

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!

April 2022 • Vol. 65/No. 4

March 31st greets northwest IL with a blanket of wet snow and high winds. The month started like a lamb, warm though muddy. And now, the lion escorts us to April.

What a month March was.

Weather was a yo-yo, with wind storms, some lows in the lower 20s, plenty of rain, endless squishy ground, and yet also gentle days with sunshine and temps in the 60s and even a day in the 70s. The world climate was scary. War in Ukraine left us all speechless, wondering how can war in Europe reemerge. Helplessly, we watched as a small country faced brutal destruction from a tyrant. All the while, we wondered how this might escalate around the world. At home we watched gas prices sour and stocks plummet. Meanwhile, COVID subsided, relatively, and mask mandates were lifted. At the same time, the flu and other wintertime illnesses infected many in our area. All this occurred as we progressed through the season of Lent.

So much of the last two years has seemed unreal. Looking back on writings I shared with the congregation two years ago, it was evident we really didn't know what we were in for. A pandemic was something so new for us. Yet in two years, we have learned that if we ever had a stable world around us, it is unlikely we can ever again look for real stability in our world. For the October 2021 newsletter article, I wrote about 'liminality', which is a 'time of transition'. I spoke about the transition of seasons, which are most evident in October and April. And I explored the time of transition in our world, and our lives. Six months later, after continual contemplation about our 'liminal times' in which we are liv-

ing, I have concluded that life, simply, is continually liminal. Life is a continual journey of transition. The idea of liminality is that at a given time, we start at point A in our life, where everything is known and secure. Then we head to point B. When we get to point B, we will find a new realm of security and grounding. It is the journey from point A to point B that we are in a liminal time. Certainly, these secure times exist to a degree. For those of us who got sick in March for sure know that there was the time in which we were healthy, the time in which we were sick, and the time that we were better again. In February, we were at a time with no war in Ukraine, and now we are in a time of war that is affecting lives of people around the world, and we pray that soon the war will be over. Our liminality could be a time of being employed to being unemployed to being employed again. It might be having a romantic relationship, to being single, to being in a relationship again. There are several times in our life we go through transitions and must face liminality. When we look at single aspects of our life, we can see full cycles of change, transition and transformation. Yet when we look at the big picture, life, really, is always in transition. The seasons continually change. Our bodies continually age. Everyone keeps getting older. And the world around us keeps getting less certain. It is impossible today to say that we certainly know how the day, the week, the month or the year will play out. It is impossible to feel like we have solid ground below us. Unreal circumstances constantly lurk around the corner and jump on us whenever they desire. And I question, hasn't life actually always been

this way? Is it really that the past two years have hardened us and shown us that our comfort bubble that we have placed around us is really imaginary? Is not the time from birth to death actually a continual liminal time with moments of security?

As we move beyond the latest variant and wave of COVID, we wonder what will be next. We are learning to enjoy the breaks between and hoping to regain more of our pre-COVID life in our current moment. We know everything can change with a blink of an eye, so now, we are that much more aware that we need to embrace what we have when we have it. And though with masks mostly off, and with a quiet time between COVID variants (assuming another will come), we are still in a liminal time. We are still learning to transition in this new world. Churches are also seeking to discern who God is calling them to be in this new era of humanity. How is it that we can perform the will of God? How can we discern what the will of God actually is? And how do we transition from what we are doing to what God calls us to be doing?

In the season of Lent, we are in a liminal time. We are remembering the end of Jesus' ministry. This first week of April we will watch as Jesus makes his final journey into Jerusalem. We will witness the crowds shout hosanna and declare him as the *one who saves*, while we too wave our palms. We will celebrate as Jesus shares his last supper with us, and gives us the new commandment to love one another. We will cringe as Jesus is arrested and beaten. We will cry as he dies on the cross. We will rejoice as Jesus rises from the grave. We will be reassured as Jesus re-groups with his disciples and hands

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

In-Person Worship

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15AM 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/UCcZlObAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

Bible Study

Bible Study is returning to Pleasant View Home in April. We'll meet on the 12th and the 19th at 9:30AM. We had been meeting at Pleasant View from September 2019 to February 2020. We are happy to be able to return. All are welcome to attend. Wear a mask.

