

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 2021 • Vol. 64/No. 8

September's sun sinks slowly, shimmering and slinking, as a sizzling summer sleepily simmers, still suppressing a soon-to-be slumber. Labor Day's cicadas and crickets greet us with screaming chirps as we wake from and return to bed, but quiet down the closer October draws near. The sun rises in thick dew and low lying fog, wetting one's shoes on their way across the lawn. Dog days relax and yawn as the equinox approaches and the darkness of night wins out over the light of day. Summer's flowers fade, leaving mums, asters and various wild false sunflowers to be the remaining colors of the earth before October's leaves show their glory. Cool nights grow colder, and mornings and evenings begin to request extra layers of clothes and perhaps another blanket on the bed. School children sink into repetition behind their desks, and the streets are quiet during the day. Apples ripen and are picked with glee. Tomatoes finalize their heavy harvest. Corn turns from bright green to dried brown, which rattle like bones in the wind. Soy beans switch to a yellow green swirl before they fade away. September bids adieu to summer as autumn quietly slips in.

Here we are, another summer fading away. Here we are, another winter working its way in. We're another year older as another year's gone. We can't do anything to get it back. We can only look at where we are and what's ahead.

It's been nearly a year and a half of living in the world with COVID. Memorial Day 2021 brought us hope and promise with a nation that was becoming vaccinated. Masks were discarded. Life was returning

back to how it once was. But the Delta variant has found its way into all of our communities, taking advantage of all who remained unvaccinated, and now sneaking into vaccinated adults, and making it's way among children. Masks are now mandated again in Illinois. Class rooms of children are already being sent home for an entire week, just as the school year begins. Sigh.

Do we need another reminder about how much our life is out of our control? As children, we slowly begin to have control of our life. Early on, we learn to move and to eat, and later mature to walk and to feed ourselves. But we are still reliant on others. Eventually, we come to a time in which we can fully care for our own self, and in that time, we believe that we should be able to have full control over our lives. We can decide where to live, what to do for a profession, if we want to find a partner or not, what to eat, what activities to engage in, where to travel, etc. There are always limitations, but we can often keep them minor. In our day to day life, when everything is 'going right', we can gain an empowered sense of security and control. And perhaps we can make it through our adult life where we are able to have control over most of it. Yet, at some point, if we are still alive, our bodies, and perhaps our minds, will age to the point in which we find ourselves back to how it was as child...we are dependent upon others to get through the basic routines of our daily life. However, it is unlikely that any of us can get through all of life without situations occurring in which are out of our control. Realistically, it's hard to go though a day without

something happening that is out of our control. We just don't necessarily notice or pay attention to it because we become so used to it that we become oblivious. It doesn't register until something happens that is major enough that it pushes against our normalized life. When an illness or an accident occurs, we are reminded what limited control we have over our life. It is easy to place ourselves at the center of our universe and make ourselves the god of our life. Yet the rest of the world doesn't view us this way...an employer can terminate employment; a partner can break off a relationship; a friend can leave. In the natural world, a storm can strike; a car can break down; a house can catch fire. Every day actually presents so many possible issues out of our control, that if we dwell on it, we can descend into a dark pool of anxiety. It's no wonder why there is so much contempt in our world today in regards to the pandemic. We lost control of our lives from March 2020 through May 2021, and when we thought we were getting control back, we lost it again. To top it, we have a divided nation of a) people who have worked hard to have control at keeping their own self and others safe and there are b) those who have wanted to have control over their lives by not concerning themselves with the thought of COVID and have sought to have their regular life. But it is due to the later mindset that we are in the predicament that we are in now. Had everyone worked together to be safe and healthy, we wouldn't have this spike in COVID cases and hospitals wouldn't be full. And the division among these sides continues to

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

In-Person Worship

Despite the growing COVID concerns, we plan to continue to worship in-person unless directed otherwise by the CDC or governor's office. Come join us at 10:15! Sit where you want. Masks are required at this time, regardless of vaccination status, inside the church building. We continue to sing and have responsive readings. You are free to gather with or without a mask outside, but please no congregating in the church building at this time.

You are free to choose to continue worshipping virtually: we will livestream it at 10:15 still from our Facebook group page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison>. The services are now posted on Monday mornings to our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcZiobAb6lcNXGA0cbuuVdg>.

Bible Study

Bible Study is back to Zoom. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd (& 5th) Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome to attend. If you'd like to join, please contact Mike.

Family Events

We're continuing events for our children, youth and parents. Our next one will be at the end of September. Details will follow. We will not have a Sunday School for children this year and, at the time being, we will hold off on having our 'Time With the Growing Church' during worship. Right now, the parents believe what's best for our families is to have these family events which will include a time for Christian education and exploring how to live out being loving, caring and helpful Christian as individuals, families and as a church community.

