

# NEWS AT FIRST

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## First Presbyterian Church

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### Patient Attention, Valuable Discoveries

For many people, the coronavirus pandemic has been a test of patience — or worse. Medically vulnerable people face an anxious time of hyper-vigilance. Furloughed workers wait on hold or in lines for assistance. Special events have been canceled or rescheduled.

Those not impacted directly deal with assorted frustrations and inconveniences. Many people are learning the benefit of slowing down, being present (even virtually) to others and practicing patient attention.



Interestingly, scientist Isaac Newton did some of his best work when the plague forced Cambridge University to close. At home, the inquisitive student invented calculus and developed groundbreaking theories of gravity and optics. Later Newton called 1666 his *annus mirabilis* (“year of wonders”) and reportedly said, “If I have made any valuable discoveries, it [owes] more to patient attention than to any other talent.”

What have you discovered during the Covid-19 crisis? What appreciations have you developed for aspects of life you may have previously taken for granted? What has social distancing taught you about the value of neighbors, church, community volunteering?

During the pandemic, what have you learned about persistence and God’s presence? What empathy do you now feel for writers of words such as “I wait for the LORD, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope” (Psalm 130:5, NIV)?

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Virtual Office Hours:  
M-F, 8 am - 12 noon

**Treasurer:**

Dan Saunders  
Office hours vary

**Worship:**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Adult Sunday school 8:30 am

**Social Media:**

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC  
YouTube: Search "Emory  
Gillespie"

## Seeing Wheat

Pastor Emory Gillespie

This past Sunday, Bob got up early to make me breakfast. He couldn't sleep because he was on steroids to combat the poison ivy he'd gotten on his face while weed-whacking the yard. While I was gobbling down the fried eggs, sausage and toast, I said, "So do you have any thoughts about Jesus' parable of the wheat and tares?"

The parable goes that a farmer plants some nice wheat, but during the night, while everyone is sleeping, an enemy comes and plants a weed throughout the farm - a weed that looks a lot like wheat. "Should we get rid of it?" The farm hands say, when they realize what has happened. The farmer says, "No. If you do that, you'll destroy the wheat. Just let them grow together, then when it is harvest time, you will be able to see clearly which stems are wheat and which are tares, or weeds.

Bob said, "The coronavirus has made it hard to see the wheat at all. I think it's all about looking for the wheat."

So if the kingdom of heaven is like wheat, meaning it is hard to recognize, what examples do we have of that? Where is God's kingdom breaking into this world of the pandemic? I have a few examples from my own life.

Tonight, I'm planning to have a zoom meeting with some church members, and we are playing Trivial Pursuit.

I wouldn't normally be zooming with anyone, and I can't remember the last time I played a board game with church members. Last night, way past my bedtime, I was lying on a blanket in a baseball field looking for the comet in the sky, and yes, I was with some church members. We had our face masks on, pointing out the Big Dipper, laughing at fireflies. Last Sunday, we had our Bible study under the tree in the side yard of the church. Then, we had church there. The UCC/Methodist folks were having their worship across the street, and it was so lovely, hearing our voices blending with theirs. I can add a graduation party, some phone calls, some cards, and some conversations around a campfire, some more zoom counseling visits and a few hellos in the grocery store.

"We have to keep looking for the wheat," Bob said. This was Jesus' call to his disciples and friends. Yes, we deal with cruelties around us, and we can become disheartened. But the beautiful experiences are right here, and we can see God's hand in our world, even with our facemarks on.

