

# News From First

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## A NEW YEAR WITH MATTHEW

We are starting with our story of faith again, this time with the gospel of Matthew. In this new year, we will enjoy familiar Bible passages about the wisemen, the lilies of the field, the fish and loaves and the parable of the seeds. In Isaiah, we hear God say, “Behold, I am about to make all things new. Can you hear it?”

One of my favorite Christmas carols is *Ring Out, Wild Bells*. These are the words, written by Alfred Lord Tennyson, who, because of this poem, became known as “The King of New Year’s Cheer.” These words are taped to my file cabinet, because they are filled with the hopes of our Advent prophets:

*Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,  
The flying cloud, the frosty light:  
The year is dying in the night;  
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.*

*Ring out the old, ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:  
The year is going, let him go;  
Ring out the false, ring in the true.*

*Ring out the grief that saps the mind,  
For those that here we see no more;  
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,  
Ring in redress to all mankind.*

*Ring out a slowly dying cause,  
And ancient forms of party strife;  
Ring in the nobler modes of life,  
With sweeter manners, purer laws.*

*Ring out the want, the care, the sin,  
The faithless coldness of the times;  
Ring out, ring out my mournful rhymes,  
But ring the fuller minstrel in.*

*Ring out false pride in place and blood,  
The civic slander and the spite;  
Ring in the love of truth and right,  
Ring in the common love of good.*

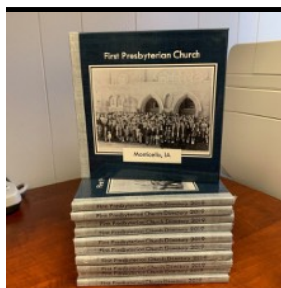
This new year, we are looking forward to our Camp and Conference Soup Supper, Montreat fundraiser events, TiLT book study, Lenten Bible Study and many more events created and enjoyed by this faithful congregation for our larger world. May each of you have a new year that rings out the common love of good!

*Pastor Emory*

First Presbyterian is responsible for staffing the Food Pantry in the **month of January**. The times are:

- Mondays from 5 - 7 pm
- Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon
- Fridays from 2 - 4 pm.

Please call the church office at 319-465-3393, or sign up on the sheet passed at worship on Sundays and help us fill up the month of January. Thank you!



If you missed out on the first order, we will be placing another order *not before January 15*, so get your order and money submitted to be included.

Thanks!

Food at First will resume our regularly scheduled monthly meal event in **January on Wednesday the 15th from 5:30 pm to 7 pm**.

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.





Confirmation classes will meet on the following Wednesdays for the month of January:

**January 15**  
**January 22**  
**January 29**

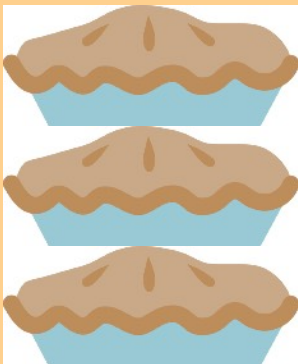
The winter chill has set in, and nothing warms the soul like a fresh baked pie.

The Pie Committee will be working on the following Mondays in January:

**January 6 and 20**

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

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



The Rebecca Circle women's group will meet **Wednesday, January 8th at 1 pm.** They will continue their discussion on the cathedrals of Europe and conversations about faith.



The Adult Education Sunday School classes will begin meeting again **Sunday, January 5 at 8:30 am** and each Sunday thereafter to continue with the theme Improving Relationships with the Bible.





Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was “startled and unwilling” when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought *he* needed what *Jesus* could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God – indeed he invites this: “Call on me in the day of trouble” (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to *us* with needs: “Mortal, I am sending you” (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV); “Go ... make disciples” (Matthew 28:19); “Carry each other’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2, NIV).

Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John? Salvation is God’s alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world’s sake. So we echo Jesus: “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this” (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann



~ THANK YOU! ~

A special thank you to those who placed poinsettias in the sanctuary in memory of loved ones during this Christmas season.

- In loving memory of Craig Parker from Linda Parker & family
- In loving memory of Saunders & Stralow families from Dan & Janie Saunders
- In loving memory of Jerry Krueger from Jean Krueger & family
- In loving memory of Forest & Marguerite Lamont and Albert & Betty Oltmanns from Larry & Kathy Lamont
- In loving memory of Bonnie & Robert Lyon from Anita & Roger Benedict and Sandra Lyon
- In loving memory of Ernest & Lola Benedict and Earl & Lucille Benedict from Anita & Roger Benedict
- In loving memory of Bud Bader from Craig & Barbara Decker & family
- In loving memory of Paul & Lucille Warner from Dave, Joann, Tyler, Robin & Paul
- In loving memory of Dale & Dorothy Lange and Duane & Norma Anderson from Jim & Karen Anderson
- In loving memory of William E. Corbin Jr. from David, Jane & Nancy Corbin & family
- In loving memory of Rusty & Glenn Orcutt from their family
- In loving memory of Ly & Doloris Hosford, George & Gretchen Allen and Larry & Marian Hosford from Lisa Hosford
- Bud & Ginny Bone, Thelma & Butch Kuriger and Debbie Turner from their family



