

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 2021 • Vol. 64/No. 10

November greets us with late sunrises and a frosty cold mornings. These first nights find us in the mid-20s and daytimes in the 40s. But come next Sunday, November will trade in the late sunrises for early sunsets, leaving us in the dark by 5PM. Yet, as a gift this year, she will send us back into the 50s with sunshine in the days. Surely, summer is gone, and winter is setting in. This late autumn has been a blessing, with brilliant canopies at their peak on this All Saints Day. Leaf raking has been pushed back for November's chores. And once the leaves are raked, we will find Thanksgiving upon us, with Advent right behind. The changing of the seasons is directly at hand. The long dark winter awaits. Ah, November, what an usher to the death of the earth you are. What change you bring. Here we go!

What do you need to get through a Midwest winter? How do you need to reset your mentality? Are you a person who is rejoicing in winter's return? Are you a person beginning to suffer from seasonal depression? Do you float between the two?

For myself, I usually find that my initial reaction to November is that of angst. Letting negativity take hold, I focus on that *will be* over four months until we have a sunset past 6PM. I over-dwell on that we will not see flowers again until late February at the very earliest, but usually, the bulk of flowers are over five months away. Even worse, the trees will not be completely full of leaves for nearly half a year. Dread often sets in when I contemplate the length of time our winter lasts in northwest Illinois. But each year I mature a little bit more. Each year I keep myself from focusing on these facts and instead, focus on the reality of what is. As the leaves fall, and the trees are found bare, I enjoy seeing the intricate beauty of their full design. I enjoy seeing the curves of the harvested fields. I enjoy that there are fewer outdoor projects to take up my time, allowing me to do other things. I enjoy that the bugs are gone. I embrace the brilliance of the stary night winter sky her constellations. I snuggle into the

layers of clothing, as well as the added weight of blankets on my bed. I look forward to long hikes in the woods while the ground is bare, and then trading in my hiking shoes for cross country skis when the snow falls. I get giddy at the idea of downhill skiing and sledding. And the list continues.

Our mindset is key. Pessimism is king in our world today. Even before COVID, our culture tosses out to us the negative of our world. The news brings depression and fear. Hopelessness is fed to us in every direction we look. Anxiety follows as we easily believe we are drowning. But we are not.

I've shared this before, but I will say it again. The difference between drowning and swimming is a matter of fear and faith. Everyone with the proper physical condition has the ability to swim. The inability to swim is a mental condition. It is either from inexperience, the lack of proper instruction, or due to a previous tragic experience in the water. Also, it is often situational. If one encounters a moment in which they find themselves in deep water, they have the choice to sink or swim. When we fill ourselves with fear, we tense up our muscles and that physically makes us sink. The splashing that is made by a drowning victim actually propels them under water. But a person in the same situation, who has confidence and faith, will find the ability to relax, which naturally produces a buoyant body. It is likely that a person who can relax in deep water will die of hypothermia before they are too exhausted to swim. The latch ditch effort for someone in deep water, knowing help is far away, is to take a deep breath at the surface, allow the body to sink underwater, and then the body after going down a few feet, will rise again, and the person can take a breath once more. This continued action takes minimal energy and will allow the person to persevere until help arrives.

As we look forward to Advent, we can remember that the first Sunday in Advent is *hope*. It is no wonder that the early Christians began the Advent season with hope as we look for help. We need to be filled with hope to be able to

shred the pessimism from our being. We need hope to steer us away from the fear, depression and anxiety that our society douses us with. Hopelessness is exchanged for hope of Christ being in our life. Certainly, try as we might, depending upon our own self cannot fully get us through the trials of life. Help is always needed, to some degree. Looking toward to our Savior can get us over the hurdles of life. And it's not just some mysterious spiritual actions that we are relying on. Even more so, we are relying on God's grace to bring us into the light of love by having the ability to receive help and love from others, while we extend help and love to others. Building beloved community together allows us to acknowledge the problems of the world, but instead of falling into their life-draining snares, we are able to uplift one another beyond fear and hopelessness and toward a reality in with justice and equality is presented to all. With optimism, we can solve the worlds problems and enjoy the beauty that is present in the moments of our life. With Christ as our center, and with hope and faith of the love of Christ protecting and propelling us, we can move forward through life's struggles, giving thanks in all that we do for all that we receive (vs. complaining of *what is not*). In this season, we need not focus on the fact that summer is gone. Rather, we need to embrace that the joys of winter are at hand.

In our life together, we know that the seasons change quickly...faster and faster with each year that we live. Five months sounds like a long time away, but it's just around the corner. We can look forward to what is next, but even more, we can embrace and enjoy what is. With a shared thanksgiving for this life, we can utilize the communal love that Christ offers. Together, we can help change our culture's attitude and outlook. We can move beyond the darkness, and help bring one another into the light where justice and new life prevails. May we do this together in Jesus' name.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

In-Person Worship

We continue to worship in-person at 10:15a.m. every Sunday morning. Masks are required and we ask that you space yourselves apart.

