

NEWS AT FIRST

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.*

Gathered As One Body

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

"This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. "In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth" (John Oxenham).

Thank you, Lord!



Special offering envelopes were included in last month's newsletter 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 1. You may bring your envelope to worship, drop it off at the church office, or mail it to us. Please contact the church office if you need an additional offering envelope.

Pastor's {Ponderings}

It has been good to be with you all these last couple of months. I have enjoyed hearing your stories and look forward to getting know more of you. Worship has been a joy with the chatter of children, the beauty of music, and the warmth of your friendships that is so evident. Thank you all!

As Sunday School has started back up in September, we have had to be reminded of our Children and Youth Protection Policy. This is one of many policies that the church has adopted over the last couple years and guides us to insure our children and youth are safe when they are with us, and our volunteers are protected from false accusations of abuse. A Children and Youth Protection Policy is mandated by our denomination and by our insurance for good reasons, but most of all we want to keep children and youth, who are a gift from God, safe.

This policy says that those volunteering to work with our children and youth as Sunday School Teachers, Helpers, Youth Leaders or in the nursery need to be background checked. It also states that two adults need to present with children or youth in these activities. While making this work at First Presbyterian might be a challenge at times, there are a good group of adults that have agreed to be background checked. Some of those adults are teaching in Sunday School and some will be floating (being an extra pair of hands and eyes) when needed.

If you have question about this policy, please don't hesitate to talk with me or one of the Session Members. Thanks.

I am aware as we head into October that farmers will be fully engaged in the beauty and the hazards of the harvest. Thanks for the hard work you do! Enjoy the season and be safe!

I am normally in Monticello Sunday through Thursday and mostly in the office, but those times vary depending on the day's activities and if I am out and about seeing people. Please don't hesitate to call me at 319-202-4977 (cell) if you need something or want to get into the church.

I continue to pray for you and me and us together as we live into the joy of God's hope.

Pastor Bill



**Pastor
Bill Warhover**

319-202-4977

pastor@
fpcmonticello.org



**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.

Pastor Bill will be gone Thursday, October 12th through Wednesday, October 18th. If a pastoral need should arise while Pastor Bill is gone please contact Elder Vickie Bone 319-480-1758 or Elder Dan Saunders 319-480-2298.

Thanks for Helping Out, ELDERS and DEACONS!

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*

Elders are elected by the congregation to serve the congregation through the gifts of leadership and spiritual leadership. They do this by making decisions about the direction of the church (like our mission and vision), making sure that we are provided opportunities for spiritual growth (like worship and Sunday Schools), and actively taking a part in some of the many committees that make sure things get done and are taken care of. (Like the building committee or Christian Education committee.)

Deacons are also elected by the congregation to service the congregation through acts of caring and compassion. The deacons make sure we stay in touch with each other by sending cards and notes to people. They arrange the fellowship time and organized the Care and Share Tree at Christmas time. The sometimes arrange for flowers to be taken to the home bound or nursing home members.



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 pastor or church office to arrange a visit. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Pastor Bill, 319-202-4977, Church office, 319-465-3393, to request a pastoral care visit.

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.



Appreciating Your Pastor

Many people have complex relationships with their pastors because faith, church and God involve a mix of emotions. We have particular ideas about church practices, congregational priorities, the minister's use of time, money, authority and more.

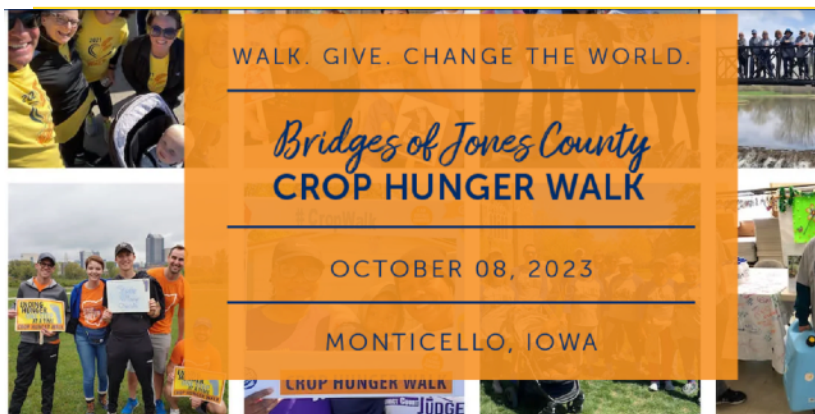
But most pastors are deeply devoted to Christ and believe that God has called them to serve in a certain place. They have the best of intentions and work hard to share the good news of the gospel. So in honor of Pastor Appreciation Month in October, consider the following:

God doesn't call the qualified; he qualifies the called. Your pastor may need time to learn and develop certain skills. (Everyone does!) Bless pastors with your patience.

