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!

November 2026 • Vol. 69/No. 09

Another November knocks at the door and rushes away, leaving winter lurking at our steps. The earth finishes its final dance of summer by the time of our Thanksgiving feasts. Leaves of yellow, gold, orange and red flee from their branches and grace the ground in quilts of autumn beauty, awaiting the rake to reveal the green grasses. Soon the brilliance of October is replaced with the dullness of what will surround us until late March or early April when the honeysuckle and lilac buds burst forth in brilliant green. November lays the land bare with harvested fields and leafless canopies. It is a month that begs for improvision by the decorators of the Heartland.

There are those who love to decorate for all occasions, especially holidays. November is the greatest month for the decorators. It begins with replacing the jack-o-lantern with fresh orange pumpkins, the skeleton for the turkey, and the bowl of candy for a cornucopia. And once they've stuffed the faces of loved ones on Thanksgiving Thursday, they rush to remove all sights that remind us of autumn and put up Christmas trees and lights, and adorn the home with candles, wreaths and greens.

As a child, of all the decorations found in November, the cornucopia stood out to me the most. In part, it seemed like a silly decoration because why would anyone put a bunch of fruit and vegetables in a horn shaped out of whicker? Also, why did I only see it in pictures, or real ones but filled with fake produce? On the other hand, the concept of the endless abundance that a cornucopia was to represent gave it a magical presence and peaked my childish curiosity.

The concept of the cornucopia, which is literally "Horn of plenty" in Latin, comes from two Greek myths. The first is that Zeus was nursed by the goat-nymph Amalthea (Nourishing Goddess). Baby Zues, with his super-strength, accidently broke off one of her horns while playing. The horn received divine power which provided unending nourishment. Another Greek myth attributes the cornucopia to Hercules, who wrestled the river god Achelous and tore off one of his horns, later filled with fruits and flowers by naiads (the female river spirits) representing prosperity and fertility. Romans then took this concept of the cornucopia and continued its popularity, which continues today. In our culture in the United States, we tie it in the most to Thanksgiving. And as November is also typically Stewardship Season in churches, the cornucopia is an excellent choice by pastors to talk about the eternal giving of God and the call to give of our own abundance.

In such, let us contemplate the cornucopia in our own lives. First is the concept that God's giving knows no ending.

The story of creation told in Gensis describes the world being made in six days. The first three days were made so the last three days could exist. Days 1–3 dealt with creating form, in which order was made out of chaos. The first day God created light in the darkness, which introduced time and the day/night cycle. The second day brought the separation of waters above and below. God created the "sky" and seas. On day 3, God created dry land and vegetation, which brought order from the waters and filled it with life. Days 4–6 saw God populated the heavens and earth with order. On day four, the sun, moon, and stars were created as "rulers" of the day and night, which were created on Day 1. On day 5, God created birds and fish to fill the skies and seas created on day 2. On day 6, God created land animals and humans. They had land to live upon and vegetation to eat, which was created in day 3. This story is a reminder that God knows what we need and God will always work ahead to make sure what we need is provided for us. God did not create us to be without. God created us to always have exactly what we need.

The second creation story tells of how humans have a natural desire to want more than what God has provided for our needs, creating an imbalance that has an outreaching, long lasting and spiraling destructive impact. In the story of Adam and Eve, God gave everything to them so they would want nothing in life. All their needs were met. Yet they chose to eat from the forbidden tree which possessed the knowledge of good and evil and everything in between. They could have eaten from the tree of eternal life, but they wanted more, and so they took what they were not supposed to take, and in such, as the story goes, humans will suffer in their lives with the internal battle of taking only what we need vs. taking whatever we want.

The cornucopia, with a Christian spin, reminds us that Jesus, God in human form, came to teach us about controlling our wants and desires. Jesus warned us about the spiritual emptiness of the material world and reminded us how much the material world will try to entrap us. Jesus reminded us that our life is to be lived for the spiritual, not the physical. Jesus reminded us that God loves us, and that we are to love God with our entire being and our neighbor as ourselves. Jesus taught us this is only attainable with spiritual love, the love that is truly from God. And God's love is limitless. It is beyond abundant. But it is found first in the spiritual realm. We must take hold of it within the spiritual and bring it into the physical, where we share it spiritually to heal the physical. God will always provide us the love we need to bring peace to earth, to bring people to a state in which all peoples' needs are met, and wants and desires are destroyed. God's giving will spiritually feed us. That spiritual food will guide humanity to physically give people all their basic needs, to work together to end hunger, poverty, sickness, and all the plights of this world. The cornucopia of God's love will lead to a utopia,

Continued on page 5

Church News

Church Events

Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in-person at 10:15AM every Sunday morning. We livestream each service from our Facebook group page: facebook.com/firstpresmorrison. The services are also posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@firstpresmorrison

Bible Study

Bible Study will be held at 10AM at La Bella on Tuesdays throughout the month. Everyone is welcome!

