

NEWS AT FIRST

First Presbyterian Church

211 W First St
Monticello, IA 52310

Pastor:

Emory Gillespie
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Office:

Mackenzie Kahler
Office Administrator
Office Hours:
M-F, 8 a.m. - 12 noon
Phone:
319-465-3393
office@
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Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Sunday
School
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Worship



What is Love?

I remember our Presbyterian minister, Bobby Wilkes, telling Bob and me that in the Christian tradition, love is a verb. I thought that maybe I wasn't understanding his point, but I pretended that I did. Bob and I were both extremely nervous, just about to get married, so we simply nodded our heads and moved on to the next topic.

Here in the month of February, love is a great topic. Love, we often say, is a feeling. It comes and goes. We fall in love. We fall out of love. We feel the love. We don't feel the love. So how can we promise to love someone on our wedding day? How can we promise to keep feeling the same way that we do today? Can we force ourselves to feel love?

In the New Testament, we are taught about a new kind of love. It is called agape love, pronounced a-Gah-pay, and yes, Bobby Wilkes was right, it is a verb. It means doing kind acts toward someone else. To love someone means simply to be nice to them, to smile at them, hug them, help them, and listen to them. It is not

feeling. It is an action.

So, yes, we can promise to love someone. As our feelings go up and down, ebb and flow, we can still smile at them, say hello, do kind things for them, speak kindly about them, and support them for years, even decades.

We can even take it a step further, as Jesus asked us, by loving our enemies. No, it does not mean that we should put on a fake smile and pretend to feel something when we don't. It means that we simply do acts of kindness toward them, regardless of our feelings. We offer a handshake. We offer eye contact. We give them a nod. We pick up the quarter they dropped.

This Valentine's month, let's continue to love one another as Jesus has loved us...not forcing ourselves to feel a certain way....but by our actions - our smiles, kind words, friendly hugs and all that makes this life a beautiful, shared experience for all of us.

Blessings,

Emory

Foundations of Faith Community

Nursing (Parish Nursing) Course - Mercy Medical Center, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Mercy Medical Center will be holding a Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course in Spring 2020. Faith Community Nursing (Parish Nursing) is a recognized specialty practice that combines professional nursing and health ministry, with emphasis on health and healing within a faith community. This course will provide the basic foundation for the nurse interested in practicing in the faith community/parish nurse role in his/her faith community.

The course will be held at Mercy and class dates are:

March 31, April 2, 14, 16 - 4:30-8:30 p.m.

April 4 and April 18 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

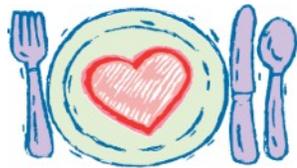
Self-Study - 3 hours



Participants must attend all classes. 35 contact hours of nursing continuing education credit will be awarded for attending the course. Course registration fee is \$100, which includes all learning materials, food, refreshments and continuing education credit. For questions or to register, please call Melissa Cullum, Director of Community Benefit and Patient Relations at (319) 221-8568 or email mcullum@mercyare.org.



We have received a certificate of membership transfer for Jasper Scott from Union Presbyterian Church, Lost Nation. Welcome to our congregation, Jasper and family!



COMMUNITY DINNER

Congratulations to last month's Cone Shoppe gift certification winner, Jerry Jasa!

Food at First will meet for our regularly scheduled monthly meal on Wednesday, February 19th from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Food at First is a community meal open to the public. A free will donation is accepted and appreciated, but not required. Please watch for weather updates in case of inclement weather.

If you would like to donate food, gift cards or your help, please contact Jo Zirkelbach at (319) 480-5703.

