

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!

February 2020 • Vol. 63/No. 2

February frequently fondles thawing thoughts that fancifies future freedom. Yet yawning sunshine seems too weak to release us from winter's hold. Oh Groundhog, will you see your shadow? Shall the snowdrops rise early, greeted soon by the crocus? Will the daffodil bloom by early March?

Or shall winter grab hold and finally settle in? Shall we be blanketed in frozen earth and pillows of snow, keeping the soil thick with frost, not allowing the gardener to till and plant potatoes, spinach, peas and radishes come early April? When May's morels finally arrive, we shall tell the tale of what has come to pass, but today it is all a mystery.

What will our own life hold, individually and collectively, in these months that will slowly rush by? What shall we report when we look back upon these toughest days of the year amidst the blooms of spring? Will we say, "Well there it

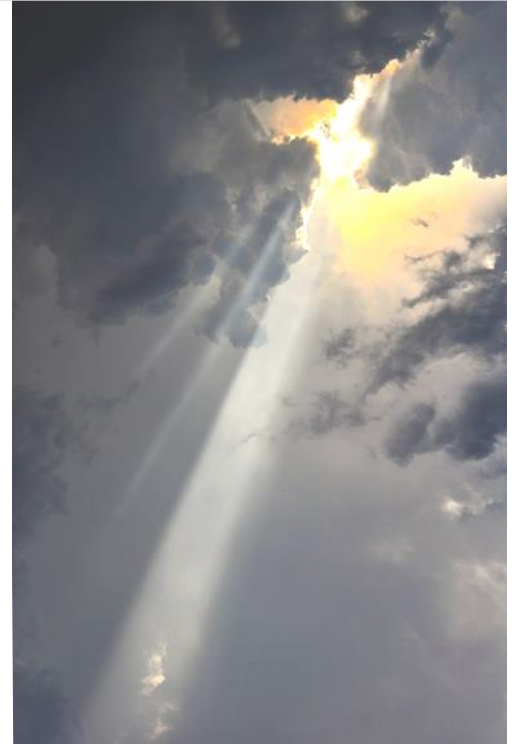
went, goodbye to those days and good riddance?" Or might we say, "Those days were better than the days before, as I grabbed hold of the beauty of each, climbing them like a ladder, each a new day to live for the Lord, each day more blessed with love and light in my life?" All the while, each day, we are enabled to appreciate the gifts of life and utilize them to live this sole life to its fullest.

The Day of the Groundhog is a celebration of light and a celebration of life. We have reached the brink of winter into spring. Halfway to the vernal equinox, the sun has defeated the darkness. We have breached darkness' hold. We have overcome the three months furthest from the sun.

Though spring is soon to be here, we have begun to wear out our mental and emotional stores. Not long ago, in the days in which we relied on our summer and autumn stores of food, we began to hope that it would stretch until the earth could bear food for us once again and the chickens would begin to lay their multitude of eggs once more.

Today we do not worry so much about the stocks of food we have shelved. Rather, we contemplate how to get through the troubles of our life, amidst the dull days ahead. February through mid-April often give us nothing more to look at than the soggy, muddy gray and brown naked earth. It easily strips our soul of hope and imagination. It drains our batteries. Nature's rejuvenation turns to depleting our spirits. It's a rough road ahead. But spring is coming. Spring is indeed coming.

We shall hold our heads up in the midst of despair. We shall not lose



hope in the barren days of drizzle. We shall not let the misty fog of life destroy our faith. The gloom wants to burry us in a bog. The darkness wants to suffocate us into the Nothing. No! Hold strong.

Turn on the light! The switch sits in your heart. A smile will awaken it. When we can't find our own smile, we can let the smile of another kindle the spark of hope into the needed flame to awaken our weathered souls. When we can't pick our own selves up, we have a community around us to reach up to. There is always help, even when we feel alone. Likewise, in our good days, we have the ability to look around us and see where there is need. A smile and a helping hand are the ammunition God has bestowed upon us to serve the world.

