

# 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!

August 2024 • Vol. 67/No. 7

Summer suddenly slips away once again. Children and youth will soon return to school, the county fair will come and go, fall sports will be underway, and we will shift into post Labor Day September before we know it. As a dad of two boys entering 1st and 5th grade, I do not look forward to their summer vacation ending. Just as I did as a child, I wish it could go on forever. Summer brings freedom to explore and enjoy life. The opportunities of summer overflow, but time is limited. Too much is left unenjoyed in the cornucopia of summer fun. No matter how well time is managed, there is never enough to live out all the anticipated moments that childhood and parenthood seemed to have promised. Soon, mornings will be switched to making lunches, getting backpacks loaded, and dropping them off to school. And when they return after a day in the classroom and a final romp on the playground or at sports practice, there is little energy or time left among homework, dinner, showers and other basics of weeknight life. So we await the weekends and holidays to try to hold onto the freedom that we lost with summer. For me, the end of summer vacation is a sad time. It leaves a melancholy hole in my heart. I watch the children grow, change, and develop. It's what we want for our children. Nonetheless, we all still miss snuggling our babies in our arms. But time must move on. Summers must end. Life must continue. And one day, life must end.

The end of summer definitely puts me in a mood that dances upon depression. It always has. I still remember the last night of summer before going into 3rd grade. It was a marvelous summer. It was 1984. I had learned what Major League Baseball was. I had become a Cubs fan. I learned from the best on WGN as Harry Caray and Steve Stone explained the game to me every day at 1:20 and 3:05. And the Cubs were

headed to the Pennant. It was a summer in which my friends and I were released to be on our own, riding our bikes without parents around, delving into new neighborhoods, going as far as baseball practice over a mile away. We explored every backyard, creek, hiding place and beyond. We went to Cub Scout Camp. We swam in pools and lakes. We had campouts and sleepovers. We had more fun than could ever have been imagined. But then, it had to come to an end. And I remember saying to my mom as I laid in bed, that last night of summer, "What's the point? Why should I have to go back to school? Why can't I just be done with it? In the end, I'll finish high school, go to college, graduate, get a job, get married, have kids, retire and die? Why waste life going to school?" She had her good motherly response, and unwillingly, I began 3rd grade the next day. But I still got the same feeling every year at the end of summer, and now with children of my own, I still get that feeling. I don't want anything to get in the way of me living life as fully as possible. But that's never a reality. In the end, life always gets in the way of life, and then, one day, death gets in the way of life, and then this life on earth is over. Yeah, the end of summer vacation definitely puts me in a mood that dances upon depression.

So I give thanks. I give thanks for what has been. I give thanks for the opportunities I have had. I give thanks for the chance of so many possibilities. I give thanks that my cup is overflowing. As I mentioned recently to my wife, I feel like life is a bowl of fruit—the most delicious fruit. But there is too much fruit in life right now. I can't eat it all. Yet that's OK. That's something to give thanks for to God. I want to have it all, but I need to stay positive, be thankful for this time in life, and recognize the blessings I have. So I strive to not be depressed at sum-

mer's end. Instead, like the old hymn says, I count my many blessings, count them one by one. I count my many blessings and see what God has done.

In the reverse, life has its times of feeling empty. And this is the way so many people in our nation and world feel. Currently, the top health concern in the United States is that of loneliness and isolation. This issue was on the rise well before COVID flung it into full force. And here we are in 2024, with an estimated 8 billion people in the world, with technology that enables us to converse with people face to face all over the world and follow their lives while we share ours on social media—being and keeping connected like the world has never imagined, and yet, we are more lonely and isolated than ever before. It is indeed a riddle but it is reality.

In times of plenty and in times of want, we need to remember that we need one another. We need to be there for others and we need others to be there for us. To celebrate life and to simply make it through life, we need others. Human beings are not solitary creatures. No, we are communal. And our communities work best when they are formed and function in love. Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King would often speak about the need of beloved community as the end goal of the civil rights movement that sought to end division among our nation through non-violent resistance to oppression of minorities. One such quote was from *The Role of the Church in Facing the Nation's Chief Moral Dilemma* (1957): "But the end is reconciliation; the end is redemption; the end is the creation of the beloved community. It is this type of spirit and this type of love that can transform opposers into friends. The type of love that I stress here is not eros, a sort of esthetic or romantic love; not

...Continued on page 5

# 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!

### 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 August 19! We will be celebrating Jane Ann James’ 96th birthday that day!!!

### Golden Oldies

Our next Golden Oldies meal will be on Tuesday, August 20 at 8:30am for breakfast at Rockwood State Park Marina Restaurant. Please let Marian Osborn or Pastor Mike know if you will be able to attend.

### Newsletter Deadline 08/22

Please get information to be included in the September *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by August 22.

### Family Event

On Sunday, August 25th, families of elementary through high school children and youth are invited to the Selburgs from 5-7PM. We’ll have a bonfire, which we’ll cook our dinner over, back yard fun, and conversations about the upcoming church school year for Sunday school and youth group. Please bring a side dish to pass. Food to grill, buns, drinks and s’mores fixings will be provided.