Bingo at Homestead

Homestead invites one and all to join residents and friends to play BINGO on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 2—3:30PM. There will be refreshments and prizes!

Remembrance Sunday & Cherished Recipe Potluck

On November 1st, All Saints' Day, we remembered those who have walked onto the long journey as we celebrated our short and delicate lives. We also had our 4th annual Cherished Recipe Potluck, where we shared cherished recipes of a favorite dish a loved one once made. May we continue to hold the memories of our loved ones close and to hold up one another as we continue to grieve for so many.

MMC Remembrance Service at Homestead

Pastor Mike led the Morrison Ministers' Council in their 3rd Annual Remembrance Service at Homestead on November 1st. They remembered residents, who have completed this portion of life since November 2025.

Pastor Mike also led worship at Resthave on November 1st. He will lead worship at LaBella on Thursday, November 5 at 10AM.

Stronghold Youth Retreat & JD Benko Leading Worship

A crew of 5 of our youth and 3 adult leaders will head to the castle at Stronghold for the annual Youth Retreat from November 6-8. We have over 140 youth and leaders attending this year from various churches of Blackhawk Presbytery as well as a few surrounding presbyteries. This will be a wonderful weekend for youth to step away from their busy young lives and find a time in Christian community and allow themselves to focus on their spirituality in a safe and loving environment. JD Benko will preside over the service at our church on November 8.

Free Community Meal

Our next meal will be on Thursday, November 12th. The meal is chicken and veggie soup. It begins at **4:30PM**. In-person and drive-up meals are available. Help is needed Wednesday at 1:30pm and on Thursday at 4PM.

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! Weather and illness permitting, please join us on November 16th.

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettia orders and donations are due by Monday, November 16th. More information is found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Breakfast Club

We will have two "Breakfast Club" Sunday Schools in November, on the 15th and 22nd. All children and youth are invited to join us at 9:15AM in the youth group room for breakfast, fun and games, and a lesson. Parents and grandparents are invited to stick around and enjoy coffee and fellowship.

Christ the King & Communion Service

The Christian Calendar ends the Sunday before Advent begins. We celebrate it by remembering the Jesus Christ as our King. This year it is celebrated on November 22nd. We will serve Holy Communion on this day as well. Further, we will also celebrate Thanksgiving!

Newsletter Deadline 11/23

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

Stewardship Pledge

A Stewardship letter will be sent in the mail in November. Please fill it

Prayer Requests



Those who have served the church in the past month; the Mission Starfish Haiti School; Yucatan Peninsula Mission; Victory Center; Sauk Valley Food Bank; Morrison Food Pantry; Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center and Blackhawk Presbytery; God's Will Giving Center; and those in need of healing and support: Nursing & retirement home residents and staff, medical workers, essential employees, school teachers & staff; Rick Barr, Bev Bealer, Mavis Best, the family and friends of Nan Carlson, Junee Cortes, Glenda Hegwood, Dale Johnson, Lynn Knox, Marian Osborn, Mike Zigler

out with your pledged amount and any updated contact information. Please return the pledge form no later than Sunday, December 6th.

Advent, Church Decorating, and Hanging of the Greens

Advent season begins on Sunday, November 29th. For the 4th year in a row, we are going to decorate the church that morning starting at 9:15AM. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend and help make the church beautiful for the Christmas Season. We will have our annual "Hanging of the Greens" worship service around 10:15AM (whenever we finish decorating the sanctuary).

Congregational Meeting & Cookie Frost-Off

Please join us for a short Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 13th. Action will be taken on the 2027 Budget and to elect Elders. Children and youth will head to the dining room during the meeting to begin frosting cookies. The rest of the congregation can join them after the meeting.

Looking Ahead…

Dec 6: Breakfast Club 9:15AM
Dec 13: Congregational Meeting for 2027 Budget and Session Elders
Cookie Frost-Off
Dec 20: Breakfast Club 9:15AM
December 24: Christmas Eve Service 4PM
Jan 10: Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Installation/ Ordination of Incoming Session Elders
Family Epiphany Party and Recycled Present White Elephant Exchange
Jan 31: Annual Meeting Worship Service
Feb 7: Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, Mardi Gras Party, Valentines Cookie Frost-Off
Feb 10: Ash Wednesday Service
Feb 14: Family Super Bowl First Half & Valentine's Day Party
March 14: Church 171 Birthday Celebration and Rededication Service
March 21: Palm Sunday
March 25: Maundy Thursday
March 26: Good Friday
March 28: Easter Sunday & Church's 171st birthday
April 17: Earth Week Family Event
April 25: May Day Baskets
May 16: Day of Pentecost
May 23: Trinity Sunday
June 1: Free Community Tie-Dye Event
June 8-15: Yucatan Peninsula Mission Trip

Church Announcements

The Church Triumphant

Nan Maxfield Carlson, a friend of our church, completed this portion of life on Sunday, October 25th. A service was held at Morrison United Methodist Church on Friday, October 30th. Pastor Mike co-officiated the service with Pastor Sun-Ah.