"Love one another," Jesus commanded us. "Do unto others as you

Continued on page 4

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Worship and Sub Pick-up

at FPC Feb. 2 The February 2 worship service will be held at FPC at 10:15 a.m. Afterward, don't forget to pick up your subs. Page 2

Annual Meeting rescheduled to Feb. 9 with leader Ordination & Installation. Page 2

Potluck Join us for a Mardi Gras potluck on Feb. 23 and enjoy King Cake. Bring a dish to share. . . . Page 2

OGHS Learn more about this important Presbyterian mission for those in need. Page 7

Church News

CHURCH EVENTS

WORSHIP AT FPC FEB. 2

Our service will be at First Presbyterian Church at 10:15 a.m. as usual. We will **NOT** combine worship services on February 2 with UMC as originally planned. Communion will not be served on this date. (See "Communion" below.)

SUB PICK-UP Subs for FPC members will be distributed after the worship service at **First Presbyterian Church** on February 2. **Please pick up your pre-ordered subs by 12:00 p.m.**



There will be no soup lunch. (Those who ordered at United Methodist Church will pick up their subs at UMC after their worship service 2/2.)

BIBLE STUDY takes place each Tuesday morning at 9:15 a.m. (Earlier start time through March 24.) The meetings are held at Pleasant View Rehabilitation & Health Care Center, 500 N. Jackson St., so that residents may participate. Join us on any Tuesday morning for an enjoyable hour studying God's word. **Scriptures for the month are listed on page 4.**

MMC MEETING The Morrison Ministers' Council will meet next on February 5 at 11:00 a.m. at Resthove Home.

CALL TO ANNUAL MTG.

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Morrison, IL, is called to an Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 9, 2020. Action will be taken on reports and at-large members of the 2020 nominating committee will be elected.

—Janice Kelly, Clerk of Session
—Rev. Dr. Michael Selburg, Moderator

Note: The Annual Meeting was rescheduled to 2/9 due to bad weather on the originally scheduled Sunday in January.

ANNUAL MEETING, INSTALLATION/

ORDINATION The new Session Elders and Deacons will be ordained and installed on Sunday, February 9, during our Annual Meeting worship service.

SUNDAY SCHOOL MTG.

Sunday School committee and helpers will meet February 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church.

PRESBYTERY MEETING

The Presbytery of Blackhawk will meet on Tuesday, February 11, at 9:00 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dekalb. Pastor Mike and Scott Vandermyde will attend.

COOKIE FROST-OFF

Plan to bring a batch of cookies to the church on Wednesday, February 12, at 9:30 a.m. We will decorate the cookies, while enjoying coffee and fellowship, then deliver the goodies to our members and friends in the community. If you know of anyone who could use a friendly valentine cookie delivery, please let Mike, Beverly Bealer or the church office know.



FREE COMMUNITY MEALS

There will be two meals in February, on the 13th and the 27th, from 5-6:30 p.m. The first meal will be a "Romantic Italian Dinner" in celebration of St. Valentine's Day. Pastas, salads, drinks and desserts will be served. The Meal on February 27 will be chili. Donations of desserts will be needed for



both meals. Prep help will be needed the Wednesday before each meal, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

DEACONS will meet February 17 at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

SESSION will meet February 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the church.

PW MEETINGS The PW Coordinating Team will meet February 18 at 10:30 a.m. at the church. The Sage Guild will meet February 20 at 1:30 p.m. at the church. All women of FPC are invited to attend.

NEWSLETTER Please get information to be included in the March 2020 *Life Together* newsletter to the office by February 20.

COMMUNION will be served on February 23, Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday, this month. It will also be served on Ash Wednesday, February 26.

POTLUCK We will have a potluck lunch after the Transfiguration of the Lord Worship Service on Sunday, February 23. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and a King cake will be provided.

