

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!

March 2026 • Vol. 69/No. 02

March. What is it exactly coming in like this year? March is starting off with a moon waxing full and a lunar eclipse in parts of the world, while the planets aligned on February last's night. We have in the first two weeks, days of rain and thunderstorms, days of sunshine, days in the upper 60s and mid-30s, nights in the teens and 50s... March is starting off as a yo-yo full of mid-late spring and late winter weather. Then there's our nation bringing on war in Iran and through immigration officers throughout our nation. Everything seems to be out of hand, out of our control, and honesty frightening. The weather is unstable. Our nation is unstable. Our world is unstable. As we enter into our second week of Lent, we need to ask our own self, how is our faith? Is our faith at least stable?

When everything is going well in our life, especially when the world and local news is slow, the weather is steady and pleasant, and worries are few and far between, it's really easy to have a strong faith. We can feel blessed, thankful, and Spirit-filled. But when our life takes a turn, when the world gets crazy and scary, and when the weather doesn't make any sense, we can easily start to question and lose faith.

We love to say things like: God is always with us; God never forsakes us; God will never give us more than we can handle; God is good, always. Our extreme optimism in God can turn our concept of God into being a divine power that only will allow good things to happen to us. So then, what if things don't go our way? What if we get sick, even terminally ill? What if that happens to someone we love, or if someone we love dies tragically? What if everything starts

to go wrong in our life? There is so much that makes up the stability of our life, it often just takes a little to toss us off kilter. And we all know that when it rains, it often pours. A perfect life in one moment can be a complete disaster in the next? How does our faith stand in these times? How is our concept of God challenged when bad things happen, especially to our own self and to those closest to us? Do we have to reconstruct our understanding of God? Is what we have been taught by others in our life about God not standing up to reality? If so, how do we address that? What does this do to our relationship with God? What does this do to our relationship with our self? What does this do to our relationship with others? How is our faith?

Jesus addressed a large crowd with what we call the Beatitudes. In Matthew 5:1-11, the author writes, "When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people

revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Jesus certainly understood the reality of humanity. Jesus didn't say words that would simply make people feel better about themselves. Jesus didn't offer lip service so people would remain faithful. Jesus didn't offer popular phrases to invoke a baseless faith. Instead, Jesus met the people where they were. Jesus looked at the crowd, saw their faith in God, saw their needs, and knew that despite all their suffering in life, they still remained faithful, looked to God for help, and remained prayerful no matter what the world threw at them. Jesus reminded them that there is suffering in this world, and the more we orient ourselves with God, the more we orient ourselves with serving God though loving one another, the more the world will hate us and the more troubles we are likely to encounter. He sure didn't sugar coat it. He never said it was going to be easy to have faith and to live out that faith. Rather, he told us how hard it would be. But he also reminded us that we must be aware of how we relate our lives to the flesh versus the Spirit. If we live for the flesh, we will find great suffering. Living for the flesh means living for the empty material desires of this world, living only for that which is temporary, and that which can never actually fill us with love. Love can only be found in and through the Spirit. Love is of God as God is love. Whether we know it or not, if we love, we are living for and in the Spirit. But when we do not love, *Continued on page 5*

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:

facebook.com/firstpresmorrison.

The services are also posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/@firstpresmorrison

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at La Bella (formerly Highlight Health/Pleasant View) on Tuesdays throughout the month.

La Bella (Formerly Pleasant View) Ice Cream Socials

On March 3rd, and the first Tuesday of every month, we will have an ice cream social at 4:15PM. We switch up the dessert every month. Come enjoy this time of fellowship with the residents and staff at La Bella of Morrison.

Bingo at Homestead

Homestead invites one and all to join residents and friends to play BINGO on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2—3:30PM. There will be refreshments and prizes!

Family Youth Room

Renovation & Game Night

On Sunday, March 8, families are invited to come help renovate the youth group area of the education wing, time TBA. We are condensing two “toy rooms” into one and creating a new “game room” in the middle classroom. We might even do some construction of a radiator cover and painting in the ping-pong room. We’ll eat pizza and play with our new and updated equipment. In the last month, we have purchased new billiard cues and balls, and other upgrades for the pool table; new plastic tip darts for the dart board; and new ping-pong tables and balls. These were made possible by memorials in honor of Larry Bealer. Scott Vandermyde donated his family’s ping-pong table to replace the one we lost in the steam disaster of winter 2024. Ken Selburg donated money for an air hockey table. Finally, we have purchased a foosball table with General Memorials money.

Free Community Meals

Our next meal will be on Thursday, March 26th. The meal is ham and potato chowder. It begins at **5PM**. In-person and drive-up meals are available. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday the 25th at 1:30PM and Thursday at 3:30PM.

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 March 16!

Session Meeting

The Session will meet on Monday, March 16th at 6:30PM.

Newsletter Deadline 03/23

Please get information to be included in the April *Life Together* newsletter to the office e-mail or voicemail by March 23rd.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday

Celebrate Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem while we wave palms and shout hosanna. We will start off Holy Week on March 29.