Virtual worship will continue to be provided indefinitely. We livestream it at 10:15 still 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>.

Remembrance Sunday

Join us on November 7 for our annual Remembrance Service during which we will commemorate the saints who have walked on before us. Feel free to invite anyone who has lost a loved one in the past year or whom you would believe this would help in their grieving process.

Christ the King Service & Communion

Join us on November 21 for a worship service to mark the end of the Christian calendar. Communion will be served.

All-Church Christmas Decorating

On November 21, stay after the worship service to help decorate the church for Christmas. All members and friends—of any age—are invited to deck the halls! This will also be our ‘family event’ for November.

Hanging of the Greens

We’re bringing back the “Hanging of the Greens” worship service for our first Sunday of Advent, on November 28th. Finish up Thanksgiving week-end with this laid back worship service that teaches about the meanings behind the symbols of the Advent Season.

Advent Readers

Advent begins November 28th and we will need five families to be our Advent readers (Nov 28, Dec 5, 12, 19, and 24th). Mike will be contacting families to ask them to sign up.

Bible Study

Feel free to meet us for our Zoom Bible Studies. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd (& 5th) Tuesdays of the month. All are welcome to attend.

Office Hours

The church office will be closed Thanksgiving Day, November 25. It will reopen on Monday, November 29, at 8:30 am.

Drive-Up Meals

In November, we will be serving chicken and rice casserole for our meal on the 11th. Mike will announce the needs for volunteering the Sunday before the meal.

We have continued to hand out 300 meals at each of our Free Community Drive-Up Meals!!!

Thank you for your support!

Deacons Meeting

Deacons will meet again, on November 15 at 10AM in the Fellowship Room at the church.

Session Meeting

Session will meet November 15 via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. A link to the meeting will be sent to the elders.

Newsletter Deadline 11/22

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

2022 Stewardship Campaign

Keep an eye out in the mail for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign information and forms. We invite every member to respond with a commitment of time, talents and/or treasures for the coming year. These pledges of support are so valuable to the life and vitality of our church.

Poinsettias

Please use the order form on page 5, or available at worship services, to place your order for poinsettias this Christmas season. Let’s fill the sanctuary with beautiful flowers from K&R Greenhouse! Please return the form by **November 18**. We will begin to adorn the sanctuary the first Sunday of Advent, November 28.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Church Triumphant

Kurt Mills, son of Ken and Shirley Mills completed this portion of life on October 28, 2021, after fighting a rare form of cancer. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Congratulations to Dail and Amanda Blasdell who welcomed a baby boy, Kaden Lee, on October 5, weighing 9 lbs 1 oz. Big brother Kohen was excited about the new addition.

Prayer Requests Have a prayer request? You can now email them to prayers.firstpresmorrison@gmail.com. Please pass this on to others!

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Continued from page 2)*

Good News Announcement

One and a half year old, Amelia Anne Osborn will be baptized today at Emanuel Church in Morrison. Parents, Alex and Cheznee Osborn, Janesville WI. Grandparents, Roger and Sheila Osborn, Great grandparents, Dick and Janice McCoy and Great grandmother, Marian Osborn, all of Morrison, IL

Deacons Are Here For You

Feeling a little down or lonely? Call one of your friendly Deacons. They want to help!

Junee Cortes
Mavis Best
Jane James
Jan Kelly
Greg Kruse
Marian Osborn
Doris Robertson

Presbytery Meetings

The last Presbytery Assembly Meeting of 2021 will be via Zoom on 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

'22 Presbytery Leadership

Congrats to Scott Vandermyde for becoming the next Moderator of the Finance and Property Committee of Blackhawk Presbytery. Mike Selburg has been appointed to remain as Moderator of the presbytery's Personnel Committee. Mike will continue to serve on the Presbytery Council and Scott will join the Presbytery Council for 2022. Mike is also now the sole Moderator of the presbytery's Visioning Task Force, as his co-moderator, Deb Swets, has taken a new pastoral position in Oshkosh, WI. Mike is completing his time on the Mission Committee. Mike is rejoining the Presbytery Assembly Meeting Planning Committee, as the Visioning Task Force will begin to lead the group discussions at upcoming Presbytery Assembly meetings. Greg Kruse will continue as a member of the Commission on Ministry. Scott Vandermyde will continue as a member of the Mission Committee.

COMMUNITY NEWS

The Penguin Project

The Penguin Project is a unique theatre experience that provides individuals with special needs an opportunity to participate in the performing arts.

They will be performing "School House Rock Jr" November 12 and 13 at 7:00pm and November 14 at 2:00pm at Sterling High School.

Veterans Program

Morrison school's 5th graders will present a band and choral concert for the public in honor of veterans on November 11 at 6:30 at Morrison High School.