ASH WEDNESDAY service will be **February 26** at 7:00 p.m. Come join us

for a short worship service and imposition of ashes from last year's palms as we begin preparations for the Lenten season.

GOLDEN OLDIES will meet on Thursday, February 27, at a restaurant at noon for lunch. All members and friends of FPC are welcome to come! The location has yet to be determined but hold the date.



(Continued on page 3)



Several families had fun bowling—and forgetting the cold and snow for a time—on January 12 at Hilltop Lanes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

LENT Join us for Lenten Worship Services, beginning March 1 through April 5 (Palm Sunday). The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) offers several Lenten resources on its [website](https://www.pcusa.org): www.pcusa.org.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 6, is designated as World Day of Prayer, a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Find more information at <https://worlddayofprayer.net>.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

All women of the Morrison area are invited to the "Rooted in Christ" Women's Conference on Saturday, March 7, at Ebenezer Reformed Church, 309 E. Park St., Morrison. Sessions will run from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See the Rooted in Christ, Morrison group on Facebook or call 772-2472 to register.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

is March 8. Set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night.

COMMUNION will be served on March 15, April 9, May 31 and June 21. Dates for the remainder of 2020 will be announced in a later edition of *Life Together*.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEAL

The annual Irish-inspired Free Community Meal—including corned beef and traditional sides—will be Thursday, March 12. Save the date and invite your family, friends and neighbors!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Holy Week will begin with a Palm Sunday service on April 5. A Maundy Thursday service, with Communion, will be held on April 9 at 7:00 p.m. A Good Friday service will be held at 7:00 p.m. on April 10. *Easter* and the *Resurrection of the Lord* will be celebrated on Sunday, April 12, at 10:15 a.m.

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH TRIUMPHANT

Ted Luther completed this portion of his life on January 16. A memorial service will be held at Bosma Renkes Funeral Home on April 14 at 10:00 a.m. A luncheon will follow at FPC after a private

family committal service. **Arlene Benedict** joined the Lord on January 29. We will celebrate her life on Saturday, February 15, at FPC with a visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. and a Celebration of Life and Witness of the Resurrection Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Committal and a luncheon at the church will follow.

(Continued on page 4)

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.

Those in need of healing and support: Bob Atherton, Rick Barr, the family of Arlene Benedict, Dan Brandon, Marion Collins, Rich Glazier, Orville Goodenough, Mary Kernan, Spencer Knox, the family of Ted Luther, Joyce Mathew, Blakelyn Musch, Nancy Rector, Edna Reynolds, Ken Selburg, Cooke Shawver, Jean Slavin, Julie Stinson, Dick Vandermyde.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

would have them do unto you," he preached. Let go of the old, live into the new. The ways of the world need not be your ways. The Way is the way of Love. Love is the power to heal and to grow. Love is the means to look at each day of our life and say, "It's never been as good as this." No horror can overtake us. For each day living with the Lord on earth is a day that is added onto the others. We are stacking the days of our life, one upon the other. As each day can be filled with love, the sum total is greater than the day before.

There is no need to look back on the good old days and say, "Remember when? It will never be as good again." Instead, we can say, "Remember when? Those were good days, and those days have come and gone, but good days are still here, they are just different than what they were. Our joys of the past are the blessings of our past. Though they are gone, new days are here, and each of those new days have blessings as well. Let's embrace them and find the sunshine

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Continued from page 3)

STATEMENTS 2019 Giving Statements were mailed the third week of January. If you did not receive one, and believe you should have, please contact Jean in the office.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Donations will be accepted in the offering plates February 26-April 12 in support of the Presbyterian mission to bring the love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable people around the world. You can also donate online at www.presbyterianmission.org. See page 7 for more information. ■

within them. Let us see the Lord present in our present moment in the world around us."

