

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!

October 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 9

What's that you say? Summer's over? The nights are now longer than days? The frost is coming tonight?

Jupiter shines bright amidst shooting stars as September blows a chilly goodbye kiss in her shivering curtsy, ushering in October, readying for the final harvest. The wind rushes through the dry corn, first whistling, and then as though a parade of racing cars are passing by. The soybeans end a most amazing exhibit of glowing golden blankets, rivaling the best and most beautiful of any other year's transition from green leaves to tall dry pod stalks. The hardening corn ears of northwest IL begin to drop, while the bean pods now peak over the fields, both nodding to the farmer that the time for harvest is here. Grain truck drivers fill their semis with last year's bounty from the local bins, carrying them off to be turned to food, fuel, fabrics, and polymers. Farmers pull their harvesters from their barns, tossing out mouse nests, and uploading new software. The outer edges of cornfields are wisped away, with maize shooting from the harvesters augers into grain wagons pulled by old tractors. The first bean fields are flattened, sending the Asian lady beetles looking for a new home. Electricians visit farms and hook up dryers, which soon fill their air with their hardworking hum. Fuel trucks begin to roam the blacktops. Another harvest is at hand.

In the orchards, apples dangle, waiting for hands to grab them and stuff them in a sack, praying to become grandma's prized pie. Children wander among the pumpkin patches, rolling fat gourds back to their minivan. Mums, cosmos and zinnias become the last flowers to bloom in planted gardens. Meanwhile, varieties of small white flowers and purple asters blossom in the ditches, woodlands and prairies as September's yellow flowers fade away. Evening weekend air is filled with the fragrant smoke of backyard bonfires and barbeques, as the horns, drums and cymbals of bands and cheers of fans roar out from beyond stadiums, where folks dress in winter garb to keep them warm as they cheer for the home team.

What's that you say? Summer's over? The frost never took hold last night, but what about tonight?

Here we are, another summer over. Autumn has set in. The first trees begin their transition to yellow, orange and red. The grass remains green this year and mowers are still busy keeping it trimmed. Children sit in classes all day, learning, growing, and wiggling. Sports teams practice and compete. Retirees check their calendars for how long until they head south. In the mean time, furnaces turn on, first filling the houses with a bitter unpleasant smell of six months of dust quickly burning away.

Churches open their doors, apprehensively hoping for newcomers and inactive members to arrive, promoting their new plans that promise the building and deepening of relationships, and the garnering of knowledge. Older adults wonder what happened to the olden days where pews were packed and every available room in the church was filled with Sunday school classes. Young families stay home on Sundays with their children, seeking sabbath from their busy week and no longer feeling guilt for it. Empty spaces in the pews and deficits in budgets are stared upon. Another funeral finds friends bidding farewell, and one less person they will see again next Sunday. The inevitable changes of the church world that have been happening for over two decades still leave our nation in wonder. What ever happened? What will the future be? What are we to do? How much longer can we maintain?

Our small towns and big cities are filled with churches that were built by immigrants, who all split up from the melting pot to worship with their 'kind'. Dutch, Swedes, Germans, English, French, Italians, Irish, Polish, Scandinavians....all the white people of western Europe with their own unique brand of protestant Christianity, as well as all the varying Catholic nationalities, broke apart from one another as they settled down on the lands of native people. They built massive churches for low costs, without thought of the upkeep it would take 150+ years later. The century turned and world wars, droughts, and a Great Depression passed and a golden era arose. Soldiers returned from Europe and the Pacific, and babies boomed. Church-

es built education wings to house their overabundance of church school students. Factory stacks smoked day and night though the small towns and cities. Then the world changed. The 1960s faded into a transformed world of the 1970s, the baby production craze faded, and a two to three child home became the norm. Factories ceased their smoke as production moved south and overseas. The greed of the 80s created bubbles of economic collapse, and all the while, people migrated to where they could find jobs. Suburbs now boomed while the rural world began to reflect ruins. Churches weren't paying attention. They still relished in their potlucks and subcommittees. They didn't see it coming. They still took care of their own. They weren't looking out their doors. And then, all of a sudden, it was the 2000s, and the crowded choir lofts dwindled and space in the pews was no longer a rare occurrence. We were left gazing at our navels. Were was Jesus anyway? We were listening about him in the sermon. We were singing to him in our hymns. We were talking to him in our prayers. But were we serving him? Churches had forgotten that Jesus never mentioned that churches should become what they had turned into. Jesus never called for us to separate into various groups, each build our own monumental gathering place, and then to call people into our fold to care for them, write checks to help those we will never meet, to focus on a budget, a Sunday School program, a membership roll, and worship attendance statistics. This is something we made up in our society since the 1800s. We replaced serving Christ with serving the Church. The Church itself became an idol. Our desire for a big budget and packed pews was not to equip the congregation to do ever-increasing works for this world as Jesus' disciples. It was to grow and grow and grow our own flock, and to take care of them. This is not to say that churches did not make impacts in their communities and the world, nor that the members didn't need to care for one another, but the overall

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/groups/firstpresmorrison>. The services are also posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcZIobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

World Communion Sunday & International Potluck

On October 2nd, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday followed by our annual International Potluck, which has also been on hiatus since 2019. Bring your favorite international dish to pass!

