

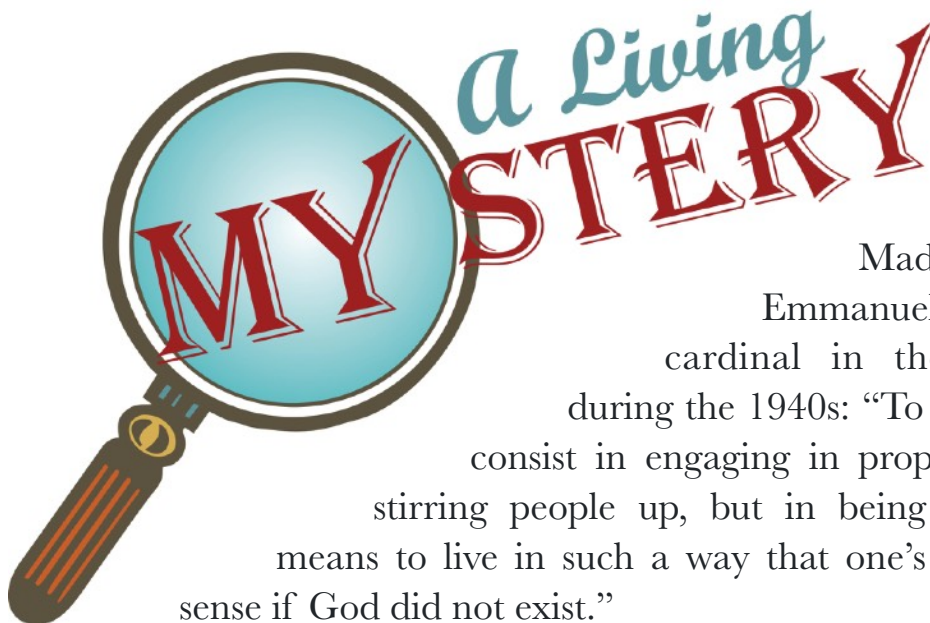
# NEWS AT FIRST

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Our Mission: *To make known the love of God through Jesus Christ.*

Our Vision: *We are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.*

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In *Walking on Water*, Madeleine L'Engle quotes Emmanuel Suhard, a French cardinal in the Catholic Church during the 1940s: "To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda, nor even in stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one's life would not make sense if God did not exist."

What would it look like in your life to be "a living mystery" — to live in a way that wouldn't make sense if not for God's existence? What risks might you take for the sake of wholeness and justice in the world? To what lengths might you go to serve a neighbor? What fears might no longer fill your heart and rule your mind? Will you see Jesus in people who are poor, be surprised to find him revealed amid suffering? What "fruits" might you allow the Holy Spirit to cultivate in you — generosity, patience, self-control? What grace will you show to others because you have experienced God's love so powerfully? All of which makes sense only because God exists!

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211 W First St  
Monticello, IA 52310  
(319) 465-3393

### **Pastor:**

We are currently working through the process of hiring a called pastor. If you have emergency pastoral needs, please contact the church office for assistance.

### **Office:**

Administrator: Mackenzie Kahler  
office: **319-465-3393**  
[office@FPCMonticello.org](mailto:office@FPCMonticello.org)

### **Treasurer:**

Dan Saunders

### **Worship:**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Join us on FaceBook  
livestream for worship each  
Sunday.

### **Social Media:**

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I began my position as your Interim Pastor on August 1, 2021. I have enjoyed the past year immensely. The Session has been wonderfully supportive. When I look back at the contract we signed, I was reminded that the Session agreed to be supportive of me by:

- Offering insights into the life of the congregation,
- Informing me of needs within the congregation,
- Giving thoughtful consideration to the ideas and suggestions offered by me,
- Working with me to accomplish the interim goals,
- Allowing me time to look for the next position within the contract period.

I want you to know that the Session did all of these things, with the exception of the last which does not apply to me (more on that below). And not just the Session, but others of you were also supportive in these ways. After a year of ministry together, I want to thank you. You made it a delight to come to work!

