

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!

October 2023 • Vol. 66/No. 9

October. The month of transition. The month that leads to the death of the earth. The month that makes us think the most of our own death. The month of Halloween, with haunts, ghouls and ghosts. And what ghost is scarier in our minds than our own self being a ghost? Boo.

October. The month in the church that begins with World Communion Sunday, in which we recognize that all humans are united as one as the children of God, in which we remember all Christians, despite our vast differences, are one in Christ. October ends with the celebration of the Reformation, remembering that no person, or group of people, can tell us what to believe or who to be. It is a time to remember that we are alive with God and that God leads us to full life as we seek to follow the path of love, which Jesus laid out before us. And October leads to November 1st, All Saints Day, in which we remember those who have walked on to the long journey, and embracing that we too are immortal, and to the dust we shall also return. But our soul is not bound to wander the earth trapped as a ghost. No, we shall be redeemed and we shall pass on to eternal glory. Halleluiah.

What is it in our own lives which makes us give pause and recognize the delicate nature of life? What is it that reminds us that all life needs to have balance with one another. When do we notice that the equilibrium of this balance is so easily offset? Finding proper balance is quite difficult for humans. When we have it, something always seems to quickly knock us out of balance. The world is filled with unpredictable chaos. When everything seems to be going right, our world can quickly be turned upside down. Yet on the upside, often when every-

thing seems to be going wrong, suddenly everything seems to be going right. Some people call it luck. Some people say it's part of coincidences. Some say it's karma or fate. Some say it's God or the devil*/making it happen. We have a lot of ways to theorize why life happens the way it does. All we can really say is that life simply happens, and this balancing act is part of it. So, knowing it's a challenge to find balance, we have some choices. The healthiest way, I believe, is to be mindful of balance, seek it in our life, and when we are unbalanced, we can roll with the changes and deal with what is being tossed at us the best we can, and work our way back toward balance. Sometimes the issues are minor...our parade is rained on. Sometimes it's major with severe illness and even death to those most loved by us. Still, even a case of the sniffles does enough to throw us off.

In the end, it comes down to how we are centered. Do we keep a positive focus? Do we keep God's love close to us? Are we full of hope? Do we rely on our faith to get us through the tough times? And when everything is seemingly perfect, do we take it for granted or do we recognize it and give thanks for what we are experiencing?

Our society can easily get us down. The world around us teaches us to focus on comfort, wants and desires. Our perception of reality is easily skewed. As adults, our reactions are quickly childish. The more we focus on our own self and the aspects of our life that really don't matter, the more immature we become. It's easy to feel entitled—to want to get what we desire as soon as we think of something. We forget about working for that something, and quite often, having to work hard in order to see it come to fruition. In

a world where we can order anything we want on our phone or computer and expect it to be delivered quickly, including our meals, then it is hard to have patience as well as a clear perspective of reality. Every generation for the last seven decades has had an easier life that is more saturated on the fast-service industries. The more intitled we become, the more out of touch we become with reality, meaning we become more out of touch with ourselves, our relationship with one another, nature and God. Thus, the more prone we are to be out of balance with our own self, nature, other humans and God. And in such, it's all the harder to know what balance is, let alone the value of balance, how to seek it, and how to know when we are in its presence.

Jesus taught us the Way. We need to follow the path of love. On the path of love we are able to distinguish between what is reality and what is deception. We can find balance in love, and we can find the support we need when we are out of balance through love.

In our life together, we can recognize the love that God has given to unite us, and to give us balance. In and through that love, we can help one another find and stay in balance, and to lean and be leaned upon by others in our times of unbalance. In our faith, we can always believe that God is with us, no matter what life tosses at us. In this, we need not fear the death to come, nor things that haunt us in this life. God's love overcomes all darkness. In God's love and forgiveness is new life. We need not worry about the end of life, but rather, we can rejoice in fully living this life, together.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

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/@firstpresbyterianchurchofm3749>

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 9:30AM at Pleasant View Nursing Home on Tuesdays throughout the month. Rick Barr leads the studies that Pastor Mike is unable to attend.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour hosts for October

Oct. 1: Carol Wolf
 Oct. 8: Rick Barr
 Oct. 15: Lexie Laughlin
 Oct. 22: Deb Zigler
 Oct. 29: International Potluck

If you would like to volunteer to host a coffee hour in November please see the sign up sheet in the entryway or contact the church office.

World Communion & Bible Sunday

On October 1, we will celebrate the annual World Communion Sunday. We will partake in the Last Supper along with all the other churches around the world who observe this day, recognizing we are all one in Christ. We will also hand out Bibles to our children this day. Note, there is no International Potluck this year on this day. Since we just had our pie and ice cream social the week before, we decided to move the potluck to Reformation Sunday at the end of the month.

Peace & Global Witness Offerings

Donations to this Presbyterian Church USA Special Collection enable the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Donations will be accepted now through October 1, World Communion Sunday. Please place your gift in the offering plate, in the office or donate online: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>.

