

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!

June/July 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 6

May exited with a second heatwave coming to a rainy close, ushering in June with predicted temperatures in the mid-70s the next few weeks. It was the strangest spring weather. Late winter held on until early May and then in a flash, the earth fully matured to summer. Flowering trees suffered in the long heatwave of temps hovering at 100 degrees for a week. Morel mushrooms were few and far between. But overall, it was a beautiful month with plenty of opportunity to go outside and enjoy the springtime. In the chaos of the weather, we found our nation in sadness with repeated mass shootings. Meanwhile, the war in Ukraine raged on. The month offered plenty of opportunity for sadness, frustration and anger. At the same time, there was plenty of opportunity for celebration. With the school year closing graduations happening, Mother's Day and Memorial Day weekends and for some, weddings, we celebrated love, life, education and summer vacation. The month of May 2022 certainly was a time to be pulled in all directions mentally and emotionally. We enter into June praying for violence to end, the world to find a peace, for proper mental health care for all people, and for some sort of normalcy.

When I think about what I could do to help the world, I find that I often begin to have a Savior complex. I have confidence in myself in many areas of my life in which I can utilize the skills and talents that I have acquired to help people, groups, organizations, and maybe even the world. I have often gone down the road of thinking that I could possibly save the world. But that ushers in the Savior complex as I seek to become a superhero.

Super heroes have two main categories...those who are born a superhero abilities (Thor, Superman)

and those who become a superhero at some point in life. The later group of superheroes usually have either had something happen to them on accident that gives them superhero abilities (Spiderman, Incredible Hulk), and others naturally develop the ability by special training or with some sort of super suit, ring, or amulet. No matter how a superhero became a superhero, they all have in common that they have had to figure out how to be a superhero. Even the most confident of the superheroes have had to figure out how to best harness their abilities, how to fine tune them, and how to best utilize them in given situations. Even Superman had to figure it all out over the course of his life. Being the Man of Steel with all his natural abilities didn't give him the knowledge of how to BE Super Man until he had enough life experience, and enough guidance.

What we find in the lives of superheroes, just as in my own life, is that they can gain a Savior complex. They delude themselves in the idea that they can be the ultimate savior of the universe. The deeper they go into this belief, the more they believe they can do it on their own, and it can even become a competition for them, in which they end up pushing away those who are willing and able to help them.

The stories always go in such a way that the characters who try to win it all by themselves end up experiencing enough defeat that it forces them to begin to do some introspective work, and they end up coming to the realization and acceptance that they cannot do it alone, that they are not the savior, that they need others to help them, and that through a community effort, they defeat the forces that are hurting the world.

Individually, we each play our part in the history of this world. We

each have our ability to contribute to the good of all, but none of us are saviors. It doesn't matter if we are one of the richest and most powerful people in the world, or if we are bound with numerous disabilities and find it just enough to get through a single day. None of us can save the world alone, and none of us can be the superhero who will save the world.

In the end, humanity needs to collectively want to save itself. Yet we have never actually wanted this enough to have come close to it. God has always reached out to humanity to guide us how to live in right relationship with one another. Yet humans have always made choices that benefit their own self or own group, rather than focus on the good of all. And even when it comes to taking care of one's own group, we have seen every society fail, in the end, with that. From the story of Adam and Eve up to Abraham, we have story upon story about failures of the communities who follow the Jewish lineage starting from the first people. Yet amidst their continued failures, God still chooses that group most of all, because their failures are at least the most centered in God. They at least keep God in mind in their life and try to live according to God's natural laws. And from Abraham, whom God said would create generations of the 'chosen people', until the time of Jesus, this nation of God's chosen, no matter what was happening in the world, ebbed and flowed in their relationship with God and with their placement of God in their life and their connection to the natural laws. They very often made themselves their own God and did what would benefit a select group and forsake those outside of that small community. They tell stories of how they recognized, eventually, that God continually tried to teach

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

Worship Time Change

Worship service times are changing for the summer this year. We will meet at 9:30AM June 5 through September 4.

Virtual worship will continue to be provided indefinitely. We livestream it at 9:30AM 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 is meeting at Pleasant View Home twice per month. In June, we will meet on the 7th and 21st at 9:30AM. All are welcome to attend. In July we will meet July 12th and 19th.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is back. Coffee hour hosts in June and July are:

June 5: Rick Barr

June 12: Lynn Knox

June 19: Worship in the Park

June 26: The Selburgs

July 3: Angela Reamer

July 10: Scott Vandermyde

We have July 17, 24 and 31st available. If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour please contact the church office.

Pentecost & Special Offering

Pentecost in Sunday, June 5th this year. Come celebrate with us at 9:30AM. We will be receiving one of the four special PC(USA) offerings. More about the Pentecost Offering on page 7. Also, Blackhawk Presbytery is currently collecting a special offering for RIP Medical Debt. More info about that is on page 7 as well.

Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 14, from 9:30AM to Noon. It is a hybrid meeting: you can attend in person at Oswego Presbyterian Church or via Zoom. Scott Vandermyde has been selected by the Session to be our commissioner to the remainder of the 2022 Presbytery Assembly meetings. If you would like to go in person, contact Pastor Mike. If you would like to attend virtually, email Loreen Stravers loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org for more information.

Worship In the Park

We will once again join Brethren in Christ at Rockwood State Park for a breakfast potluck and worship service on Sunday, June 19th, which is Father's Day. It's been since 2019 since we worshiped in the park with them. We'll eat at 9:30AM and then move onto worship with Communion following. Feel free to bring a dish to pass, but that's not a requirement to attend!

Community VBS

Community-wide Vacation Bible School will be the June 20-24 from 6-8pm at the Junior High. You can pre-register your child by visiting www.myvbs.org/morrisonvbs. This will ensure they receive a T-shirt in their size and class color. It is also asked to pre-register children with any food allergies or health concerns. You may also register at the door.

If you have any other questions, contact Kellie Kohl at 815-772-4174 or kohl68@yahoo.com.

Session Meeting

Session will meet on July 18 in person at 6:30PM at the church. There is no scheduled meeting in June.

Drive-Up Meals

There will be two meals in June and one meal in July. The 4-H will be serving pulled pork sandwiches and sides on Thursday, June 9. Many thanks to them for hosting this meal! FPC will be preparing hamburgers with sides on Thursday, June 30. On Thursday, July 28 we will be serving hotdogs for the Fire Department Benefit. We'll cook 400 meals for that! We will begin serving meals at **5:00PM**. Dates and times for help needed will be announced later.

Please note, the amount of meal volunteers has decreased over the last several months to the point that we need to have a sign up list for each meal to ensure we can actually prepare and host the meal. More info on that will be sent out via email and announced at worship services.

Office Closed

The office will be closed on Monday, July 4. Stacie will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday that week.

Newsletter Deadline 7/21

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

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 Dea-

cons. They want to help! Their names are listed on page 8.

Prayer Requests

Have a prayer request? You can now email them to prayers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com. Please pass this on to others.

Presbytery Women

PW, which includes all women of our church, is undertaking a new project. Resthave Care & Rehabilitation 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.

Happiest of Birthdays!

Please join in wishing Vonda Shank, mother of Ron Shank, a very Happy **100th** Birthday on June 3rd. If you would like to send a card her address is Resthave Care & Rehabilitation, 408 Maple Ave, Morrison.

Spring Valley Summer Nights

Spring Valley Reformed Church, Fulton, welcomes Divinity Trio to their outdoor stage on Sunday, June 12th at 6pm. Consider joining them for an evening of music and ministry. A free will offering will be taken. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be moved indoors.

Divinity Trio, though new to the industry, has a rich history in gospel music. Before Divinity was formed each member of the group has had the privilege to travel and sing extensively across the US and Canada with various Gospel artists.



Summer Scripture Readings

- June 5: Acts 2:1-21
Ps. 104:24-34, 35b
Rom. 8:14-17
John 14:8-17 (25-27)
- June 12: Prov. 8:1-4, 22-31
Ps. 8
Rom. 5:1-5
John 16:12-15
- June 19: Isa. 65:1-9
Ps. 22:19-28
Gal. 3:23-29
Luke 8:26-39
- June 26: 1 Kgs. 19:15-16, 19-21
Ps. 16
Gal. 5:1, 13-25
Luke 9:51-62
- July 3: Isa. 66:10-14
Ps. 66:1-9
Gal. 6:(1-6) 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20
- July 10: Deut. 30:9-14
Ps. 25:1-10
Col. 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37
- July 17: Gen. 18:1-10a
Ps. 15
Col. 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42
- July 24: Gen. 18:20-32
Ps. 138
Col. 2:6-15 (16-19)
Luke 11:1-13
- July 31: Eccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23
Ps. 49:1-12
Col. 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

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/>.

them how to truly live in loving relationships with God and with one another. God sent prophets, leaders, angels and strangers to bring the people back to a centralized focus on God and to reorganize their communal governing structure to benefit all people and to create the world in a way in which heaven could be a reality for all in this life. Yet in the end, humans didn't heed God's advice or help. Instead, humans still put themselves in charge, did what they wanted, and continued to destroy one another. So, finally, God came to earth in human form. God became the actual Savior as Jesus. Jesus showed us the true way to live. Jesus showed us how to be the light this world so desperately needs. Jesus taught us how to make changes to our society to bring justice for all, to make peace and equality the norm, and to fully connect ourselves to God. Jesus showed us the way to save the world. It was through following his teachings, and doing as he taught us, and placing him as our Head. Finally, we had our true superhero in Jesus Christ. But...here we are, two thousand years later. So many Christians over the years, and still today, have utilized the figure head of Jesus Christ to empower their own self or select group to do whatever they wanted, saying it was for the Church and for the good of all, but really, they were doing it for their own benefit and, whether they knew it or not, took on a Savior/God complex and believed they were entitled to do whatever they wanted, even though it brought great hurt and destruction to others. In the name of Christ, humans continually perform actions of an Antichrist.

