

NEWS AT FIRST

A Good Contagion

Thanksgiving is key in Christian prayer, but often our requests outweigh our thanks. By contrast, 85% of prayers in the Jewish prayerbook are blessings of thanks, according to Rabbi Evan Moffic. Noting that the Hebrew word for a Jewish person — *Yehudah* — means “one who is grateful,” he states, “Gratitude is at the core of how Jews pray.”

Someone once asked Moffic if he might know about a blessing he’d overheard at a restaurant. After a man proposed to his girlfriend and she said yes, he walked quietly to a corner, put on a yarmulke (a sacred Jewish head covering worn in prayer) and spoke a blessing. His fiancé teared up. The rabbi said the prayer was surely this:

“Blessed are you, O God, sovereign of the universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us and for enabling us to reach this joy-filled moment.”

Why was this person so interested? “I am planning to propose to my girlfriend,” he shared with Moffic, “and I want to say this prayer with her.”

Unbeknown to the newly engaged pair, their gratitude transformed another couple’s life. When we give thanks to God, not only is our faith strengthened but our thanksgiving may inspire others. Gratitude is contagious!

—Heidi Hyland Mann

“Amazing Grace”

Once in a while a tune sticks or keeps being repeat over and over in my mind. I wonder if that ever happens to you? That phenomenon happened with me a few days ago. Someone spoke of their favorite hymn “Amazing Grace.” I unconsciously kept repeating the lyrics, so finally, I decided to look up the origin of the hymn. What I found was a powerful story behind the tune. John Newton wrote the hymn for the people of Olney, Buckinghamshire, England, where he was pastor. John Newton lived from 1725 – 1807 and was born in London. There was tragedy in John’s life with the death of his mother when he was seven years of age. At eleven John went to sea with his father, and by seventeen he served in the British Royal Navy assigned to a man-of-war. After serving as a sailor on a slave ship, he became a captain transporting Africans to be sold as slaves to the North American colonies. During a storm at sea in 1748, John had a spiritual awakening. At forty, John became ordained in the Church of England and became pastor of St. Mary Woolnoth Church, London, for the remainder of his life.

As with a lot of things in life, once I know the story or as Paul Harvey used to say, “the rest of the story.” As we approach the end of 2022 with Thanksgiving followed by Christmas, why not look at our relationships with friends, family, and God. I ask myself, and maybe you can ask yourself as well, “What hymn might each of us write depicting our lives, or what hymn might each of us pick which depicts our lives?” One of the most encouraging parts of life is being amazed at the all-inclusive, encompassing breath of God that touches and changes lives.

GLB

INTERIM PASTOR

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OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

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TREASURER

Dan Saunders

Office hours vary

Pastor’s Office Hours:

W 10am-5pm

(confirmation 5:15-6:30)

Th 10am-3pm

WORSHIP

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Youth Sunday School

8:30 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP 9:30 a.m.

FACEBOOK:

@MonticelloFPC

Thankful for the Saints

*In our day of Thanksgiving one psalm let us offer
for the saints who before us have found their reward.
When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed,
but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord. ...*

*These stones that have echoed their praises are holy,
and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod.
Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims,
and still they were seeking the city of God.*

–William H. Draper (1916)



We remember members and friends of First Presbyterian Church on this All Saints' Day (**November 1**) who have entered into the kingdom of heaven in the past year:

Joyce Parmenter | Elsie Chapman | Merlyn Brown Sr



Please mark your calendars! Christmas program practice will begin Nov. 20th during Sunday school class time.

Christmas program will be presented December 13 during the 10:00 am worship service.

You are invited to help decorate our church for the Christmas season after our worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 27th**. Updates will be posted on our church's Facebook page in case these plans need to be adjusted. As take-down is yet to be determined, we will make another announcement requesting your help at a latter date. Thank you! -Deacons



**Help Us "Spruce"
Up the Church!**



Confirmation classes began the last week in October. Classes will meet **each Wednesday from 5:15 pm-6:30 pm** in the upstairs classroom.

Classes will meet Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 30,

Nov. 23- NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

Care & Share



Our congregation will once again participate in HACAP's Care & Share Christmas program. The Deacons will discuss at our next meeting how to best support our “adopted” children and families this year. Cash donations are welcome at any time. Please mark donations “Care and Share.” Watch for updates on our Facebook page concerning this year’s procedures and dates to participate. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting children and families in our community at this special time of year!



Monticello Community Thanksgiving Dinner ‘DELIVERY, Take-Out ONLY’

Dear friends and neighbors,

It’s that time of year again. Cool weather, harvesting fields, football, bonfires and pumpkin spice everywhere. Halloween will be here before we know it and then my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Just a meal shared with family and friends, being thankful for the many blessings

that we have received.

