

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!

May 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 5

May 2022 might feel like April should have. Today, at our month's end, the forest floor appears to be three weeks behind. Nature, during the month of April in northwest Illinois, has been placed in a wind tunnel refrigerator and is ever-so-slowly waking up. But as we turn to May, the spring flowers begin to cover the woodlands, daffodils are wide awake, and tulips are beginning to open. Bluebells are yawning, nearing their time to ring in spring. Violets cover untreated lawns, speckled in purple and white. Dandelions have awakened, greeting hungry bees ready to get their hives growing. As bushes are exploding their emerging leaves, the trees are finally turning fuzzy with electric green brilliance, while their limbs wave in this never-ending wind. Yet, still, in our neck of the woods, the morel mushrooms refuse to show themselves. After all, if the lilac blossoms are still held tight in tiny buds, why should morels bother to appear? Obviously, they did not consult me, for I am impatient.

I want to rush nature right now. I want us to jump into the middle of spring. Then I want it to stay right there, possibly forever. But that cannot be. May will offer us only 31 busy days which will flow past in a blink of an eye. Our trees, that are currently bare, *should* have their summer canopy in just four weeks. By Memorial Day the brand-new leaves typically already show signs of age. The cycle of morels starts and finishes in less than three weeks. The spring bulbs now popping will be a distant memory by June 1. What a rush the month of May is. Besides nature doing a flash dance, our own lives bear a heavily loaded to-do list. There are the spring chores and yard work that can't begin until the 'alive' portion of spring is really here. Gardeners busy about from planting their spring then summer vegetable gardens and tend to their flower beds and wrestle ever emerging weeds. The

impatient mowers cut the grass sometimes twice a week. Mother's Day, graduations, end of the school year, and garage sales add to the list. May should really be a national holiday in which everyone stops working (except for the greenhouses, nurseries, and hardware stores!). It is such a wonderful time of the year, but it passes in a blink of an eye.

My struggle of impatience for spring, and then the desire to pause it, is a common theme in our lives. As children, we look forward to one day doing all the things we see the bigger kids doing...riding bikes, swimming, going across the big 'features' on the playground, knowing how to read... and it progresses to looking forward to a first kiss, a driver's license, to graduation, to independence from parents, to first jobs, to finding a life partner, to home ownership, to children, to their advancements in our children's lives, to retirement, to grandchildren, and then to finally meeting Jesus face to face. Though, that's the status quo. Not all of that comes to everyone. Still, no matter who we are and where our life leads us, we are always waiting for something, and in the waiting, we can find impatience, and both in the times of waiting and impatience, as well as in the time of having finally received what we were waiting for, the moment shoots right by, leaving us with only memories, and waiting for the next desired event.

In 1895, the big hit hymn *Open My Eyes That I May See* by Clara H. Scott was released. The memorable refrain to her song changes over the three verses... "Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see; Open my (eyes, ears, heart), illumine me, Spirit divine!" In all of our life's events, what is more important than when we know that we are in God's presence and we have a sense of call and purpose? We don't always feel that way, but there are moments of inspira-

tion in which we know God is with us, that God is using us, and that heaven surrounds us. These moments, like the rest of life, are fleeting. They quickly pass us by, leaving us in wait once again.

So, what are we silently waiting for? How do our eyes, ears and heart need opened? What type of illumination are we expecting? The most important message, in my opinion, we can glean from this hymn is that the singers are placing themselves in a state of wakefulness and willingness to see God's presence, to discern God's will, and to live as God's vessel. In our lives, it can be easy to think that God has stepped away for a moment, or for an elongated period of time, or perhaps even gone for good. Sometimes we place expectations on God that are not realistic. Sometimes we create the image of God to be something that God is not. Sometimes we try too hard, and over-think and over-look. What if we actually still ourselves, embrace the moment at hand, to become illumined by what is currently present, and to see the presence of the Spirit right then and there?

As a child, we can feel the presence of God when we cross the monkey bars, ride down the sidewalk on our bike, and jump off the side of the pool. As adults watching children, we can also feel the presence of God in these special moments. As we age, we can know God is present in the beauty of every moment. God is there in those high moments. And God is also there with us in those low moments. If we don't try to force God into being who we expect God to be, then we are freed to allow ourselves to experience who God really is in every moment in our life.

