

NEWS AT FIRST

First Presbyterian Church, 211 W 1st St, Monticello, IA 52310

When It Rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.



When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: “Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.



Deacons of First Presbyterian Church invite you to a *Congregational Appreciation Brunch* on **Sunday, April 14th, following worship**. They will be serving breakfast casseroles, biscuits, fruit, cinnamon rolls, milk, coffee and juice.

The deacons wish to thank the members of the church for all that they do! Join us.

What I Learned in Confirmation



This year's confirmation class concluded on Palm Sunday when Carter Willms was confirmed. All six confirmands (Carter Willms, Cameron Pasker, Dalton and Drew Ricklefs, Jackson Saunders, and Noah West) took part writing prayers for, and leading that service. I am really proud of these young men. They let their faith challenge them by doing something that they weren't completely sure about or comfortable with. I believe that their faith grew through this experience. I know my faith grew.

With spring comes new life. Bulbs planted in the fall or many years ago will start to push out of the ground. Tender buds will adorn tree branches with the promise of leaves that will later shade us. The grass will green and flowers will bloom. Growth will happen all around us.

But what about in us. What are the things that need to grow? What are the risks that we need to take in order to grow?

These confirmands have shown up week after week. They listened, they participated in the different studies, and asked questions. Sometimes they were bored to tears (I think) and sometimes they were silly...but most of all they were thinking... thinking about their own lives and their own faith. A lot of times I couldn't see anything happening inside them but then all of a sudden there it was, six serious young men leading this congregation in worship.

In some ways, as I have watched them, I have been thinking about how it is time for my own faith to grow, in some small or large way. I don't know what this looks like yet but I am beginning to listen more closely, read more diligently, pray more simply, and think more deeply about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. When the time comes for me to take a risk, I will be encouraged by this confirmation class and the risk they took in leading worship on Palm Sunday. (Maybe I will take a risk and sing during the sermon some time. Probably not! If you're wondering what that is about, ask one of the confirmands.)

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. John 12:24 ESV



Pastor Bill Warhover

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pastor@fpcmonticello.org



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Mackenzie Kahler**

319-465-3393

[office@](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org)

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**Treasurer,
Dan Saunders**

Hours vary



Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. youth Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

If you're not able to join us in person, join us for FaceBook live stream Sunday Worship service each Sunday.

Scholarship applications are due in physical hard-copy form **MONDAY, APRIL 1st!** No fooling (since they are due on April Fool's Day)! Applications can be mailed to or dropped off at the church: 211 W 1st St, Monticello, IA 52310.

We are so fortunate to be able to provide a number of options to our students looking to better their future.



CAMP WORKDAY

Camp Bear Creek Work Day

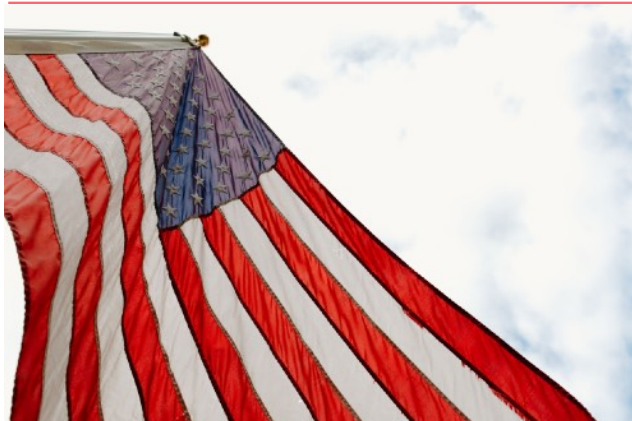
There will be a work day at Camp Bear Creek on **Saturday, May 11th, from 9am-3pm.** They are hoping for volunteers to help get the site ready for the summer, which will include things like setting up arts & crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, and a whole host of other things.

A link will be sent out soon for volunteers to RSVP so Camp Bear Creek can plan accordingly.

Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2024 summer camp** programs are now open.

Visit bearcreek.camp to see all of the dates and programs available this summer.

