

News at First

Our Mission: *To make known the love of God through Jesus Christ.*

Our Vision: *We are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.*

GIVING YOUR BEST



Like the Magi, we can respond with our best gifts — our industry, our devotion, our very lives. We disciples are Christ's tangible presence in the world. That same Child whose light brought such joy to the Magi now, through us, offers his mercy to every person.

Through us, every day, Christ feeds multitudes; he heals, teaches and guides countless people. Through individual volunteers and major institutions, through simple acts of kindness or

worldwide coordinated efforts, the world can encounter, through the Christian community, the enduring, tangible presence of Christ.

—Michael Simone

CHURCH OFFICE

Church offices will be **CLOSED Wednesday, December 25 through Wednesday, January 1** in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. If you have anything you would like submitted to the January newsletter, please note the deadline of *December 10* to ensure it is completed before the holiday closure. As always, if you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977. Happy Holidays!



Pastor's {Ponderings}

We begin a new year, with new hopes and dreams. Wouldn't it great if I could spend more time with family and friends? Wouldn't it be good if I could lose some weight or exercise more regularly? Wouldn't it be nice if I could invest some of my time in things that made a difference in people's lives or the community?

There are lots of ways to make a difference by involving ourselves in organizations and causes that work to 'make life better for others'. The Austin Smith playground is one of those things. You can see how the community came together to make that accessible playground a reality. The Food Pantry is another. Community members from 10 area churches take time to volunteer over the course of the year to help hand out food. Others volunteer to help stock the pantry. While others give money to support it.

Thanks for all the ways you help support those things that make a difference.

You can help make a difference here in your own church, too. There are many different jobs that have to be done for the church, well to be the church, by caring for our members and the community.

We need your help.

- * The Building Committee and Don could use your help with the up keep of the building. The further we move away from the reconstruction after the fire in 2008, the more things need cared for.
- * The Christian Education Committee not only keeps our children and youth programs going, but also makes sure there is money for Camp Bear Creek scholarships.
- * The Memorial Committee works with the Session to provide for needs of our church.
- * The Membership/Stewardship Committee promotes new members joining and remaining active as church members and encourages the giving necessary to support the budget.
- * The Personnel Committee support the church staff.
- * The Worship Committee makes sure each week that all the different parts that need to happen for worship to function take place.
- * The Funeral Committee provides hospitality and organizes lunches for funerals.
- * The Scholarship Committee reviews applications, awards scholarships, and insures checks and letters go out.

All of our committees do good things, and all of their work is meaningful, but with your help, we can do great things! If you are looking for a place to plug in as you live into this new year, talk to me and let me help you find the place where you can help.

Wishing you all a New Year filled with an abundance of God's blessings!

Pastor Bill

Many Thanks!

Donna and I want to express our thanks for the many cards, gifts, expressions of good wishes and Christmas blessings that we received at Christmas. We feel blessed to be a part of this community.

Pastor Bill and Donna Warhover

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

211 W 1st St Monticello, IA 52310

Worship Sundays 10:00am | Sunday school 8:30am (resuming 1/7) | Fellowship 9:30am

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC

Pastor
Bill Warhover

cell 319-202-4977

pastor@fpcmonticello.org

Office Administrator
Mackenzie Kahler

office 319-465-3393

office@fpcmonticello.org

Treasurer
Dan Saunders



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Congregation's Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, January 19, 2025
at 11:00 am, following worship.

****Please submit reports by Monday, January 13th
for the Annual Report. Thank you!



First Presbyterian Church is responsible for staffing the Food Pantry in the **month of January**. It is important to have *two volunteers staffed each shift*. Weekly times are:

Mondays, 5 - 7 pm || Fridays, 2 - 4 pm

Please call the church office at 319-465-3393 to sign up for a shift and help us fill the month of January. Many hands make for light work. Thank you!

Any donations will be gratefully accepted, especially hygiene supplies (shampoo, laundry detergent, toilet paper, full-sized toothpaste, and tooth brushes).

Thanks for helping out! *Food Pantry*

It takes all of us pitching in to make the church not only work, but work in the way it was intended.

“Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!” 1Cor 12:7 The Message

January is our turn to volunteer to help at the food pantry.