MMC Maundy Thursday Services

On April 2, the Morrison Ministers’ Council will offer their 2nd annual Maundy Thursday services at our town’s three retirement/ care facilities. We will NOT be having a Good Friday Cross-Walk service anymore, or at least for the foreseeable future. Pastors from various churches in town will lead worship services which will include Holy Communion. The community is invited to attend any or all of the services:

- 10AM La Bella
- 1PM Resthove
- 2PM Homestead

Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Services

- Maundy Thursday & Holy Communion Service, April 2: 7PM
- Good Friday Last Words of Christ Service, April 4: 7PM

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; God’s Will Giving Center; and those in need of healing and support: Nursing & retirement home residents and staff, medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Bev Bealer, Mavis Best, Dan Brandon, Glenda Hegwood, Dale Johnson, Lynn Knox, Marian Osborn, the family and friends of Adri Rombouts, Jody Tucker, Ray Tucker, Edna Ulrich

Easter Sunday

Join us on Sunday, April 5 at 10:15AM to celebrate our risen Lord! Note, no coffee hour.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Triumphant

Adrienna Rombouts completed this portion of life on Saturday, February. A visitation was held on Friday, February 27, at Bosma-Renkes in Morrison, and we were honored to celebrate her life and witness her resurrection in a worship service on Saturday, February 28.

Per Capita

The per capita in 2026 is \$45 per church member. Of that total, \$30.11 is kept by the Presbytery (which includes various missions); \$3.81 is forwarded to the Synod of Lincoln Trails; and \$11.08 goes to the General Assembly of the PC(USA) for its administrative budgets. Thanks to all whom have already paid their 2026 per capita at the beginning of the year.

2025-26 Communion Dates

Tentative Communion dates for 2026 are: 4/2; 5/24; 6/21; 7/19; 8/16; 9/13; 10/4; 11/22; 12/20.

BUILDING FUND PLEA

We are in need of donations to our building fund for various projects. Please help us keep our church up and running!

COMMERCIAL FRIDGE:

We are buying a new commercial refrigerator that is slated to be installed on March 4. Our current commercial fridge has broken and is too costly to fix. The Session has decided to buy a new one. We will split the cost with the daycare. It will cost us each \$2,825.

BOILER ISSUES:

We are having extensive boiler issues currently and those bills are going to add up.

CASH NEEDED NOW:

As we need cash NOW, it would be great to get donations NOW so we don't have to sell stock. We have nearly depleted our Building Fund investments. Continual donations to the Building Fund are necessary.

HELP FINISH THE BELL TOWER RENOVATION:

We are also hoping to have the bell tower renovation finalized, but we can't do that until we have the funding upfront. We learned last year from our mason that our belltower should never have been closed up. Decades ago, members decided to place wood boards behind the louvers to keep rain and birds/bats/critters out. However, that's not how the bell tower was designed. It needs to breathe. It was designed to be open, and to let rain in. It has drainage channels inside and has enough ventilation to allow the brick and floors to dry out quickly. Instead, rain and moisture can still get in through the cracks in the boards, especially since some boards had been missing for several years, but then the moisture is trapped in for far too long. The result is that the inside layer of bricks became covered in scale and the mortar continually falls out of the brick. For \$10,000 we can have the inside of the bell tower de-scaled and tuck-pointed. In addition, the wood boards will be removed and a heavy duty metal mesh screen will be placed behind the louvers to keep critters out. Please help us finalize the renovation to our bell tower. It has lasted 100 years as is. Let's fix it completely now and we'll have it for centuries to come! If you are donating specifically to the bell tower renovation, please note that with your donation.

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

Ebenezer Church

Free fresh produce given away on Thursdays 9:45a.m.

God's Will Giving Center

Limited free food, essential items, as well as household items. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

211

Have other needs? Call 211. This directory of regional help covers a myriad of needs. Part of United Way.



March 2026



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2nd Sunday in Lent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	2	3 9:30AM Bible Study @ La Bella 4:15PM Ice Cream Social @ La Bella	4 12PM MMC Lenten Lunch @ FPC	5	6	7
8	3rd Sunday in Lent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour TBA Family Event <i>Daylight Savings Time</i>	9	10 9:30AM Bible Study @ La Bella	11 12PM MMC Lenten Lunch @ St. Peters 2PM BINGO @ Homestead	12	13	14 12PM Euchre Tournament @ Brick Block
15	4th Sunday in Lent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 3PM Resthave 4PM Homestead	16 2PM Social Hour @ Resthave 6:30PM Session Meeting	17 9:30AM Bible Study @ La Bella	18 12PM MMC Lenten Lunch @ UMC 1:30PM BINGO @ Resthave	19 8AM Social Hour @ The Loft 10AM Worship @ La Bella	20	21
22	5th Sunday in Lent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	23 Newsletter Deadline	24 9:30AM Bible Study @ La Bella	25 12PM MMC Lenten Lunch @ Ebenezer 1:30PM Meal Prep	26 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	27	28
29	Palm Sunday 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	30	31 9:30AM Bible Study @ La Bella				

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.