Peace & Global Witness Offerings

Donations to this Presbyterian Church USA Special Collection enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Donations will be accepted now through October 2, World Communion Sunday. Please place your gift in the offering plate, in the office or donate online:

<http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>.

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at Pleasant View Nursing Home on Tuesdays, October 4, 11, and 18.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on October 2, 16 and 30 for children up through 5th grade. Classes begin at 9:15AM in the youth group room.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for October:
 October 2: International Potluck
 October 9: Tim Reynolds
 October 16: Deb Zigler
 October 23:
 October 30:
 If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour in November please contact the church office.

Drive-Up Meals

Our October meal will be on the 13th. We will be serving chili beginning at 5:00PM. Help is needed on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 3:30PM.

Confirmation

Our next Confirmation Class will be setting sail on Sunday, October

16, from 11:30-12:30. This will be the introductory meeting for both youth and parents. Confirmation will be held for youth 6th grade+ who have yet to be confirmed. Once again, there will be two options for the confirmands: confirmation class AND membership class. A youth can be confirmed and not become a member if they so choose. Membership classes are for both youth and parents. There will be 6 classes each for a total of 12. Confirmation Sunday will be on May 7, 2023. This will also be a New Member Sunday, as we will install all new members of all ages. Anyone interested in joining our congregation, please contact Pastor Mike.

Session Meeting

Session will meet October 17 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Reformation Sunday

Celebrate the great breakaway from the Catholic church and how we emerged into free thinking reformed Christians! As always, it's the last Sunday in October (30th).

Family Halloween Party

Families are invited to a Halloween party on Sunday, October 30, from 2-4PM in the church dining room. We will carve pumpkins (bring your own) and make crafts. Snacks provided.

Newsletter Deadline 10/24

Please get information to be included in the November *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by October 24.

Remembrance Sunday

Remember those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrate our short and delicate lives on Sunday, November 6th.

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, the family of Nancy Glazier, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Scott Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

Presbytery Assembly Mtg

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8.

CHURCH

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Triumphant

Nancy Glazier completed this portion of life early afternoon on Saturday, September 17th. Her children, Bob and Carol, were with her. We give great thanks for Nancy's life. She was ever dedicated to our church and a good friend to so many people. She will be greatly missed. Keep Bob, Carol and their families in your prayers.

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. If you have an immediate prayer request that you would like passed on to the congregation, please contact Pastor Mike or a deacon.

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 Pinter-

est by searching "walker caddy pattern" or contact Deb Zigler.

Thank you!

I want to thank everyone who came Sept. 18. Thank you to Rev. Selburg and all my friends who came to wish be "good speed" and all who provided refreshments as I leave the church I have loved so long. 1964 was a long time ago and brought many wonderful memories for Dan and my family. Thank you all so much! ~ *Glenda*



October Scripture

- Oct. 2: Hab. 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Ps. 37:1-9
2 Tim. 1:1-14
Luke 17:5-10
- Oct. 9: 2 Kgs. 5:1-3, 7-15c
Ps. 111
2 Tim. 2:8-15
Luke 17:11-19
- Oct. 16: Gen. 32:22-31
Ps. 121
2 Tim. 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8
- Oct. 23: Jer. 14:7-10, 19-22
Ps. 84:1-7
2 Tim. 4:6-8, 16-18
Luke 18:9-14
- Oct. 30: Isa. 1:10-18
Ps. 32:1-7
2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12
Luke 19:1-10

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/>.

Pentecost

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Potluck	3	4 9:30AM Bible Study	5	6	7	8 9AM Crossroads Fall Craft Show
9 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	14	15
16 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	17 10AM Deacon Mtg. 6:30PM Session Mtg.	18 9:30AM Bible Study	19	20 5:15PM PW Board Mtg.	21	22
23 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	24	25	26	27	28	29 1PM Halloween Parade 2PM Morrison's Fall Festival
30 <i>21st Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 3PM Halloween Party	31 4-7PM Trick Or Treat <i>Halloween</i>					

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AARP Volunteers Needed

Looking for something to do this winter? AARP Foundation Tax-Aide offers free tax-filing help to those who need it most. We are looking for compassionate and friendly people to join our volunteer team this upcoming tax season. We'll provide the training and you'll get a great feeling from helping someone else. Help is needed from greeting the tax payer to preparing the tax return. You do not need to be an AARP member. We work at the Morrison Library. If you are interested or would like more information, please call Karen Berg at 815-625-5314.

Bethesda Lutheran 125th Anniversary Celebration

Bethesda Lutheran Church began in 1897 as a small Swedish Lutheran congregation. On Sunday, October 16 we will be holding a day of celebration to commemorate our 125th anniversary as a congregation and church family. As part of the day, we will be having a program of music, remembrances and thanksgiv-

ing. The musical selections will include anthems by a "Reunion Choir" comprised of current and past Sr. Choir singers and solo performances by former members. There will also be times of remembrance and reflection presented by former pastors.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. in the Bethesda Sanctuary and we hope that many of you can join us on this special day.