Be sure to register soon to guarantee your spot in the camp program of your choice.



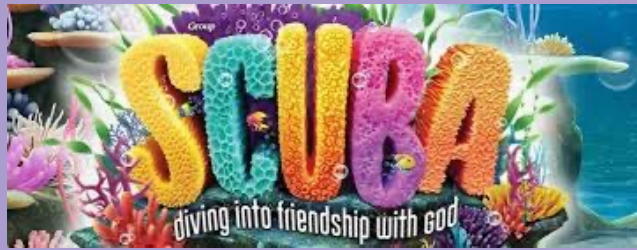
In memory...

Our new flag was donated by Dennis Gray, in memory of

William D. Balsiger, USAF



Thank you to all that contributed their time, supplies, financial donations, and patronage to our annual Camp & Conference Soup Supper! Campers and volunteers were on-site to run the drive-thru, and 134 people were served. The event raised **\$1,326** for our Camp & Conference fund to send our youth to camp at no charge to youth or their family. Thank you!



VBS 2024 is Announced!

July 29th-August 2nd, 2024

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2023 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2024 VBS!

Registration starts May 6, 2024

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



July 21-26, 2024
Buena Vista University
Storm Lake, Iowa

What is Synod School?

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

2024 is the 70th year of Synod School in Iowa. We have many great events planned for this week! People will come from all over the country with their friends and families to share in this week of worship, study, play, and life together. It is an opportunity to learn something new, to continue conversations begun by keynote speakers with others over meals or a board game, to share talents of creativity and music, to worship without being in charge, to be energized for service, and to enjoy not having to cook for a week.

2024 Synod School Theme: More Than We Can Imagine

Now to God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.
Eph. 3-20-21

Thanks for Helping Out! Giving.

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

Each month I have been trying to remind us of how the church in general, and this church specifically, needs every one pitching in and contributing, to make ‘church’ work. I have talked about things like helping out in worship, or serving as an elder or deacon, or offering hospitality, or taking time to clean up those things that need attention. This month I want to talk about our financial giving.

One of the most important ways that we contribute to the whole is through our financial giving and generosity. It takes all of us, each doing our part, to provide for the financial well being of the church.

The church’s budget expenses this year are just over \$207,000. Our anticipated income is budgeted at just over \$168,500. Of this budgeted income amount we anticipate about \$100,000 of giving (weekly offerings and per capita gifts) and \$68,000 through what I would call generosity (the endowments, scholarship funds, Pie Committee contributions, special offerings, and fund raising).

Our budget is not extravagant. There is not a lot for spending on others (Mission). It basically pays the pastor and employees, keeps the building heated and cooled, and covers the insurance. (These items make up approximately 82% of our budget.)

Our giving is like a lot of things we do as the church, some of us are able to give more and some of us able to give less, but when we are all doing what we can it makes the church work the way that God intended it to.

Thanks for doing your part!

Updating Contact Information - We are working to update our contact information. Maybe you have dropped your land line in the last few years, or change your cell number. Maybe you got hacked and started using a new email address. Please helping us by sending us your current contact information so we can update our records.

Name _____

Address _____

Preferred email _____

Best phone # to reach you by _____

Is it a cell number Y/N or your land line Y/N

Emergency Contact name _____ and

phone # (cell preferably) _____

You can email this information to office@fpcm Monticello.org

Or cut this out and mail it to:

FPC Monticello

211 W 1st St

Monticello, IA 52310

Or call the office at 319-465-3393, leave a message and we will return your call.



Congratulations and THANK YOU to our 2024 Session members! This group donates their time to the mission and leadership of our church.

Lisa Adams (Memorial Board Session rep)

Jim Anderson (Nominating Committee Session rep)

Anita Benedict (Christian Education Committee Session rep, Clerk of the Session)

Vickie Bone (Pie Committee Session rep, Scholarship Committee Session rep)

Sherrri Neofotist (Deacons Session rep)

Kris Read (Funeral Committee Session rep)

Dan Saunders (Treasurer/Finance Session rep)

Don Smith (Building Committee Session rep, Personnel Committee Session rep)

Jared Willms (Worship Committee Session rep)

Food Pantry Update: 🍏 🍏 🍞 🍗 🥞

*The Monticello Food Pantry is serving the community Mondays (5 p.m.-7 p.m.) and Fridays (2 p.m.-4 p.m.).