We don't change the message; the message changes us. You probably won't like all your pastor's sermons or newsletter columns. But instead of complaining, ponder that something may rub you the wrong way because God is trying to change you. Keep an open mind and heart.

If a church wants a "better" pastor, it just needs to pray for the one it has. Pray often and caringly for your pastors, church leaders and their families. The role is challenging, so support them spiritually and ask God to reveal his love and grace to these special servants.

We appreciate you, Pastor Bill!



CROP Walk - Since 1969 neighbors have been helping neighbors to end hunger right at home and around the world through Church World Services and the CROP Walk. This year the CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, October 8 @ 2 pm, at Wapsipinicon State Park. (Meet at Main Entrance Parking Lot).

The CROP Walk not only brings area churches and communities together

to raise money to support local food pantries in Monticello, Anamosa, Wyoming, and Olin but when we gather it together to walk it reminds us of Jesus imperative to feed the hungry.

Since the pandemic walker participation has fallen off and it is my hope that FPC can begin a renewal of the active part of CROP Walk by walking.

You can participate by walking on October 8th, sponsoring a walker, or making a contribution to the Crop Walk. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP and turned in either to the walker or office before October 8.

If you would like to join me in walking on October 8, please let me know. You can email me at pastor@fpcmonticello.org. Phone me at the church office or at my cell 319-202-4977.

Thank you for considering participating in this years CROP walk.

Why to Support Your Church:

1. You believe in its mission. Do you want to have a church that continues to serve as a neighborhood center and a beacon of the love of God for hundreds of residents? Then contribute to your local church.

2. You wish too invest in our future. The faithfulness of many generations of good Presbyterians who believed in our church, not just for what we can do today but also what we could be doing tomorrow if we invest in what we believe.

3. You are thankful to God for your church. If you ask me, the single best reason to give to the church is because you are thankful. We all have so many reasons to thank God: for our health; for our family; for our work; for every new day; for His Gospel. Regardless of whether you agree with every decision your local church makes, there is a discipline to approaching your life of faith with an attitude of gratitude.

Rev. David Wright

You many give in cash or check during worship service, or you can mail your contribution to:

First Presbyterian Church
211 W 1st St
Monticello IA 52310

Or you can have your contribution deducted from your checking or savings account weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. Just complete the form attached and send to the church, or call.

Dan Saunders, 132 Highview Ave, Monticello IA 52310

Schedule H: Direct Debit Sample Authorization Agreement

AUTHORIZATION AGREEMENT FOR DIRECT PAYMENTS (ACH DEBITS)

Company Name _____ Company ID Number _____

I (we) hereby authorize _____, hereinafter called COMPANY, to initiate debit entries to my (our) ☐ Checking Account. Account (select one) indicated below at the depository financial institution named below, hereinafter called DEPOSITORY, and to debit the same to such account. I (we) acknowledge that the origination of ACH transactions to my (our) account must comply with the provisions of U.S. law.

Depository Name _____	Branch _____
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Routing Number _____	Account Number _____

Type of Account ☐ Checking

This authorization is to remain in full force and effect until COMPANY has received written notification from me (or either of us) of its termination in such time and in such manner as to afford COMPANY and DEPOSITORY a reasonable opportunity to act on it.

Name(s) _____ ID Number _____

Date _____ Signature _____

NOTE: ALL WRITTEN DEBIT AUTHORIZATIONS MUST PROVIDE THAT THE RECEIVER MAY REVOKE THE AUTHORIZATION ONLY BY NOTIFYING THE ORIGINATOR IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED IN THE AUTHORIZATION.

