

# 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!

September 2024 • Vol. 67/No. 8

September sways. He begins his possession of time in summer's easy daytime turquoise skies and mountainous cumulous clouds. Meanwhile, winter sneaks in through chilly nights amidst the ever-more twinkling star lights. Back and forth, he moves. Never content. Always changing. Still growing yet dying. Full of thick tomato and pepper bushes amidst yellow flowers thick in golden pollen, where delighted bees and butterflies dine amidst a dearth, he simultaneously forces the corn dry to clattering bones where one field over the beans swirl from green to yellow to brown. September evenings start with screaming cicadas and crickets from sunset to the shining stars, yet soon fall quiet as he fades into October. September sways. He is never the same. He is the finish of everything and the beginning of nothingness. But all is done in brilliance and competes as nature's masterpiece. With September, we too transition, yet all the while, we can be beautiful in all that we do, despite the swaying nature of our life. Like September, we are ever changing yet always amazing.

The days shift one at a time. Their count builds up which we calculate in years but measure in memories. They mishmash together... "Was that not just the other day? How could that have been thirty years ago? I remember that so clearly. I don't remember that at all!" We move one. Another day after the other. We change. Our body changes. Our maturity changes. Our mind changes. Our desires change. Our needs change. The world around us changes. Is nothing constant? Indeed, amidst all of the days of our life, we have the constant truth of love's presence in this world, and no matter how much darkness might surround us, love is still *there*. Love is always *here*.

Long ago, when contemplating entering professional ministry, I wrote a poem entitled, *Sunshine is*

*Never Dim, Only Sometimes Hidden*, "To love a Dream, Is to pass a Wish, Onto a Floating Hope, As it circles about Reality. To live a Dream, Is to catch the Wish, With a Knowing Hope, As it becomes Reality. Catch your dream, The one you truly wish, While it is a floating hope, And your dreams will be your reality." The poem was about seeking one's calling in life, but the title can mean so much more. It is a reminder that even on the cloudiest, rainiest, snowiest and foggiest of days, the sun still shines beyond the clouds. Even in the darkest of night, the sun shines brilliant at noon time just a little bit around the globe. The earth will still turn. The daylight will come. We will see and feel the sunshine again. We will always be reassured. And when we feel lost, feel like we have no direction, when we don't know what to do with our lives, the answer is always there, it's just sometimes hidden. And the answer dwells within God's love.

The sunshine gives life. It can also take life. It is always providing, yet it can easily bring the end. It seems to do either without thought or care. It just does what it does in its own way and time.

In nature, God gives life and God takes life. God is always providing, yet no life lasts forever. We are part of nature. We are formed from the elements of the earth. We are of the dust, filled with water. We breathe. Our heart beats. We move. We live. We experience. We enjoy. We hurt. We laugh. We cry. We have the knowledge of good and evil and everything in between. We build relationships. We lose relationships. We love. We hate. We find our path and we lose our way. This is life. But God is constantly there with us. It's just a matter of faith to believe, to witness and to embrace God in our life. We can set our focus on to the toils of our days and the lures that pull us this way and that. The swaying of life demands our atten-

tion as we seek balance. Too far this way or that and we fall. But balance usually seems impossible to find. And when we do find balance, it is ever so difficult to hold onto.

When left to the belief that God is not with us, or that God is not real, we are left to place our own self as our own god. In this way, our faith is in ourself, and when hard times come, we fall upon our broken self, which leads to implosion—a crumbling in on our own self. Yet a faith in God leads to a safe landing when we fall.

The "trust fall" has been a standard team building exercise used for any group being trained to have faith in their team. A volunteer is encouraged to close their eyes, cross their arms in front of their chest, and fall backwards straight like a board. Meanwhile, others from the group bind their hands together behind the volunteer, and easily catch them as they fall. And this indeed, is how we believe God works through us and how God is present.