### Drive-Up Meals

Our next meal will be on Thursday, August 29. The meal is pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, chips and cookies. Proceeds from this meal will benefit Victory Center in Clin-

ton, IA. This local mission is currently facing a large financial deficit. We are hoping for generous donations to help this organization continue to help turn homeless people into our area into thriving and contributing members of our communities. Meal begins at **5PM**. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday the 28th at 1:30PM and Thursday at 4:15PM.

### Labor Day Sunday Worship

#### Road Trip to Garden Plain

Pastor Mike is taking a vacation day on Labor Day Sunday, September 1. It just so happens that our very own Rev. John Reynolds will be preaching at Garden Plain Presbyterian Church that Sunday. We will not have worship at our church that Sunday. Instead, we will join the Garden Plain Presbyterians at their worship service at 10AM. If you would like to carpool, please talk among yourselves over the next few weeks to make those plans. Last time we worshiped at Garden Plain was October 1, 2017 when Pastor Mike was on paternity leave.

## CHURCH

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Church Life Triumphant

Jean Cain Temple completed this portion of life the evening of June 4, 2024. The family hosted a visitation, worship service, luncheon and private committal of ashes on Saturday, June 22. Please keep her family and friends in your prayers.

### Birthday Card Showers

We have some BIG birthdays coming up. Let’s celebrate some of our beloved members’ birthdays with card showers.

Glenda Hegwood turned 98 on July 28th. Send her a bleated birthday

## 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, the family of Jean Temple, Jody Tucker, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker



card to c/o Lutheran Hillside Village, 6901 N. Galena Rd, Peoria, IL 61614.

Jacie Reynolds turns 16 on August 13th. Send her a birthday card to 500 E. Knox St, Morrison, IL 61270.

Jane Ann James is turning 96 on August 15th. Send her a birthday card to Resthave Home, 409 Maple Ave, Morrison, IL 61270.

Robert Van Osdol is turning 85 on August 22nd. Let's shower him with cards. Send them to 520 Barden St., Morrison, IL 61270.

### 4th Annual Fire Department Benefit a Success

Our Free Community Meal benefit for the Morrison Fire Department on July 28th raised \$1,350! We also had a huge turn out of volunteers to help with the meal. A huge thanks to everyone who helped make this fundraiser possible!!!

### Coffee in Your Corner

The Blackhawk Presbytery Staff, Eric Heinekamp and Loreen Stravers, is hosting a new outreach called "Coffee in Your Corner". They will be traveling around the Presbytery every 4-6 weeks to meet with congregations at their local coffee shops to have conversations, answer questions, and just get to know each other.

Their first stop will be Tuesday, August 13 at 2pm in Princeton, at The Coffee Cup, 628 W. Railroad Ave.

### Blackhawk Presbytery September Assembly Meeting

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 and to sign up.

### Presbyterian Women Project

PW, which includes all women of our church, is undertaking a new project. Resthave 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. 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.

### Communion Dates for 2024

Communion is planned to be served on the following days in 2023: August 18, September 22, October 6, November 24, and December 22.

## LOOKING AHEAD— SAVE THE DATE

*September 8:* Rally Day Sunday (Sunday School begins); Outdoor worship weather pending

*September 29:* Harvest Celebration Worship Service followed Pie & Ice Cream Social

*October 6:* World Communion Sunday

*October 27:* Reformation Sunday

*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.

# August 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2	3 4:30PM Whiteside Co Chargers @ Home
4 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	5 9:30AM Bible Study 4:30PM Ice Cream Social @ PV	6 9:30AM Bible Study 4:30PM Ice Cream Social @ PV	7	8 4:30PM Downtown Pop-Up Market	9 <b>Stacie on Vacation</b> →	10 10AM 2nd Annual Adult Wiffleball Tournament
11 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 6PM Sundaes Funday @ Emmanuel	12 8AM Tractor Drive Garden Plain	13 9:30AM Bible Study Whiteside County Fair	14 <i>Back to School</i> 1:30PM BINGO @ Homestead	15 8AM Social Hour @ The Loft	16	17
18 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	19 2PM Social Hour @ Resthave 6:30PM Session Mtg	20 8:30AM Golden Oldies 10AM Bible Study	21 1:30PM BINGO @ Resthave	22	23	24
25 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	26 6:30PM Session Mtg	27 9:30AM Bible Study	28 1:30PM Meal Prep	29 5 PM Free Drive Up Community Meal Victory Center Benefit	30 6:30PM Emmanuel Car Cruise	31

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### 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!

### 2nd Annual Tractor Drive

The Whiteside County Farm Bureau is once again hosting a Tractor Drive for Agriculture in the Classroom on Monday, August 12. This is their 16th year of this one-day fundraising event!

The drive will begin in Garden Plain at the Township Building and wander backroads to Erie.