# Thoughts & Prayers

Pat Anderson  
Jane Corbin  
Betty Lambert  
Lorrie Schmidt

Sunset Park Place,  
Dubuque  
Mary Jane Steiner

Monticello Nursing &  
Rehab, Monticello  
Ronald Behrends  
Laura Eiben  
Marie Hein  
Barb Null

Pennington Square,  
Monticello  
Naomi Bender  
Lorraine Haag  
Betty Wolken

Ridgeview Asst. Living,  
Cedar Rapids  
Phyllis Lumpa



“Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who makes all things new.” —Unknown

REMINDER: The church office will close for the holiday on Tuesday, December 24. We will reopen **Thursday, January 2, 2020**. Have a great New Year!



As we approach the winter weather season, watch for winter weather 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, KWWL and KGAN as well as on our Facebook page: @MonticelloFPC.

## TiLT Resumes

After taking a break for the holidays, TiLT will resume their regular weekly meetings here at First Presbyterian Church starting **Tuesday, January 14 at 6 p.m.**

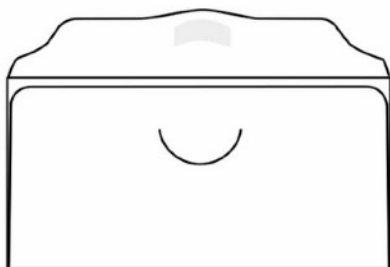


### Attendance

Week of:	Worship:	SS:
November 24	50	11
December 1	49	6
December 8	50	-
December 15	50	-



**Per Capita for 2020  
is \$38.00**



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

**Our Congregation's Annual Meeting  
will be held on  
Sunday, January 19, 2020  
at 11:00 am. following worship.**

**\*\*\*\*Please try to submit reports by  
Friday, January 11th for the Annual  
Report. Thanks so much!**

## Camp & Conference Soup Supper

**Our annual Camp & Conference  
Soup Supper will be held on  
Thursday, March 5, 2020 from 4:30  
p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Please join us!**





# Youth Fundraisers

for FPC Youth to attend Montreat 2020



We are currently offering two fundraisers to help our youth raise funds to attend this year's Montreat Youth Conference, *We Are*.

This is a week-long PC(USA) event that will allow them to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation and rest.

Many attended last year and quickly signed up to go back.

You can help by making a purchase at any of the fundraisers currently offered (coffee and pizza fundraising events). Watch our media and publications as we plan to continue fundraising through the year to make sure each youth that wishes to go is financially able to so.

Our adult Montreat chair, Danny Saunders, is available to take your coffee and pizza kit orders now.

Danny Saunders

- ▶ **319-480-2298**
- ▶ **danjan1949@gmail.com**

## Grounds for Change

Grounds for Change is a family-owned and operated coffee roasting business. They roast their 100% fair trade, organic coffee in small batches to ensure that you receive the freshest coffee possible. A number of community-based programs in coffee-growing countries directly benefit from the purchase of our coffee and help support local domestic violence intervention programs and small business loans for women.

We will have a limited supply just before Christmas. An 8 oz bag will cost \$10.00, with \$5.00 coming back to the Montreat fund! We will have bags of whole bean and ground. If we don't have what you're looking for, we will be taking orders for the new year.

- Seabrook Blend - (medium) Notes of butter toffee, green apple and nuts.
- Agate Pass Blend - (medium/dark) Notes of caramel, toasted almond and cocoa.
- First Light Decaf Blend - (decaf) Notes of chocolate, maple syrup and roasted almond.
- Peru "Cafe Femenino" (dark)

This is a great gift for the coffee-lover on your list. ☕

## Little Caesar's Pizza Kits

Little Caesar's Pizza Kits provide the quality and value that you expect with a value leader such as Little Caesars. This fundraiser will offer over 20 items including a wide variety of products with their Pizza & Bread Kits and Desserts from The Cookie Kitchen. There is something for everyone to enjoy!

Orders will be taken until Dec 30 for delivery on January 14, just in time for Super Bowl Sunday on February 2 (a top consumption day for pizza).

