

News at First

JUNE 2023 | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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.



At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

“I didn’t think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange,” Steen recalls. “He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants.” Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. “I want to be dusty like you, Dad!” his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. “I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father,” he says, “a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything.” What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

The commercial coffee maker in the kitchen was recently replaced. We are looking to sell the old coffee maker, as well as kitchen mats. Make an offer!

For more information, contact Don Smith.



Pastor's (Ponderings)

Do you remember when you first learned to ride a bike? Some of you might have hopped right on and take off without much help. Most of us needed someone running along beside us, giving us instructions and encouragement as they tried to keep us upright. I thought about that as I ran up and down our sidewalk with my daughter many years ago. I was giving her those same bike lessons I'd received many years ago. I suddenly realized, maybe prompted by the Holy Spirit, that those bike lessons are also life lessons. They are concrete reminders of vastly important practices we must become skilled in order to move successfully through life.

The first lesson I had to give my daughter was: "Peddle... keep peddling." She sat on the seat with her eyes wide and apprehensive, unsure of the journey, with muscles tense and feet firmly locked in a non-peddling position. As we wend up and down the sidewalk, she began to make a turn or two, to get some momentum of her own, but then she would stop peddling, lose speed, and begin to waver.

We have to keep peddling in life. We have to keep ourselves going, maintaining our momentum. Fortunately there are times when we can coast, but most of the time we have to keep peddling. We have to keep peddling with our bodies, staying active, doing some type of exercise or work that promotes circulation and flexibility. WE have to keep peddling with our minds, stretching our thoughts, allowing new ideas and perspectives to come in and broaden our spiritually sensitive to new ways God is leading us, and having the courage to turn ourselves in new directions and to risk new ventures. Church members have to keep peddling with enthusiasm and dedication. They can't begin to think that the pastor is there to push them along. The church's ministry is a tandem bike, with everyone peddling as best he or she can.

Many years ago a famous world renowned biker, Lance Armstrong, joined an elite company of 8 peddlers of the Tour de France to win the race at least three times. Lance learned how to keep peddling as a cancer survivor. Armstrong trains harder than anyone else in the sport. While others focus on the spring classics, Armstrong is riding the Alps and Pyrenees mountains. Lance has developed a strength of will which has earned him the title from the other peddlers of the Tour de France as "the boss."

In Christ, GLB

PASTOR

Gary L Burnett

burnett.anita1@gmail.com

M 319-350-7638

Office Hours:

W, 10am-5pm,

Th, 10am-12 pm

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mackenzie Kahler

office@fpcmonticello.org

O 319-465-3393

TREASURER

Dan Saunders



WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am

Join us on FaceBook
livestream for worship
each Sunday.

FACEBOOK:

@MonticelloFPC



First Presbyterian is looking for help! If you are interested in helping, please contact a session member.

Sunday School teachers — **TWO** teachers are needed, beginning the 2023 fall term. Per the Child and Youth Protection Policy, 1) All those who volunteer to work with children and/or youth must give permission to the Pastor to do a background check. The background check will include a check of the appropriate state sex offender registries. 2) Volunteers must be members or actively affiliated with the church for at least six months before being permitted to work with children and/or youth.

Pianist — First Presbyterian Church is seeking (a) piano player(s) to accompany the congregation during worship each Sunday, on a temporary and/or permanent basis. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact a member of the Session.

When gestures of sportsmanship go viral, they often feature young athletes. In 2022, a Little League baseball player who took a pitch to the head later hugged the distraught opposing pitcher. Evangelist Ken Weliever says pro athletes, politicians, media personalities and everyday Americans should follow that example rather than focusing on revenge.

“Sadder still is when entire churches are disrupted by petty squabbles, partisan politics and overzealous opinions,” he writes. “Relationships have been ruptured, marriages dissolved and families torn apart due to a harsh response to hurts instead of a spirit of forgiveness and an attitude of reconciliation.”

Christians may sometimes feel tempted to seek payback, but Jesus calls us to live differently. “We need to be reminded that we are to be a transformed people, not conformed to the attitudes and actions of this world (Romans 12:1-2),” says Weliever. “To be light in a world of darkness. And to be the pure, preserving salt in a society that’s become corrupted and impure (Matthew 5:13-16).”





PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



The Pentecost Offering supports our
ministries with young people.

join us!

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!
April 10 - May 28, 2023

PHOTOS: ANCHORAGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER, GOOD SUCCESS ACADEMIES, BRIANNA DONALD

Pentecost Special Offering

We will receive the Pentecost Offering on Sunday, May 28. This offering supports children at-risk, ministries with youth, and the Young Adult Volunteer program (a one-year service opportunity in the U.S. or around the world for those ages 19-30).

40% of this offering is retained by the congregation for local ministries with children and youth.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$16 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family.

Bring your Pentecost Special Offering to worship, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to us.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



First Presbyterian Church is joining Monticello Ministerial Association's community VBS program this summer!

All 3 year old's through 6th graders are invited to join us for this Stellar VBS to rocket kids on an out of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun!

July 31st- August 4th from 9am-1pm at the Youth Development Center.

Visit <https://forms.gle/vXbpdXPbdx9Tvh8h6> now to register!

Each congregation is requested to provide volunteers to make this event a success. If you are able to volunteer, please visit the Volunteer Sign-Up webpage to sign up! Don't have access, contact Pastor Frank Shepherd Jr at 563-258-3740.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c49aaac2ba4fdc52-stellar#/>

A special collection is being taken to provide our financial support of this ministry. Donate now!

2023 Scholarship Recipients

Every year since 1991, the First Presbyterian Church of Monticello has been able to offer scholarships which were given in memory of designated loved ones. Those remembered through scholarships devoted a large part of their lives to the community, to education and to the First Presbyterian Church of Monticello. The First Presbyterian Church of Monticello is proud to announce the recipients of its annual Scholarship Program. Congratulations to these 2023 Scholarship Recipients.

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Jase Reinke, son of Rhonda and Jim Reinke is the recipient of the \$750 *Virginia and Clarence Hosford Memorial Scholarship*, the \$500 *Edward H. and Margaret E. Cox Memorial Scholarship*, and the \$300 *Phil and Ione Himebaugh Memorial Scholarship*. Jase is a graduate of Cascade High School. He plans to attend the University of Iowa and receive a Bachelor of Business degree thereby allowing him to pursue and attain a business career.

Brendan Pasker, son of Mel and Jerry Pasker is the recipient of the \$300 *Mary Louise Helgens Memorial Scholarship*, and the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Brenden is a graduate of Monticello High School. He plans to attend Iowa State University in the School of Music and receive a Bachelor of Art degree in Music Education. After college, Brenden would like to obtain a position as a band director in a school setting.

Madison Fellingner, Monticello, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Madison has recently graduated from Mount Mercy University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood. To teach in her inclusive classroom at Strawberry Hill Elementary in Anamosa, Madison will now pursue her Special Education Endorsement.

Caden Reinke, Cascade, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Caden will be a senior at the University of Iowa where he is studying Chemical Engineering. Caden is super excited for his upcoming internship and hopes that it will lead to a career and love for what his degree as a chemical engineer allows him to do.

Rease Saunders, Monticello, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Rease has recently graduated from Kirkwood Community College with a Liberal Arts Degree and will now transfer to Coe College. While at Coe College Rease has set a goal of acquiring a Bachelor Degree in Computer Science.

Robyn Takes, Cascade, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Robyn is attending the University of Northern Iowa where she recently obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Work and Family Services; with a Minor in Gerontology. Robyn now plans to continue her studies and achieve a Master's Degree in Social Work.

Pies... Pies... And MORE Pies!

Presbyterian Pie Service is putting all of the season's fruits to use in the kitchen! They are taking orders and there are pies in the freezer for sale.

Call **Pam (319-480-7700)** or **Kris (319-480-1538)** to place an order or to pick up.

Thank you all for your continued support!

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Marge Stubbe MNRC

Lorraine Haag Pennington

Marj Lubben Pennington

Frank Smith Pennington

Barb Null Pinicon PI

Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests?

If you have questions, comments, or special prayer requests, the session would love to hear from you! Oftentimes, these things go unaddressed simply because we are unaware. Please bring your questions, comments, and special prayer requests to a session member, and your feedback will be shared with the committee. Thank you!