*If you are able, consider donating to those in need. You can donate products, or consider a monetary donation. DID YOU KNOW?: When the Food Pantry receives monetary donations, they use this for needs not filled by HACAP, and those purchases are made locally (Fareway & Dollar Fresh) and are bought by the case at a discounted case pricing, so *they are able to purchase more with the money you donate. Thank you!*

*If you have a donation (product or monetary), those can be brought to the Food Pantry during normal operating hours (Mondays from 5 pm-7 pm and Fridays from 2 pm-4pm), or a half hour before. Monetary donations can be left with the check-in volunteer located in the church. For product donations, please knock on the Food Pantry door and our volunteers would be glad to help you drop off. We will be serving people during this time, so we appreciate your patience.

Food Pantry currently has needs, should you be able to pick up an extra item or two, or more, the next time you head to the store: **Dry cereals, oatmeal, muffin mixes, and toothpaste.**

Thank you for your continued support of this local mission!

Per CAPITA \$

The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,072, although we have received only 36.17% to date. If you are an active member and have not submitted \$42.17, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone committed to a healthy and vital Presbyterian Church!

\$2,150

Presbyterian Pie Committee

The Presbyterian Pie Committee is taking orders and there are pies in the freezer for sale. Pies make a great picnic offering, or make a regular Tuesday family dinner special. Call Pam at 319-480-7700, or Kris at 319-480-1538, to place an order or for a pick up.

We appreciate your continued business.



Betty Lambert

Marge Stubbe, Corridor, CR

Lorraine Haag, Pennington

Doug Mettler

Barb Null, Anamosa CC

Frank Smith, Pennington

Betty Yount



We're thinking of you!

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

April 7: **Lorraine Haag and Lisa Hosford**

April 14: **Cheryl & Mike Howie and Jerry Jasa**

April 21: **Brooke, Joe, Zander (Alden), Asher & Ruby Johnson and Allison, Josh, Owen, Madalyn & Olivia Kelchen**

April 28: **April Keltner and Brien & Lisa Keltner**



March 2024 Session Summary

Carter Willms approved to be Confirmed on Palm Sunday March 24.

Drive Thru Soup Supper served 134 and made a profit of \$1,326.64 for sending our students to Camp Bear Creek(Camp Wyoming). Thank you for all your support making it a success.

Deacon Appreciation Brunch will be help April 14th after church service.

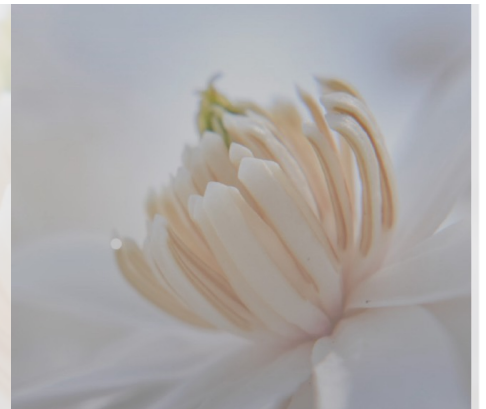
Approved revised Child and Youth Protection Policy.

Pastor Bill continues to visit with members, interacts with the community, and is involved with Monticello Ministerial Association.

Pastor Bill will be on a peer retreat April 21-22 at Camp Bear Creek. He will be gone June 1-2 Rev. Melody Oltmann will fill the pulpit.

“We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.”

—Albert Schweitzer



We thank you for your generous and gracious financial support!

February 2024 Contributions
\$30,711.49

February 2023 Contributions
\$25,067.19

February 2024 Expenses
\$32,232.55

February 2023 Expenses \$14,742.33



	Worship:	Sunday school:
March 3	49	10
March 10	43	7
March 17	52	5
March 24	69	9