Registration opens at 7:30, with the drive beginning at 8:15. For more information contact Diana at Farm Bureau at 815-772-2165 or whitesidecountyfarm-bureau@gmail.com.

### Whiteside County Fair

The 153rd Annual Whiteside County Fair is scheduled August 13-17, 2024!

### Morrison Minsters' Council Sponsored Event at MHS

On August 21st, the MMC is sponsoring motivational speaker Brad Hurtig in an all-school assembly at Morrison High School with a message of "perseverance" that emphasizes mental health, and overcoming obstacles. They will then invite the students back to a separate concert that night where they will simply and clearly share a message of hope. (Visit [www.sftministry.org/10-talents](http://www.sftministry.org/10-talents) for more info.)

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philia, a sort of reciprocal love between personal friends; but it is agape which is understanding goodwill for all men. It is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return. It is the love of God working in the lives of men. This is the love that may well be the salvation of our civilization."

In our world today, we face many 'isms' that separate people from one another. In these separations, we isolate ourselves from one another. We further the gap between one another which increases the loneliness in our world. It is only in beloved community that we can close the divisions

that we create between one another. In a loving unity that mimics the love we learned God has for us through Christ, we are able to irradicate isolation through identifying and caring for the lonely and oppressed. We can begin to meet the needs of one another. We can love God with our entire being. We can love our neighbor as our self. And as we live out God's agape love for our selves and others, we can enjoy this life, fully, together.

In our life together, we have the opportunity to fully live this life. No matter what the season of the year or the season of our lives, we can lean on one another, help one another, and enjoy one another as we enjoy this

wonderful creation that God has provided for us. Indeed, this life is fleeting. It is all too short and fragile. It can be gone at any moment. All we have is right now. Why waste it? Our opportunity to love is in the current moment. There is so much for which to give thanks. The more we are united, the more we can experience—the more we can enjoy together. Let us then, love as God loves us. Let us love one another and feed each other from the Bread of Life that Christ was, is and always will be for us. In this love, we shall truly live, together.

Grace and Peace,  
Mike

## BUILDING LOVE

Our church has seen some improvements over the summer.

Our air conditioner for the fellowship room had a pump die in June and was replaced by Workman Heating and Cooling. Total cost was \$407.

A window air conditioner was purchased for the pastor's study for \$225. It awaits installation by a handyman. Cost unknown.

Walls were placed around 3 sides of the new produce shelter. Soon we will have tables around the three sides. Solar lighting has been purchased for \$80 and will be installed soon as well.

Updates to our Weber grills are in process. The grills we received for free are being upgraded for an approximate cost of \$400. This is a cost savings of \$700 if we purchased new ones. After Pastor Mike smoked 125lbs of pork in

April, he decided they needed to be upgraded before he smoked another 125lbs in August. These improvements include new top and bottom grates, thermometers, and new handles & dampers for some.

\$100 was spent on needed new supplies for the kitchen.

Bovard Studios repaired issues with our stain glass coverings, free of charge, on August 8th. In spring 2023, we became aware that water was seeping into the windows and that some metal work had popped out of place. Though this is out of warranty, Bovard, who created our stained glass window coverings, is honoring their work.

We await work done in the youth group room to finalize repairs due to the steam pipe disaster in January. We hope this will be completed before Sunday School begins so the whole area is fresh and ready for the school year.

Pool cues will be purchased for the youth group room. Our old ones have been fixed too many times. Scott Vandermyde will be donating the Vandermyde Family 1970s ping pong table! We are looking to possibly purchase an air hockey table and fooseball table for the youth group room.

We are also awaiting work to be done by Deer View Construction before the end of fall. They will waterproof areas of our now porous brick, especially on the bell tower. They'll also caulk brick and window areas where needed, and perform needed treatments to the window brackets.

Fingers crossed that final repairs to the boiler in early summer will mean no work needed this winter. Final 2023-24 winter boiler bills have not yet been received.

# 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

08/01: Carol Wolf  
08/13: Jacie Reynolds  
08/15: Jane James  
08/15: Leala Reynolds  
08/16: Ken Mills  
08/21: Jan Kelly  
08/22: Robert Van Osdol  
08/29: Mavis Best  
08/29: Daniel Cortes

**Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals**

**First Presbyterian Church, Morrison**



Aug 29: Pulled Pork Sandwiches  
Sept 12: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes  
Oct 10: Chili & Cinnamon Roll  
Nov 14: Hearty Soup  
Dec. 12: Christmas Ham Dinner



## August Scripture

Aug. 4: Ex. 16:2-4, 9-15  
Ps. 78:23-29  
Eph. 4:1-16  
John 6:24-35

Aug. 11: 1 Kings 19:4-8  
Ps. 34:1-8  
Eph. 4:25-5:2  
John 6:35, 41-51

Aug. 18: Prov. 9:1-6  
Ps. 34:9-14  
Eph. 5:15-20  
John 6:51-58

Aug. 25: Josh. 24:1-2a,  
14-18  
Ps. 34:15-22  
Eph. 6:10-20  
John 6:56-69

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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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