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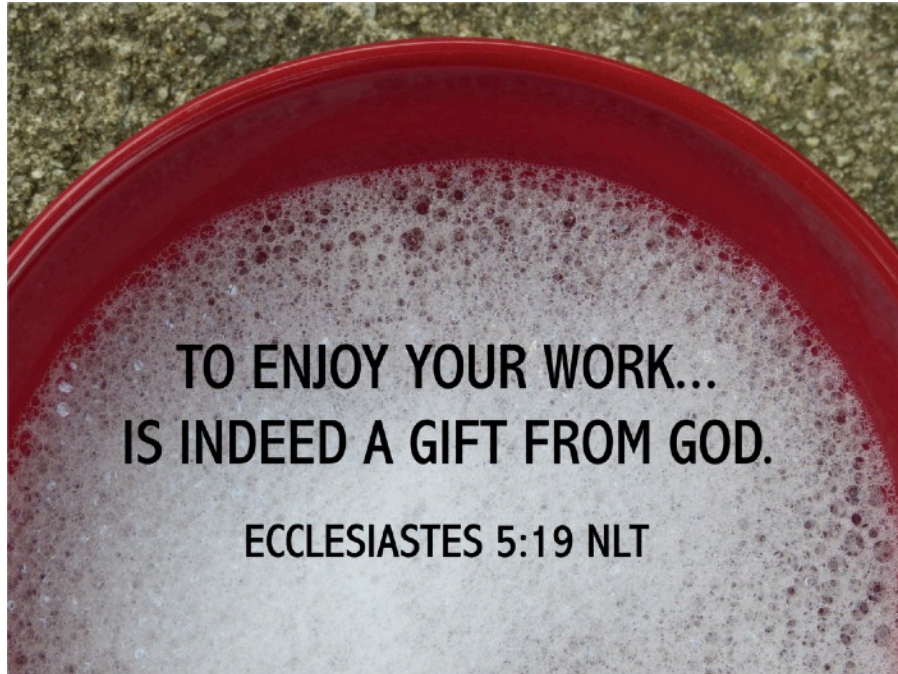
# NEWS AT FIRST

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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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## Blessed with Work

In the movie *Return to Me*, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, “No, dear, that’s okay. I’m blessed with work.”

Here’s a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie’s plot, I’ve always remembered Marty’s words. But I don’t think I’ve ever claimed to be “blessed with work.” By contrast, I often sigh as I’m dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing — the joy — of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, “To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God.” In what ways are you “blessed with work”?

—Janna Firestone

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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**PASTOR**

BILL WARHOVER  
319-202-4977

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**OFFICE**

**ADMINISTRATOR**  
MACKENZIE KAHLER

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**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS 10 AM**

w/ Facebook Live stream

8:30 a.m. Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

**RESUMES SEPT. 10**

See you then!

# PASTOR'S Ponderings

*I want to start by saying thanks for all the ways you have made me feel welcomed. I am glad to be with you.*

*I have a lot to learn about the church and community but am working to get to know folks. Be patient with me while I learn your names and learn the ins and outs of how things work. You can help by reminding me of your name and letting me know if there is a way that you do things that is familiar to you all. I am thankful for all the patient teachers.*

*I know pastors are supposed to be mind readers but I never got the hang of it. Please let me know if there is a pastoral need, someone is in the hospital, has had an accident, or is just not doing well so I can reach out to them to see if I can be helpful. Thank you!*

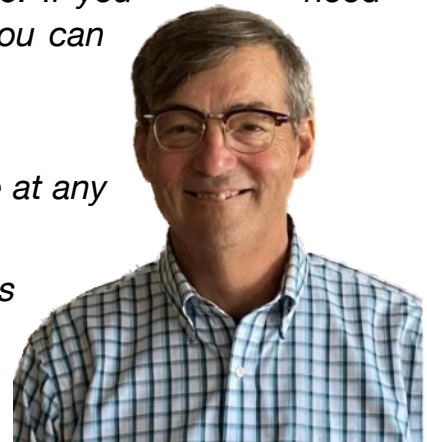
*One of the things I have been doing since being here is trying to understand the ebb and flow of the congregation, the community, and when I need to be where. I plan to be in Monticello Sunday through Thursday at some point during the day. On days when there are evening meetings or events I might come in late morning or early afternoon. On days there are not I plan to be in between 9-10. It looks like Tuesday mornings are when Mackenzie and I will spend office time together at least for the near future. If you need to talk with me or need something from the church you can call my cell phone at 319-202-4977.*

*I plan to take my days off on Fridays and Saturdays.*

*If there is an emergency please feel free to contact me at any time on my cell phone 319-202-4977.*

*Hoping you can see and hear the beauty and goodness of God as we move to the fall.*

*Pastor Bill*



## Thanks for Helping Out, GREETER!

It takes all of us pitching in to make the church not only work, but work in the way it was intended.