The food pantry operates out of the back of the building to the east of the church. The church is used to have people to sign in and make choices about what they want from the pantry. Those needing food then wait their turns to go into the pantry itself. The volunteers at the food pantry assist with getting the food items and quantities requested as they are available and helping to suggest options if not. Regular volunteers will be here to check folks in and help volunteers with questions.

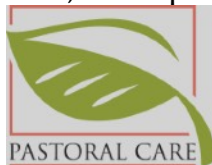
Volunteers are needed to staff the Food Pantry in January on Mondays from 5-7 and Fridays from 2-4. Volunteers are asked to come 15 minutes early to get oriented on what is available. While getting people the food they need is important, a serving of kindness and hospitality is also appreciated. Thanks for helping out!

Thank you Theisens!

The Monticello Ministerial Association (which this church is a part of) was the recipient of a \$2,500 Theisen’s More for Your Community Grant. This grant was awarded to help MMA support mental health care through local clinicians and therapist. In the last year MMA through its Neighbor Helping Neighbor Program contributed over \$7,200 to support mental health in our community.

Thank you Theisen’s for your generous support of this program.

If you would like to request a pastoral visit due to being homebound, or recovering from an ailment at home, in the hospital or a rehabilitation facility (and you are able to have visitors according to facility policy), please contact the church office to arrange a visit. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Call Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977, or the church office at 319-465-3393, to request your pastoral care visit.



Student of the month: Meredith Parker



MHS senior Meredith Parker (center) was named Student of the Month for November. She was nominated by both Associate Autry Fasnacht (left) and Social Studies teacher Phil Gilkerson (right). (Photo submitted)

Monticello Ministerial Association (MMA)

First Presbyterian Church is a part of the Monticello Ministerial Association, through the dues we pay and the active participation of our pastor. MMA is an association of area churches that come together to provide compassionate support to our community.

The thing MMA does, through a lot of volunteers, that most of us know about is the Food Pantry. We might, too, have heard that MMA will do a joint Vacation Bible School again in July. What we might not know is a lot of other things that MMA does.

Through it's Neighbor Helping Neighbor program, MMA is able to provide vouchers for help with gasoline, help with utilities or rent assistance. MMA works with mental health providers to get people the support they need, or can reimburse a one night emergency hotel stay. All this happens through a network of area agencies: Jones County - HACAP, Jones County Community Services, Monticello Police Department, and the Monticello Counseling agencies.

In 2023, MMA, through it's Neighbor Helping Neighbor program, expended \$7,214.00 for reimbursement to mental health providers. Programs like this and the Food Pantry can only happen through donations from community members and churches. If you would like to support any of the MMA programs you can make your check to:

MMA
PO Box 62
Monticello, IA52310

Please indicate if you wish your gift to be used for a particular ministry (Food Pantry, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, General Fund)

Thank you!



VBS 2025 is Announced!

July 28th-August 1st, 2025

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2024 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2025 VBS!

Stay tuned for registration date announcements

It will again be online registration. More information to come!



Per Capita 2025 is \$45.34 Per Member

WHAT IS PER CAPITA **Per Capita** is the primary source of funding for the Presbytery, as well as the Synod and GA, and is **how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs** of coming together to perceive the Spirit's leading for the future.

- **It is how Presbyterians are trained** to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons, and ministers.
- **It is how Presbyterians are helped** to discern God's call in their lives.
- **It is how Presbyterians participate** in the life of the wider church **by serving committees and commissions**, regardless of distance or financial resources.
- **It is how Presbyterians participate** in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live **in fellowship with "all persons in every nation"**

PER CAPITA has been part of our funding history for over 150 years. When Presbyteries, Synods, and the General Assembly meet, they are conducting the legislative and judicial business of the church and incur necessary expenses. There are also some necessary administrative expenses involved which enable these ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions to be performed.

Importantly, per capita funding enables governing councils to make decisions regarding distribution of mission dollars without itself being funded by those same dollars. The whole church shares in these expenses since everyone who is a member shares in the benefits of this system of church government.

Paying per capita is similar to: • contributing one's dish to a potluck meal • paying to be connected to the internet • paying for the benefit of utilities, such as electricity, gas, water • pitching in with others to pay for gasoline on a road trip.