God does not, in our times of need, use a magic that impedes upon nature's momentum. Things happen to us—good and bad. But there are people in our lives who are filled with love, who come to us in our times of need and celebrate with us in our times of joy. Likewise, we utilize the love that dwells within us to help others when they are losing in life and to celebrate their wins. As God is love, then God is working through others to shine God's love upon us. And God is working through us in love as we shine upon others. The constant in our life is that God always provides the opportunity to love, and to utilize that love. This love creates communities focused on caring for one another. This love creates bonds between humans, as well as between humans and nature. The 1782 hymn penned by John Fawcett, *Blessed Be the Tie that Binds* explains it well. "Blest be

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

### Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at Pleasant View Nursing Home on Tuesdays throughout the month.

### Bingo at Homestead

Marian Osborn invites one and all to join residents and friends of Homestead to play bingo on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 1:30—2:30PM. There will be refreshments and prizes!

### Labor Day Sunday Worship

#### Road Trip to Garden Plain

Our church doors will be closed this Labor Day Sunday, September 1. We'll be worshipping starting at 10AM with our friends at Garden Plain Presbyterian Church. Rev. John Reynolds will be presiding over worship.

### Rally Day Sunday, Communion, Pulled Pork Lunch & Family Tie-Dye Event

Sunday School starts back up for our children and youth on September 8, at 9:15AM. Weather permitting, we'll spend time playing in the bounce house, playing games, and learning about the upcoming year. Communion will be served during worship. We will serve pulled pork sandwiches for lunch during coffee hour. Our church families and friends are then invited to stay for tie-dying.

### September Sunday School

We'll hold Sunday School on September 8, 15 and 29 starting at 9:15.

### Children & Youth Worship Helpers

This year, we are not necessarily going to have our classic "Time with the Growing Church" during worship. For now, we are having our children and youth have their learning opportunity during Sunday School, and then they are invited to help in all worship services. Select services this year will seek to fill all our worship volunteer opportunities with only children and youth. We'll start that up on September 29.

### Drive-Up Meals

Our next meal will be on Thursday, September 12 beginning at 5PM. The meal is Sloppy Joe baked potatoes. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday the 11th at 1:30PM and Thursday at 4:15PM.

### Dine-In Meals!

The Session has decided to try something new beginning with our October meal...we are inviting people to eat their meal inside our dining room, also beginning at 5PM (guests arriving earlier than 5PM will be put to work!!!). We'll offer drinks, but meals will be served via the same bags as the drive-up meals. If it's a meal that would require a plate and flatware at home, we'll offer that as well. Nothing fancy. It's just an opportunity to dine with others. Come join us and enjoy the company!

### Paddle and Eat

On Sunday, September 15, the church families and friends will be heading to Rockwood State Park to paddle kayaks and canoes. With a unique spin, each vessel will host some form or snack, food or drink. Folks will paddle among one another to enjoy the buffet! Time TBD.

### Resthave Presbyterian

#### Social Hour

Join us every 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM for "Presbyterian Social Hour" at Resthave. There will be plenty of coffee and conversation! Join us on September 16!

### Newsletter Deadline 09/23

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

## 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; Larry & Bev Bealer, Dan Brandon, Brandy Claeys (a friend of Stacie's), Janet Johnson, Wayne Osborn, Bob Sim, Jody Tucker, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker

## Harvest Celebration + Pie & Ice Cream Social

Our annual Harvest Celebration Worship Service will be on September 29. We'll celebrate and give thanks for God's abundant gifts in our lives. After, we'll get our fill of goodies with our annual Pie & Ice Cream Social. Feel free to bring a dessert to pass. The church will supply the ice cream.

## CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Blackhawk Presbytery

#### September Assembly Mtg

Would you like to join Pastor Mike and elected commissioner Scott Vandermyde to the next Assembly Meeting of Blackhawk Presbytery? We will be gathering in-person only at Stronghold on September 17th. Contact Pastor Mike for more information.

### Presbyterian Women Project

PW, which includes all women of our church, has undertaken a project. Rest-have is 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. You can find a pattern on Pinterest by searching "walker caddy pattern" or contact Deb Zigler.

### Communion Dates for 2024

Communion is planned to be served on the following days in 2023: September 8, October 6, November 24, and December 22.