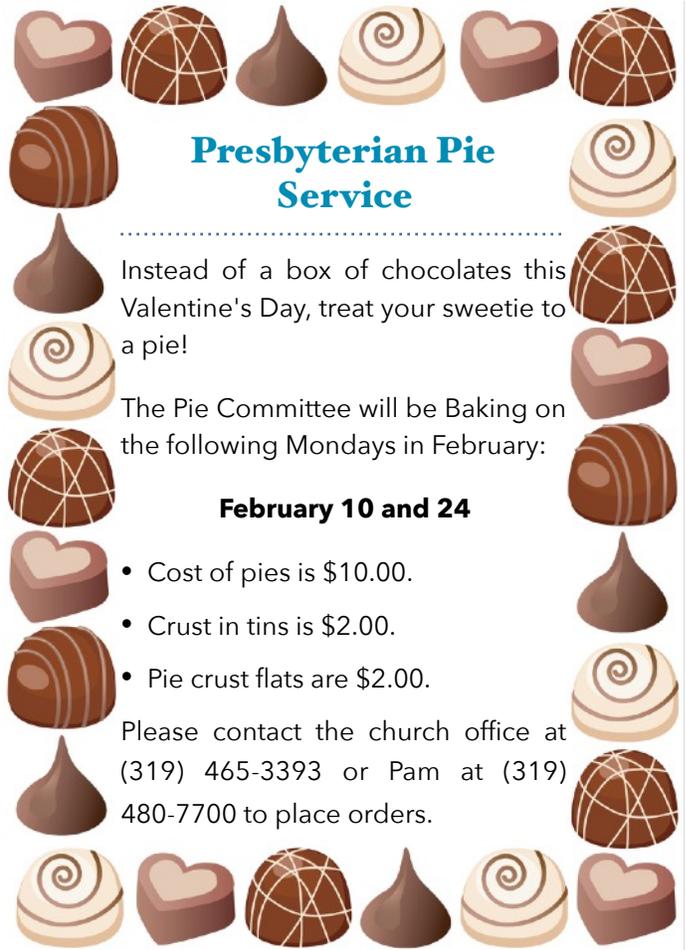
Bible Quiz

The precise number varies depending on the Bible version, but roughly how many times does the word "love" occur in the Old and New Testaments combined?

A. 200-300
 B. 400-500
 C. 600-700
 D. 800-900



Answer: C



Presbyterian Pie Service

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Instead of a box of chocolates this Valentine's Day, treat your sweetie to a pie!

The Pie Committee will be Baking on the following Mondays in February:

February 10 and 24

- Cost of pies is \$10.00.
- Crust in tins is \$2.00.
- Pie crust flats are \$2.00.

Please contact the church office at (319) 465-3393 or Pam at (319) 480-7700 to place orders.



Welcome to our 2020 Elders and Deacons, and thank you for your service!

Elders: Janean King, Stacey Takes, Jo Zirkelbach, Dan Saunders, Peg Arduser, Don Smith, Anita Benedict, Larry Lamont, Vickie Bone, Pam Goettsch, Angie Lawrence, Lillian Bruns (youth) and Matthew Beal (youth).

Deacons: Pam Mayo, Cindy Plummer, Joan McKim, Karen Anderson, Kim McNally, Jill Cheney, Suzy Gilkerson and Curt Mayo.

Nominating Committee: Larry Lamont, Pam Goettsch and Don Smith.



Confirmation class will meet on the following Wednesdays in the month of February:

February 19 & February 26

The Rebecca Circle women’s group will meet **Wednesday, February 12 at 1 pm.** They have started discussion on the Ten Commandments and continue conversations about faith.



On Sunday, February 2, we will hold our ordination and installation of elders and deacons. Thank you to this group for their gift of time.

Thanks so much to all who volunteers their time serving the Monticello Food Pantry during the month of January: *Curt & Pam Mayo, Dan Saunders, Becky Orcutt, Linda Parker, Larry & Kathy Lamont, Bill & Suzy Gilkerson, Pam Goettsch, Lisa Hosford and Jo Zirkelbach.* You are a blessing to all who count on our assistance with food needs!



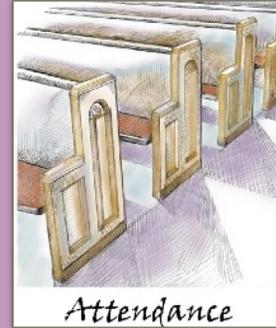
Please include in your thoughts and prayers...