Office Closed

Stacie will be on vacation Thursday, November 5th through Monday, November 9th. She will be in the office at 1pm on November 9th.

The office will also be closed on Thursday, November 26th. Have a very Happy Thanksgiving.

Per Capita

The per capita in 2026 is $45 per church member. If you haven't paid it yet, please do. 2027 rates will be $47.

2025-26 Communion Dates

Communion dates for 2026 are: 11/22; 12/20.

Building Updates

Work to the boiler has been completed, yet there is now a new small leak. The boiler company is waiting to see if it plugs itself, and if not, hopefully we can have it fixed soon.

The bell tower renovation is being finalized in November by Jim Palmer, Tom Genz and Mike Selburg. They are painting the inside of louvers which are now exposed to the elements as the boards were removed from behind them. They'll also place hardware mesh behind the louvers to keep bats out. We also hope to have flat roofing rubber placed over the new floor on the lower level of the bell tower to guarantee no water will leak down into the belltower entryway.

Donations are always welcome.

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

Ebenezer Church
Free fresh produce given away on Thursdays 9:45a.m.

God's Will Giving Center
Limited free food, essential items, as well as household items. Open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

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

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



November 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 *23rd Sunday after Pentecost* 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour 3PM Resthave 4PM Remembrance Service @ Homestead *Daylight Savings Ends*	2	3 10AM Bible Study @ La Bella	4	5 10AM Worship Service @ La Bella Stacie Vacation →	6 Stronghold High School & Middle School Retreat →	7 →
8 *24th Sunday after Pentecost* 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour →	9	10 10AM Bible Study @ La Bella	11 1:30PM Meal Prep 2PM BINGO @ Homestead	12 4:30PM Free Community Meal	13 Morrison Jingle Jangle	14 9AM Southside Craft Fair Holiday Sip & Shop
15 *25th Sunday after Pentecost* 9:15AM Breakfast Club 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour TBD Family Event	16 2PM Social Hour @ Resthave 6:30PM Session Meeting	17 10AM Bible Study @ La Bella	18 1:30PM BINGO @ Resthave	19 8AM Social Hour @ The Loft	20	21
22 *Christ the King* 9:15AM Breakfast Club 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	23 *Newsletter Deadline*	24 10AM Bible Study @ La Bella	25	26 *Office Closed* 	27	28 9AM 4th Annual Turkey Trot 5K 5:30PM Prophetstown Lighted Christmas Parade
29 *1st Sunday of Advent* 9:15AM Hanging of the Greens 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	30					

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.

Morrison Holiday Sip & Shop

Morrison Businesses will be hosting a Jingle Jangle Holiday Sip & Shop on November 13-14.

This will be a great opportunity to grab your favorite drink and shop our downtown businesses. You never know what great treasures you might find right here in town!

Southside Craft Fair

The Annual Morrison Southside Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 14 from 9am-2pm at Morrison Junior High School.

Stop in to support all the local vendors and maybe get your shopping started! You will find baked goods, Christmas/winter décor and gifts, wood engravings, metal signs and so much more! There will also be door prize drawings every 30 minutes.

Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run/Walk

Morrison IL Parks and Recreation is holding their 4th Annual Turkey Trot 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, November 28th beginning at 9am at Morrison High School.

All proceeds from this Fun Run will be donated to the Morrison Food Pantry. You may also drop off non-perishable items as well. You can check out the Food Pantry's website for a list of their most needed items at www.morrisonfoodpantry.org

Registration cost is $20 per person. To register go to www.quickscores.com/morrisonsports. If you have any questions, contact Nathan Jacobs at njacobs@morrisonil.org or 805-535-1105.

Prophetstown Parade

Prophetstown Proud is hosting their 2026 Lighted Christmas Parade on Saturday, November 28 at 5:30pm. The theme this year is "A Vintage Christmas".

There will be plenty of family activities to enjoy, including meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Poinsettias

This year you can order your own or offer a donation to be used toward the purchase of poinsettias. We will be ordering flowers through Didier Greenhouses. They offer 6" plants for $10.25. Available colors are: Red, White, Pink & Marble.

