

NEWS AT FIRST

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



No Lone-Ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on October 2, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!

Introducing...Pastor Gary Burnett ["GLB"]

A member of the Presbytery of East Iowa, Gary L Burnett is a retired certified interim ministry specialist. He was raised on a farm north of West Liberty, Iowa, before attending the University of Dubuque where he earned the Bachelor of Science, Master of Divinity, and Master of Sacred Theology degrees. Gary did further post-graduate work at McCormick Seminary. In 1970, Gary was ordained to a chaplain position at Kansas Neurological Institute, Topeka, Kansas, where he was also an affiliate with the Menninger Foundation. For five years in the 70's Gary was Director of Camp Wyoming's special needs camp.

After serving in three called/ installed pastorates in Iowa and Illinois, Gary sensed a call to interim ministry. Beginning in 1984, he served nineteen interim pastorates in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio before retiring in 2008. Professional growth and development are very important to Gary as evidenced by:

- Completion of the Pastoral Care and Counseling Parish Program at Illinois Pastoral Institute in Bloomington, Illinois
- Advanced training in Family Systems and conflict management
- Certification as an Interim Specialist by the Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Faculty member for General Assembly sponsored interim ministry training

In six interim pastorates Gary served as after-pastor following misconduct by the previous pastor. He served interim positions in the Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church. He and his spouse Anita have their retirement home in Riverside, Iowa. His on-going hobby is repairing and building homebuilt aircraft. In retirement, Monticello, First, is the seventh church where Gary has provided pastoral leadership. He served as moderator of the Presbytery Nominating Committee and member of the Presbytery Coordinating Commission for three years. He currently serves on the Congregational Development & Vitality Team.

Gary and Anita met at the University of Dubuque and were married in Northfield, IL, on August 7, 1965. Anita retired from being a Director of Christian Education in 2009. Once Gary began intentional interim ministry positions, they chose to make their home base near Anita's work in Iowa City and later the Bloomington/Normal area of Illinois. Gary commuted weekly, by-weekly and/or monthly, depending on the interim location. Gary's last interim before retirement was 39 months in the Cleveland, Ohio area. During that time Anita led education programs in two different PC(USA) churches.

In 1978, Gary and Anita adopted two half-siblings, Cindy (10) and Mary (5). Cindy graduated from Mt Vernon, IA, High School in 1985 and joined the Army. After Basic and AIT at Fort Jackson, SC, she went to Germany as a cook. It was there that she met with violence/murder at the hands of a fellow soldier. Mary graduated from West Branch High School in 1990 and held several jobs in the Iowa City area before moving to South Carolina in 2013. She lives with and works for her birth-brother, Jimmy, in his repair/remodel business. Mary's son, Gage, has also relocated to South Carolina. Mary's and Jimmy's oldest sister, Connie, lived in Abingdon, Illinois at the time of her death in 2020. Her two children live in Galesburg and Abingdon with their families.

Gary and Anita are avid Hawkeyes with special interest in women's basketball since the Vivian Stringer days. They have more than a dozen "Bluder's Bunch" t-shirts.



**Pastor
Gary L Burnett**

319-530-7638

burnett.anita1@
gmail.com

PO Box 427
Riverside, IA 52327



**Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler**

319-465-3393

office@
fpcmonticello.org



Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Sunday school

8:30 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m.

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

October 2: Linda Parker and Sierra, Jared, Huck, Easton & Phoebe Parker

October 9: Melody, Jerry, Gary, Brendan, Cameron & Dax Pasker and Joanne & Wayne Peach

October 16: Cindy & Jim Plummer and Kris Read

October 23: Pam Recker and Jim, Rhonda, Caden & Jase Reinke

October 30: Lindsey, Dustin, Dawson, Dylan, Dalton & Drew Ricklefs and Colin, Lindsay, Aisling & Nicky Ryan

Praying
FOR You



Be-attitudes ~ Author unknown

- Be understanding of your enemies.**
- Be loyal to your friends.**
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.**
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.**
- Be generous to those who need your help.**
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.**
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.**
- Be open enough to believe in miracles.**
- Be willing to share your joys.**
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.**
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.**
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.**
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.**
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.**
- Be loving to those who love you.**
- Be loving to those who don't love you; they may change.**
- Be yourself, above all.**



...to those who have graciously helped fill the pulpit the last couple of months while we searched for our next interim pastor. We are so thankful we were able to continue to worship each week here at First Presbyterian Church.

Larry Lamont, Dan Saunders, Melody Oltmann, Philip Gilkerson, Parker Shakespeare, and Nancy Love (upcoming).



Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Marj Stubbe MNRC

DON DUNCAN
MT VERNON

Lorraine Haag
Pennington

FRANK SMITH
PENNINGTON

Barb Null PINICON PL

Families of College Students:

The Deacons would appreciate addresses for our trade school and college students of FPC. They send notes of encouragement to them from time to time. 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. 📞✉️