Let me ask that you continue these supportive ways when the new pastor arrives. This person will need your understanding and assistance. I trust you will do what you can to ensure the new pastor's success and help make each day a joy. Opportunities for ministry abound here, and there is much to be positive and hopeful about.

As for myself, I am not yet looking for a next position. I just returned from spending some time with my aging parents in Wisconsin. They have pre-registered with a Veterans Home that offers specialized care. In the meantime, we have decided to hire a home health care person. I placed an ad in the local paper when I was with them. I will likely make other trips this fall as I am needed. A couple of my siblings have been carrying the load and I want to offer them some relief. This is one reason I did not extend my contract as your interim pastor.

The other reason is that you are ready to move on! The PNC is off to a great start. Please pray for them. I will certainly keep you all in my prayers.

## Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Update

July 17, 2022 - The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting and working with our Presbytery representative Kris Ward. The first step in our search for a new pastor was to complete the Ministry Information Form (MIF). This form will be seen by applicants who are interested in the position with First Presbyterian in Monticello. The information on this form tells them about our church, our congregation, and the characteristics we are looking for in a pastor. The committee used the surveys, which were filled out by the congregation earlier this year, to guide us in determining which characteristics to list on the form. The MIF has now been completed, approved by the Session, and submitted to the Presbytery for their review. Once the form has Presbytery approval, it will be submitted online to the Church Leadership Connection for posting. At that point, interested candidates can submit a Personal Information Form as their interest in the position. The PNC Committee will keep you updated as the search proceeds.



Our interim pastor, Randy, will be leaving us as of the last day of July. PNC is working hard to bring us a full time called Pastor, but realistically we probably will not have a called Pastor in place for at least the next several months. So, we are looking for people to “fill the pulpit”. At this time, we have filled August 7, 28 and September 4 and 11. But we need people to step up for **August 14 and 21 and September 18 and 25**. And we will need help to fill additional Sunday’s in October and thereafter if we are still waiting on a called pastor.

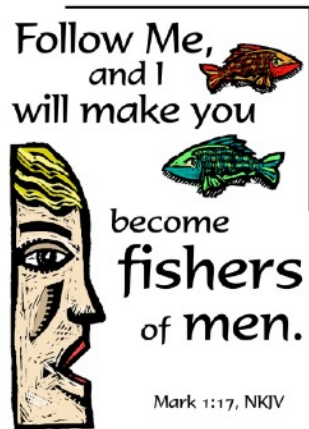
If interested or you know someone who may be interested, please contact Dan Saunders at 319-480-2298, any member of the church Session, or Mackenzie in the church office. Thank you for your help!

## VBS 2022...

is right around the corner!

Join us for 2022 VBS "Fishers of Men" August 2-4, 6:00-7:30 pm, at First Presbyterian Church.

No need to register. All are welcome!



Session would like to thank Judy for all the nice décor in the Fellowship Hall and Carol G for bathroom décor around our church.

We would like to extend our sympathy to Suzy Gilkerson and family on the passing of her father. The flowers present in the church the week of June 26 were in his memory.



United Church of Monticello is planning to host a free community picnic on **August 18, from 5-7pm.**

The purpose of this picnic is to provide a "welcome back" to students and their families to the 2022-23 school year, to increase local mission work and visibility, and increase collaboration among the community churches and the Monticello area.

Help is needed to make this a success. United Church of Monticello is asking for your assistance in serving and cleanup to help make this event a success.

Please contact Keith Stamp at the United Church of Monticello at 319-480-1881.



## Presbyterian Pie Service

The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to fill the pie desires of the community. Consider a pie for your next potluck or get-together.

If you would like to place an order or check our stock, call Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).

## Win a Week!

Camp Wyoming is running a fundraiser this summer from May 15<sup>th</sup> through August 31st. For \$25 you can purchase a square on a 50 square grid. If your square number is drawn on Sept 1st you win a free week of summer camp at the 2023 summer camp season. If you win and are not a camp goer yourself, you have options:

Gift your free week to a family member

Gift your free week to another person who would like to attend camp

Gift your free week to your church so they can send someone to camp

If you are interested in supporting camp through this fundraiser, here are your two options:

1. Send a check to camp for the amount of squares you would like to buy, put "Fundraiser" on the memo line.
2. Go to the camp website and purchase the amount of squares you would like there.