### Impact Volunteers

Did you know that we are entering the 3rd year of having Sauk Valley Community College Impact Program Volunteers helping at our church, especially with our Community Meals? Students from the SVCC area entering freshman year of high school can register for this program. If they complete 25 hours of volunteer service per year for their four years of high school, they will receive up to three years of free tuition at SVCC. And students graduating in the top 20% of their class receive free

book! We are very thankful for all our volunteers. With each year, the numbers are quickly growing and we are becoming a more popular place to volunteer. Many youth comment that they feel welcome, enjoy the conversations with others, have fun helping, and feel like they are making a difference!!!

## LOOKING AHEAD— SAVE THE DATE

*September 8:* Rally Day Sunday (Sunday School begins); Outdoor worship weather pending; Communion; Family Tie-Dye Event

*October 6:* World Communion Sunday

*October 20:* Family Outing Road Trip to Thunderbird Effigy Mounds near Chestnut Mountain

*October 27:* Reformation Sunday; Family Pumpkin Carving Event 3-5PM

*November 1-3:* Blackhawk Presbytery Jr. & Sr. High Retreat @ Stronghold

*November 3:* Remembrance Sunday and Cherished Recipes Pot Luck

*November 24:* Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday

*December 1:* Advent begins; Decorate the church for Christmas @ 9:15AM; Hanging of the Greens Worship Service @ 10:15AMish; Record Breaking Party following (Pastor Mike breaks the longest pastorate in the church's history that day)

*December 8:* Congregational Meeting following worship to approve incoming 2025 Session Elders

*December 24:* Christmas Eve Worship Service @ 4PM

### Reminder: Every month...

*1st Tuesday, 4:30PM:* Ice Cream Social at Pleasant View

*3rd Monday, 2PM:* Resthave Presbyterian Social Hour

## 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](http://morrisonfoodpantry.org)

### 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](http://saukvalleyfoodbank.org)

### 211

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

Love  
one another.  
Feed  
each other.

# September 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>15th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10am Worship Service @ Garden Plain	2 <i>Office Closed No School</i>	3 9:30AM Worship Service @ PV 4:30PM Ice Cream Social @ PV	4	5	6	7 6PM Glow Bangers Ball & Parade
8 <i>16th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	<i>Labor Day</i> 9	10 9:30AM Bible Study	11 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead 1:30 Meal Prep	12 5 PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	13	14
15 <i>17th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	16 2PM Social Hour @ Resthava	17 9:30AM Bible Study 9:30AM Presbytery Meeting	18 1:30PM BINGO @ Resthava	19 8AM Social Hour @ The Loft	20	21 8AM Harvest Hammer 12PM Paint the Town
22 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	23 6:30PM Session Mtg	24 9:30AM Bible Study	25	26	27	28
29 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 9:15AM Sunday School 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 11AM Resthava Family Fun Day	30					

**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!

**Glow Bangers Ball**

The Morrison Department of Fun's Annual Glow Parade will be held on Saturday, September 7, beginning at 6pm.

From the '80 Hair Band, neon lights, black lights, and glow sticks, this should be a fun event! The '80 Hair Band Presenting: Big Mafia will perform at 7pm, with the Glow Parade at 8pm.

If you would like to be included in the parade, contact Morrison Department of Fun through Facebook or text Amanda Cook 630-605-5329 with your name and what type of vehicle you will enter.

**Paint the Town**

Morrison's Annual Paint the Town will be held on Saturday, September 21 beginning at 12 noon. To register, visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com), and search "2024 Annual Paint the Town".

**Resthava Family Fun Day**

Resthava Care & Rehabilitation will be holding their Family Fun day on Sunday, September 29 from 11am – 3pm. Watch their Facebook page for updates.

Resthava is looking for volunteers to help with shifts 11am-1pm and 1-3pm. You can contact Deb Zigler at 815-441-7984 or [debbie-zigler@gmail.com](mailto:debbie-zigler@gmail.com) for more information.

