

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 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 3

March meagerly meanders in, manipulating mud with highs in the mid -50s. Winter's thaw arrives, with footsteps squishing upon the yellowed grasses. Ditches, valleys and leaside of trees, hills and buildings are still lined with compacted dirty ice and snow, which slowly melts, while lingering with a hesitant refusal to leave. Soon the crocus will spring forth her bloom, and by month's end, perhaps, the hyacinths will bud their electric gold leaves. The season's change is upon us. Life is ready to return.

"Enjoy this time. It goes by fast." That is what every older adult told me when my first son was born. As I paraded Henry around the nursing homes and church, everyone had the same wise advice. "He'll be grown before you know it."

Yesterday I took Henry skiing to Chestnut Mountain. As we were preparing to hit the slopes, we first stopped in the bathroom. On the way out, I saw a mom changing a baby's diaper on the changing table, which was exposed in the exit of the woman's bathroom. The baby was so young, so tiny, so fragile, so precious. In that brief moment, I saw the love between the mother and child, as the baby gently kicked his legs and the mother cooed to him. I looked at Henry, ever growing out of his clothes, now able to ski independently down the hills, now fully a boy...rushing off to becoming an adolescent. Oh my, but he was just that baby the other day! I wanted to tell the mother to enjoy this time, because it was going to slip away fast. I hope she knows.

I think of those days which were just a moment ago, yet so far gone, when I would change my boys' diapers when they were so young. It was hard to always appreciate the moment of their tender and fleeting age. It is hard to fully appreciate it when sleep deprived, when wanting to focus on one's own adult self at

least a little bit, when reluctant to wipe another stinky bottom. It's easy, in that moment, to look forward to the time when potty training has come and gone and the child is much more independent. We look at what is ahead, and forget to embrace what is at hand. Soon enough, the present becomes the past, and it will never be back. They become nothing but faded and worn memories. But to have one of those moments back, to have an opportunity once again with your baby, though years have passed, would be so delightfully amazing. But that's a wish that can't be filled. We only had the moment back then to embrace. When it's gone, it's gone. Indeed, no matter where we are in life, we need to enjoy this time, because life does go by fast.

As we enter into the Lenten season, we are given the opportunity to take a pause and reflect upon our life. As we know how fast the days slip away amidst our toils, it is not always easy to appreciate and live within the moment that is at hand. But Lent offers us the chance to spend 46 days contemplating our life, re-evaluating our relationship with the Triune God and how well we are living our life among our fellow humans and the natural world. It's a time to be able to embrace and protect, if not also build upon, what we are doing well, stop doing that which we need to take out of our lives, and to contemplate new areas of growth. The hope is that on Easter Sunday, we may truly rise to a new life with Christ.

We have the choice. We can utilize winter's end and early spring to become better people and to live into the life that we really want to, and know we need to be living. We can try to take control of our lives among the chaos and toils that have built up, so that we are not lost in the swirling passing of time, which can leave us feeling like we are being sucked down a whirlpool. We can find a

firm foothold that will let us catch our breath and catch up with our own life, which will lead to the ability to embrace the moment at hand, and to live within the moment, continually. When we find ourselves living in the moment, we can embrace the beauty of life around us. We can better pay attention to, and notice, that which we are missing, and our life will be fully lived. The band Phish offers these words of advice in their song *Scents and Subtle Sounds*: "If you would only stop to live one moment at a time; You would, I think, be startled by the things that you would find; Like scents you never noticed and many subtle sounds; Like colors in the landscape and textures of the town; And the winds will lift you up into the sky above; And you'd be treated to a view of everything you love; If you think you love everything you love; And if the moment passes you should try it once again; For if you do it right you'll find the moment never ends."

In our life together this Lent, as we put in our individual work toward our Lenten discipline, may we remember that we are all in this life together, and we can offer ourselves to one another to rely on. We are in a scary world these days. Love is so easily cast away and prayer is quickly forgotten. But in prayer for the world, may we adjust our mindset away from the toils and away from the desires, and instead focus on creating beautiful lives together and helping the world, both humans and nature, heal and flourish. Let's follow Christ. Let's be filled with the Holy Spirit. Let's allow God to work through us so we can be the conduit to bring about God's new creation that awaits. Let's do it now, before it's too late. Remember, no matter what stage you are in life, enjoy this life—this moment...together. It goes by fast.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

In-Person Worship

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15a.m. 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>.

Pre-recorded Cynthia Perrizo organ music will be played on March 6th (thanks to Nancy Shank for running the organ that day) and Doug Harridge will play organ for us on Ash Wednesday and March 13th.