Here's the catch. Don't let today's blessings pass you by. Don't let the day subtract from your sum total of life. Don't lay your

*In our life together,
we can rejoice together
for the gift of every
day, every moment,
and every breath.*

head on your bed and not realize that you actually lived another day. Don't wake up and forget what a blessing it is to have another day before you. And don't live the day just for yourself, for then that day cannot be full. It is our loving relationships with others that give us a full day.

Also, we cannot ignore God's creation on any given day. There is much natural beauty in the crummiest weather. A bare tree shows the beauty of her trunk and limbs. She need not be clothed in thick green leaves to be beautiful. She is beautiful no matter what. The squirrel and the sparrow do not discriminate. They sing thanks either way. Let us as well sing

thanks to be part of this miracle of God's creation. Let us grab hold of the wonders that are all around us. Let us break free from that which holds us down and live into the freedom that is found in God's love.

In our life together, we can rejoice together for the gift of every day, every moment, and every breath. Together we can trudge through late winter's emotional bogs. Together we can rejoice in the love of God that lives within and is passed on between us and unto others. Together, we can rejoice in the wonder of God's creation, no matter how dull, cloudy, brown and gray it may be. Winter gives her own uniqueness that we can embrace and enjoy. Soon the weather will warm, and the earth will awaken.

Regardless of the Groundhog's reaction, we still have St. Valentine to remind us that love is to be our focus. And the dead president's birthdays we celebrate remind us we only have this one life, and it is fleeting. We have been gifted with this life and this earth, and the love of God is the means to live this life, on this earth, completely and fully. Let us rejoice in the new life we have received in the love bestowed upon us through our Creator, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Grace and Peace,
Mike

Scripture readings for February

- Feb. 2: Matthew 5:1-12;
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- Feb. 9: Matthew 5:13-20;
1 Corinthians 2:1-16
- Feb. 16: Matthew 5:21-37;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9
- Feb. 23: Matthew 17:1-9;
2 Peter 1:16-21



BLACKHAWK PRESBYTERY NEWS

Faithful Families Winter Conference

Rev. Traci Smith, Pastor at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church, Elmhurst IL, will lead a conference there on February 28. She is a nationally recognized speaker on a variety of faith formation

topics and author of *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* and *Prayers for Faithful Families: Everyday Prayers for Everyday Life*.

The conference, running from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., will give participants the tools and resources needed to be refreshed and reinvigorated for ministry with families. Elmhurst Presbyterian is located at 367 Spring Road, Elmhurst, IL.

Contact the church at 630-834-7750 or register [online](#) through Eventbrite.com.



Coins for Kenya

In January, representatives from Blackhawk Presbytery, together with their Imenti partners, distributed food in Rwarera, Kenya. People there had survived a drought, but were left in such poverty that they could not afford seed to plant their land. More than 300 individuals eagerly stood in line to receive food. However, they expressed even more elation at the announcement that they would be given seed to get them back to sustaining their own lives.

Please donate to Coins for Kenya! While the Imenti presbyteries will work with the local chief and government officials to determine specific quantities, we estimate they have one-half acre per family for a total of 100 acres to plant. To provide maize and bean seed, this will require approximately \$3,000. Please send your Coins for Kenya offerings to Blackhawk Presbytery by February 15 so that together we may provide seed in time for the March planting season. (1922 N. IL Rte. 2, PO Box 199, Oregon, IL 61061) Asante Sana, thank you very much!



Sunday School Updates

New Mission: Vitamins

This month the Sunday School is working on a new mission. We are accepting donations of adults' or children's chewable vitamins at Sunday School and at both churches through February 23.

United Methodist Church Pastor Noah Panlilio will be going to the Philippines in March and will be taking the vitamins to distribute there. Monetary donations to buy the vitamins will also be accepted.

Thank you in advance; this is a great need that we can help fill!

Lesson Update

The next unit the children will be studying is "Moses and his Sister," which will run from



February 9-March 1. On February 2, we will have a special class for all the children.

Helpers Needed




We are in need of helpers this year; we're shorthanded due to Shepherds' schedules. It's really very easy and so appreciated! And no experience is needed.

