



## Resurrection Faith

In spring 2020, while Manhattan pastor Timothy Keller was writing a new book about Easter, the world — and his world — stopped. The coronavirus pandemic ravaged New York City, and Keller received a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Suddenly the theologian had to confront death head-on and reassess his views on eternal life.

“I realized I only half-believed I was going to die,” he tells *The Christian Post*. “In some ways, I also only half-believed in the Resurrection — not intellectually so much, but all the way down deep in my heart. I realized I needed to have a greater, a deeper faith in the Resurrection, both intellectually and mentally.”

While undergoing cancer treatments, Keller took a deep dive into historical and scriptural evidence for Easter’s main event. He also prayed that the Holy Spirit would make the Resurrection, which can seem abstract, real to his heart.

Facing your own mortality puts earthly things into clear perspective, says the pastor, and it’s a wake-up call for Jesus’ followers to act. “The Resurrection means that God has not at all given up on the world,” Keller writes in *Hope in Times of Fear*. “But beyond that, it gives meaning to suffering and gives hope that through the suffering will come healing. The Resurrection guarantees that this renewal is certain and is also a call for Christians to work now against what is wrong and unjust.”

### FPC’s Annual Camp & Conference Soup Supper

will be held on Wednesday, March 1st, 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm.



This benefits the youth of First Presbyterian Church, allowing us to send them to Camp Wyoming at no cost to the camper or family. Soup Supper will be held *in drive-thru format*. We will be serving chili, potato soup, and vegetable soup, along with homemade bread, and dessert for \$7.00. 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](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org), or a member of the Christian Education Committee. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry!

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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**PASTOR  
GARY L BURNETT  
319-350-7638  
BURNETT.ANITA1  
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**Pastor's Office Hours:**

**W, 10 AM - 5 PM  
TH, 10 AM -12 NOON**

**OFFICE**

**319-465-3393**

**OFFICE@FPC  
MONTICELLO.ORG  
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR  
MACKENZIE KAHLER**

**TREASURER**

**DAN SAUNDERS  
HOURS VARY**

**WORSHIP**

**10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE**

**8:30 AM YOUTH  
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP**



As we live into Lent this year in Monticello, let me share with you a devotion I ran across which is entitled "Am I In Your Way?"

*They walk around me. I sleep, and they carefully step over my body. They do not harm me when I am most vulnerable. I lie in the open, where they come and go. I am a member of the family. I let them know when I am there. I put myself in their way: I sleep where they walk, lie where they would sit. I put myself under their feet; and they keep from harming me. I lie in their way so they will know I am here, so they will be careful of me. They know I trust them; they step over me.\**

If you haven't already guessed, this devotion was written for cat lovers. I personally like it because it reminds me of King David's Psalm (Psalm 23) in a new way. Both the devotion and the Psalm are about trust. If we are vulnerable, it is with those we are closest to. How many of us would lie down in heavy traffic? Can we, like our cat friends, find places where our souls can rest and not be harmed? Can we find those places where we know we can be at peace? This season of Lent, can we, like our cat friends, be vulnerable with those who love us and protect us? In your presence, God, help us learn to be vulnerable and at peace with you and those that we love?

In Christ, Interim Pastor Gary L. Burnett

[\*Resource for pastor's article: *Cat Psalms*, Herbert Brokering, Augsburg/Fortress Press, 2003]



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

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February newsletter was found to have a few of errors we wish to correct:

- The Presbyterian Pie Committee donated **\$11,300** to the church.
- **Judy** Mettler, non-member but dedicated pie committee member, is the one who does a lovely job of decorating our fellowship hall and restroom areas. Thank you, *Judy!*
- Gage **Dutra** assisted Pam Recker in the set up of our year nativity. Thank you, *Gage!*
- ++Also, thank you to Pam Recker, Parker Shakespeare, Melissa Strait, and Laisee Shakespeare for the work in taking down the yard nativity. These individuals were not omitted on purpose. Thank you!

We sincerely appreciate the work of these individuals and apologize for the printing error.

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Deacons of First Presbyterian Church invite you to a *Congregational Appreciation Brunch* on **Sunday, March 26th, following worship**. They will be serving breakfast casseroles, biscuits, fruit, cinnamon rolls, milk, coffee and juice.

The deacons wish to thank the members of the church for all that they do! Join us.

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



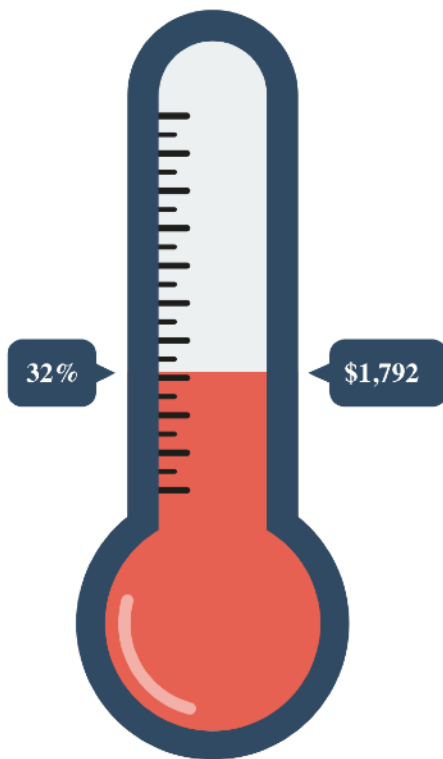
**March 5: James Bruns & Phyllis Campbell**