Holy Week Services

Celebrate with us on Palm Sunday, April 10 and wave a palm! Maundy Thursday Service will be at 7PM on April 14, and Good Friday Service will be on April 15 at 7PM. Join us on Easter Sunday at 10:15 to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

Coffee Hour

Coffee hour is back. It might be in the Fellowship room. It might be in the dining room. We'll announce the location each Sunday. Right now, Session Elders are signed up for the month of April to host, but we'll need other hosts starting in May.

Sunday School

Our last Sunday School of the year will be on Palm Sunday. All children are welcome to join us at 9:30AM. The children parade into the sanctuary with palms at 10:15. This will lead into family ministries resuming.

Session Meeting

Session will meet April 18 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 4/21

Please get information to be included in the May *Life Together* newsletter to the office voicemail or e-mail by April 21st.

Bulletin-Free Sunday

Join us for our Earth Day celebration on April 24th, which will also be our bulletin-free Sunday.

Drive-Up Meals

Celebrating 13 years!

There will be one meal in April on Thursday, April 28. We will be serving stew beginning at **5:00PM**. Help is needed preparing the meal on Wednesday, April 27 at 1PM. More help needed on the 28th at 4PM. This will be our 13th Anniversary of Free Community Meals!

May Day Celebrations :

Deacons, Lunch & Family Clean-up Day

On May 1st, we will have a special May Day Sunday. We will honor our deacons during the worship service and have an installation and ordination time for the deacons. For coffee hour, we will have a pulled pork sandwich meal. The families will continue the day with a post-Earth Day clean-up day either at Rockwood State Park or Stronghold.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ted Luther Memorial

A memorial service and luncheon for Ted Luther, who died on January 16, 2020, will be held on Satur-

day, April 9th. The service will be at 10AM at Bosma-Renkes Chapel in Morrison. A luncheon will follow at our church. The family then will have a committal service at Grove Hill Cemetery following the luncheon. Presbyterian Women will oversee the luncheon. Please contact Lynn Knox to see how you can help.

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.

Update from Marian

Marian Osborn would like you to know that she has officially moved to Windsor Manor. Her mailing address is 403 Scenic St, Room 206, Morrison. Her phone number will remain the same as her previous home number.

Her son Wayne is also out of the hospital and is doing better.

Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Presbytery Meeting

The next Presbytery Assembly meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 5, from 9:30AM to Noon. Scott Vandermyde is our Session appointed commissioner for this meeting. It will be a hybrid meeting at Dekalb Westminster. If you would like to join the Zoom meeting, you can email Loreen Stravers loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org

to sign up and get the link. If you would like to attend in person, please contact Pastor Mike.

Six for Six

FPC Morrison won Blackhawk Presbytery's Six for Six award in 2021. We did this by paying our assessed per capita in full; making and fulfilling a mission pledge to Blackhawk Presbytery; and promote and receive the four special offerings of the PC(USA) – One Great Hour of Sharing; Pentecost Offering; Peace and Global Witness Offering; Christmas Joy Offering. Reminder, this Easter we will be receiving donations for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing. Please consider donating.

Presbytery Women

PW, which includes all women of our church, is undertaking a new project. Resthave is in need of walker 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. If you would be able to help us with this project, please contact Deb Zigler for more information, a pattern, etc.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Rooted in Christ

This women's ministry event will be held on Saturday, April 2 from 8—12:30PM at Ebenezer Reformed Church, Morrison. You can find more details on their Facebook page Rooted in Christ.

Community Recycling Day

Morrison's Recycling Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 23 from 9—12 noon at the Whiteside County Fairgrounds.