Sunday School

Sunday School will be held on October 1, 15, 22 & 29 for children up through 5th grade. Classes begin at 9:15AM in the youth group room.

Drive-Up Meals

Our October meal will be on Thursday, October 12. The meal is chili and begins at **5:00PM**. Help is needed for food prep on Wednesday at 1:30PM and Thursday starting at 4:15PM.

Session Meeting

Session will meet October 16 in person at 6:30PM at the church.

Newsletter Deadline 10/23

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

Birthday Party for Bev Bealer

We'll be throwing a birthday party for Bev Bealer on her actual birthday, October 16th, at 2PM at Resthave. Please join us!

Resthave Presbyterian Social Hour

We're going to keep the party rolling... we will be offering a "Presbyterian Social Hour" at Resthave every 3rd Monday of the month at 2PM. Come socialize, have a tasty treat, and enjoy the afternoon with good friends.

Golden Oldies Reunion

Marian Osborn is throwing a Golden Oldies reunion party at Homestead on Thursday, October 26th at 11:30AM. We'll meet for lunch. Cost for the meal is \$7. It's been a while since we all got together for lunch. Everyone is welcome to this event, both young and old, and whether this is your first or umpteenth time to a Golden Oldies lunch! Please RSVP to Pastor Mike or Marian Osborn by October 15.

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, Janet Johnson, Kellie Kohl, Ken Mills, Cooke Shawver, Margie Selburg, Jean Temple, Rachel Tucker, Ray Tucker, Michael Vegter, Jr.

Reformation Sunday & International Potluck

Celebrate the great breakaway from the Catholic church and how we emerged into free thinking reformed Christians! As always, it's the last Sunday in October (29th). We're also having our International Potluck this day. If you are able and willing, please bring a dish from around the world to pass.

Family Pumpkin Carving Backyard Bash

Our annual pumpkin carving event for our families with children and youth is being turned into a backyard bash at the Selburg's, if the weather holds. RSVP by Sunday, October 22 to Pastor Mike.

-Pumpkin Carving: Bring your own pumpkins to carve. Tables will be set up. If you are partial to your own knives, please bring them.

-Bonfire dinner: We'll cook brats and hotdogs over the fire for dinner. Chips and drinks will be served. Feel free to bring a dish to pass, but not necessary.

-Fun in the yard: As always, there will be chickens to chase, trails around the pond to explore, a big yard to run around in, and hopefully a sunset. (No bounce house for this event)

If the weather doesn't cooperate, we'll switch to the church but still plan on dinner. We'll just grill out instead. We'll make the call on location that day.

Remembrance Sunday

Remember those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrate our short and delicate lives on Sunday, November 6th.

Stronghold Youth Retreat

We are inviting our youth to attend the annual Stronghold retreat in the castle on November 10-12. More info will be sent to the families.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presbytery Women Project

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

Corner Renovation

Well, we were so excited thinking our corner would be renovated this fall. But, the City Council is at odds on what to do. If you have an opinion on our corner and its needs, please contact the City Council aldermen.



October Scripture

- October 1: Ezek. 18:1-4, 25-32
Ps. 25:1-9
Phil. 2:1-13
Matt. 21:23-32
- October 8: Isa. 5:1-7
Ps. 80:7-15
Phil. 3:4b-14
Matt. 21:33-46
- October 15: Isa. 25:1-9
Ps. 23
Phil. 4:1-9
Matt. 22:1-14
- October 22: Isa. 45:1-7
Ps. 96:1-9 (10-13)
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 22:15-22
- October 29: Lev. 19:1-2, 15-18
Ps. 1
1 Thess. 2:1-8
Matt. 22:34-46

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/>.

OCTOBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>18th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	2	3 9:30AM Bible Study	4	5	6	7
8 <i>19th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	9	10 9:30AM Bible Study	11	12 5PM Free Drive Up Community Meal	13	14
15 <i>20th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	16	17 9:30AM Bible Study	18 10AM Rules of the Road Review Class for Seniors	19	20	21
22 <i>21st 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 1PM Fall Fest & Halloween Parade
29 <i>22nd Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	30	31 9:30AM Bible Study 4-7PM Trick or Treat				 

COMMUNITY EVENTS

From the Food Pantry

The Food Pantry personal items needed. Drop them off in the narthex.

Toilet Paper
Paper Towels
Kleenex
Shampoo
Bleach
Bar Soap
Laundry Soap
Dish Soap
Men's & Women's Deodorant

We do not need the full size products. Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Family Dollar and Walmart usually have the small size.

Rules of the Road Review

Patrons of Odell Public Library and our surrounding community are finding it very difficult locating help to review the Rules of the Road prior to taking their test. It is my hope to assist our seniors and allow for them to feel comfortable and informed when they have to participate in the testing process at the Illinois Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Our local offices are in Chadwick IL and Sterling IL, but they do not offer classes.