Jim Anderson
Peg Arduser
Anita Benedict
Vickie Bone
Curt Mayo
Sherri Neofotist
Dan Saunders
Don Smith
Stacey Takes
Meredith Parker

jlkkanderson@hotmail.com
rapjarduser@hotmail.com
abenedict1976@gmail.com
vjbone@icloud.com
22aitfh11@gmail.com
sneofotist@gmail.com
danjan1949@gmail.com
smithzoocrew1024@gmail.com
staceytakes@truckcountry.com
danceforlife170@gmail.com

M: 319-480-5750
M: 319-480-0972
M: 319-230-9705
M: 319-480-1758
M: 319-480-1624
M: 319-481-0680
M: 319-480-2298
M: 319-480-2671
M: 563-543-7246
M: 319-975-8212



Mark your calendars for **July 23-28, 2023** for our 69th Synod School! Registration begins April 1.

Be prepared! Things to know about before you register: RAGBRAI, COVID-19, Online Registration, Housing – No linens this year! Construction on campus!

Visit https://lakesandprairies.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/SScatalog23_B.pdf for the full catalog.



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

June 4: **Pam Goettsch and Lori Gravel**

June 11: **Jean Krueger and Robin, Tyler and Kinley LaFave**

June 18: **Tom Lambert and Brad Lamont**

June 25: **Larry & Kathryn Lamont and Evalena Lang**

Food Pantry

Current needs for those wishing to make a donation are:

- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Dry cereal
- Grape jelly
- Gift cards (\$25 increments) to our local grocers are always a tremendous help!

Monetary donations are tax deductible and are used to purchase items with reduced case pricing. These can be mailed to **Monticello Ministerial Assoc. PO Box 62**

Monticello, IA 52310

Memo: "Food Pantry"

Items can be dropped off during food pantry hours:

M, 5p-7p, F, 2p-4p

THANK YOU to all of our generous neighbors that make this service a possibility! ❤️👥

MAY 2023 SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

PNC UPDATE – Going to listen to a pastor preach.

CLERK'S REPORT — Brent Vernon offered to do a concert at our church evening of Sunday July 16th. Session approved.

Next session meeting June 14th at 6:30 pm. Newsletter deadline 20th. Presbytery updates: Stated meeting June 15th zoom, 6-8 pm.

PASTOR'S REPORT – Pastor office days are Wed and Thursdays. Home visits: 2, communions served: 0. July 23-27 pastor leave for air show. Need a preacher for the 23rd. **MSC** Dan will find a person to fill pulpit.

SESSION AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Christian Ed (Anita) – Will do community VBS July 31- Aug 4th 9-1pm. Take a special offering for bible school supplies for next 2 Sundays in May where all cash goes to. We will be responsible for doing one meal for VBS. We will have a sign up passed in church when we get more. Honoring the grads May 21st and scholarship presentations. First day of Sunday school Sep 10, will be when we ask kids to come talk about camp. We are looking to find 2 SS teachers for this coming year.

Finance (Dan) – Dan handed out budget ledger for Jan-April along with payments and intake for April.

Building (Don) – Had 15 screens repaired Sunday School wing and now need help putting back in.

Scholarship (Vickie) – May 21 will be senior Sunday and scholarships will be awarded.

Memorial (Sherri) – Received a \$50 donation from Jane Barnts.

OLD BUSINESS — Motion to let the Bravera group use our sheet music and donation give them a donation to buy music. Sat Aug 26 for church cleanup and projects day.

NEW BUSINESS — Community Back to School picnic Mon Aug 21st 5-7 pm outdoor area by United Church. Looking for people to help set up and clean up and post flyers etc. We will be allowing United Church to borrow our table and chairs like last year for the picnic.

Attendance

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
April 30	34	1
May 7	43	6
May 14	53	7
May 21	40	-

OFFERING & FINANCES

We appreciate your continued financial support. If you'd like to learn more about your contribution options, please contact Dan Saunders, treasurer or the church office.

April Contributions: **\$5,404.08** (April 2022 \$18,592.45)

April Expenditures: **\$17,224.41** (April 2022 \$10,634.24)