

NEWS AT FIRST

Marked by Love

Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer



Going Out of Our Way

In mid-2022, Mediterranean Shipping Company, a world leader in container transport, voluntarily changed its routes, on the advice of scientists, to protect large populations of blue whales off the Sri Lankan coast. Going out of its way 15 nautical miles has led to a whopping 95% drop in whale strikes.

Jesus counseled people to go out of their way for one another, especially for the vulnerable: “If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles.” Further, “whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water ... will by no means lose his reward” (Matthew 5:40-41; 10:42, ESV).

Paul likewise urged his listeners to voluntarily give up eating meat, even if they didn't believe in and weren't challenged by the idols to which it had been sacrificed, for the sake of new believers with weaker faith (Romans 14).

Faith calls us to go out of our way for the sake of others; sometimes a wealthy corporation opts to do the same. God's hand is at work in both, protecting vulnerable humans and nonhumans alike.

Pastor:

Gary L Burnett

Interim Pastor

Office Hours:

W, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Th, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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Office:

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Office Administrator

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Treasurer:

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Worship:

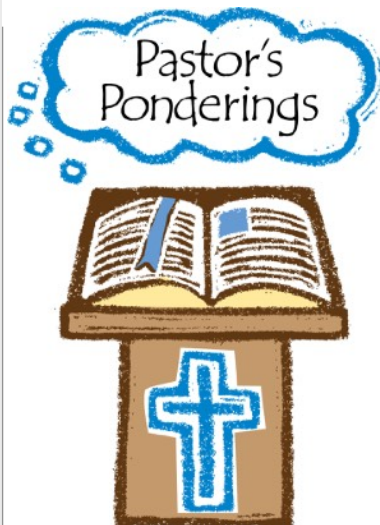
10:00 a.m. Worship

8:30 a.m. Youth

Sunday School

9:30 a.m.

Fellowship



I received the other day a message on the internet by Melissa Krabbe, who is another Presbyterian clergy. I liked the article and decided to pass it on to your consideration. Gary L. Burnett

A member of the church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his

pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, let him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to flow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday.'

We live in a world today which tells us we can do fine on our own, but with the fellowship and encouragement of the Holy Spirit in worship gatherings we can do so much more. May you know the joy of the Holy Spirit's fire today.



SAVE THE {NEW} DATE!

Our Annual Camp & Conference Soup Supper will be held this year again in drive-thru format on **Wednesday, March 1**. Proceeds will go to our youth wishing to attend camp, at no charge to the youth and their families. If you wish to donate food, supplies, and/or funds to help support this cause, please contact the office at (319) 465-3393 or office@fpcmonticello.org, or see the sign up sheet passed each Sunday at worship service. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

Registration for the 2023 Summer Camp at Camp Wyoming opened early in December. Spots are already filling up. Campers who register before early bird deadline of **March 15th** will save \$25 on summer camp fees.

Register NOW to ensure the camp and time of your choice and early registration discount!



Our 2022 Annual Meeting was held **Sunday, January 15th**. If you were unable to attend, you can still get a copy of the Annual Report from the church office.

Scholarship application packets are now available. If you would like a packet, please stop in to the church office, or email office@fpcmonticello.org to received a packet emailed to you. Reminder: all applications must be submitted in hard copy format to the church office by **April 1st**.



Thank You to our 2023 Elders, Deacons and Nominating Committee!

Elders: Jim Anderson, Peg Arduser, Anita Benedict, Vickie Bone, Curt Mayo, Sherri Neofotist, Dan Saunders, Don Smith, Stacey Takes.

Deacons: Karen Anderson, Pat Bonjour, Jill Cheney, Pam Mayo, Kim McNally, Cindy Plummer and Barb Slater.

Nominating Committee: Jim Anderson and Larry Lamont.



In the throes of winter weather season, watch for weather related announcements. A decision will be made whether to hold Sunday morning worship, ideally by 4pm Saturday, if possible. If it is decided to cancel worship, announcements will be made to KCRG, as well as on our Facebook page: @MonticelloFPC.

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



February 5: John, Sarah & Matthew Beal and Roger & Anita Benedict.

February 12: Christopher, Sarah, Brooklyn & Kennedy Bone and Erin Bone.

February 19: Jim & Vickie Bone and Mark Bone.

February 26: Pat Bonjour and Tammy, Charles & Lillian Bruns.

What is Per Capita?



Per capita is an amount of money per member that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue that holds presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our presbytery and across the country. It is also the money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

Per capita connects Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations and mid councils with the work of the wider church. As the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly (OGA), it is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the cost of moving the church forward into the 21st century.

Presbytery's share of per capita pays for:

- Presbytery meeting costs
- The work of presbytery committees and commissions
- Assuring congregational and clergy compliance with the Constitution, including disciplinary action and administrative review as necessary
- Preparing candidates for ministry
- Assuring and guiding the orderly searches for calls and dismissals of pastors
- Guiding the establishment, departure, and dissolution of congregations
- Engaging the broader church in ministry by participating in the life and work of higher councils and ecumenical/interfaith agencies
- Maintaining records for ministers, congregations, and the presbytery
- Legal and administrative costs for presbytery operations
- Approximately one-third of the personnel cost of the presbytery staff who make this work possible

"Per Capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church."

– J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA)

First Presbyterian Church uses the presbytery in the following ways, but not limited to:

- They have provided our church with a moderator so we can conduct session meetings when we have not had a pastor.
- They have provided and continue to provide the names of possible candidates to fill our "called pastor" position.
- They have provided names of pastors/elders who have come to guest preach at our church when we have not had a pastor.
- They helped with funds to help rebuild this church after the fire we had in the past.
- They are and have been a resource for help when we have questions about any process.