*"Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!"*

— 1Cor 12:7 The Message

One of the jobs we have is that of **greeter**. The greeter arrives 15-20 minutes before Sunday worship to greet people, 'Good morning! How are you?' Gives them a bulletin, and lets them know about things like following worship on the screens or where the bathroom or nursery is (if they are visiting). The greeter closes the doors to sanctuary at the beginning of worship.

After worship the greeter opens the doors to sanctuary during the last hymn. As people are leaving, the greeter checks the pews, puts up any hymnals or Bibles in the pew racks, tears out the signed attendances sheets and gives them to Dan Saunders.

This job is filled one Sunday at a time, so the greeter's commitment is just for the date you sign up on. It can be one person or a group of folks. There are always people around to help if you have questions. If you are interested in being a greeter sign up on the sign up sheet or contact Mackenzie at [office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org).

### SKILLS WANTED

The Membership Committee is looking for volunteers to sort through old photos, newspaper clippings, etc. and create some kind of order for creating a historical reference of our church.

If you are interested in being part of this team, please contact a member of the session.



If you would like to request a pastoral visit for any reason, please contact Pastor Bill to arrange. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Pastor Bill can be reached at **319-202-4977**.

Pastoral  
Care



Confirmation will begin in September. If you have or know of an 8th or 9th grader who would be interested in joining the confirmation process, please have them contact Pastor Bill at [pastor@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmonticello.org) or **319-202-4977**.





September is a month of new beginnings. The kids are back to school, college fall term begins, and so do a number of ecumenical education programs, youth ministries, and various bible studies. Join First Presbyterian Church with a fresh start as we resume our schedule starting **Sunday, September 10**. Join us for:

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday school  
(3 years old through adult!)
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Worship

## MMA's Community VBS a SUCESS!

With the maximum registrations (100 participants) met, the children, teens, and adults had a wonderful week. With it being Pastor Bill's first week here at First Presbyterian Church, he was able to join the community and meet many new people. He was wildly welcomed (serving ice cream each day), and fondly recalled "being blessed" by the preschoolers. Thanks to all donors and volunteers for making this event a success!







## Camp Wyoming Presentation!

Join us on **Sunday, September 10th, 10 am worship**. Campers are invited to share their experience with the congregation. In sharing camper experiences, it encourages our members and reminds our sponsors of the importance of their spiritual and financial support of this ministry: Our Youth!

Please join us.

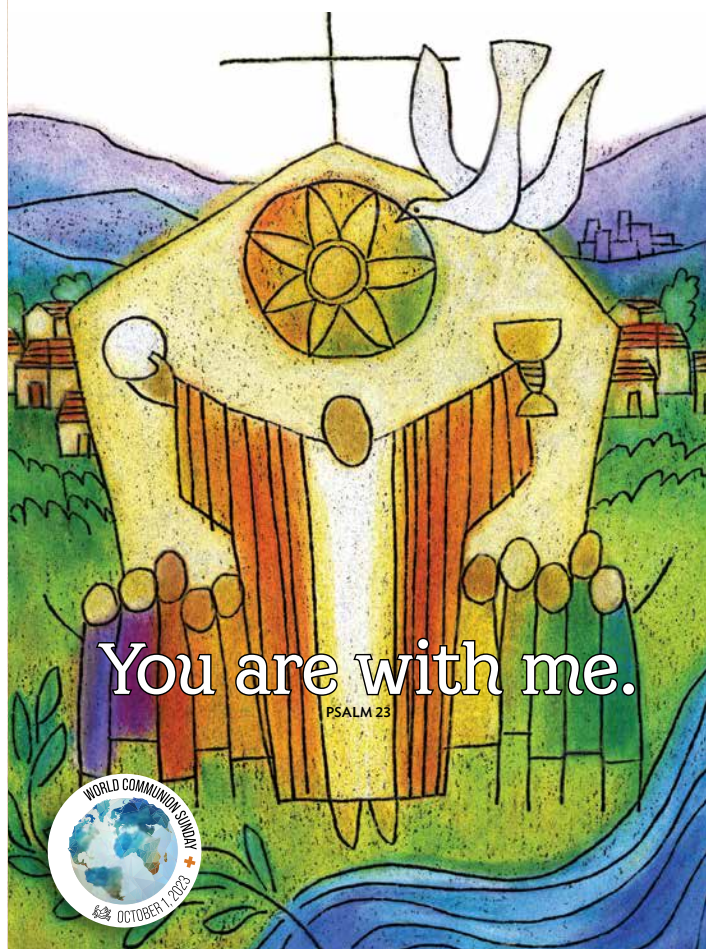
Our Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world.

