

# 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!

January 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 1

A new year. A fresh snowfall. A new calendar to begin again. A blank slate to recreate.

What is it about the idea of a new year that prompts us to contemplate making changes in our lives? After all, it's simply another new day. We experience that every morning. What makes the *new year* so special? I believe it's about having an excuse to have the opportunity to make changes that, for whatever reason, we haven't yet made.

Life hurries by. There's always plenty on our plate. Our toils and concerns are ever changing. We can get stuck in the rut which our busy lives create. Ruts get deeper and harder to get out of. We need a catalyst to launch us out and onto a fresh path. But where to go? We can look behind us and see where we've been, but knowing where to go isn't often easy. We need faith.

Have you ever contemplated what the beginning of Jesus' ministry was like for him? The oldest Gospel, Mark, tells us a bit about Jesus' life pre-ministry. Mark 2:1 reveals he lived in Capernaum: "When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home." In Mark 6:3, Jesus is back in home and the towns people remark, "'Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?'" Capernaum was a village on the northwest shore of the Sea of Galilee, a few miles away from the major route passing through Palestine, connecting Europe and Africa. We know that Jesus' mother and siblings lived there as well—sisters and at least four brothers. And there, in a lakeside village, among fishermen and his family, Jesus had a normal life with a career... until there was a catalyst that changed his life, and the world, forever.

Continuing to look at the Gospel of Mark, we find in the first chapter a domino effect of catalysts begin-

ning with John the Baptist. We are told that there was an ancient prophecy that was coming true. The Holy Spirit was at work. John the Baptist first heeded his call and began his ministry. This was a very popular event, and people were flocking to get baptized. Jesus was one of them. He made a 70 mile pilgrimage to be baptized. And when he did, God spoke to him. He received the Holy Spirit. And he was driven into the wilderness for 40 days, tempted by Satan. This was an amazing spiritual journey. When he returned home after a very long journey, he couldn't be the same. A new direction had been presented, and his faith led him in the direction God intended. His experience changed his life. He became empowered to lead a life of ministry, filled with miracles and teachings. He could not continue his old life. It had to be let go of. It wasn't that there was anything wrong with who he had been. Rather, it was that he needed to become someone new. Through his faith, he centered himself on serving God, and God led him all along the way, and was with him on the cross.

Today, you woke up. Today, you started a new day. What were your ambitions and plans for the day? What were they centered around? What has drawn your focus as the day has continued? What will become of the rest of your day. At the end of it, you will go to bed, you will wake up tomorrow, and you will begin again... over and over and over until one day this life ends and the long journey begins.

Where is God in your short journey here on earth? How is your relationship with God leading you in your daily actions and your long-term plans? Where do you see yourself emulating Jesus? How does your faith tie into it? In what ways do you forget all about the Triune God in your life? In what ways are you hiding? When does your faith

dwindle or even disappear? When contemplating following God, where do you feel compelled to go? What small voice might be calling to you and what does it say? Are you listening? Are you praying? Are you paying attention? God is at work in your life whether you recognize it or accept it. God is always there. God is always leading and guiding you. God is always providing the way for you to go. Your faith will connect you. What's the catalyst you need to push you to the next level of your journey in life...a journey that is centered on God? How does your faith need to be reaffirmed? How does it need strengthened or maintained? And if you are on a God-centered faithful journey already, what then is trying to pull you away? What are the pitfalls? When do the ruts show up? What diminishes your faith?

It's a new year. There'll be new opportunities to live the way you believe you should be living it, or to keep you on the path that you have already found. What will be your center? What will be your bedrock and your cornerstone? What will give and strengthen your faith?

In our life together, we have the opportunity to be the faithful and faith-filled body of Christ. We can work together, venturing into a new life to love one another and spread the light of God's love throughout the world. As God is always with us, God will always provide catalysts. Our faith will lead us in the direction God intends. God will empower us to empower others. God will keep us faith-filled. As we help one another, we can continue Jesus' work to create a world of justice.

Love is a gift we give and receive. When we live in love, we live in God. When we live in God, we live in the realm of God, which is heaven on earth. We can have faith in this. Let's begin again, together!

Happy New Year,  
Mike

# Church News

## CHURCH EVENTS

### Happy New Year!

Wishing you many blessings in this new year! Join us in person for the first worship service of 2022 on Sunday, January 2, at 10:15a.m., or watch the livestream on our Facebook group page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison>.

### In-Person Worship

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15a.m. every Sunday morning. Masks are required and we ask that you space yourselves apart.

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/UCcZlobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

### Snow Day Sundays

In the event that in-person worship gets canceled this winter due to weather, Pastor Mike will livestream a short service from his home on our Facebook group page at 10:15a.m. (assuming power is not out). Thanks modern technology!