Donations Needed

Resthave is asking for donations of shampoo and conditioner 2-in-1, such as Pantene, and scented body wash for their residents. If you would like to donate, you can drop them off at the church or contact Deb Zigler.

Crossroads Morrison Craft Show

Crossroads Community Church, Morrison Campus (201 W. Market St), will be hosting a Fall Craft Show on Saturday, October 1 from 9am—3pm. There will also be a food stand and bake sale to help

raise funds to go towards their youth trip to see the ARC in Kentucky the summer of 2023.

Halloween Parade

Please join the Morrison Chamber of Commerce as they host their annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 29 at 1:00pm. Line up begins at Community State Bank and will proceed down Main Street to the Post Office.

Morrison Fall Festival

The Morrison Chamber will also be hosting a Fall Festival from 2-5 on Saturday, October 29 at the White-side County Fairgrounds. There will be walking tacos, a dance contest, crowning of parade costume winners, a petting zoo and much more.

Trick or Treat

Ghouls and Goblins beware!! Kids will be out for Trick or Treat fun on Monday, October 31 from 4-7pm. Following the city Trick or Treat, Emmanuel Church will be hosting their Trunk or Treat. Please have a safe and fun Halloween!

focus of churches in the U.S.A. was inward. But the world Jesus served was outward.

We need to remember there is more than just 'us'. And that is what churches today are starting to realize. Churches, like our own, feel called to help this world in the ways in which we are able. As we look after one another, we look beyond our walls to see where there are needs, and explore how we can meet those needs.

God has always called us to love one another. Jesus continually calls us together to move beyond our divisions so that we can find unity in bringing healing to this world through the power of the Holy Spirit. The idea for the future of the world, as Jesus taught, was to irradicate the divisions that create inequality and injustice. The barriers of society were to be irradicated. We were all to become one, in God's love. If we each open ourselves up to God's love, if we each love our own self, and if we each seek to love our neighbor as ourself, then we can make this happen. But that's what

God has been calling for us to do long before Jesus' time on earth. The earliest proof of our Jewish ancestors is when then established a monarchy around 1,000 years before Jesus walked the earth. And these love commandments that they attest were handed down from God to Moses on Mt. Saini, were ancient by that time. In such, we have been missing the point over and over again through the ages. But as of late, there is a change in the air. Churches are starting to figure it out. They don't exist for themselves. Their work is not their own. It's not about stats. It's not about their popularity in the community. It's about receiving God's love. It's about embracing God's love. It's about working together to share God's love.

Autumn has set on churches long ago. Winter is actually ending for many. For us, as the Presbyterians of Morrison, IL, we have been living in a springtime since the mid-2000s. Though it may not seem it based on antiquated ways to judge the health of a church, we have been blossoming

and embracing the true way to be a church. It can seem too little too late, but that's disregarding the Holy Spirit. Truthfully, we never know what God has in store for us. If we embrace that the Holy Spirit is leading us, anything is possible.

In our life together, we can remain open to the Holy Spirit. We can strive to serve Christ. We can care for one another so we can be healthy and pass on our caring to others. We can continue to seek to love our neighbor as ourself by reaching out to our neighbor with open hearts, sharing God's blessings with others. We can embrace that the summer we once knew is over and that we are creating new seasons for our congregation and for the world around us. As the old fades away, we clothe ourselves with the newness found in our life of serving Christ by spreading love to all we are able. This is true beauty. This is true life. This is our path of discipleship. May we serve Christ together.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

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 '24*
Stacie Baker, Clerk

Deacons

Mavis Best '22
Junee Cortes '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
Courtney Bruckner,
Custodian

**Elders and Deacons in their
second consecutive term*

Birthdays

10/02: Jakob Palmer
10/03: George Selburg
10/05: Allyison Mucci
10/05: Kolten Sage
10/05: Kaden Blasdell
10/07: Michael Vegter
10/08: Silas Dolieslager
10/11: Norman Horack
10/16: Beverly Bealer
10/18: Bud Thompson
10/19: Dave Zigler
10/20: Cheyenne Sage
10/21: Scott Vandermyde
10/22: Jody Tucker
10/27: Emily Davis
10/27: Ted Volckmann
10/30: Wendy Volckmann

Anniversaries

10/12: Ron & Nancy Shank
10/13: Chad & Myra Huizenga
10/16: Dennis & Arlene
Burkholder
10/16: Ray & Jody Tucker
10/19: Steve & Carol Wolf
10/23: Dave & Deb Zigler
10/28: Keith & Susan
Wiersema
10/28: Ryan & Sarah
Wiersema
10/28: Dail & Amanda
Blasdell

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Oct. 13: Chili
Nov. 10: TBD
Dec. 8: Christmas Ham Dinner



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YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com

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