Finance Team Meeting

The Finance Team will meet Thursday, September 16 at 11:00 a.m. A link to the meeting will be sent to members.

Office Hours

Our office manager, Stacie Baker, is in the church office on Mondays and Thursdays from approximately 8:30AM to Noon. The church office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day. Stacie will be in the office on Tuesday, September 7.

Drive-Up Meals

We'll be serving up Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes on September 9th. Thanks to Baar's Potato Farm for donating over 300 potatoes for the meal. There will be a 6oz side of sloppy joes as well as other sides served with the meal.

On September 30th, we are bringing back our Oktoberfest meal (we're just swapping schnitzel for bratwurst). We'll serve bratwurst, cider braised red cabbage, German potato salad, homemade apple sauce, and spaetzle and jaeger sauce. Lots and lots of help will be needed the week of this meal.

Mike will announce the needs for volunteering the Sunday before the meals.

We did end up handing out all 500 hot dog meals at our July 29th meal and raised over \$3,100 for the Morrison Fire Department. We even made the front page of the newspaper! At both of our August



meals, we handed out all 300 meals at each!

Thank you for your support!

Produce Table

Our Free Community Produce Table has had nonstop action this summer. Produce is coming and going throughout each day. We lost two sunshades due to storms in August, and we are still in the works of figuring out plans for a permanent shelter. Our current plan is to now use the free bricks from Main Street (which will be delivered for us) to make the pad for the shelter.

Deacons Meeting

Deacons will meet again, in on September 20th at 10AM. Where and how we meet is TBD. If you'd like to talk to a Deacon, their names are listed on the back of the newsletter.

Session Meeting

Session will meet September 20 (tentative to change), via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. A link to the meeting will be sent to members.

Newsletter Deadline 9/23

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

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Presbytery Meetings

The 2021 upcoming Presbytery of Blackhawk meetings are September 14 and November 9. Scott Vandermyde will attend as our delegate. Any member of First Presbyterian can attend any meeting, though not have voting rights.

Contact Mike for more information or contact Loreen Stravers at 779-771-2088 or

loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Continued from page 2)*

Life Triumphant

Ruth Mitick completed this portion of life, at age 95, on August 25. A private family memorial service will take place at the Rock Island Arsenal with Ken Renkes presiding.

Arnie Popkin completed this portion of life, at age 90, on August 15.

Though not affiliated with our congregation, Mike presided over a private family memorial service on

August 20th at Bosma-Renkes Funeral Home and Grovehill Cemetery. Arnie was an avid fan of our Free Community Meals and wanted to become active with our congregation post-COVID.

Madelyn Ritchie Tornquist completed this portion of life, at age 93, on December 10, 2020. Mike presided over a private family interment at Grovehill Cemetery on August 28th. Madelyn spent her childhood years in our church, moving away to the Quad Cities in 1941.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Between the Stacks

Don't forget to tune in to Odell Public Library's original podcast, *Between the Stacks!* Listen to find out what is happening at the library and in the community.

You can find them on Anchor, Apple Podcasts, Spotify and more.

Craft / Vendor Fair

There will be a Vendor/Craft Fair on Saturday, September 4 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Whiteside County Fairgrounds. This event will benefit St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Dog Days of Summer

On Saturday, September 18, On the Move with Parks and Rec, along with the Dept. of Fun will be hosting a Pooch Picnic at Morrison's Future Bark Park from 11AM-3PM.

There will be Strut Your Mutt and Crazy Dog Trick contests, silent auction, food, music and fun. You will also be able to meet Cooper the Whiteside County Sherriff Dog.

Erie Street Fest

The Erie Street Fest will be held on Saturday, September 18 beginning at 8 am. You can enjoy the day by browsing the car and vendor shows or participating in "Color the Triangle".

There will be local musicians that are taking lessons at the local Practice Place performing in the afternoon and Alex Fischbach & Co will

be closing out the night on the main stage.

For more details search Erie Street Fest on Facebook.

Harvest Hammer

The 32nd annual Harvest Hammer will be held on Saturday, September 18 beginning at 8 am with the kids races, followed by the 5K Harvest Hammer run and duathlon. If you're interested in participating you can go to www.getmeregistered.com/harvesthammer to register.

Roast Beef Supper

Erie United Methodist Church is having a Roast Beef Supper to benefit their missions. It will be held on Wednesday, September 22 from 5—7 PM.

They will be serving roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, coleslaw, rolls, pies and beverages.

You may dine or carry out.

If you have any questions, you may contact the church office at 309-659-2541.

Timberlake Playhouse

If you're looking for something to do close to home, check out Timberlake Playhouse in Mt. Carroll.

Their upcoming lineup includes "The Buddy Holly Story" (Sept 9-19), "A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" (Sept 30-Oct 10) and "What a Wonderful World" (Dec 2-12).