Euchre Tournament

Morrison Department of Fun is hosting a Euchre Tournament at Brick Block Pub on Saturday, March 14. Registration is from 11am to 12pm, with the tournament beginning at 12pm and runs until about 4pm. The cost is \$20 per person. There will be a blind draw, so no partner is needed.

There will be a cash payout for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place. For more

information or to register for the tournament contact Kelly at 815-218-6705. Come enjoy the fun!

Line Dance Lessons

If you are looking to try something new, get more exercise, meet new people or just have fun, this might be for you!

Morrison Line Dancing is starting their fourth year of Beginner Line Dancing classes at Odell Library on March 19th from 9-10am, and Intermediate Classes from 10-11am in the Community Room.

They teach a variety of dances to all kinds of music. Steps and music are repeated each week, so drop ins are welcome. Lessons are free, however a \$2 donation per class is appreciated.

For more information check out their Facebook page by searching Morrison Line Dancing or email tpschaes@gmail.com.



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we live outside of the realm of love. There we find our self in the darkness. There we find our self in the realm of emptiness. There we seek to fill holes with nothingness.

Jesus assured us that life is difficult. God knows this. God is not aloof to God's own creation. Rather, God knows our suffering. And God does reach out to us in our suffering and gives us what we need to get through it in ways in which we may have to look for. We can study the Beatitudes and look for the ways in which we are suffering in Jesus' list. We can then look at the blessing Jesus' assures us of in those sufferings. We can also look at it to see what type of personal characteristics we possess and how God is using us in our life to help this world and others in their own suffering. There too will come blessings.

We must remember that it's not all about us. Each of us is only one

person in this big, big world. The world does not revolve around us. The world does not serve our ego. We are not a god. But we can be a Child of God, and together we can be the Children of God. If we turn to the Spirit, if we seek the path of love and utilize love to help others and allow others to utilize love to help us, then we choose to be God's children, and God chooses us to bear fruits that will last. God will fill us with salt that will give flavor, life and preservation to this world. God will fill us with a light that can shine in the darkest of times and the most difficult of places. When we invoke the Holy Spirit and let our souls be kindled, our powers will ignite, no matter what suffering and fear we face.

The world can do as it may with us. But we have God. In our baptism, we are grafted into the Body of Christ through the Holy Spirit. As a unique part of the Body, we each

serve our own part. Though our bodies and minds may be torn apart, our souls will always be intact. Though there may be no deliverance for our flesh and our lives may come to an end all too soon, or all may be taken from us though we still live, our soul can remain strong, whether in this life or the next.

In our life together this Lent and in this scary time in our nation and world, we can remain strong in our faith. Perhaps we will need to reshape our beliefs, and reconsider what others have taught us. But we can always stand firm in knowing that we have come from God, that we will return to God, and in this life, God is always with us and always will love us and always will give us the power to love one another. Stay strong. Stay faithful. Stay in the Spirit.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Leadership and Staff

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

Rick Barr '26
Carol Wolf '26
Ron Shank '27*
Tim Reynolds '27
Jim Palmer '28
Angela Reamer '28

Stacie Baker, Clerk

**Elders in their 2nd consecutive term*

Corporation Officers

Ron Shank, President
Tim Reynolds, Vice President
Scott Vandermyde, Treasurer

Nominating Committee

Bryan Etter
Tim Reynolds
Greg Rider
Carol Wolf
Deb Zigler

**Resthave Home
Board of Directors**

Deb Zigler
FPC Representative

**Resthave Home
Women's Auxiliary Board**

Deb Zigler

Finance Team

Angela Reamer
Tim Reynolds
Scott Vandermyde

Staff

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Pastor
Stacie Baker, Office Manager
Scott Vandermyde, Organist
Courtney Bruckner, Custodian



March Scripture

- Mar. 1: Gen. 12:1-4a
Ps. 121
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17 or
Matt. 17:1-9
- Mar. 8: Ex. 17:1-7
Ps. 95
Rom. 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
- Mar. 15: 1Sam. 16:1-13
Ps. 23
Eph. 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
- Mar. 22: Ezek. 37:1-14
Ps. 130
Rom. 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
- Mar. 29: Matt. 21:1-11
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil. 2:5-11
Matt. 26:14-27:66 or
Matt. 27:11-54

Birthdays

- 03/05: Angela Reamer
- 03/06: Blake Huizenga
- 03/15: Jim Palmer
- 03/15: Greg Rider
- 03/17: Steve Wolf
- 03/20: Collin Wolf
- 03/29: Cynthia Reynolds



Sunday, March 8

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

- Mar. 26—Ham & Potato Chowder
- Apr. 30—Pulled Pork Sandwich
- May 28—Sloppy Joe Sandwich
- June—No Meal
- Jul. 30—Brats (Fire Department Benefit)
- Aug. 27—Pulled Pork Sandwich



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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



Love
one another.
Feed
each other.

