

News at First

First Presbyterian Church, 211 E First St, Monticello, IA 52310



Just Be - And Be Still

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: “I am a human being, not a human doing. It’s okay to just *be* sometimes.” Many of us get anxious if we think we’re not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it’s not a waste of time to just be: “To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most.”

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus’ spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and “do.” Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It’s sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God’s presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of

In The Wilderness

Our scripture readings right now have us in the wilderness with our ancient sisters and brothers who are doing a lot of grumbling. The Hebrew word 'grumbling' is connected to the word 'lodge,' like when a piece of food is 'lodged' in your throat. Or you are stuck at home. It means that 'grumbling' happens when we feel stuck. Grumbling happens when we are quarantined and isolated from the world. I'm surprised often when our ancient stories in the Bible are so similar to the experiences we are having right now!

Because - many of us feel stuck right now, and we feel grumbly in our stomachs. Our lives have narrowed. Many of us are stuck in a tight hallway, trying to untangle some technology cords, trying to stay connected to our world, trying to keep our kids on task in school, trying to organize the muted chaos. And it's an election year, so all of our choices, all of our dreams, values and hopes for the world are reduced to two candidates, primarily, on local and national levels. It is a time of great pressure when we are locked down emotionally, intellectually and physically.

So I love the story of water from the rock. In Exodus, the people are crying out, and God hears them. They are thirsty. And so are we. We feel the unforgiving boulders of Covid pressing in on our minds, and deep down, we are thirsty. Thirsty for fun, festivals, togetherness, high-fives in the school hallways, big hugs at church and friendly people holding our hands. We are thirsty for human touch.

In our story, God 'touches' the people with flowing, cool water. Out of a rock, God brings refreshment. The people are restored.

Even as we continue to bear the weight of Covid, as numbers rise and fall and rise again, God brings us cool water to refresh our souls. This fall, even when our options seem to narrow, may all of us experience the fullness of God's goodness and mercy, the abundance of God's love and the ever-flowing stream of justice in our lives and the lives of those around us.

Blessings, Pastor Emory



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Gillespie**

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**Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler**

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Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Adult Bible Study
8:30 a.m.
w/ Zoom option



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. A great big THANK YOU to Pastor Emory for all of the support, leadership, guidance, and all the things in between that she provides day in and day out! 🌸

A Lesson In Appreciation

During a church anniversary celebration, a pastor overheard a group discussing various congregational leaders over the years. Her ears perked up when an older member said, “Whenever someone asks which of our pastors I liked best, my answer is always, ‘The one we have at any given time is my favorite.’”

What a relief for the pastor to hear — and what a great lesson for Pastor Appreciation Month. God sends each shepherd to us with a specific set of spiritual gifts and then works through those gifts to bless us.

We appreciate YOU, Pastor Emory!

Pastor Emory is continuing her Internship for her Master’s degree in Clinical Counseling this fall. If you know someone who would benefit from counseling, you may give them Pastor Emory’s phone number **319.481.7572**, and they can text her. She will set up four, weekly 50-minute visits. This can happen through Zoom, so they don’t need to live in the area. You can recommend this opportunity to a cousin in Montana! It is completely confidential and free of charge. If you have questions about this, please contact Pastor Emory.



Note from Pastor Emory

These days of Covid, many people are going through hard times emotionally, physically or spiritually. Thank you to everyone who has texted me to let me know of someone who could use some extra attention. Without weekly contact with our congregation every Sunday morning, I do not hear or see people regularly, and I do not get all of the news. So thank you for keeping me up to speed on hospital recoveries, job losses, longterm care and changes in family situations. It has meant a great deal to families for me to connect with them. Keep up the great work! My text is **319.481.7572**. And don’t give up if I don’t respond. Things go wonky with technology. Sometimes messages get lost among the spam. Sometimes, with my ADHD, I forget, which is frustrating. But I’m always glad to hear from you! And Mackenzie is always a big help, reminding me of what is going on with our big, wonderful, church family and friends.



Truth + love

Ravi Zacharias, who recently died at 74, was a religious skeptic until age 17, after a suicide attempt landed him in the hospital. A visitor brought a Bible to Zacharias, who eventually became a vigorous defender of the faith.

When asked about his work, he told the *Christian Post*, “Truth must always be undergirded by love. My [parents] used to say, ‘If you cut off someone’s nose, there is no use in giving him a rose to smell.’ If Christian apologetics cuts off the listener’s nose, there is no use in giving them the sweet aroma of the Christian message. You have to do it undergirded by love. You learn this as a parent. You can hammer something into your child’s head, and when they leave they extract it and fling it away. But if you sow it with seeds of love, it will remain in their hearts permanently. So the truth of Christ is both true and relevant undergirded by love.”

Dear **Members of First Presbyterian Church,**

Thank you very much for allowing me to apply for and receive three scholarships associated with the church! I really appreciate it! I will use the Cox Scholarship, Helgens Scholarship, and Himebaugh Scholarship to pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering at the University of Iowa. The church has always supported me and I can't express how grateful I am! Thanks!
Caden Reinke

Thank you to **Joan McKim**, who has sent countless notes and cards to our church families throughout the pandemic.

Thank you to **Larry Lamont** for donating funds to supply postage to this mission of reaching out to our people.