WHERE DO LOCAL PER CAPITA DOLLARS GO? The per capita apportionment in the Presbytery of East Iowa is based on the operating expenses of the Presbytery. This would include administration expenses and some salaries, detailed in each annual budget approved by the Presbytery, including managing Presbytery office and expenses, salaries to cover the office of the Presbyter and Stated Clerk, salaries of the Financial Secretary and Office Manager, insurance coverage, legal counsel, annual audit, and costs for committees.

OBSERVE PER CAPITA SUNDAY. Jan. 19, 2025, has been set aside as Per Capita Sunday, a day to celebrate being a connectional church.



We were saddened that the weather kept us away for **caroling**. We'll try again next year. Stay safe and warm! Thanks to Larry and Kathy Lamont for the work that went into organizing the event.

Thank you for your continued support of the Presbyterian Pie Committee!

To place your order or check freezer stock, call:

Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).



2025 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Trip

South Mississippi Delta, February 2-8, 2025



The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites The Presbytery of East Iowa to join them for their 2025 disaster relief trip as they return to the South Mississippi Delta. Their 2024 work team was impressed with the resilience of the Rolling Fork community and are excited to see the progress of their recovery, but know they still have so much work left to do!

On March 24, 2023, several communities in the South Mississippi Delta were hit by an F-4 tornado. Over 20 people lost their lives, and over 70% of the community of Rolling Fork was destroyed. Wind gusts up to 200mph debarked trees, mangled cars, and destroyed homes. Together with the Community Foundation of Washington County and several other faith-based non-profit organizations, volunteers will help in the community recovery effort in Rolling Fork.

Lodging will be at Leland Presbyterian Church, arriving Sunday, February 2 and departing Saturday, February 8. The church can accommodate up to 30 volunteers. There are twenty twin beds, with linens included, in five rooms in their converted education building. Other rooms can accommodate additional volunteers that bring air mattresses. Volunteers have the use of a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, and lounge area. For those that do not wish to stay in a dormitory-style setting, there are numerous hotels within 15 minutes of the church.

Registration forms are available [here](#). You can join for the full week or a half week. If you have questions or need more information, contact [Angie Jewett](#). Forms must be printed and mailed to the Presbytery Office at 1864 Highway 86 in Milford, IA 51351, with signed paperwork and registration fee included. **Mailings must be received by January 6, 2025 to be considered for the trip.**

Each week, we'd like to include a couple of church families on our **Family Prayer** list. For the month of January, please remember to include in your prayers each week our January families:

January 5: Jill Cheney, and Michael, Alexis, Amelia & Isabel Corbin

January 12: Barbara Decker, and Tanner, Taryn, Jack, Ryder & Heidi Fellingner

January 19: Tim, Carrie & DeLainy Fellingner, and Quinton, Breanna & Corbin Fellingner

January 26: Kevin, Chanda, Taylor, Grant & Kinley Gassman, and Bill & Suzy Gilkerson

Thoughts & Prayers

Betty Lambert

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Anamosa Care Center, Anamosa

Barb Null

Corridor, Cedar Rapids

Marj Stubbe

Wellington Place, Decorah

Lorraine Haag



\$45.34

204 Per Capita



| Week of: | Worship: | SS: |
|-------------|--------------------------|-----|
| December 1 | 60 | 10 |
| December 8 | 56 | 11 |
| December 15 | CLOSED-Inclement weather | |
| December 22 | 88 | 15 |

- The Deacons wish to thank you for your generous financial donations to the **Care and Share** program. This year, we sponsored six children and their families. Your gifts and financial support were truly a gift for these families!
- You are invited to stay after worship and help **take down decorations after worship Sunday, January 7**. Many hands make for light work!



Session Meeting Summary - December 2024

- Elected Bill Gilkerson as Clerk of Session for 2025
- Elected Dan Saunders as Treasurer for 2025
- Camp and Conference drive thru Soup Supper is scheduled for February 26, 2025

OFFERING & FINANCIALS



Thank you to those that have been giving and generous to the church. We thank you for your contribution. Every little bit helps. year-to-date: November, 2024

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income— | Expenses— |
| Actual. \$142,797.35 | Actual. \$182,955.94 |
| Budget. \$168,656.40 | Budget. \$207,144.52 |
| Percent. 84.67% | Percent. 88.32% |

Notes: 1. Transferred \$11,896.75 from Memorial account to checking account. 2. Sent off contract with downpayment of \$11,896.75 to Glass Heritage, LLC.