You can browse and place your order at: **[www.PizzaKit.com](http://www.PizzaKit.com)**

Go to Products > Shop > Ship My Order to the Group

Enter Fundraiser ID: **378415**



The Deacons would like to thank everyone who contributed to this year's Care and Share program. We were able to support 10 children in 5 families this year. Thank you!

Thank you to the Presbyterian Christmas carolers! Your thoughtfulness and beautiful voices were a joy this holiday season.

Holiday Hugs - Jane Corbin and Nancy & Jan Helge.



We are looking for a group of volunteers to help when needs of a funeral luncheon arise. With a group of volunteers, we will be able to create a rotation where each volunteer will be responsible for a month. If needs arise for that month, the monthly rotation head will take lead in organizing the needs for the luncheon. A chore chart list will be made available to assist you with your duties. Please contact the church office if you would like to become a **funeral luncheon volunteer** so we can add you to the list. Thank you!



After 17 years of faithful service as First Presbyterian Church's treasurer, **Anita Benedict** submitted her resignation. Best wishes to her as she enjoys her additional free time with her family and soon-expected grand baby. Thank you, Anita!

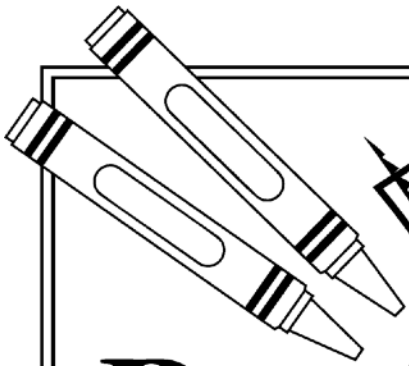
We will begin our search of church members for a new church secretary. If you're interested, contact the personnel committee (Jo Zirkelbach or Curt Mayo).



Every morning lean thine arms  
awhile  
Upon the windowsill of heaven  
And gaze upon thy Lord.  
Then, with the vision in thy  
heart,  
Turn strong to meet thy day.

—Thomas Blake



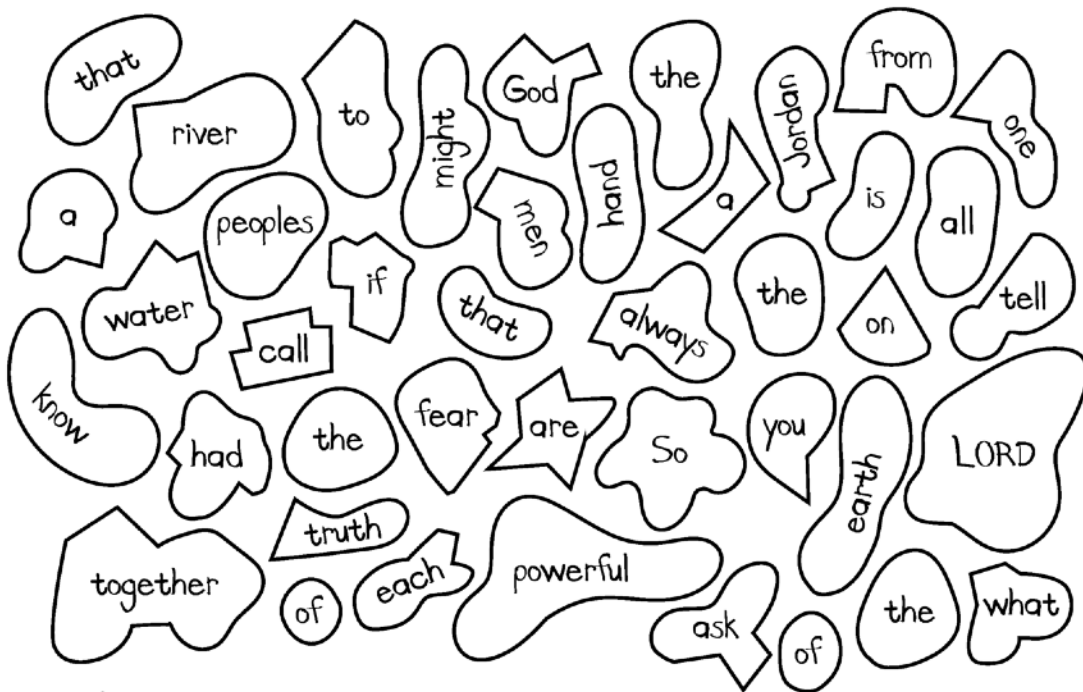


# PUZZLE

## Reminder rocks

When Joshua and the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, they set up stones for a special reason.

*Directions: Shade all the rocks that aren't completely rounded. Unscramble the remaining rocks to reveal a message from Joshua 4:24, NIV.*



So \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ the  
\_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ .

JOSHUA 4:24, NIV

Answer: So that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful. Joshua 4:24, NIV