If you would like to help provide poinsettias this holiday season, please have your order and/or donation to the church no later than **Monday, November 16.** Order forms will be available in your bulletin or in the church office. Payment may be made in the offering plate, in the church office or mailed to FPC, 100 E. Lincolnway, Morrison, IL 61270. Please note "poinsettia" on your check, *made payable to First Presbyterian Church.*

...Continued from page 1

in which heaven is truly lived out on earth.

The cornucopia of humanity can be contemplated as our ability to recognize the fruits we are able to harvest from a life of laboring in God's giving and in God's love. We glean the seeds of God's love, we sew them, we care for them, we harvest them, we utilize them. We look at the fruits in the realm of time, talents and treasures. We discern what all God has given to us, and humbly, we seek to utilize those gifts to share with one another. The fruits of the cornucopia are for endless sharing. We receive these gifts through God's love so we can feed one another. If we keep the fruits of our abundance in our cornucopia, the infinite supply of fruits in the back get bottlenecked. They can't come forward. And the visible fruits begin to rot. In our greed, just like in the days of manna in the wilderness, we will find God's gifts to turn to mold that becomes infested and toxic. Spiritually speaking, we will stagnate God's love within us. We will refuse God's love around us. We will lose connection to the Triune God. We cannot utilize the power of Holy Spirit. We cannot hear the words of Jesus. We cannot harness the manifestations of God's creation which keep us on the true path of our life. We become spiritually lost. We bind ourselves to the way of the world. We lose connection to one another. And our lives, though they may be filled with material possessions and power, will be without the true understanding of God's love. We will only be creatures who devour. But this is not who we were created to be.

God created us in God's image. God is love. We were created in the image of love. We were created to love—with spiritual love. This is love that is unbreakable. This is love that is ever-giving and everlasting. This is love that is full of light which can never stop shining—never allowing darkness to appear.

So, as you might be taking down Halloween decorations, and putting up Thanksgiving décor before decking the halls for Christmas, think of your own cornucopia of your own time, talents and treasures. Sure, in this time of stewardship in the church, what can you pledge to give? But more importantly, in this time of thanksgiving, can you note all that you have to give thanks for? Can you make a list of all your time, talents and treasures. Can you evaluate how you are already fruitfully using them? Can you see what you have left to share?

In our life together, we can share our abundance of fruit from both the physical and spiritual realms. We can feed one another as the Triune God feeds us. May we share from our abundance to help turn our world away from its destruction and instead may we bring God's love to shine everywhere we go, so the darkness may be eradicated from our own lives and in the lives of all we encounter. May we work together in all of this, in God's love, so that we may truly live out the teaching of Jesus and bring heaven to earth, finally.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Leadership and Staff

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

Rick Barr '26
Carol Wolf '26
Ron Shank '27*
Tim Reynolds '27
Jim Palmer '28
Angela Reamer '28

Stacie Baker, Clerk

**Elders in their 2nd consecutive term*

Corporation Officers

Ron Shank, President
Tim Reynolds, Vice President
Scott Vandermyde, Treasurer

Nominating Committee

Bryan Etter
Tim Reynolds
Greg Rider
Carol Wolf
Deb Zigler

Resthave Home
Board of Directors

Nancy Shank
FPC Representative

Resthave Home
Women's Auxiliary Board

Deb Zigler

Finance Team

Angela Reamer
Tim Reynolds
Scott Vandermyde

Staff

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



November Scripture

Nov. 1: Mic. 3:5-12
Ps. 43
1 Thess. 2:9-13
Matt. 23:1-12

Nov. 8: Amos 5:18-24
Ps. 70
1 Thess. 4:13-18
Matt. 25:1-13

Nov. 15: Zeph. 1:7,12-18
Ps. 90:1-8 (9-11) 12
1 Thess. 5:1-11
Matt. 25:14-30

Nov. 22: Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24
Ps. 100 or Ps. 95:1-7a
Eph. 1:15-23
Matt. 25:31-46

Nov. 29: Isa. 64:1-9
Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Cor. 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Birthdays

11/13: Katie Selburg
11/20: Junee Cortes
11/21: Mike Selburg
11/23: Kristina Cortes
11/28: Elliot Rider



November 1, 2026

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

Nov. 12—Chicken & Veggie Soup
Dec. 10—Christmas Ham Dinner
Jan. 28, 27—Beef & Veggie Soup
Feb. 25, 27—Chili & Cornbread
Mar. 25, 27—Ham & Potato Chowder
Apr. 29, 27—Pulled Pork Sandwich



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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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Please Recycle

Love
one another.

Feed
each other.