So here we are, in a broken world, with a broken earth, with enormous mental health illnesses, all of which are far too ignored because it is not in the overall benefit for those stuck in their Savior/God complex. And we are all doing it. In one way or another, we all create a throne we want to be sitting on. But this is just creating continued division and destruction. We need to let go of this. We need to

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, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cookee Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.



not seek to have the world as we want it for our own benefit. We need to seek to have a world that will benefit all within it. Giving up what we *want* in order to make sure everyone has what they *need* may just be the greatest Superhero power we can acquire.

Jesus, the ultimate superhero, taught us how to acquire this superpower. Jesus told us to humble ourselves. Jesus showed us how to serve one another. Jesus gave us the way forward to lovingly help one another. Jesus gave us the path to dismantle what we had created in which we were hurting one another, and how to build up a new beloved community in which we all help one another. And Jesus taught us the importance of community—that we cannot and must not try to do it alone, but rather, we need one another in this venture. In Jesus's command for us to love one another, we gained wisdom to do all things in love. In the gift of the Holy Spirit, we received the superhero power to conquer the darkness that distracts us and tricks us into loving only the self, and not the other. Our Triune God enables us to work together to figure out complex and simple issues, so that we can arrange the ways of the world which can lead to a global Utopia that is lasting.

The month of May 2022 has shown us the desperate needs of nature and of humanity. We need to drastically change how we take care of the earth. With out our earth, nothing else matters. We are

headed toward an inhospitable planet. That must change. We also need to make major leaps in caring for mental health in our nation and world. If we can start caring for mental health early in people's lives and continue to help people learn how to balance their emotions and thoughts, we would not be seeing the senseless violence that is sprouting up everywhere. And we need to stop making spiritual health taboo as well. We need to make it ok to connect to the spiritual realm. We need wholeness of body, mind and spirit to be able to find wellness in our world.

In our life together, we must embrace that we cannot do this ourselves. We must embrace that we need one another to help save the world, and that the power and ability to do so is not our own, but rather, a gift from God. Thus, we must learn to connect to God so we may fully receive this superhero gift. And we must certainly live into a global community in which the God of Love is our center. There is no way our world is ever fully going to embrace Christianity. But we can embrace a united belief in a loving creative power that brings us together in beloved community in order to care for one another in such a way that there are no division, in which no needs go unmet, with agape love driving our every action. Let's, together, spend the summer working on being super and, in Christ, save the world!

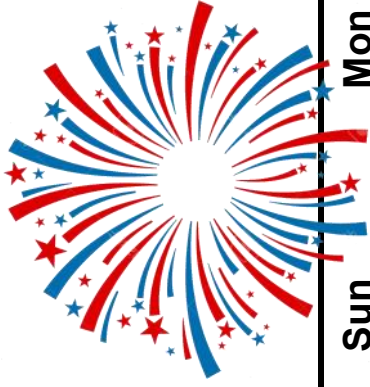
Grace and Peace,
Mike



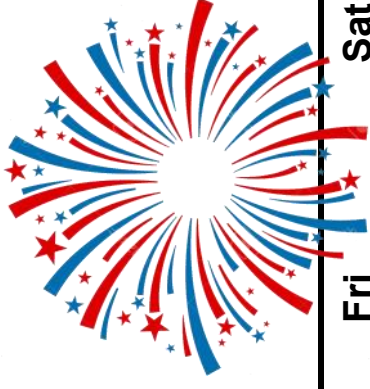
June 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4 10AM SVCC Child Fair
5 <i>Day of Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	6	7 9:30AM Bible Study	8	9 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal (4H)	10 Morrison City-Wide Garage Sales	11
12 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	13	14 9:30AM Bible Study	15	16	17	18
19 <i>2nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship in the Park	20 10AM Deacon Mtg.	21 9:30AM Bible Study	22	23	24	25 9AM MUMC Summer Craft Show
<i>Father's Day</i>	6-8PM Vacation Bible School					
26 <i>3rd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	27	28	29	30 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal		



July 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 4th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	4 Office Closed	5 9:30AM Bible Study	6	7	8	9
10 5th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	11 Independence Day	12 9:30AM Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 6th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	18 10AM Deacon Mtg.	19 9:30AM Bible Study	20	21	22	23
24 7th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	25 6:30PM Session Mtg	26	27	28	29	30
31 8th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour				5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal—Fireman's Benefit		

COMMUNITY NEWS

A Friendly Reminder

School is now out for the summer. Please slow down and watch for children enjoying their time outside. They won't always watch out for you.