Enclosed in the newsletter is the **Peace & Global Witness Offering envelope**.

Please return your donations to the offering tray or church office.



**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering are helping our neighbors in need — those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

**25%**

of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

**25%**

of this Offering goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

**50%**

of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

**WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.**

*Thank you!*





Church offices will be closed, Monday, September 4, 2023, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

As always, if you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977.

Have a safe holiday weekend!

### 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!

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Sherri Neofotist	sneofotist@gmail.com	M: 319-481-0680
Dan Saunders	danjan1949@gmail.com	M: 319-480-2298
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Stacey Takes	staceytakes@truckcountry.com	M: 563-543-7246
Meredith Parker	danceforlife170@gmail.com	M: 319-975-8212



### Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community on Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm, and Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm. Donations are taken at this time as well. If you have any extra produce from your late summer/early fall gardens, we would love to share your donation with a family in need. ***Please leave your fresh produce donations DURING PANTRY HOURS.*** Produce is

being left outside of hours and produce is going bad in the heat and we're unable to share with our clients.

Monetary donations are always helpful in allowing us to make purchases at case pricing. Other needs include:

<b>Toilet Paper</b>	<b>Muffin mixes</b>	<b>Boxes of cereal</b>	<b>Diapers</b>
<b>Bar Soap</b>	<b>Soup mixes</b>	<b>Spaghetti noodles</b>	<b>Baby wipes</b>

## Presbyterian Pie Service

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The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to do their work to provide pies to the people of the community.



Call today to place your order for a fresh, oven-ready or thaw-and-serve pie.

To place your order or check freezer stock, call:

**Pam (319) 480-7700** or

**Kris (319) 480-1538.**

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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 September, please remember to include in your prayers each week our September families:

September 3: Sierra, Jared, Huck, Easton, Phoebe & Eliza Parker and Mel, Jerry, Gary, Brendan, Cameron & Dax Pasker.

September 10: Wayne & Joanne Peach and Cindy & Jim Plummer.

September 17: Kris Read and Pam Recker.

September 24: Jim, Rhonda, Caden & Jase Reinke and Lindsey, Dustin, Dawson, Dylan, Dalton & Drew Ricklefs.

the family of  
 Delaney Kremer  
 Brett Arduser  
 Peg Arduser  
 Betty Lambert  
 Doug Mettler



Shawn Nolan  
 Betty Yount  
 Marj Stubbe MNRC  
 Lorraine Haag Pennington  
 Frank Smith Pennington  
 Barb Null Anamosa Care Cntr

August 9, 2023

Next session meeting Oct 11th at 6:30 pm

Presbytery updates: Stated meeting Sept 23

Welcome Pastor Bill!

Will have an install service done by presbytery for Pastor Bill. More info to come.



#### SESSION AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES

Christian Ed (Anita) - Need to find 1 new SS teachers. Doing a baked potato bar in the fall.

Working on planning Adult Sunday School and Confirmation (8-9 th grades).

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

August.

Worship Committee (Stacey) - Stacey resigning at end of year from worship committee. Need to

have someone step in and help so she can train in advance.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Pianists needed for 1 or more Sunday's a month.

- Sound system - looking into a Wi-Fi ear set for hard of hearing to see if feasible.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- The Sunday Christmas Eve service will be at 6 pm? We will have two services in one day.

Pastor closed with prayer.



July 30	34
August 6	38
August 13	44
August 20	44

<b>July Contributions 2023</b>	<b>\$6,454.70</b>
(July 2022)	(\$16,529.93)
<b>July Expenses 2023</b>	<b>\$19,658.51</b>
(July 2022)	(\$11,440.51)