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am sending out a kind word to all of you who are experiencing loss during this time. Evalena, we will miss your brother, Irie, and we join Naomi's family and friends, missing her. We have lost many dear friends in these past weeks. Some of our church members and friends have been sick with the virus, and our prayers go to you. Many of us are dealing with financial troubles, tough relationships and ongoing struggles made worse by this disease. I extend my deepest concern and support to you, and I offer words of encouragement from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who continues to heal us all. "Come to me all of you who are carrying heavy burdens and working so very hard, and I will give you rest." The Holy Spirit is continuing to hold us together, even when we are apart. Love, Pastor Emory

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### Pastor Leave

Pastor Emory will be on leave **Monday, July 27th through Sunday, August 9th**. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Ed Moreano, cell 319-651-5849 or Pastor Jean Sullivan, cell 319-651-5393. *Please note, we will have worship both Sunday August 2nd and Sunday, August 9th as is typical, but **NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY**.*

# VBS Canceled

After much careful consideration, the Christian Education committee has decided to cancel vacation bible school for 2020 for the health and safety of our youth. They are working diligently on lesson plans for the new Sunday school year.

With the ever-changing world of safety precautions and social distancing of COVID-19, the Christian Education committee plans on following the direction of the Monticello Community School District, however that may look (masking, seating, etc). In the event of on-line learning, Sunday school may be further postponed. Please follow our Facebook page (@MonticelloFPC) for updated information or call the office with questions.



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## Montreat Offers Many Virtual Options

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Many summer programs have changed their format this 2020 summer. Montreat has a number of digital options available, from the comfort of your own home. (Where else is anyone going...)

Montreat@Home, Summer Sabbath and Summer Worship Series are a few of their offerings, and you can find them all at

**Montreat.org.**

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# Outdoor Worship

Outdoor worship services (and adult bible study) were held Sunday, July 19 and 26. Congregants were welcomed to bring their own chair or use one of the church's available and join in on the lawn. Such a wonderful time was had that we plan to continue through the month of August. Join us! ☀️

What a beautiful day the LORD has made.





## Presbyterian Pie Service

The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to hold drive-through pie dates to allow everyone a chance to enjoy the fruits of the season.

A large number of people turned out again on Thursday, July 2 to pick up well over 100 pies to help them celebrate the 4th of July.

**Another drive-thru date is in the works, so watch our Facebook page (@MonticelloFPC) for updates.**

The PPS would like to thank everyone for their on-going support. 🍪👩🍳🥧

## Food at First

Food at First is hopeful they will be able to resume monthly meals this fall. Please watch our Facebook page (@MonticelloFPC) and our monthly newsletter for updates.

## TiLT

Lindsay spoke to the Monticello Rotary Club on Monday, July 20 about the TiLT Together support group. The purpose of this presentation was to spread more public awareness about the group to the community. Lindsay gave a PowerPoint presentation and distributed flyers and business cards. She explained her inspiration for starting the group, the purpose of the group, the structure of the meetings, and the importance of community, relationships, connection, support, and belonging. Rotary has already invited Lindsay back because they found the presentation very engaging and they want to learn even more.



## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community on Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm, and Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm. Donations can be taken at this time as well. ***If you have any extra produce from your gardens this summer, we would love to share your donation with a family in need.***



Other needs include: **Ketchup, mustard, shampoo, deodorant.**



## *In Our Thoughts & Prayers*



Lorie Schmidt

Marie Hein

Jane Corbin

Ron Behrends

Barb Null

Lorraine Haag

Marj Stubbe

Betty Lambert

Laura Eiben

Betty Wolken

Mary Jane Steiner

The family of Naomi Bender

The family of Irie Welch

Thank you for the unique gifts of every child as they transition into a new school year. Fill each student with fresh enthusiasm and a heart that is excited to learn and grow. Covering them with your enduring love, give them confidence and grace, and equip them with the ability to persevere through trials. Keep them free from danger and unnecessary harm. Put our sons and daughters in the right place at the right time to receive your grace. Bless their teachers with wisdom, understanding and a heart to serve, as they embark on this journey together.



In a season when parenting decisions seem to loom larger than life itself, we humbly ask for guidance. While the shoes still smell new and the

pencils point crisply, our hearts sense the need for a stronger connection with your love and a deeper reliance on your grace. Help us remember that You know every thought we have as a parent. Remind us that the feeling of having our hearts walk around outside of our bodies is one You are familiar with. Provide wisdom from above as we walk this new ground for a new school year.

**Amen.**

## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

Area students are being awarded the following scholarships through the First Presbyterian Church 2020 Academic Scholarship Program. Congratulations to these 2020 Scholarship Recipients.