### Christ the King/ Epiphany Sunday

Join us on Sunday, January 2nd for our Christ the King/ Epiphany worship Service

### Baptism of the Lord

We'll celebrate Baptism of the Lord with Holy Communion on Sunday, January 9th.

### Installation Sunday

We will install our Session Elders and Deacons during our worship service on Sunday, January 16th.

### Annual Meeting Sunday

The Annual Meeting will once again be part of the worship service. This year we are pushing the meeting back a week from its standard '3rd Sunday of January' to give us time to get the correct end-of-year budget from our accountant and get the Annual Report written and compiled.

### Church Clean-up Day

Come one, come all to help get the church organized and tidied up. On Saturday, January 8th, we'll meet at 9a.m.. We'll undecorate the sanctuary, remove everything from the dining room that is being stored there, and clear out the junk/ storage rooms on the 3rd floor. We take it all to the 3rd floor and sort through everything, making 3 piles: that which will get properly stored; that which will go to the dumpster; and that which will go to Goodwill. Once we know how much we actually need to store, we will, on a separate day, either build or purchase shelves and create proper storage areas on the 3rd floor. All Free Community Meal boxes that are currently stored in the dining room will find a home on the 3rd floor.

**LGBTQ 101** A community group will be hosting a guest speaker in our dining room on January 11. There will be two sessions: the first is for educators/agencies only from 5:00-6:30pm. The second is for public 7-8. All are invited to learn more about people who identify as lesbian, gay, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ+). Chase Norris, Executive Director of CLOCK, nc. Will offer valuable information and insight to help our community become better informed on the issues affecting our LGBTQ youth. Q&A to follow. Registration requested: <https://forms.gle/4MBfm8mf1MmiwaLd7>

### Bible Study

Feel free to meet us for our Zoom Bible Studies. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd (& 5th) Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome to attend.

### Drive-Up Meals

There will be one meal in January on Thursday the 27th. We will be serving beef and veggie soup. Help is needed on Wednesday the 26th starting at 1p.m. to cut veggies, brown the burger and put it all together. More help is needed on the 27th starting at 3:30p.m. Thanks to Tyson Foods in Hillsdale for donating the burger; Family Chef for donating the dinner rolls; and Sauk Valley Food Banks for donating some of the veggies.

### Deacons Meeting

Deacons will meet again on January 17 at 10AM in the Fellowship Room at the church.

### Session Meeting

Session will meet January 17 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

### Office Closed

The office will be closed Monday, January 17, Martin Luther King Jr. Day/school out. Stacie will be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday that week.

### PW Meeting

There will be a PW Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at 5PM at the home of Marian Osborn.

### Newsletter Deadline 1/24

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

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Welcome to the World

We would like to welcome into the world Vincent Robert Story, son of Anna (Robertson) and Mitch Story, and great-grandson of Doris Robertson. Vincent was born on December 21st, coming in at 8 pounds, 2 ounces, 21 inches.

### A Big Thank You!

Thank you to all who helped make a family's Christmas bright this year by purchasing gifts!

### Cookie Bake/Frost-Off

Thanks to all who came and helped bake and then frost cookies. We delivered about 40 plates of decorated cookies and gave out another dozen bundles of cookies the following Sunday. We had a good time too!

### 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](mailto:prayers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com). Please pass this on to others!

### Statements

2021 Contribution Statements will be mailed by the end of January.

### Keep in your Prayers

Lt. Robert Osborn (Army) will be deployed to Poland to build floating bridges.

Lt. Joshua Osborn (National Guard) will be in Poland with NATO.

Both young men are grandsons of Marian Osborn. Thank you both for your service.

## FPC Morrison & LGBTQIA+ Community

In December, the Session voted to become a More Light Church and also joined the Covenant Network of Presbyterians. As a congregation, we proclaim that we are open and accepting to ALL people who seek a church home or a refuge to visit, and do not place judgment, nor exclude, based on one's gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, skin color, race, nationality, or anything else that society might say makes someone 'different' or even 'lesser'. We strive for justice for all in this world. We believe that in Christ, we are one. As God's love is for all, we too seek to love one another, following Jesus' commandment.

The Session voted to endorse the mission statement of More Light Presbyterians: "Following the risen Christ, and seeking to make the Church a true community of hospitality, the mission of More Light Presbyterians is to work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society."