This spring, as we step outside and feel the cold rainy heavy wind, or when we smell a warm breeze filled with magnolia perfume while the sun

...continued on Page 5

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 returned to Pleasant View Home in April. In May, we'll meet on the 10th and the 17th at 9:30AM. All are welcome to attend.

May Day: Celebrating Deacons, Luncheon, Family 'Earth Day' Cleanup Event

On Sunday, May 1, we will celebrate May Day, beginning with a special celebration of our deacons. Now that our 3 snow birds are home, we will now install our class of '24 deacons: June Cortes, Nancy Glazier, and Jody Tucker. We will also finally install Doris Robertson, who has been a deacon for several years, but has never been in Florida when we have done our ordinations and installations in the past.

We'll proceed to the dining room following the service, where you can choose one of five tables to sit. Each will have a deacon at it, and you can get to know that deacon better. We'll be serving pulled pork sandwiches, leftover veggie stew from our 4/28 community meal, chips, coleslaw and desserts.

Following the meal, the families will proceed to Rockwood State Park for an 'Earth Day' clean up.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is back. Coffee hour hosts in May are:

May 1: Session
May 8: Lynn Knox
May 15: Jim Palmer
May 22: Tim Reynolds
May 29: The Selburgs

Session Meeting

Session will meet May 16 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 5/23

Please get information to be included in the June/July *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by May 23rd.

Drive-Up Meals

There will be one meal in May on Thursday, May 26. We will be serving brats beginning at **5:00PM**. Help will be needed beginning at 4PM that day. Any other help will be later announced.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations Graduates

Congratulations to our 8th Grade Graduate Jacie Reynolds!

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, June 14, from 9:30AM to Noon at Oswego Presbyterian Church. 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.

PW Meeting

The next PW board meeting will be held on May 19 at 5PM at the church.

Welcome Little One

We would like to welcome into the world Atrius Mitchell, son of Tyler Fuller and Rudy Mitchell, Jr. and grandson of Stacie Baker. Atrius was born April 6, 2022, weighing 9 pounds 1 ounce and 22 inches long.

Prayers for Ukraine

Please pray for a peaceful resolution to the conflict in the Ukraine. The number of people displaced from their homes increases daily. For information on ways to give or

keep up to date on efforts, visit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>



May Scripture

- May 1: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)
Ps. 30
Rev. 5:11-14
John 21:1-19
- May 8: Acts 9:36-43
Ps. 23
Rev. 7:9-17
John 10:22-30
- May 15: Acts 11:1-18
Ps. 148
Rev. 21:1-6
John 13:31-35
- May 22: Acts 16:9-15
Ps. 67
Rev. 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29
- May 29: Acts 16:16-34
Ps. 97
Rev. 22:12-14, 16-17,
20-21
John 17:20-26

Genesee Street to Grove Hill Cemetery. There will be a keynote speaker, military music, placing of the wreath, and ending with the firing of three volleys and Taps. After that, head to the American Legion for the Ribbon Cutting.

They will be serving pork chop sandwiches, sides, beverages and dessert.

This will be a day to, first and foremost, remember and honor our Veterans, to celebrate the completion of the Legion's upgrades and post-fire repairs, to celebrate the joint venture between the Lions Club and American Legion on flag upgrades and donor appreciation, and the final block party (brought to you by Department of Fun) celebrating the completion of the City's Main Street upgrades.

The Legion is located at 306 E. Main Street. For more information check their website at www.morrisonamericanlegion.org.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Volunteer at Northside

Northside is always interested in volunteers working with their kids. Those who are interested can stop in at Northside and fill out a volunteer form. The district will need to run a background check before you are able to help out. For more information please contact Northside Principal, Andy Harridge.

Annual Plant Sale

Morrison's Garden Club will again be hosting their annual plant sale on Saturday, May 21 from 9AM—1PM in the Community Room at Odell Library. There will be Master Gardener's on hand to answer any questions and to give advice on how and where to plant your purchases. All proceeds will be put back into the community for future projects. You can follow them on Facebook for updates.

Lighted Boat Parade

The Clinton Marina has planned to hold a lighted boat parade during Dutch Days. It will be held Saturday, May 7 beginning about 8:15PM in front of Candlelight and then head up the riverfront past Fulton about 8:30PM. Come out and enjoy the lights. You can find more info on Facebook under events by searching 'lighted boat parade'.