**Caden Reinke**, son of Jim and Rhonda Reinke, is the recipient of the \$500 **Edward H. and Margaret E. Cox Memorial Scholarship**, the \$300 **Mary Louise Helgens Memorial Scholarship** and the \$300 **Phil & Ione Himebaugh Memorial Scholarship**. Caden is a graduate of Cascade High School. He plans to attend the University of Iowa to pursue a major in Chemical Engineering.

**Carrie Fellingner**, Monticello, is the recipient of the \$750 **Virginia & Clarence Hosford Memorial Scholarship**. Carrie recently completed her MA from Morningside College. She is attending Morningside College and will be working on her Special Education Consultant Endorsement.

**Madison Fellingner**, Monticello, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Madison recently completed her Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice from Hawkeye Community College. She plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.

**Katie Goettsch**, Coralville, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Katie is attending St. Ambrose University. She is working on obtaining her Master of Science in Physician Assistant Degree.

**Marissa McNally**, Monticello, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Marissa is attending the University of Northern Iowa. She plans on obtaining a BA with a double major in Supply Chain Management and Management with an emphasis in Business Administration.

**Lindsey Ricklefs**, Monticello, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Lindsey is attending Creighton University. She is working on obtaining her Doctorate of Nursing Practice Degree. Lindsey plans on becoming a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner.

**Laisee Shakespeare**, Hopkinton, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Laisee recently completed her Associate of Applied Science degree in Parks and Natural Resources from Kirkwood Community College. She plans to attend Iowa State University to pursue a degree in Animal Ecology.

**Shay Stephen**, Monticello, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Shay is attending the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and is working on obtaining a Master of Social Work Degree. Shay plans on becoming a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.

**Riley Takes**, Cascade, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Riley is attending the University of Northern Iowa where she is enrolled in the MA program. This program will allow Riley to complete both her BA and MA in Accounting all within four years.

**Robyn Takes**, Cascade, is the recipient of a \$1,000 **Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship**. Robyn is attending the University of Northern Iowa and plans to obtain a BA degree in Family Services.



## Session News

(Summary; *NOT* Approved Minutes)

2020 July 8

Moderator, Pastor Emory Gillespie, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, and led the Session with a prayer.

Clerk reported one building use request for July 19th (Fellowship Hall) by Don Smith; one wedding has taken place on June 27th (congratulations to Alexa (Masse) and Mike Corbin); attendance at our first service back in the sanctuary (July 5th) was 19; the Presbytery Meeting scheduled for July 11th is now a ZOOM meeting.

The Pastor's report included that she has been busy with video sermons, ZOOM adult Sunday School class, and worship back in the sanctuary. Emory requested 2 weeks of vacation leave: July 27-August 9; she will miss 2 Sundays, Aug. 2 and Aug. 9. **Motion was made, seconded and carried**, to approve this leave. Larry Lamont will preach on August 2nd. Emory will check with either Ed or Jean from United Church to see if either of them is interested in Aug. 9; if not, she will check with the Presbytery.

Dan Saunders reported that we will receive our \$1,000 deposit returned from Montreat due to the cancellation of the program this summer. **Motion was made, seconded and carried**, for Dan to deposit this money back into the general fund.

Vickie Bone spoke on behalf of the Scholarship Committee. The Committee was in the difficult position of having eight qualified candidates (all church members) for the five Dale L. Streif \$1,000 scholarships. **Motion was made, seconded and carried, that for 2020 only**, we will award all eight applicants a \$1,000 scholarship.

**Motion was made, seconded and carried**, for Dan Saunders to gather quotes for a new office copy machine.

The Session members discussed ways of reaching out to our members during this difficult time. We will further discuss this topic at the August 12th meeting.

Cindy Plummer, Clerk



Thank you!

<b>June Contributions 2020</b>	<b>\$4,206.00</b>
June 2019	\$3,817.00
<b>June Expenses 2020</b>	<b>\$11,807.77</b>
June 2019	\$13,508.40