For more information and to purchase tickets, check out their website at <https://www.timberlakeplayhouse.org>.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

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; Bob Atherton, Richard Black, Dan Brandon, Orville Goodenough, Glenda Hegwood, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, Kurt Mills, Ken & Shirley Mills, Ruth Mitick, Nancy Rector, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde.



September 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7 9:30AM Bible Study	8	9 4:30-6PM Free Community Drive-up Meal	10	11
12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship	13	14 9:30AM Presbytery Mtg. 9:30AM Bible Study	15	16	17	18 8AM Harvest Hammer 11AM Dog Days of Summer
19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship	20 10AM Deacon Mtg. 6:30PM Session Mtg.	21 9:30AM Bible Study	22	23	24	25
26 18th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship	27	28	29	30 4:30-6PM Free Community Drive-up Meal		

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

grow and the negative emotions deepen. All of this creates even less control in our lives as we spin into greater turmoil. And this is just in the realm of COVID. Among the chaos of today is insane politics; an exploding Middle East; increasing global warming and unpredictable and angry weather patterns; unchecked racial tension; growing poverty rates; a fluctuating economy and impending inflation; and the Cub's new roster. Lions, tigers and bears...oh my!

Two thousand years ago, God lived among us in human form, amidst all the chaos of the day, under imperial rule, in a time in which the people were controlled by irrelevant and hypocritical laws. Jesus ministered to people who had far less control over their lives than we can ever imagine. Though it is all relative, our lives are so much better off than the marginalized people of that time and place. Yet Jesus, despite that the message would undoubtedly get him killed, had good news for them. God loved them. God had given them life. God cared for them in their life in a way that they had not know. God wanted a personal relationship with them. God wanted to forgive them and offer a new life. God wanted to give them control. God gave them a path to change the world around them. The chance for gaining control in life was to connect to God through love. We can receive the love of God. We can fill ourselves with that love. We can receive love from others. We can pass on love to others. In this love, we unite ourselves with one another. We join together in one body, each assuming our particular role. We see how when one member suffers, we suffer. We see how when one member benefits, we benefit. We become connected to others, not isolated. We can learn how to work together to help each other. We can learn to lean on one another in our times of need and to support each other, despite how out

of control our lives or world may be.

In our life together, we have the option to fight or to work together. If we place Christ as our center and focus on love as our guide, then we can continue to build the beloved community Jesus began to build with those first disciples. We can recognize that we are part of a long chain of pioneers who seek to discover paths to love one another despite the challenges we face, alone and together. As autumn sets in and as a long winter is creeping in, we can assume that the struggles our society face will continue to grow. We have our part to play in it all. We do have a certain amount of control, and most of all, we can control our actions, our intent, our mindset, and our hearts. We can embody ourselves in the love of Christ and bind ourselves together to help meet all our needs, continually reaching out to others as God gives us the ability. Together in Christ, let's do and be our best.

Grace and Peace,
Mike



September Scripture

- Sept 5:** Mark 7:24-37
James 2:1-10 (11-13) 14-17
Isa. 35:4-7a
Ps. 146
- Sept 12:** Mark 8:27-38
James 3:1-12
Isa. 50:4-9a
Ps. 116:1-9
- Sept 19:** Mark 9:30-37
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a
Jer. 11:18-20
Ps. 54
- Sept 26:** Mark 9:38-50
James 5:13-20
Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29
Ps. 19:7-14

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, 7:30-9:30 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, curbside 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/>.

Leadership and Staff

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

Rick Barr '21*
Jim Palmer '21
Angela Reamer '21
Lexie Laughlin '22
Scott Vandermyde '22
Carol Wolf '23
Lynn Knox '23*
Tim Reynolds '23*
Jan Kelly, Clerk

Deacons

June Cortes '21*
Jan Kelly '21
Greg Kruse '21
Marian Osborn '21*
Mavis Best '22
Jane James '22*
Doris Robertson '23*

Nominating Committee

Rick Barr
Greg Kruse
Marian Osborn
Tim Reynolds
Nancy Shank
Deb Zigler

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Jane James, Secretary
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 Mngr.
Scott Vandermyde, Organist
Jenn Reynolds, Custodian

**Elders and Deacons in their second consecutive term*

BIRTHDAYS

9/1: Arlene Burkholder
9/2: Nancy Shank
9/21: Susan Wiersema
9/30: Sally Hayen
9/30: Ron Shank
9/30: Ray Tucker

ANNIVERSARIES

9/24: Daniel & June Cortes



Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

Sept. 9: Sloppy Joe Baked Potatoes
Sept. 30: Oktoberfest
Oct. 14: Autumn Harvest Chili
Oct. 28: Chicken & Rice Casserole
Nov. 11: Lasagna
Dec. 9: Holiday Ham



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www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmorrison

Youtube Channel: First Presbyterian Church of Morrison, Illinois

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