to myself, that's got to be the theme for our 2024 stewardship campaign!

As we look onward to 2024, we find the First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, IL still holding strong in this post-COVID era, despite the steady decline of churches in the United States. I believe the reason for this is because of the Christ-centered dedication of our members as well as our friends. We have a strong core of *apostles* who believe in helping make the world a better place, who willingly dedicate their time and talents, as able, to support the missions and ministries of our congregation. Annually, we look at three specific areas of dedication for our stewardship campaign: time, talents and treasures. In 2023, we maintain a tradition of strong dedication of time and talents, yet still lack in the treasures. In 2023 we will have had approximately a \$90,000 deficit, which is covered by our investments. Yet in 2024, we believe we will have the deficit reduced to around \$30,000. Our deficit can be easily eliminated by generous increases and in new pledges of donations. Let's close the gap! As far as time and talents, we can always seek out areas of unmet needs in our church, community and world, and see what all we can conquer, together. The way we can do all this is to spend our love.

Where does your love come from? We are told in 1 John, repeatedly, that God is love. Genesis 1 tells us that God made us in God's image. So if God is Love, we are

formed in the image of Love. And as Genesis 1 also tells that humans were created as stewards of the earth, then we are to care for the earth with love first and foremost. In the Synoptic Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke, we are taught that the two greatest commandments are to love God with our entire being and our neighbor as ourself. In the Gospel of John, Jesus twice commanded his disciples to love one another. Jesus' entire ministry was to teach the people of God's love for them and the necessity that they learn to love their own self and to love one another.

Thus, love comes from God. God gives us the ability to be beacons and vessels of that love. We receive the love, we embrace the love to let it heal and empower us, and we pass on the love. It is not for us to keep. It must be fluid. We must *receive* love and we must *give* love. We must strive to *be* love.

In terms of simple economics, a society that doesn't spend any money will have a failed economy. Money must constantly move about for the economy to work. And in our world, love must constantly move about in order for our societies to work in a way that produces justice and equality. In such, we *must* spend our love if we are to be Christians and to be part of a beloved community. Further, our very own church can only function when we are all spending our love. A church whose individuals keep their love to themselves will perish. Likewise, a church who collectively does not spend their love on their broader community and the wider world as well, will also perish.

In what ways do you spend your love? How do you do it outside of the church, and how do you do it within the church? When looking at the concept of time, talents and treasures, we find all three are necessary for a church's survival, as

long as they want paid staff and a building. Otherwise they can get by on time and talents. But we are a church with a staff and a building, so we must also share treasures to keep that going.

Our world is very frightening in many ways. Anytime we listen to the news, we learn of atrocities committed by humans and horrors of natural events. Now, more than ever, we need to spend our love. The economy of human preservation is failing. We are hurting one another *and* destroying the planet that is our home. We are headed in the wrong direction. We need to turn around and begin again. This requires propulsion. Something must give us the boost we need to redirect our actions. Love is the catalyst that we so dearly need.

In our life together, as we seek to defeat the darkness, let us remember the words of Jesus to Peter on the shores of the Sea of Galilee after Jesus' resurrection (John 21:14-17): This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead. When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

Let's spend our love, together.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

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. Rick Barr leads the studies that Pastor Mike is unable to attend.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for November

Nov. 5: Potluck
Nov. 12
Nov. 19
Nov. 26:

If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour in November or December please see the sign up sheet in the entryway or contact the church office.

Remembrance Sunday & Potluck

Remember those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrate our short and delicate lives on Sunday, November 6th. We will follow the worship service with a potluck. We are asking for main courses, sides, salads or desserts that come from recipes of loved ones who we are remembering this Sunday. Let's share their good food and memories!

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on November 5 & 19 for children up through 5th grade. Classes begin at 9:15AM in the youth group room.

Drive-Up Meals

Our November meal will be on Thursday, November 9. The meal is soup and begins at **4:30PM**. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 4:15PM.

Stronghold Retreat

On November 10-12, we will be sending a group of youth to the annual Blackhawk Presbytery Jr. / Sr. High Retreat at the Stronghold castle. Please keep our youth and leaders in your prayers.

Resthabe Presbyterian Social Hour

We're going to keep the party rolling... we will be offering a "Presbyterian Social Hour" at Resthabe every 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM. Come socialize, have a tasty treat, and enjoy the afternoon with good friends. Join us on November 20th this month!

Session Meeting

Session will meet November 20 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 11/20

Please get information to be included in the December *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by November 20.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Thursday, November 23 in observance of Thanksgiving. Please have a blessed holiday!

Christ the King Sunday

We will celebrate the end of the Christian calendar on November 26th with Christ the King Sunday. Join us for communion and celebrating Christ as our King!

Advent, Church Decorating, and Hanging of the Greens

Advent season begins on Sunday, December 3rd. We are going to try something new this year. We are going to decorate the church that morning starting at 9AM. Everyone is invited to attend and help make the church beautiful for the Christmas Season. We will have our annual "Hanging of the Greens" worship service at 10:15AM.

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, Janet Johnson, Margie Selburg, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker, Michael Vegter, Jr.

December Communion and Cookie-Frost Off Christmas Party

On December 17th, we will serve Communion during our worship service. Following the service, we will have a Christmas party, which will include a cookie frost-off. Please help us frost and make plates of cookies to deliver to church family and friends.

Stewardship Pledge

This year's Stewardship Campaign letter is the cover letter of this newsletter. Attached is also a pledge form. Please return to the church office by Sunday, November 3.

Congregational Meeting

Please join us for the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 10. Action will be taken on the 2024 Budget and to elect Elders.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. The Session has decided to not have a morning service that day. Instead, we will only have our family oriented Christmas Eve Service, including the children's Christmas pageant, starting at 4PM.

CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

The Corner Project

The Morrison City Council chose to not discuss the possible removal of the street lights at the corner of Lincolnway and Genesee. This was to be the first step to address all the issues at the corner. However, their silence severely slows the progress to be made at the troubled corner. Mayor Scott Vandermyde and City Administrator Brian Melton vow to continue to work on improving the drainage, the disintegrating concrete, the dangerous cross-walks, and falling over stop-lights.

Thank You

Pastor Mike's mom, Margie Selburg, would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards over these past five months. She has completed six rounds of chemo for lymphoma cancer that riddled her body. On October 20th she learned that she was cancer free!



November Scripture

- November 5: Micah 3:5-12
Ps. 43
1 Thess. 2:9-13
Matt. 23:1-12
- November 12: Amos 5:18-24
Ps. 70
1 Thess. 4:13-18
Matt. 25:1-13
- November 19: Zeph. 1:7, 12-18
Ps. 90:1-8 (9-11), 12
1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30
- November 26: Ezek. 34:11-16,
20-24
Ps. 95:1-7a
Eph. 1:15-23
Matt. 25:31-46

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, curbside 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	2	3	4 9AM Odell Library Annual Book Sale
5 <i>23rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	6	7 9:30AM Bible Study	8	9 4:30PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	10	11
12 <i>24th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	13	14 9:30AM Bible Study	15	16	17	18
19 <i>25th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	20 6:30PM Session Mtg.	21 9:30AM Bible Study	22	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 	24	25 8AM Small Business Saturday
26 <i>Christ the King</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 3PM Resthave 4PM Homestead	27	28 9:30AM Bible Study & Worship	29	30	November 9—19 Rock River Hospice's Festival of Trees @ Northland Mall	

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fall Back

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour November 4th.

From the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry personal items needed. Drop them off in the narthex.

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Shampoo
Bleach
Bar Soap
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap
Men's & Women's Deodorant

We do not need the full size products. Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Family Dollar and Walmart usually have the small size.

MJHS Book Fair

Morrison Junior High School will be holding their Scholastic Book Fair on Thursday, November 2 from 1-7 pm., and Friday, November 3 from 8 am-1 pm. Please stop in and support the school library.

Annual Book & Bake Sale

Odell Public Library Friends' Annual Book and Bake Sale is Saturday, November 4 from 9am—2pm in the Library's Program Room.

They are accepting donations of

gently used books and baked goods if you would like to help out.

Please stop in and support Odell Library!

Activities @ Odell Library

Odell Library is hosting two Senior Citizen Activity Nights in November.

There is a Black and White Movie Night on Tuesday, November 14 beginning at 6pm. Popcorn will be provided. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Facemasks are not required, but you may be worn if you desire.

Game Night will be held on Thursday, November 16 from 6-8pm. You can enjoy several card games including Euchre, Pinochle, Skip Bo, Rummy, UNO, etc. Free coffee will be served. Ages 65+ are welcome.

For more information contact Nathan Jacobs at njacobs@morrisonil.org or 815.535.1105.

2023 Fun Run

The Morrison Parks and Recreation is hosting a Fun 5K Run/Walk Turkey Trot on November 25 beginning at 9 am at Morrison High School.

They will also be collecting non-perishable items to benefit the Morrison Food Pantry.

To register for the Fun Run, visit www.quickcores.com/morrisonSports.

For more info, contact Nathan Jacobs at njacobs@morrisonil.org or 815.535.1105.

Small Business Saturday

The Morrison Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Small Business Saturday on November 25 from 8am—2pm.

They will be holding an outside market and promoting local Morrison businesses. There will be games and fun, interactive activities during this event.

Don't forget to check the Chamber's Facebook page for the Holiday Gift Guide and Business Specials!

Christmas Walk

Morrison's annual Christmas Walk will be held on Saturday, December 2 beginning at 4pm. The theme this year is "A Storybook Christmas".

The tree lighting will be at 5pm, followed by the parade at 6pm.

To participate in the parade, see the Chamber's Facebook page for registration info.

MONETARY DONATIONS NEEDED

2023 has been an expensive year for our church. We have had some planned and unplanned building and property expenses. To date, we have received \$2,000 in donations toward these projects. We still have approximately \$39,132.24 to go, though we know our need will be higher than this amount due to other projects in queue.

CONCRETE WORK: \$3,000

ELECTRIC WORK: \$6,800

PLUMBING: \$900+

We are contracting Alvarado's to fix a leak that we have been patching ourselves for several years in the youth group room. It is time to have it professionally fixed.

DISHWASHER REPAIR: \$1,014.20
Daycare is paying for half.

NEW AC UNIT FOR FELLOWSHIP ROOM/ OFFICES: \$4,802

OLDS BOILER COMPANY:
(Invoices dating back to 2020, including major work in 2023):
\$20,116.04

MEN'S BASEMENT BATHROOM RENOVATION: \$2,500 to cover insurance deductible due to water damage via boiler pipe

BELL TOWER/ ROOF LEAK: We are in need of patching the roof around the bell tower yet a plan has not yet been finalized, so we don't know the amount yet.

FREE PRODUCE TABLE: Same as above. TBD.

LINCOLNWAY BEAUTIFICATION: Once the city fixes our corner and puts in a new sidewalk along Lincolnway, we plan to beautify our Lincolnway property, including repairing/blacktopping parking lot, fencing in the dumpster, landscaping in front of the church, and anything else we see needs improved.

And there are definitely several more projects that need worked on.

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
Mavis Best
Jan Kelly
Lynn Knox
Jenn Reynolds
Deb Zigler

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

**Resthaves Home
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox
FPC Representative

Resthaves 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: 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



Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

November 9: Chicken and Rice Soup
December 14: Ham Dinner



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goodideas.firspresmorrison@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



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