All information is provided to you before the class and there is always a Shepherd there to help you. You can help out for one Sunday or as many as you want. Our classes usually run from 9:20 to 10:00 a.m.

Please contact Kellie Kohl at 815-772-4174 or kohl68@yahoo.com if you like to help or have any questions. We would love to have you join us!



FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 <i>4th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9AM Sunday School at UMC/ Choir Practice 10:15AM Worship Service 11:30AM Sub Sandwich Pick-up at FPC	3	4 9:15AM Bible Study at Pleasant View	5 11AM Morrison Ministers' Council Meeting, Resthane Home	6	7	8
9 <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9AM Sunday School at UMC/ Choir Practice 10:15AM Annual Meeting Worship Service, Installation & Ordination	10 7PM Sunday School Meeting at UMC	11 9:15AM Bible Study at Pleasant View	12 9:30AM Cookie Frost-off 1PM Free Community Meal Prep	13 4PM Free Community Meal Set-up 5-6:30PM Free Community Meal	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> 	15 9:30AM Visitation for Arlene Benedict 11:00AM Memorial Service for Arlene Benedict; Committal; Lunch
16 <i>6th Sunday after Epiphany</i> 9AM Sunday School at UMC/ Choir Practice 10:15AM Worship Service	17 <i>Presidents' Day</i>  10AM Deacons Meeting 6:30PM Session Meeting	18 9:15AM Bible Study at Pleasant View 10:30AM PW Coordinating Team Mtg.	19	20 1:30PM Sage Guild Meeting	21	22
23 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> 9AM Sunday School at UMC/ Choir Practice 10:15AM Transfiguration of the Lord Worship Service & Communion 11:30AM Potluck Lunch & King Cake	24	25 9:15AM Bible Study at Pleasant View	26 1PM Free Community Meal Prep 7PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service & Communion	27 12PM Golden Oldies Lunch, location TBD 4PM Free Community Meal Set-up 5-6:30PM Free Community Meal	28	29 

Community Happenings

WITS FITNESS

Join University of Illinois Extension Educator Karla Belzer each month as she leads participants through interactive activities designed to exercise the brain to maintain and enhance cognitive function and memory. The program is held each Monday, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Odell Public Library Program Room. Register online at go.illinois.edu/odellwitsfitness.



INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

AARP Morrison Tax Aide will be available at the Odell Public Library Community Room on Wednesdays only from February 5-April 15 to help people file taxes free of charge. *Appointments must be made*, with openings from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Call 815-631-4570 to set up an appointment.

Chamber Networking Event & Annual Mtg.

The Morrison Chamber of Commerce will host its annual meeting and networking event on February 6, from 5-8:00 p.m. at Morrison Tech. It is open to the public. The 2019 *Citizen of the Year Award* will be presented and heavy hors d'oeuvres and a wine and beer tasting will be available. Call 772-3757 for more information.

'MESSIAH' REHEARSALS

Rehearsals for the community performance of Handel's Messiah, sponsored by the Morrison Ministers' Council, continue this month. Practices will take place February 9, 16 and 23; and March 1, 15, 22 and 29 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter Lutheran Church. The performance will be Palm Sunday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter.

ODELL MOVIE The Friends of Odell Public Library invite you to a movie matinee on February 11 in the Program Room. *Vice* (R) will be shown at 2:00 p.m. The 2018 biographical film tells the story of Dick Cheney, an unassuming bureaucratic Washington insider, who quietly wielded immense power as Vice President to George W. Bush.

FLORAL ARRANGING

WORKSHOP University of Illinois Master Gardeners will host a "Blooming Petals" workshop on February 15, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the Extension office, 12923 Lawrence Road, Sterling. Participants will learn the basics of floral arranging and design a bouquet to take home. Fresh flowers and containers will be provided. The fee is \$15. Register at go.illinois.edu/whitesideblooming or by calling Mary Nelson at 815-632-3611.