The 2023 Presbyterian per capita is \$40.70 per member. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting funds are for "Per Capita." Thank you!



WE APPRECIATE THE COMMUNITY'S CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF THE FOOD PANTRY! THIS MONTHS NEEDS INCLUDE:

Peanut butter, laundry detergent, dry soup mixes, and Kleenex tissue.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF DURING FOOD PANTRY HOURS (MONDAYS 5-7PM, FRIDAYS 2-4PM). THANK YOU!

Presbyterian Pie Service

Instead of a box of chocolates this Valentine's Day, treat your sweetie to a pie!

To order your valentine pie, contact the Pie Committee to place your order.

Pam (319) 480-7700 or

Kris (319) 480-1538

Week of:	Worship:	Sunday school:
Christmas Eve	- *snow	-
December 25	- *snow	-
January 1	34	-
January 8	42	7
January 15	45	7
January 22	31	4

Attendance

Thank you to those that provided poinsettias for the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

In memory of **Jerry Krueger**, from Jean Krueger & family

In memory of **John & Sally Roe** and **Jack & Katherine Gilkerson**, from Bill & Suzy Gilkerson

In memory of **Harold & Dorothy Stralow** and **Maynard, Edith & Derwin Saunders**, from Dan & Janie Saunders

In memory of **Bonnie & Robert Lyon**, from Sandra Lyon and Anita & Roger Benedict & Family

In memory of **Ernest & Lola Benedict** and **Earl & Lucille Benedict**, from Roger & Anita Benedict & Family

In memory of **Craig Parker**, from Linda Parker & family

In memory of **Glen, Marguerite & Rusty Orcutt** and **Ray, Dee & Andy Kessell**, from Becky Orcutt & family

In memory of **Bud & Virginia Bone, Phil, Thelma & "Butch" Kuriger** and **Debbie Turner**, from Vickie & Jim Bone & families

In memory of **Ralph & Margaret Ritchey**, from Carmel Manternach & Cali Beals



Thanks so much to all who volunteered their time serving the Monticello Food Pantry during the month of January: **Jared Willms, Sherri Neofotist, Dan & Jack Saunders, Curt & Pam Mayo, Karen Anderson, Cindy Plummer, and Bill & Suzy Gilkerson.** You are a blessing to all who count on our assistance with food needs!

THANK YOU to Vicky Mettler for keeping our church spaces decorated and festive!

THANK YOU to Pam Recker and Gage Dutta for putting up the yard nativity.

Monticello Ministerial Association (MMA) is so very thankful to FPC'S congregation for hosting the food pantry intake clients meeting space. Cascade Food Pantry closed it's doors December 30th due to not having a home to work out of. The FPC site is ideal with Farm Bureau and FPC sharing the same parking lot. Separating the two allows privacy and dignity for our clients.



In our thoughts and prayers...

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Monticello Nursing & Rehab

Marj Stubbe

Pennington Square

Lorraine Haag

Frank Smith

Pinicon Place

Barb Null

Hallmark

Don Duncan



Our sympathies go out to the family and friends of **Margaret Thoeni.** Margaret passed away Monday, January 16, 2023. Funeral services will be held on Saturday February 4, 2023 at First Presbyterian Church, with visitation at 1:30pm, service at 2:30pm, and coffee and fellowship at 3:00pm, Margaret's daily routine pause. You can sign the online guest book or leave thoughts, memories and condolences at www.IowaCremation.com.

Session Meeting Highlights - January 2023

PASTOR'S REPORT - Pastor office days are Wed and Thursdays. Confirmation class: Watching the movie The 10 Commandments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Christian Ed is holding a Camp and Conference soup drive through dinner March 1, 4:30-7 pm. Dan passed out ledger budget of Dec and ledger of entire last year. Don replaced light in Mackenzie's office and the lamp bulb in pastor's office. Coffee maker purchased. Looking to see if we can clean out old one. Fans in kitchen not keeping it cool for the refrigerator and freezer. Looking to install Vent Register booster in kitchen. Lindsey emailed that Tilt will not be using church going forward for TiLT. She thanked us repeatedly for helping start up this group. It was decided to let them keep the startup money. Don updated that personnel committee did all the annual reviews of staff. Deacons finished out the Care & Share program. They will be helping Christian Ed with Camp and Conference meal. Pies are planning an open freezer day. Pies taking January off. Pies donated \$6,300 for general assembly. Price of products keeps increasing. Looking at pricing. Stacey is looking for some special music for our worship services. Vickie noted the scholarship process starts in Feb. Applications need to be in office by April 1st. May 21 senior Sunday will be awarded.

BUSINESS

Mission trip in Masonville, Kentucky, Feb 5-11, thru Presbytery of East Iowa. Payment of \$365 to Lilian Bruns for registration, travel and food and \$175 to Marcella Bruns to register. It was decided to give the home communion set we no longer use it to the Heritage Center. Recipe for Communion bread received from Barb Decker as she will no longer be doing it for us. Temporary bread bought until we find a new person to do make the bread for us. Camp Wyoming Request coming and promoting camp at one of our Sunday services. Motion to ask Kevin to speak on Feb 12th, including children's moment and the sermon. Pastor is using that day for a vacation day. Pray for our PNC.

Pastor closed with prayer.

OFFERING & FINANCIALS



Thank you for your giving and contributions to the church. Your contribution allows us to continue to do God's work!

December 2022 Contributions \$15,855.92

(December 2021 \$22,283.68)

*included \$10,500 contribution from
Presbyterian Pie Committee)

December 2022 Expenditures \$6,545.00

(December 2021 \$8,229.76)