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	jllkanderson@hotmail.com	M: 319-480-5750
Anita Benedict	abenedict1976@gmail.com	M: 319-230-9705
Vickie Bone	vjbone@icloud.com	M: 319-480-1758
Curt Mayo	cpmayo@mchsi.com	M: 319-480-1624
Sherri Neofotist	sneofotist@gmail.com	M: 319-481-0680
Dan Saunders	danjan1949@gmail.com	M: 319-480-2298
Don Smith	smithzoocrew1024@gmail.com	M: 319-480-2671
Stacey Takes	staceytakes@truckcountry.com	M: 563-543-7246
Meredith Parker	danceforlife170@gmail.com	M: 319-975-8212

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 28**.

Our current needs include: **Cereals, cake mixes, spaghetti noodles, and toilet paper.**

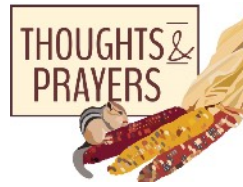
Donations can always be made to the Food Pantry or Monticello Ministerial Association, with *Food Pantry* on the memo line (for tax credit) which allows the food pantry to purchase canned goods at a case reduced-price. Fareway gift cards are also extremely helpful.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors!



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. 📧



Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Janie Saunders

Marj Stubbe MNRC

Lorraine Haag
Pennington/Monticello

FRANK SMITH
Pennington/Monticello

Barb Null Anamosa CC



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>SS</u>
August 28	58	-
September 3	44	-
September 10	67	13
September 17	41	10
September 24	55	10



Our deepest sympathies to the family of Peggy Arduser. Peggy passed away on Monday morning, August 28th, 2023, surrounded by her family. A celebration of life service was held on September 7th, 2023, at the First Presbyterian Church Monticello with interment in the Oakwood Cemetery. You can read the full obituary and sign the guestbook at www.goettschonline.com.

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

October 1: Colin, Lindsay, Aisling & Nicky Ryan and Helen & David Sackett

October 8: Dan, Janie, Rease & Jackson Saunders and Jasper Scott, Brooke Scott, Brayden C, Eli & Amelia Scott

October 15: Parker Shakespeare and Scott & Barb Slater

October 22: Don & Kim Smith and Eden Smith

October 29: Frank Smith and Bruce & Lisa Smith

Praying
FOR You

Session Highlights - September 13, 2023

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussed Christmas Eve service and decided to have it 6pm on Dec 24th along with our normal 10 am worship service.
- Working on updating our child protection policy and everything it entails.
- Approval of Syllabus for the 2023-24 confirmation class as presented with option given to pastor to make changes if needed.
- Assigned current ruling elder as liaisons to our outside committee's Food Pantry, Scouts and Bravura.

OLD BUSINESS

- Decided to continue with Kooperhaver in getting a process and doing initial review which includes forming an in-house committee of accounts.
- Still working on getting more people involved to play piano on Sundays.
- Discuss looking into options for the members hard of hearing for our Sunday worship services
- Discussing getting members rides to church.

SESSION AND OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATESChristian Ed (Anita)

- Doing a baked potato bar on Oct 25th 4:30-7:00
- Sunday School has started.

Finance (Dan)

- Dan handed out budget ledger for Jan-Aug along with payments and intake for August.

Deacons (Curt)

- Need to have congregation sign up on the clipboard again for fellowship.

Nomination Committee (Curt) get this started now to ensure done before 1st of the year.

Building (Don) –

- Vent for kitchen installed. Plan to install a second one but out of stock.
- Put in some blinds in lower SS rooms.
- Window in nursery is getting fixed and put back in.

Scholarship (Vickie)


- Checks will go out in October.

Memorial (Sherri)

- Would like to form a committee to go thru all old photos we have at church.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- We will have an install service done by presbytery at a later date
- Home visits: 3; Assisted Living visits: 2; Nursing Care visits: 3; Hospital visits: 1
- Meeting with family on baptism
- Attended church committee meetings for Christian Ed and Deacons
- Visited with Arduser family for funeral planning and did Peg's service
- Adult Sunday School Started 9-10
- Setting up marriage counseling with couple getting married in our church later this year.
- Working with two other couples on setting up weddings in our church.
- Picked up some chairs from the Presbytery office to use in our church office.
- Will be retreating with a couple other area pastors at Camp Wyoming 9-24 & 25

August Finances		
 Church Finances	Contributions 2023	\$6,688.75
	Contributions 2022	\$8,976.03
	Expenses 2023	\$9,345.00
	Expenses 2022	\$7,898.47