SOUP SUPPER Resthave Home will host a Soup Supper on February 20, from 5-7:00 p.m. in the Assisted Living Dining Room. A variety of soups and chili will be offered, with a sandwich and a drink. Donations will be accepted. The Garden Plain Ripsnorters 4-H Club will be holding a bake sale concurrently.

THE WHITESIDE FORUM

will host a book study on February 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Odell Library Program Room. The book to be discussed is *Dying of Whiteness* by Jonathan M. Metzler. A moderated discussion will cover topics of racism, gun control, socialism, health care and more. ■



The Sauk Valley Foodbank would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$150.00 [from the Free Community Meal fund]. Your gift is much appreciated. Your gift provided families with 60 cans of corn and 80 pounds of peanut butter.

Over 1.4 million meals were processed through the foodbank in 2019. This food was distributed to the low income, elderly, children, the homeless and so many more.

Over 100,000 people needing food assistance have been helped by our area pantries and organizations. Your donations have helped ease the strain in order to meet the need of the more unfortunate in our community.

Thank you,

Andrea Hensgen
Executive Director
Sauk Valley Foodbank

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

In a world of disaster, hunger and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)—Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

FPC will accept donations that will be sent to OGHS through April 12. More information on the programs: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Leadership and Staff

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

Lynn Knox '20
Tim Reynolds '20
Alyssa Sibley '20*
Rick Barr '21*
Jim Palmer '21
Angela Reamer '21
Lexie Laughlin '22
Scott Vandermyde '22
Jan Kelly, Clerk

Deacons

Doris Robertson '20
June Cortes '21*
Jan Kelly '21
Greg Kruse '21
Marian Osborn '21*
Mavis Best '22
Jane James '22*

Nominating Committee

Rick Barr
June Cortes
Lynn Knox
Greg Kruse
Lexi Laughlin
Marian Osborn

PW Coordinating Team

Lynn Knox, Moderator
Jane James, Secretary
Angela Reamer,
Treasurer

Resthabe Home Board of Directors

Stephany Trossbach
(nominee),
FPC Representative

Resthabe Home Women's Auxiliary Board

Deb Zigler

Staff

Rev. Dr. Mike Selburg, Pastor
Jean Eggemeyer, Office Mngr.
Doug Harridge, Director of
Music Ministry & Organist
Scott Vandermyde, Organist
Greg Kruse, Jenn Reynolds,
Susan Wiersema,
Custodial/Maintenance
Crew

**Elders and Deacons in their
second consecutive term*

Waiting for spring...

"I wandered lonely as a cloud
that floats on high o'er vales
and hills, when all at once I
saw a crowd, a host, of golden
daffodils; beside the lake,
beneath the trees, fluttering
and dancing in the breeze."

- WILLIAM WORDSWORTH



For February...

Liturgists

2/2	Rick Barr	2/16:	Greg Kruse
2/9:	Lynn Knox	2/23:	Angela Reamer

Birthdays

2/4:	Doris Robertson	2/8:	Arlyn Hayen
2/6:	Larry Bealer, Aiden Dolieslager, Shari Kuehl	2/12:	Britney Sage
		2/25:	Victoria Volckmann

FREE COMMUNITY MEALS 5-6:30PM

Feb. 13: Italian Dinner	July 30: Picnic:
Feb. 27: Chili	Burgers, Brats &
Mar. 12: Corned Beef	Hot Dogs
Mar. 26: Chicken &	Aug. 27: Sloppy Joes
Dumplings	Sept. 10: Potato Bar
Apr. 9: Cheesy Ham &	Sept. 27: Oktoberfest
Potatoes	Oct. 8: Chili
Apr. 30: Brisket	Oct. 29: Goulash
May 14: Spring Stew	Nov. 19: Turkey Dinner
May 28: Taco Bar	Dec. 10: Christmas
Jun. 25: Pulled Pork	Dinner

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