A Day at the Farm

The 37th Annual Child Fair will be held on Saturday, June 4 at SVCC from 10am—12pm. There will be Miller's Petting Zoo, emergency vehicles, interactive booths, exhibit displays and hayrack rides. This is a free family friendly outdoor event. For more information go to www.svcc.edu/childfair.

Boogie Woogie Bingo

Consider joining this FUN and entertaining fundraiser to benefit the Morrison Dog Park and kids playground equipment updates at Morrison parks. It will be held on Saturday, June 18 at the Whiteside County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 6pm with the first game beginning at 6:30pm. There will be food, music, desserts and tons of adult fun! If you have any questions, contact Karla at 815-535-6591.

City-Wide Yard Sales

Morrison's city-wide yard sales will be held June 10 & 11 from 8am-3pm unless otherwise stated for individual sales. You can search "Morrison City Wide Garage Sale" on Facebook for more information.

Family Day at the Discover Center

Join us Saturday, June 18, for the 33rd annual Felix Adler Day Family Festival - rain or shine! Admission to the festival grounds AND to the Felix Adler Children's Discovery Center is FREE!

Punch cards are available for purchase to enjoy pony rides, petting zoo, sawmill train rides, inflatable bouncy houses, game tent, arm/hand painting, balloon artists and food. There are many free activities to enjoy as well.

For information call 563-243-3600.

Pentecost Offering

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

RIP Medical Debt

Did you know that Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the U.S.? The Mission Committee of Blackhawk Presbytery and the Matthew 25 Task Force invite you to join them in a spring campaign to eliminate medical debt.

On April 18, they kicked off a 90-day campaign to raise \$15,000 in Blackhawk Presbytery to go towards medical debt relief.

RIP Medical Debt is a national nonprofit whose purpose is to abolish financially burdensome medical debt around the United States. Visit their website at <https://ripmedicaldebt.org> or the Presbytery website at <https://blackhawkpresbytery.org/2022/04/18/ripmedicaldebt>.

Save the Date!

Victory Center Rescue Mission's 22nd Charity Golf Event will be held Saturday, September 3, 2022 at Valley Oaks Golf Course, Clinton. Visit <https://www.victorycenter.com/22nd-annual-golf> for details.

Summer Craft Show

The United Methodist Church will be hosting a Summer Craft Show, including vendors and bake sale, on Saturday, June 25 from 9 am—2pm at the church.

If you would like to reserve a spot, you can contact Pam Shank 815-718-2145 or MUMC office 815-772-4030 (9am-12pm). All proceeds from booth fees and bake sale go towards MUMC Missions.

Summer Lunches

The United Way will again be supplying free lunches for children and teens beginning June 1. Grab-and-go meals will be given out each Wednesday through August 10th from 12—12:30pm at Crossroads Community Center, 201 Market St.

United Way is also looking for donations and volunteers. To learn more, visit www.uwwhiteside.org or contact Keri Olson at 815-625-7973 or kolson@uwwhiteside.org.

Summer Reading Club

Odell Public Library's 2022 Summer Reading Club begins Monday, June 13 and runs through the week of July 11. The theme this year is "Oceans of Possibilities". Keep your kids reading this summer with this fun program! For more information contact the library 815-772-7323 or krider.odell@gmail.com.

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*
Stacie Baker, Clerk

Deacons

Mavis Best '22
June 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

**Elders and Deacons in their
second consecutive term*

Birthdays

June

06/01: John Reynolds
06/02: Nancy Glazier
06/10: Orville Goodenough
06/10: Joyce Mathew
06/10: Xavior Velasco
06/16: Susan Davenport
06/21: Dick Vandermyde
06/27 Henry Selburg
06/29: Jennifer Reynolds

July

07/01: Kari Horack
07/02: Chad Huizenga
07/05: Ella Laughlin
07/08: Shanna Hudson
07/17: Steven Van Osdol
07/20: Stacie Baker
07/23: Ryan Wiersema
07/23: Erica Wolf
07/28: Glenda Hegwood

Anniversaries

June

06/14: Larry & Beverly Bealer
06/14: Arlyn & Sally Hayen
06/23: Mike & Katie Selburg

July

07/15: Tim & Jenn Reynolds
07/19: John & Cynthia
Reynolds

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

June 9: Pulled Pork Sandwich (4H)

June 30: Hamburgers

July 28: Hot Dogs—

Fire Dept. Benefit

Aug. 25: TBD

Sept. 8: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes

Oct. 13: Chili

Nov. 10: TBD

Dec. 8: Christmas Ham Dinner



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