**March 12: Jamie, Jaxson & Cohen Chappell and Jill Cheney**

**March 19: Michael, Alexis & Amelia Corbin and Nancy Corbin**

**March 26: Barb Decker and Tim, Carrie, Madison & DeLainy Feller**

## GOAL: \$5,657



The 2023 Presbyterian per capita is \$40.70 per confirmed member. Per capita payments received to date are **\$1,792.80 toward our required per capita payment of \$5,657.30. (31.69%)** 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

Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church, noting funds are for “Per Capita”.

Thank you for being a faithful Presbyterian!



Thank you for your continuous support of the Food Pantry.

Current needs include:

- **Toilet paper**
- **Canned corn**
- **Canned beets**
- **Dry cereals**

Donations, food and financial, are taken during pantry hours:

**Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm**

**Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm**



Registration for **Camp Wyoming's 2023 summer camp** programs are now open.

Visit <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/> to see all of the dates and programs available this summer.

Be sure to register soon to guarantee your spot in the camp program of your choice.

**Early registration pricing  
ends March 15th!**

God, we pray for patience. We pray that our search committee waits upon God's timing. We pray that they will have the mind of Christ and agree.

Much of the process is subjective. Personal opinions and preferences are involved. Differences can divide. We pray that the search committee would heed Paul's advice for unity, having the humble attitude of Jesus Christ [Philippians 2:1-12].

We pray for wisdom to choose the right person. We pray our search committee will renew their minds in the Bible so that they can have Word-centered wisdom [Romans 12:1-2].

We pray for discipline for our search committee and other church leaders. The search process requires a great deal of follow-through on the parts of individuals. Please keep our search committee in your prayers. Amen.



**God...  
has appointed  
a time for  
every matter,  
and for every  
work.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:17**



Confirmation is quickly approaching and we'll have 4 new confirmed members of First Presbyterian Church!

*Sunday, April 2 (Palm Sunday) is **CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!*** 🕊️

March 20th



### 🥧🥧🥧 **Presbyterian Pie Service** 🥧🥧🥧

Need something sweet after that corned beef and cabbage? Contact the Pie Committee to reserve your pies today!

Contact **Pam** at (319) 480-7700 or **Kris** (319) 480-1538 to place your order.



**Betty Lambert**

**Doug Mettler**

Pinicon Place

**Barb Null**

Monticello N&RC

**Marj Stubbe**

Hallmark-Mt Vernon

**Don Duncan**

Pennington Square

**Lorraine Haag**

**Frank Smith**

### **Attendance**    Worship:    Sunday school:

January 29	31	4
February 5	39	7
February 12	39	7
February 19	37	0



## Session Meeting Highlights – February 2023

Deaths/Births: Funeral done by the family for Margaret Theoni Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at our church.

Next session meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

Presbytery updates: Special Mtg Feb 16<sup>th</sup> vote on General Assembly's proposed amendments

Zoom 6-8 Dan Saunders to represent our church.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** – Pastor office days are Wed and Thursdays.

- Home visits: 1 on 12<sup>th</sup>

- Confirmation class: Pastor Confirmands present their statement of faith to session at March meeting and then read at church on Palm Sunday. Week of spring break no confirmation.

### **SESSION AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES**

Christian Ed (Anita) – March 1<sup>st</sup> drive thru Camp and Conference soup dinner 4:30-7 pm.

Finance (Dan) – Dan passed out ledger budget for Jan.

Building (Don) – Coffee maker – old one back in kitchen. Don cleaned it out.

Worship Committee (Stacey) – Looking for instrumental music for Easter and Palm Sunday.

Scholarship (Vickie) – Applications need to be in office by April 1<sup>st</sup>. May 21 will be senior Sunday and scholarships will be awarded.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Dropping all COVID Restrictions as of 2-19-23 worship service.

- Annual Statistical Report for presbytery approved.

- Annual requirement for audit of books. Discussed possibilities on how to meet this requirement.

- Approve additions/corrections/changes made to MIF by PNC.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Dan Saunders will be our churches funeral contact for 2023.

- Elected Stacey as Clerk of Session for 2023.

- Elected Dan Saunders as Treasurer for 2023.

- Approval of Communion on the first Sunday of every month.

- Approval of the 4 special denominational offerings.

- Boy Scouts using roasters for pancake breakfast Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Pray for our PNC that they are able to find a candidate that is a good fit for our church in a market with severe pastoral shortage.

We thank you for your generous  
and gracious financial support!

### **January 2023 Contributions**

**\$18,581.69**

January 2022 Contributions \$18,017.04

### **January 2023 Expenses**

**\$8,919.52**

January 2022 Expenses \$11,699.26