If you would like to make a donation (monetary for purchase of stamps or Forever stamp donations), contact Joan McKim or the church office.

Thank you to the group of people who came together to finalize the church audit of members. Jo, Curt, Anita, Vickie, Peg, Emory.

Dear Everyone, Yes, there is mail!!

That is a great sound!! Especially when we are all living such a confined life.

To all my church friends and family I give a hug!

Thank you. Love to all. **Marguerite Orcutt**

Thank
You!



Ryder Arthur Fellingner
 child of Taryn (Kromminga) Fellingner
 and Tanner Fellingner
 and sibling of Jack Fellingner
 born on the 2nd day of July, 2020
 received **Christian Baptism**
 on the 6th day of September, 2020
 at First Presbyterian Church,
 Monticello
 witnessed by Madison Fellingner
 and DeLainy Fellingner
 Rev. Emory Gillespie

Baptism



Presbyterian Pie Service

The pie ladies continue to make and bake pies to serve the desires of the community.

To inquire about pies, please direct your calls to Pam (319-480-7700) or Peg (319-465-5469).



Food Pantry

Instead of the usual Food Pantry drive, this year Boy Scouts will be collecting paper and hygiene products for families (i.e. **T.P., paper towels, Kleenex, shampoo, deodorant, soaps, etc.**). So we can help the same way, simplifying the sorting process for the food pantry volunteers & meeting a current need.

Donations can also be made to the FP or MMA, with FP on the memo line (for tax credit) which allows the food pantry to purchase canned goods at a case reduced price, or even get for free through HACAP FEED AMERICA PROGRAM.

Pastor Emory will be on leave **Monday, September 28 through Sunday, October 4th**. Please note, we will have worship but **NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY**.

1

I

for the maintenance upgrades around the church building.

2

AM

for technology to keep us connected during a time of distancing.

3

THANKFUL

for friends that reach out, knowing that we may need checking in on.

MONTICELLO FOOD PANTRY DELIVERY SERVICES

319-465-4834



Monticello Food Pantry wishes to offer additional support during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those without transportation or who are vulnerable due to underlying health conditions may call **Monday or Friday mornings** to make arrangements for home delivery. To arrange for same day delivery during Food Pantry open hours, please call:

Wayne Zion Lutheran Church office at **465-4834** between **8:30-11:30 a.m.**

The Food Pantry is open **Mondays from 5-7 p.m.** and **Fridays 2-4 p.m.** Deliveries will be made during those hours. The pantry is located next to First Presbyterian Church Parking Lot.

SAVE THE DATE



SUNDAY,
OCTOBER
18TH

After discussion among the Session and the Christian Education Committee, we have decided to move the Sunday School start date for youth back. We look forward to seeing everyone next month. Stay safe!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Lorie Schmidt

Marie Hein MNRC

Jane Corbin

Ron Behrends MNRC

Barb Null Pennington

Lorraine Haag Pennington

Marj Stubbe Pennington

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Marguerite Orcutt

Laura Eiben MNRC

Betty Wolken Pennington

Mary Jane Stiener DBQ

Our deepest sympathies go out to the family and friends of Boyd King. Boyd passed away Tuesday, August 25, 2020. Services were held on Sunday, August 30, 2020, on the lawn of First Presbyterian Church, Monticello, with internment at Oakwood Cemetery. You can sign his guestbook at www.goettschononline.com. 🙏

TiLT...

is not currently meeting in-person, but members can stay connected using the TiLT Together Iowa Facebook group.

Food at First...

is hopeful that they will be able to resume monthly meals in some capacity this fall.

Confirmation...

we have set a date for Confirmation (Sunday, November 15) for our graduating class: Jase Reinke and Brendan Pasker.

Adult Education...

will continue to meet in the Fellowship Hall each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. where they are able to properly social distance. You can also join us via Zoom if you choose not to attend in person.



We are thankful to those who choose to come worship responsibly with us on Sundays. We are thinking of those who make the difficult decision to stay home to keep others safe. We would like to remind you of the weekly sermons that we share on YouTube, Facebook and our webpage, fpcmonticello.org.

August 23	19
September 6	54
September 13	19
September 20	31



Families of College Students:

The Deacons are excited to start sending cards of encouragement to the college students of FPC throughout the upcoming collegiate school year. If you are interested in having your student received cards from the church, please notify the church office via phone or email of your student's mailing address. 📧



September Session Summary

The regular session meeting was held in Fellowship Hall on Sept. 9, 2020. Pastor Emory, Moderator, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Our first service back in the sanctuary was held Sept. 6 and we celebrated the baptism of Ryder Fellingner, son of Tanner and Taryn Fellingner.

Pastor Emory provided her report, as well as a summary of work done by Deacon Joan McKim in mailing cards to members. After discussion led by Christian Ed Committee members, it was decided to delay the start of Sunday School at this time. The Session will review when, or how, to begin Sunday School at the October 14th Session meeting, as well as confirmation classes. Adult Bible Study will continue every Sunday at 8:30 am.

Church office hours have resumed, 8 am - 12 pm, Monday through Friday. We will continue to worship in the sanctuary every Sunday, with masks optional.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Plummer
Clerk of the Session



August Finances



Contributions 2020	\$6,050.00
Contributions 2019	\$9,456.00
Expenses 2020	\$13,376.39
Expenses 2019	\$13,950.43