The past two years, where we provided meals only by delivery, taught us many things:

1. We provided more meals than when we offered delivery and dine-in.
2. We were able to better estimate our food needs and cost, thereby reducing the amount of waste and giving more money to the food pantry.
3. We could do it all with fewer volunteers and their time commitment we less.

For these reasons, we have decided that we will be doing delivery and take-out only again this year.

If you would like to have a meal delivered OR if you would like to drive up to get your meal, please call us at 319-465-3219, leave your name and number and we will call you back.

If you would like to volunteer your time to deliver meals or help in other ways please call us at 319-465-3219, leave your name and number and we will call you back.

If you would like to make a donation, you can drop it off at Citizen State Bank or send it to: Monticello Community Dinner, c/o Terry Fueling, 15736 120th Ave, Scotch Grove, IA 52310.

Thank you again for supporting this event and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Bruce & Terry Feuling and
Dennis & Jeannie McCall

The Thanksgiving Community Dinner Team

Food Pantry Holiday Hours

A reminder as seasonal weather and holidays approach: the Monticello Food Pantry will be closed if the Monticello Schools are closed. With that in mind, the Monticello Food Pantry will observe the following hours for the holiday:

OPEN: Monday, November 21
5 pm - 7 pm

CLOSED: Friday, November 25

OPEN: Monday, November 21
5 pm - 7 pm



FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The 2002 Cub Scout Scouting for Food food drive was a great success! Donations included **2,838 pounds! THANK YOU!**

Current needs going into the holiday season include: **toilet paper, paper towels, canned fruit, and canned chicken.**

Also, \$25 Fareway gift cards are extremely helpful. Thank you for your continuous support!



Congratulations to Kyla Shakespeare and Jeff Lenz, who were married at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, October 8, 2022.
They reside in Ankeny, Iowa.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: *Jim Anderson, April Keltner, Larry Lamont.* Keep them in your prayers as they meet and seek others to serve as Elders and Deacons here at First Presbyterian Church. Thank you for your service.



Betty Lambert
Doug Mettler
Marj Stubbe MRNC
Don Duncan MT Vernon

Lorraine Haag Pennington
Frank Smith Pennington
Barb Null Pinicon PI



FAMILIES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS:

The Deacons are excited to start sending cards of encouragement to the college students of First Presbyterian Church through out upcoming collegiate school year. If you are interested in having your son or daughter receive cards from us, please notify the church office of the student's mailing address. You can call 319-465-3393 during office hours (M-Th, 8 am - 12 noon) or leave a message on the answering machine, or you can send an email to office@fpcmonticello.org.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The church office will be **closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26** in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Gary on his mobile phone at 319-530-7638.



Be sure to vote!
Election Day, **November 8**

Lillian Bruns	Marissa McNally
DeLainey Fellingner	Lindsey Ricklefs
Caden Reinke	Rease Saunders
Madison Fellingner	Robyn Takes

God's blessings on our Scholarship recipients and their future plans.

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

November 6: Helen & Dave Sackett and Dan, Janie, Reese & Jack Saunders

November 13: Joanne Schenck and Jasper, Brooke, Brayden Cigrand, Eli & Amelia Scott

November 20: Kyla, Laisee & Parker Shakespeare and Barb & Scott Slater

November 27: Don & Kim Smith and Eden Smith



Session Highlights - 19 October 2022

The session met Wednesday Oct 19 at 6 pm in the fellowship hall.

Attendance for September is 38-53 for worship and Sunday school was 7-10 for youth ages 3 years -12th grade.

It was decided to leave offering plate in back for worship and not pass for now. We will be adding the children's moment back into the worship service. We will be adding the announcement slides back into slide show before the worship service.

They received an update from the PNC.

Pastor shared a worksheet on healthy congregations. Pastor and Curt Mayo did 2 home communions.

There will be no adult Sunday School at this time. Youth Sunday School will remain at 8:30-9:30 am.

Dan passed out the financial report and it was discussed.

The new church policy handbook was passed out.

Don Smith is working on replacing the bulbs in the fellowship hall a few at a time. Window screens on Sunday School wing are still on the to do list.

Personnel will be starting the annual reviews of our staff in order to have completed by the end of the year.

Nominating committee will be starting up to fill a ballot for our Jan congregational meeting.

Working on list of homebound members for pastor to visit.

Confirmation class will start on Oct 26th.

Went over holiday services and our church meeting schedules with pastor.

Approved a wedding for Nov 2023 to use our church.



ATTENDANCE:

Week of:	Worship	Sunday School
Sept 25	53	4
Oct 2	39	5
Oct 9	23	5
Oct 16	41	9
Oct 23	29	5



OFFERING & FINANCIALS

Did you remember to tithe today?

We offer a number of options. Please contact us if you'd like to hear them. We *thank you* for your contribution.



September 2022 Contributions: \$6,455.00

(September 2021 \$5,959.10)

September 2022 Expenditures: \$2,817.36

(September 2021 \$13,675.15)

November 2022