Masks

At the February Session meeting, the ruling elders decided on the following concerning masks. Please note, the Session will continue to monitor the health risks in our community and will change the rules to best fit the needs:

-Worship Services: Masks will be 'highly recommended' but not required, beginning on Sunday, March 6. The Session asks that all people attending the services to spread themselves at least 6 feet apart.

-Community Meals: all volunteers helping with community meals (either days before the meal or day of the meal) are required to wear a mask at this time.

-Group Gatherings/ Meetings: It is up to the groups who are having gatherings and meetings at the church or elsewhere to decide what their mask policy will be.

-Sunday School: Children and teachers are required to wear masks during Sunday School.

-Coffee Hour: we are slating coffee hour to resume on April 24th. Volunteers will be needed.

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.

Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, March 2, for our Ash Wednesday service beginning at 7PM.

Sunday School

Children's Sunday school continues in March. We will meet on the 6th, 13th, and 20th, but will take the following two weeks off during spring break. Class starts at 9:30.

Heritage Sunday Returns

After missing celebrating the church's birthday the past two years, we will celebrate her 167th birthday (March 28th) on Sunday, March 27th. We will rededicate the church to God as well as reaffirm our baptismal vows. No pot-luck to follow this year, but come celebrate with us none-the-less.

Drive-Up Meals

There will be one meal in March on Thursday, March 31. We will be serving ham & potato soup beginning at **5:00pm**. Help is needed preparing the meal on Wednesday, March 30th at 1PM.

Note, we are changing our meal times during Daylight Savings. From March thru October, meals will begin to be handed out at 5PM. November thru February, when the sun sets earlier, we will begin to hand out meals at 4:30PM.

There will be a decrease in meals served in 2022. Pastor Mike has been in charge of all the meals and it is taking him nearly an entire work week to make them happen every week there is a meal. He states that this is hindering his abil-

ity to perform other pastoral duties, and leading to his burnout with the meals. He is willing to host one meal per month and is asking others to step up and take charge of meals. He is asking for any church members or groups who would like to host a meal to contact him. He is also reaching out to other groups in town to see if anyone would like to learn to host a meal (with our help initially, and hopefully, they will sign up for more in the future). Currently, Morrison 4H is signed up to host a meal on June 9th. Meals are currently planned for March 31, April 28, May 26, June 9 (4H), June 30, July 28, August 25, Sept 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8. The available dates are either the 2nd or last Thursday of the month that do not already have a meal planned. See page 6 for the full proposed menu for the year.

Deacons Meeting

Deacons will meet again on March 21 at 10AM via a phone conference call, as 3 of our 5 deacons are away for the winter.

Session Meeting

Session will meet March 21 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadline 3/24

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ted Luther Memorial

A memorial service and luncheon for Ted Luther, who died on January 16, 2020, is slated to be held on Saturday, April 9th, at our church. Several previously scheduled dates

have been canceled due to COVID. Presbyterian Women will oversee the luncheon. Please contact Lynn Knox to see how you can help. More information to come.



March Scripture

- March 6: Deut. 26:1-11
Ps. 91:1-2, 9-16
Rom. 10:8b-13
Luke 4:1-13
- March 13: Gen. 15:1-12, 17-18
Ps. 27
Phil. 3:17-4:1
Luke 13:31-35
- March 20: Isa. 55:1-9
Ps. 63:1-8
1 Cor. 10:1-13
Luke 13:1-9
- March 27: Josh. 5:9-12
Ps. 32
2 Cor. 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

ers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com.
Please pass this on to others.

Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, at 9:30AM. We are tentatively scheduled to have a hybrid meeting at Dekalb Westminster. Those wishing to attend can either do so in person or via Zoom. The meeting will only go until around noon, with no coffee hour or lunch provided. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, you can email Loreen Stravers at loreene@blackhawkpresbytery.org to sign up and get the link. If you would like to attend in person, please contact Pastor Mike. If you attend, either in person or via Zoom, you will get to be part of a breakout group for the learning opportunity, which is led by Mike and the Visioning Task Force team.

Presbyterian Women

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17 at 5 pm at the home of Marian Osborn.

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.

Welcome to the World

Brixty Carmelo David Musch was born on 2/2/22, weighing in 7lbs 10oz. Proud parents are Aubrey and Loren Musch. Grandparents are Lisa and Carmelo Coyomani.

Update from Scott

Vandermyde

Just an update: my knee surgery has been postponed with no certain date. Some issues to work through in advance, nothing serious, just a few more tests and treatments to make sure it's all good for surgery. In the mean time, I have some travel plans so I will be away for a few Sundays.

Annual Reports

Copies of the 2021 Annual Report are still available. You can pick one up from the church office or when you attend a worship service.