## 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. Fresh produce should be dropped off a half hour prior to pantry hours to ensure fresh quality to our clients. Thank you!***



Other needs include: **cold cereals, shampoo, toilet paper, and toothpaste.** Gift cards to local grocers are always welcome!





Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Marj Stubbe MNRC

Don Duncan Mt Vernon



Lorraine Haag Pennington

Marj Lubben Pennington

Barb Null Pennington

Frank Smith Pennington

### Back-to-School Humor

What kind of school do you go to if you're ...

... an ice cream man? Sundae school

... a giant? High school

... a surfer? Boarding school

... King Arthur? Knight school

**Teacher:** What's the chemical formula for water?

**Student:** H-I-J-K-L-M-N-O

**Teacher:** What are you talking about?

**Student:** Yesterday you said it was H to O.

**Math teacher:** A person from LA drove toward New York at 250 miles per hour as a person from New York drove toward LA at 150 miles per hour. Where did they meet?

**Student:** In jail!



Lord give our children, our educators, and ourselves a thirst for knowledge, wisdom and understanding. May our hearts and theirs be ready to learn this year, at home, school and church. Open our ears. May we crave knowledge and seek it out. Amen.

-As adapted from [www.southernliving.com](http://www.southernliving.com).



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

August 7: Ashley, Zach, Talan & Tate Long and Dave & Lisa Lubben.

August 14: Marj Lubben and Kathy Luensman.

August 21: Sandra Lyon and Carmelyn & George Manternach.

August 28: Curt & Pam Mayo and Matt, Jackie, Finley & Vivi Mayo.

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## Monticello First, Temporary Pastoral Relationship

First Presbyterian Church in Monticello seeks an individual to serve half-time in a temporary pastoral relationship while our PNC is working. This individual, whether a Teaching Elder, Commissioned Ruling Elder, or student pastor, will preach on Sunday morning and be present for pastoral care and other tasks on two other days every week. One of these other days will be Wednesday, in order to teach the confirmation class from 5:15-6:30 PM. The second other day is flexible, and can vary from week to week. For more information, please contact **Dan Saunders** at 319-480-2298, or by email at [danjan1949@gmail.com](mailto:danjan1949@gmail.com).

<https://peia.org/employment-opportunities/>



?? ? Bible Quiz ? ??

A few Bible books have only one chapter. Which of the following is not among them?

- A. Obadiah
- B. Philemon
- C. 1 John
- D. 2 John
- E. 3 John
- F. Jude

Answer: C

## Session Highlights - July 13, 2022

Welcomed guest Suzy Gilkerson, chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee. Approved the Ministry Information Form, which will soon be posted online for viewing by potential new pastors. Session also approved an "effective salary" range to be used in the pastoral search.

Discussed chapter 6, "Transformational Leaders Commit to Self-Awareness" in the workbook Ruling Elders.

Pastor Randy distributed a final report of his contract year as the intentional interim. It will also be shared with the Presbytery.

The church treasurer reported that the Unified Mission Pledge for 2022 was paid in full. Session agreed to consolidate some inactive accounts by closing Bazaar Savings, and PW Savings and Checking, and moving the balances to Bldg Fund Savings. The treasurer was also asked to investigate other accounts for potential consolidation.

Various options for filling the pulpit and teaching the confirmation class were discussed.

Clarified some questions regarding the Building Use Policy. Adopted a revised Kitchen Policy, incorporating many suggestions from the Pie Ladies. A final version of a Policy Book will now be produced and given to Session.

Rev. Wayne Peach has been appointed the moderator of Session. He will begin conducting the monthly meetings on August 10 at 6:00 p.m.



### Attendance

#### Worship

June 26	34
July 3	28
July 10	36
July 17	29
July 24	36



Thank you!

<b>June Contributions 2022</b>	<b>\$6,721.03</b>
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June 2021	\$4,815.00
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<b>June Expenses 2022</b>	<b>\$4,437.59</b>
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June 2021	\$11,807.77
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