Veterans Day Recognition Program

Morrison High School invites Morrison's Military Veterans to the Veterans Day Recognition Assembly on Friday, November 12 from 12:30—1:30 pm in the MHS Gymnasium. Refreshments and a light lunch will be served to all veterans starting at 11:45 am.

To RSVP, please contact Mr. Brian Bartoz by e-mail at Brian.Bartoz@morrisonsschools.org or by phone at 815-772-4071 ext. 12106.

LOVE ONE ANOTHER!

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, 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/>.

November 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9:30AM Bible Study	3	4	5	6
7 24th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	8	9 9:30AM Presbytery Mtg.	10	11 11AM Finance Mtg. 4:30-6PM Free Community Drive-Up Meal	12	13
14 25th Sunday after Pentecost 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	15 10AM Deacon Mtg. 6:30PM Session Mtg.	16 9:30AM Bible Study	17	18 Poinsettia Orders Due	19	20
21 Christ the King Sunday 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	22	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent 10:15AM Worship 11:15AM Coffee Hour	29	30 9:30AM Bible Study				

PROPERTIES UPDATES

Sanctuary Support Beams

HELITECH is slated to finally put in the new vertical support beams this Tuesday in the boiler room (they have rescheduled 3 times already since August, so say a prayer this is the time!). We have moved most everything from the boiler room into the dining room for the time being. They will be drilling into the ground until they hit a firm foundation, pouring a cement pad, and putting in industrial grade support beams to hold up our sanctuary floor.

We are still in need of donations for the sanctuary support beam project. The cost is about \$7,500. It's a small price to pay to guarantee our foundation stays firm. Please consider donating. You can mail a check, drop one off in the offering plate, or use pay pal. Just be sure to note 'foundation' on the check.

Lending Library

The lending library support beams have been cemented into the ground.

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, family of Retired Minister Paul Laird, Omar Manchester, Joyce Mathew, the family of Kurt Mills, Ken & Shirley Mills, Stephen Osborn, Nancy Rector, Cooke Shawver, Jean Temple, Dick Vandermyde, Shanna & Dennis Welch.

Next up, we will lay down a brick pad and then hang up the library. This project is slated to be completed in early November.

Hoop House Shelter

We will continue the conversation about a proposed hoop house shelter for the church yard, following worship on November 8th.

Produce Table

We are still moving slow on updating the produce table. Unfortunately, by the time we were ready to collect Main Street bricks, most had been bulldozed into the ground where they are being dumped. We're still working on this plan. The current tent and table will stay out at the corner until we update it with something permanent.



Poinsettias to the Glory of God!

Order beautiful poinsettias, provided by K & R Greenhouse, for use in the sanctuary this Christmas season. Bring them home after the Christmas Eve service, if you wish, to enjoy for additional weeks. Single plants with 5-8 blooms are \$12.80 each. Double plants with 12-15 blooms are \$18.80 each.

Please order poinsettias no later than **Thursday, November 18**. 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*.

Total number of SINGLE plants _____ at \$12.80 each

Total number of DOUBLE plants _____ at \$18.80 each

Indicate the NUMBER of single plants of each color you would like:

Indicate the NUMBER of double plants of each color you would like:

Red _____ Burgundy _____ White _____

Red _____ Burgundy _____ White _____

Marble _____ Pink _____ Red Glitter _____
(salmon & white) (red & white)

Marble _____ Pink _____ Red Glitter _____

Who would you like to commemorate with the poinsettia(s)?

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

In memory of _____

Please indicate the NUMBER of poinsettia(s) you will take and/or leave after the Christmas Eve Service:

In honor of _____

I will take _____ (#) poinsettia(s)

In celebration of _____

Please use _____ (#) poinsettia(s) in the church ministry

Given by _____

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

11/13: Katie Selburg
11/20: June Cortes
11/21: Kevin Kuehl
11/21: Elijah Palmer
11/21: Mike Selburg
11/23: Kristina Cortes
11/25: Hailey Zigler
11/27: Joe Sage

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

TIME is November 7 at
2:00 am. Remember to turn
your clocks back one hour
on Saturday night!



November Scripture Readings

- Nov 7: Mark 12:38-44
Heb. 9:24-28
1 Kgs. 17:8-16
Ps. 146**
- Nov 14: Mark 13:1-8
Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
Dan. 12:1-3
Ps. 16**
- Nov 21: John 18:33-37
Rev. 1:4b-8
Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14
Ps. 93**
- Nov 28: Luke 21:25-36
1 Thess. 3:9-13
Jer. 33:14-16
Ps. 25:1-10**

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Phone: 815-772-3510

firstpresmorrison@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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Upcoming Free Drive-Up Community Meals

Nov. 11: Chicken & Rice Casserole
Dec. 9: Holiday Ham



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Please Recycle