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pat Anderson | <u>Pennington Square</u> | <u>Monticello Nursing & Rehab</u> |
| Jane Corbin | Naomi Bender | Ronald Behrends |
| Betty Lambert | Lorraine Haag | Laura Eiben |
| Lorrie Schmidt | Betty Wolken | Marie Hein |
| | <u>Sunset Park Place, Dubuque</u> | Barb Null |
| | Mary Jane Steiner | |



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Nov 3	\$1,882.83	
	\$3.00	Sunday school
Nov 10	\$2,116.00	
	\$5.00	Sunday school
	\$1,000.00	PPS
	\$1,000.00	Donation
Nov 17	\$714.00	
	\$1.25	Sunday school
Nov 24	\$1,627.00	
	\$2.00	Sunday school
	\$850.00	Auto Deposit
	\$9,251.58	
Dec 1	\$1,958.25	
Dec 8	\$1,269.00	
Dec 15	\$1,474.00	
	\$150.00	Fidelity Bank
Dec 22	\$892.00	
Dec 24	\$531.00	Special Offering
Dec 29	\$3,750.25	
	\$850.00	Auto Deposit
	\$5,000.00	PPS
	\$15,874.50	



	Worship	S. S.
Dec 22	50	-
Christmas Eve	100	
Dec 29	52	-
Jan 5	45	5
Jan 12	39	10
Jan 19	42	8
Jan 26	53	11



As we dive into the winter season, watch for winter related announcements. A decision will be made whether to hold Sunday morning worship, ideally by 6 am. If it is decided to cancel worship, announcements will be made to KCRG, KWVL and KGAN, as well as on our Facebook page: @MonticelloFPC.

SERVING THIS MONTH

	Greeters	Reader
February 2	OPEN	OPEN
February 9	OPEN	OPEN
February 16	OPEN	OPEN
February 23	OPEN	OPEN

THANK YOU!



We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message Bible* reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others,

isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

TiLT will continue to meet on **Tuesdays at 6 pm** at First Presbyterian Church. They are currently building a library of books for those interested in learning more. They have also been working with Monticello Public Library to make suggestions on other book for the public library to purchase. This month's line up of guest speakers includes: Laura Jackson - Systems Unlimited Employment Coordinator (2/4), Shannon Guyer - "Trust Your Gut" (2/11), Kathy Schoenherr - "SOS Approach to Feeding" (2/18), and Aimee Hospodarsky - Elementary School Counselor (2/25). If you'd like to volunteer your time or make a monetary donation towards this ministry, please contact Lindsay Ryan at lindsay.randolph.ryan@gmail.com.

MARCH

5



CAMP & CONFERENCE SOUP SUPPER

First Presbyterian Church
4:30 pm — 7 pm

Please join us for our annual Camp & Conference Soup Supper. We will be serving *Chili, Potato Soup, Vegetable Beef Soup, Homemade Bread, Dessert and Beverage* for **\$7.00**.

This is a fundraiser to support sending our youth to camp at no cost to the camper. Come enjoy a delicious meal and help support our youth!



Feb 2 - Ordination and Installation at Worship

Feb 9 - Sunday school will be performing the Rich Man and Lazarus parable at Worship

Feb 19 - Food at First

Feb 26 - Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm

Almost everyone – at least of the female persuasion – knows the romantic meaning of the phrase “hearts and flowers.” Valentine’s Day is coming! What will I get from my boyfriend ... my husband ... my best friend? I’m hoping for some sort of bouquet, a card full of loving words and red hearts, candy or at least a sweet balloon.

Human beings may disappoint. That special someone may forget to check the calendar for February 14. But even if he doesn’t come through exactly as I hope, I can still be amazed and happy with the valentine I am sure to receive every day from my heavenly Father and his Son: words of delight and joy and caring – always surrounding me with love and more love. These are the best “hearts and flowers” I could ever have, and which I do have, on Valentine’s Day and throughout eternity.

—Sandy Hyland



We are finishing up our search for a new church *treasurer*. If you have any questions, please contact the personnel committee (Jo Zirkelbach or Curt Mayo).

It’s that time of year again! First Presbyterian Church is proud to be able to offer a five different scholarship options to members of our church. A flyer is posted outside of the church office, and scholarships are available in the office or by emailing the church office. Submissions **must** be submitted in hard copy format. Electronic submissions will not be accepted. Scholarship applications are due by **April 1, 2020.**