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 pray-

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/>.



March 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 AM Bible Study	2 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	3	4	5
6 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> 10:15 AM Worship	7	8 9:30 AM Bible Study	9	10	11	12
13 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> 10:15 AM Worship	14	15 9:30 AM Bible Study	16	17	18	19
20 <i>3rd Sunday of Lent</i> 10:15 AM Worship	21 10AM Deacon Mtg	22	23	24 5PM PW Meeting	25	26
27 <i>4th Sunday of Lent</i> 10:15 AM Worship	28 6:30 PM Session Mtg	29 9:30 AM Bible Study	30	31 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal		

Properties Updates

Bell Tower

We know that there is a problem with the bell tower. There is leaking coming in from at least two spots in the sanctuary, which is ruining the plaster. It is also leaking inside the bell tower (which has been ongoing for years). When we refurbished the louvers, all the openings were closed up, so we know we are not getting water in from there anymore. However, from the best we can tell, the tower is twisting and pulling away from the building. Having the new sanctuary supports installed by HELITECH in November should ensure that the sanctuary portion of the building will stay stationary, and HELITECH will monitor our foundation movement over the next three years. The next move is to determine exactly what is wrong with the bell tower, how Highway 30 might be impacting its condition, and what needs to be done to make the necessary fixes. Also, IDOT is considering fixing Highway 30, but they need a list of issues. They know that the stoplights at the Genesee and Lincolnway corners need replaced for multiple reasons. They also know of the drainage issue. If the highways is causing damage to our belltower, that will also help move our town up on the list for repairing the road. In such, we are having Wendler Engineering out of Sterling/ Dixon to come evaluate the condition of the bell tower and we will decide if we need to hire them to design a plan for our bell tower and if the state needs to make repairs to the highway and our sidewalk (which is now hollow underneath at our corner) before it makes sense to fix the bell tower. Wendler is one of three firms approved by the City of Morrison to do work for them (the other two are architect firms). They

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; the family of Richard Black (father of our office manager Stacie Baker who completed this portion of life Feb 9), Bob Dan Brandon, Orville Goode-nough, Glenda Hegwood, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, the family Cynthia Vander-leest (completed this portion of life Feb 6), Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

are also approved by the State of Illinois. The Session approved this at their February meeting and Pastor Mike has made contact with an engineer and expects to have him meet with him and Jim Palmer (the church member who knows most about the bell tower and is willing to crawl up in it) the second week of March. More info to come.

Boiler Issues

This winter, a pipe that runs between the boiler room and the men's dining room bathroom created a leak that finally became noticeable. It is likely that this leak has come and gone for years, upon further inspection, but has now made itself well known as it has twice made a river on the bathroom floor. It has done damage to the wall and floor in the bathroom, and also the wall in the boiler room. Our boiler company is waiting for the weather to warm before they fix it, because the boiler will have to be shut off throughout the church. Once the pipe is fixed, we will hire a company to fix the bathroom (new wall, floor, and likely take all the wall paper down and have it painted). This is covered by our insurance, though we have to meet our \$2,500 deductible. There are a few other issues with our boiler...over heating in the nursery and men's bathroom on the daycare

side; the boiler water pump which was fixed last year is broken again; and a back-flush pipe has a slow leak.

A handful of other projects are being looked at, but those will be announced when more information is available.

Reminder, if you would like to make a blanket donation to our building fund, we are always willing to accept. Otherwise, we will keep you posted with costs that we will be accruing to keep our beautiful building up and running.

COMMUNITY NEWS

MMTA Performance

MMTA (Morrison Musical Theatre Association) is putting on "Steel Magnolias" on March 11 and 12 at 7pm and March 13 at 2pm. Performances are held at Morrison Tech. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Fitzgerald's Pharmacy or \$12 at the door. You can find information on their Fans page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/MMTAfans>.

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

Nominating Committee

Rick Barr
Jan Kelly
Jenn Reynolds
Ron Shank
Lynn Knox
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

03/05: Angela Reamer
03/06: Blake Huizenga
03/13: Donna Gray
03/15: Jim Palmer
03/17: Steve Wolf
03/19: Parker Pohren
03/20: Collin Wolf
03/25: Heather Sim
03/29: Cynthia Reynolds
03/30: Cooke Shawver

Anniversaries

03/04: Bud & Shirley Thompson
03/05: Ted & Wendy Volckmann
03/13: Joe & Lisa Sage



Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead one hour on
Saturday, March 12.

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Mar. 31: Ham and Potato Soup

April 28: Stew

May 26: Brats

June 30: Hamburgers

July 28: Hot Dogs

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



Please Recycle

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