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the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above. Before our Maker's throne, we pour our ardent prayers; Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts, and our cares. We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear; And often for each other flows the sympathizing tear. When we asunder part, it gives us inward pain; But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again. From sorrow, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free; And perfect love and oneness reign through all eternity."

We are taught by Jesus in the Gospel of John, repeatedly, that eternal life is not just the spiritual life we experience once our human body dies. Rather, it is the spiritual life we begin to experience in every possible moment of life when we let love in and let love through. When we immerse ourselves in the love of God, we are able to bind one another in love, and we find ourselves living as one people, not separate entities. In this union, we celebrate and suffer together.

Further, we have been given the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we may have the ability to gain God's power to persevere in our own times of need, to help others in their times of need, and even more to help one another in our mutual times of need. Jesus proclaimed in Luke 11:13, "If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Despite that darkness has such a hold on our lives, we simply need to call out in prayer for the Holy Spirit, and we shall receive it. This is good news. The Holy Spirit will help us undo the wrongs of our past and live into a just future. This is a promise of old. We can look back at the Israelites in the diaspora during the Assyrian Empire. Isaiah 61:1-6 declared, "The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, foreigners shall till your land and dress your vines; but you shall be called priests of the Lord, you shall be named ministers of our God; you shall enjoy the wealth of the nations, and in their riches you shall glory."

Yes, we are today still the ministers

of our God and our loving actions shall bind us and right our wrongs, creating a new world of God's love around us.

In our life together, we will find that our lives will continue to sway. We shall seek balance, but balance is always fleeting. September brings balance to the earth with the Autumnal Equinox. Yet this balance too is fleeting. So what do we do when our balance is off. What do we do when we sway. We reach out to hold onto something. In our lives, we need to reach out to one another. We need others to be there for us. We need to be there for others. We do this best when we do it in love. We receive this love from God. And only in God's ways, taught to us through Christ, can we find proper balance. When we all learn to lean upon one another and to help one another in God's love, we shall not fall. Rather, we shall brace and embrace one another. We shall find new strength. We shall resist the destruction of darkness. We shall build up in the guiding light. Yes, in our life together, in and through Christ, we shall continue to naturally change as we are indeed part of nature, but we lovingly have each other in this journey. We shall transition and we shall transform. How we manage our transitions and exactly what we transform into is up to how we center love in our lives. Humanity, we can do this. Let's turn to love. Let's love one another.

Grace and Peace,  
Mike

# Leadership and Staff

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

Angela Reamer '24\*  
Ron Shank '24  
Deb Zigler '24\*  
Lexie Laughlin '25\*  
Scott Vandermyde '25\*  
Rick Barr '26  
Carol Wolf '26

Stacie Baker, Clerk

**Nominating Committee**

Lexie Laughlin  
Deb Zigler  
Jan Kelly  
Tim Reynolds  
Nancy Shank

**PW Coordinating Team**

Lynn Knox, Moderator  
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

**Resthaves Home  
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox  
FPC Representative

**Resthaves Home**

**Women's Auxiliary Board**  
Deb Zigler

**Finance Team**

Lynn Knox  
Tim Reynolds  
Scott Vandermyde

**Staff**

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

*\*Elders in their 2nd consecutive term*

## Birthdays

09/01: Arlene Burkholder  
09/02: Nancy Shank  
09/30: Sally Hayen  
09/30: Ron Shank

## Anniversary

09/24: Daniel & June Cortes

### Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison



Sept 12: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes  
Oct 10: Chili & Cinnamon Roll  
Nov 14: Hearty Soup  
Dec. 12: Christmas Ham Dinner



## September Scripture

Sept. 1: Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9  
Ps. 15  
James 1:17-27  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23  
Sept. 8: Isa. 35:4-7a  
Ps. 146  
James 2:1-10 (11-13), 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37  
Sept. 15: Isa. 50:4-9a  
Ps. 116:1-9  
James 3:1-12  
Mark 8:27-38  
Sept. 22: Jer. 11:18-20  
Ps. 54  
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a  
Mark 9:30-37  
Sept. 29: Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29  
Ps. 19:7-14  
James 5:13-20  
Mark 9:38-50

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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



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