On Wednesday, October 18, from 10am—12pm, Odell Public Library will offer a Rules of the Road Class for Seniors. This will be presented by Nancy Johnson, IL SOS Rules of the road

Review Course AARP Smart Driver Course Coordinator. Call 815-772-READ (7323) or stop in at Odell Public Library to register by October 14 at 3pm.

This opportunity is sponsored by Odell Public Library, Morrison Police Department and The City of Morrison.

— Lisa Boles, Assistant Director,
Odell Public Library

Family Fright Night

The Early Year Academy will be hosting their 3rd annual trunk or treating on Thursday, October 26 from 5:30-7:30pm.

The fun and spooky Halloween themed trunk or treat will be held outside, with plenty of games and some refreshments to be enjoyed inside.

The Early Year Academy is located at 508 French Creek Road, Morrison. This event is free to the public.

Halloween Parade & Fall Fest

The Morrison Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual Halloween Parade and Fall Fest on Saturday, October 28. Registration for the parade will begin at 12:30pm at Community State Bank. The parade will begin at 1:00 and go along Main Street ending at 1st Gateway Credit Union.

Fall Fest will begin immediately

after the parade along the last two blocks of Main Street. There will be games, photo booth, food, cider and cocoa. Awards for scariest, cutest and most original costumes will be handed out during Fall Fest.

Come to enjoy these fall activities and to see all the costumes.

Trick or Treating

Get your candy bowls ready! Trick or Treating will be on Tuesday, October 31 from 4-7pm.



Looking Ahead

Small Business Saturday is Saturday, November 25. The Morrison Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an outdoor market and promoting small businesses in Morrison. There will be games and interactive events from 8am—2pm. Check their Facebook page for updates!

The Chamber will also be hosting their annual Christmas Walk on Saturday, December 2 beginning at 4-7pm. The theme this year is “A Storybook Christmas”.

MONETARY DONATIONS NEEDED

2023 has been an expensive year for our church. We have had some planned and unplanned building and property expenses. To date, we have received \$2,000 in donations toward these projects. We still have approximately \$39,132.24 to go, though we know our need will be higher than this amount due to other projects in queue.

CONCRETE WORK: \$3,000

ELECTRIC WORK: \$6,800

PLUMBING: \$900+

We are contracting Alvarado's to fix a leak that we have been patching ourselves for several years in the youth group room. It is time to have it professionally fixed.

DISHWASHER REPAIR: \$1,014.20
Daycare is paying for half.

NEW AC UNIT FOR FELLOWSHIP ROOM/ OFFICES: \$4,802

OLDS BOILER COMPANY:
(Invoices dating back to 2020, including major work in 2023):
\$20,116.04

MEN'S BASEMENT BATHROOM RENOVATION: \$2,500 to cover insurance deductible due to water damage via boiler pipe

BELL TOWER/ ROOF LEAK: We are in need of patching the roof around the bell tower yet a plan has not yet been finalized, so we don't know the amount yet.

FREE PRODUCE TABLE: Same as above. TBD.

LINCOLNWAY BEAUTIFICATION: Once the city fixes our corner and puts in a new sidewalk along Lincolnway, we plan to beautify our Lincolnway property, including repairing/blacktopping parking lot, fencing in the dumpster, landscaping in front of the church, and anything else we see needs improved.

And there are definitely several more projects that need worked on.

Leadership and Staff

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

Carol Wolf '23
Lynn Knox '23*
Tim Reynolds '23*
Angela Reamer '24*
Ron Shank '24
Deb Zigler '24*
Lexie Laughlin '25*
Scott Vandermyde '25*

Stacie Baker, Clerk

Nominating Committee

Rick Barr
Mavis Best
Jan Kelly
Lynn Knox
Jenn Reynolds
Deb Zigler

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Angela Reamer, Treasurer

**Resthabe Home
Board of Directors**

Lynn Knox
FPC Representative

Resthabe 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

10/02: Jakob Palmer
10/03: George Selburg
10/05: Kolten Sage
10/07: Michael Vegter
10/16: Bev Bealer
10/18: Silas Dolieslager
10/19: Dave Zigler
10/20: Cheyenne Sage
10/21: Scott Vandermyde
10/22: Jody Tucker
10/27: Emily Davis
10/27: Ted Volckmann
10/30: Wendy Volckmann

Anniversaries

10/12: Ron & Nancy Shank
10/13: Chad & Myra Huizenga
10/16: Dennis & Arlene
Burkholder
10/16: Ray & Jody Tucker
10/19: Steve & Carol Wolf
10/23: Dave & Deb Zigler

Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals First Presbyterian Church, Morrison

October 12: Chili
November 9: Soup
December 14: Ham Dinner



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https://www.facebook.com/firstpresmorrison

YouTube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

Contact Pastor Mike at revselburg@gmail.com



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