Ribbon Cutting

The Morrison American Legion will be holding a Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on Monday, May 30 at noon following the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade will start at 10:30 am on Main Street then heading up

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>

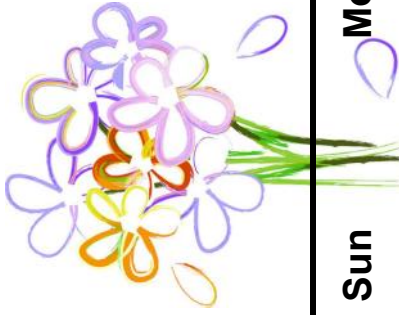
Morrison Hospital: The hospital's Facebook page provides information on new check-in procedures and other updates: <https://www.facebook.com/MorrisonCommunityHospital>

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/>.

May 2022



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	3rd Sunday of Easter 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	4th Sunday of Easter 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	9	10 9:30AM Bible Study	11	12	13	14
	Mother's Day						
15	5th Sunday of Easter 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	16 10AM Deacon Mtg.	17 9:30AM Bible Study	18	19	20	21
22	6th Sunday of Easter 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	23 6:30PM Session Mtg	24	25	26 <i>Last day of attendance Morrison</i>	27 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	28
29	7th Sunday of Easter 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 2PM MHS Graduation 4PM PHS Graduation	30 <i>Office Closed</i> 10:30AM Memorial Day Parade 12PM Legion Open House Memorial Day	31 <i>Last day of attendance Prophetstown</i>				



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, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

warms our body, or as we stare deep into the inner chambers of a jack-in-the-pulpit, or watch bluebells glow after the sunset, or see a honeybee collecting pollen and nectar, or watch the mother robin bring meals to her hatchlings...there are so many ways in which we can see God's presence. Ah, but life...life pulls us away from paying attention to these things, from paying attention to God's presence. We are busy. We are distracted. We emphasize priority on the insignificant. The material world seeks to engulf us. Our sight is often pulled away from seeking God, and in such, we do not remember to seek, to pay attention, or to consider God in our life.

Matthew 6:24-33 states (NRSV), ““No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed

like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.””

In our life together, we can let go of our worries for that which is of less importance. This will free us up for paying attention to what really matters—recognizing God's presence, seeing where God is in each moment of our life, embracing God's call for

us (which will change through life), and to live into being who it is God is giving us the ability to be by using the gifts of love we possess at that given time. And though life will pass by quickly, and though the spring flowers will grow and fade with the swift rush of time, we can find pause in paying attention to the beauty that the moment provides and know that God is the source of that beauty. Individually, and together, we can become God-filled in every moment, which will turn our actions to serving God, and in such, we shall perform the works of God, living as servants of Christ, in all that we do. That is a life well-experienced and well-lived.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Easter Lilies & Spring Bulbs

In Celebration of:

The Risen Lord by Lynn Knox

In Honor of:

Their Grandparents by George & Henry Selburg

In Loving Memory of:

Rich Glazier by Nancy Glazier & Family

Dan J. and Alan T. Hegwood by Melanie R. Schoenborn & Glenda T. Hegwood

Mary Renkes by Janice Kelly

Otis by Aubrianna Tanner

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

05/01: Maddie Huizenga
05/05: Kay Mucci
05/05: Katie Browning
05/06: Tim Reynolds
05/07: Karl Kruse
05/08: Margaret Esse
05/11: Lexie Laughlin
05/12: Deb Zigler
05/14: Lynn Knox

Anniversaries

05/07: Jeremy & Stacie Baker
05/17: Mike & Kelly Vegter

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Mar. 31: Ham and Potato Soup

April 28: Stew

May 26: Brats

June 9: Pulled Pork Sandwich (4H)

June 30: Hamburgers

July 28: Hot Dogs—

Fireman's Benefit

Aug. 25: Brats

Sept. 8: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes

Oct. 13: Chili

Nov. 10: Turkey Meal

Dec. 8: Christmas Ham Dinner



**First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL
100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison IL 61270
Phone: 815-772-3510**

firstpresmorrison@gmail.com
prayers.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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