The Session also voted to affirm the mission/vision statement of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians: "Confident in God's hopeful future and grateful for the ever-widening welcome of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Covenant Network of Presbyterians seeks an equity still not fully realized for LGBTQIA+ people in church and society, by: Engaging the church to invite all of God's children into safe and welcoming congregational spaces of affirmation, healing, dignity and purpose; Educating the church to expand our welcome of LGBTQIA+ people, to affirm their gifts for ordained office, and to uphold marriage equality for all; and Equipping the church to bear witness to justice through advocacy and activism at the international, national and local church levels; speaking a prophetic word in anxious and divided times; and standing with others in fighting hate and oppression against any of God's children.

The Covenant Network of Presbyterians calls the church to bear a unified witness to generous hospitality and faithful justice." More info at: <https://mlp.org>  
<https://covnetpres.org>

## 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, 7:30-9:30 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/>.

# January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 <i>Christ the King/Epiphany</i> 10:15AM Worship	3	4 9:30AM Bible Study	5	6	7	8 9AM Church Clean Up Day
9 <i>Baptism of the Lord</i> 10:15AM Worship	10	11 9:30AM Bible Study 7PM Guest Speaker	12	13 11AM Finance Mtg.	14	15
16 <i>Installation Sunday</i> 10:15AM Worship	17 <i>Office Closed</i> 10AM Deacon Mtg.	18 9:30AM Bible Study	19	20	21	22
23 <i>Annual Meeting</i> 10:15AM Worship	24 6:30PM Session Mtg.	25 5PM PW Board Mtg.	26	27	28	29
30 10:15AM Worship	31			4:30PM Drive Up Community Meal		



# 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; Bob Atherton, Richard Black, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## WHOA Fundraiser

The Clinton Pizza Ranch and WHOA are hosting a Community Impact Night to benefit WHOA. Please join them on January 3 from 5-8PM. WHOA will receive 10% of the sales during this time, as well as WHOA volunteers will be serving and bussing tables for extra donations.

WHOA was established for the purpose of providing recreational, educational, therapeutic and social opportunities for people with disabilities.

Please help out this great organization!

## Winter Rec Sports

Morrison Parks and Rec has opened registration for their winter sports. They are offering basketball for 1st—4th grades, wrestling for kindergarten—4th grade and adult co-ed volleyball.

You can register at [www.quickcores.com/morrisonSports](http://www.quickcores.com/morrisonSports) or call 815-535-1105 or email [parksandrec@morrisonil.org](mailto:parksandrec@morrisonil.org) for more information.



## January Scripture Readings

- Jan 2: Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 147:12-20  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Matthew 2:1-12
- Jan 9: Isaiah 43:1-7  
Psalm 29  
Acts 8:14-17  
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Jan 16: Isaiah 62:1-5  
Psalm 36:5-10  
1 Corinthians 12:1-11  
John 2:1-11
- Jan 23: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 12-31a  
Luke 4:14-21
- Jan 30: Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

# LGBTQ 101

WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON TRANSGENDER CHILDREN

**Tuesday, January 11, 2022**

First Presbyterian Church  
100 E. Lincolnway | Morrison, IL 61270

All are invited to learn more about people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, or Questioning (LGBTQ+). Chase Norris, Executive Director of CLOCK, Inc. will offer valuable information and insight to help our community become better informed on the issues affecting our LGBTQ youth. Q&A to follow.



Registration Requested

### Session 1

Educators & Agencies  
5:00-6:30 PM

### Session 2

Open to the Community  
7:00-8:00 PM

Presented by



# 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\*  
Jan Kelly, Clerk

**Deacons**

Mavis Best '22  
Jane James '22\*  
Doris Robertson '23\*  
Nancy Glazier '24  
Jody Tucker '24

**Nominating Committee**  
TBD

**PW Coordinating Team**

Lynn Knox, Moderator  
Jane James, Secretary  
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  
Jenn Reynolds, Custodian

*\*Elders and Deacons in their  
second consecutive term*

## BIRTHDAYS

01/03: Jace Velasco  
01/09: Stephany Trossbach  
01/10: Greg Kruse  
01/15: Marian Osborn  
01/19: Leah Huizenga  
01/22: Kelly Vegter  
01/27: Mitch Dolieslager  
01/28: Shirley Thompson  
01/31: Troy Layne

## ANNIVERSARIES

01/14: Clay & Alyssa Sibley

### Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

Jan. 27: Beef and Veggie Soup  
Feb. 24: Chili  
Mar. 31: Ham and Potato Soup  
April 28: Vegan Stew  
May 26: Brats  
June 30: Hamburgers  
July 28: Hot Dogs  
Aug. 25: Brats  
Sept. 8: Sloppy Joe Baked  
Potato



**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



Life Together is published 11 times per year by the  
First Presbyterian Church of Morrison IL.



Please Recycle