You can find more information on the Facebook pages of the Morrison Lions Club or Morrison Chamber. If



April Scripture

- April 3: Isaiah 43:16-21
Ps. 126
Philippians 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8
- April 10: Luke 19:28-40
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Isa. 50:4-9a
Ps. 31:9-16
Phil. 2:5-11
Luke 22:14-23:56
- April 17: Acts 10:34-43
Isa. 65:17-25
Ps. 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Cor. 15:19-26
Acts 10:34-43
Luke 24:1-12
John 20:1-18
- April 24: Acts 5:27-32
Ps. 118:14-29
Rev. 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

you have questions or would like to volunteer to help you can contact Flora at 815-772-4874 or email fstralow@mchsi.com.

Volunteer at Northside

Northside is always interested in volunteers working with their kids. Those who are interested can stop in at Northside and fill out a volunteer form. The district will need to run a background check before you are able to help out. For more information please contact Northside Principal, Andy Harridge.

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>

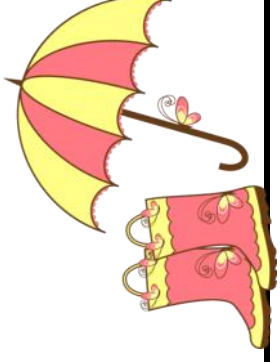
Morrison Hospital: The hospital's Facebook page provides information on new check-in procedures and other updates: <https://www.facebook.com/MorrisonCommunityHospital>

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/>.

April 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	4	5 9:30AM Presbytery Meeting	6	7	8	9
10 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	11	12 9:30AM Bible Study	13	14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	15 <i>Good Friday</i>	16
17 <i>Resurrection of the Lord</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	18 10AM Deacon Mtg 6:30PM Session Mtg	19 9:30AM Bible Study	20	21	22	23 9-12 Community Recycling Day
24 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	25	26	27	28 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	29	30



Prayer Requests

over to them the keys of the kingdom.

This time in the Christian season is certainly liminal...it's continually transitioning. The summation of the lesson of these transitions is that God loves us unconditionally; Jesus died for us so we could be spiritually set free from the darkness; and we are eternally connected to the Triune God within a personal and communal relationship focused on love. We embrace that God hands over the ministry of Christ to humanity, with Christ, from Heaven, being the head of the Church. We have received the Holy Spirit as guide and advocate. We are assured that no matter how life changes, no matter what transitions we are going through, no matter what our transformative goals may be, God is always with us and God is always loving us. God is always helping us in our times of need, as long as we

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, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Shirley Mills, Marian Osborn, Wayne Osborn, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Michael Vegter, Jr.

remain connected to the realm of love.

In our life together, we can support one another as the world and our lives continue to change. We can help one another in our shared transitions, and to offer the help we are able to give to others in their own personal time of need. We

need to love one another, for it is in love, the love that has come from God and known in Christ, that we will find the greatest security and the best path for transitioning. Let's stick together...no matter what.

Grace and Peace,
Happy Easter,
Mike



Easter Lilies and Spring Bulbs to the Glory of God are available for display in the sanctuary on Easter.

Please place your order no later than **April 7**. Payment may be made in the offering plate or sent to the church office, indicating "Easter Lily" on your check. Thank you.

Each plant costs **\$12.50** and comes in a 6-1/2" pot wrapped in foil.

PLEASE ORDER (Note Quantity):

_____ Easter Lily(ies)

_____ Daffodil(s)

_____ Tulip(s) *Choose color(s):*

___Pink ___Purple ___White ___Yellow

_____ Hyacinth(s) *Choose color(s):*

___Pink ___Purple

AMOUNT DUE \$ _____ (\$12.50 times the no. of plants)

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

In celebration of _____

Donor(s) name(s) _____

_____ I will take my plant(s) after the Easter service, April 17

_____ Please use the plant(s) in the ministry of the church

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

04/04: Mike Zigler
04/14: Rick Barr
04/14: Justin Knox
04/14: Amanda Blasdell
04/22: Alyssa Sibley
04/29: Miguel Velasco

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

Mar. 31: Ham and Potato Soup
April 28: Stew
May 26: Brats
June 9: Pulled Pork Sandwich (4H)
June 30: Hamburgers
July 28: Hot Dogs—
Fireman's Benefit
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



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Please Recycle