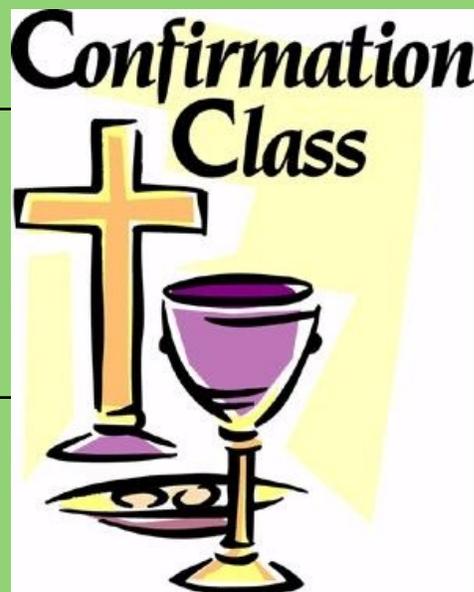


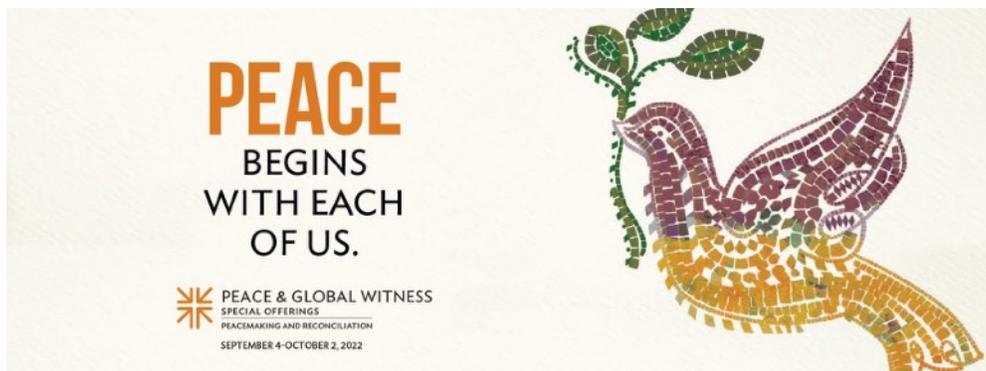
If you would like to request a pastoral visit due to being homebound, or recovering from an ailment at home, in the hospital or a rehabilitation facility (and you are able to have visitors according to facility policy), please contact the church office to arrange a visit. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Call the church office at 319-465-3393 to request your pastoral care visit.

**Confirmation Classes
COMING SOON!**

With the arrival of our new interim pastor, who has agreed to lead our confirmation classes this year, we will be finalizing our Confirmation schedule. Dates and times have not been determined; however, we anticipate classes to begin October 19.

We sent a letter to our confirmation students. If you have not received your letter, please contact the church office so we can update your contact information we have on file.





PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

We have included an envelope for this special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is one of four annual special offerings by Presbyterian congregations. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday, October 2. You may bring your envelope to worship, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to us.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Presbyterian Pie Service

NOW TAKING HOLIDAY ORDERS!

Presbyterian Pie Committee is asking for your cooperation this holiday season by placing your pie order *early*. Supplies are an issue. We will do our best to accommodate all orders and ask for your patience at this time. Thank you!



To place your order or check freezer stock, call: Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).

Food Pantry

Boy Scouts will be out *Scouting for Food* in the coming weeks! Look for the bags on a door handle near you! Pick up will take place on **Saturday, October 8**. Our current needs include: **toilet paper, Kleenex tissue, oatmeal, dry cereal, jelly, peanut butter, shampoo.**

Donations can always be made to the Food Pantry or Monticello Ministerial Association, with *Food Pantry* on the memo line (for tax credit) which allows the food pantry to purchase canned goods at a case reduced-price. Fareway gift cards are also extremely helpful.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors!

Session Highlights - September 14, 2022

Boy Scouts inquired about the possibility of moving their weekly meetings from Monday evenings to Sunday evenings. Session thought this was a possibility. Mackenzie will notify Boy Scouts this is an option of they would like to proceed.

Our next regularly scheduled Session meeting, Oct 12, both Pastor and Clerk of Session have a conflict. MSC to move next Session meeting for Oct to Wednesday, Oct 19, at 6:30 pm.

Sept 18 will be Camp Sunday so all 8 kids that attended camp have been invited to come to worship to share their experience.

Sunday School started this past Sunday. We had 6 between both youth classes. Teachers had agreed to change times, but session and Christian Ed decided to hold off until arrival of interim Pastor to make a decision so he can talk about adult Sunday School, possibly have other ideas to try.

Odor in women's bathroom. Found a few diapers in the trash and removed them.

Confusion on funeral as to who is to sign building usage. We want church member to sign building usage and sign in and out per Kitchen Usage policy. Request to revise funeral chore chart. Revisions to Mackenzie to type up for our next meeting so that we have a more detailed list for any other volunteers. Ask Mackenzie to see if she can find manual for dishwasher for us to reference.

Received concerns of improper cleaning, breakage, and disorganized table decorations.

Mackenzie in office couple of hours in morning, couple days a week. Low foot traffic. Concern no one at church to answer phones. Clarification was made, answer machine is checked multiple times throughout the day with note to leave message for call back to ensure prompt response.

Deacons discussed possibility of doing brunch after service.

MSC we are not going to rent out church equipment (tables, chairs, etc).

Confirmation Class - A letter to be sent to confirmation student families with start Oct 19th and will be confirmed Palm Sunday April 2. MSC by Email Vote 8/30/22.

The Monticello Chamber of Commerce (MACC) called to discuss FPC partnering with them in the form of non-profit membership. At this time we are not interested.

Our email was suddenly turned off for office, three options to move forward. \$3/month for next year.



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>SS</u>
August 28	27	
September 4	38	
September 11	40	6
September 18	45	7



August Finances	
Contributions 2022	\$8,976.03
Contributions 2021	\$6,253.03
Expenses 2022	\$7,848.47
Expenses 2021	\$11,824.86