



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.*

TAKE TIME TO RECHARGE

“Then Jesus said, ‘Let’s go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.’ He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn’t even have time to eat” (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we’re “coming and going” so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who “gets” me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, “Then go into another room and just be. We’ve got things covered.” I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you’re an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone

Pastor's {Ponderings}

‘What are you thankful for?’

It is a question I often asked with those who were living into the end of life.

‘What are you thankful for?’

The question seemed to both bring people out of the morass of life defined by medication and loss and energized them in the moment. Often they would go on to share a list of things; for family that was caring for them, for the visit of a friend, for the quietness of a morning, the loyalty and affection of a pet, the unexpected appearance of some small creature in their yard, a sip of coffee, a bite of a favorite food.

What always amazed me was not only how naming things they were grateful for energized them but how often the things were small and seemingly insignificant.

‘What are you thankful for?’, as we enter this season of thanksgiving?

The comic strip Mutts by Patrick McDonnell, is at times repetitive. While the illustration might change, the message will stay the same. This is especially true at Thanksgiving time when, in his own way, he asks what we are thankful for and the importance of offering thanks.

One quote he repeats is from Meister Eckhart, a 13th Century Theologian and Philosopher:

“If the only prayer you say in your life is thank you, that would suffice.”

“What are you thankful for?”

I am thankful for you all and the privilege of traveling with you in faith and this season of life.

Pastor Bill

PASTOR

Bill Warhover

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pastor@fpcmonticello.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Mackenzie Kahler

Office 319-465-3393

office@fpcmonticello.org

TREASURER

Dan Saunders

Mobile 319-480-2298

WORSHIP

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School
(youth-adult)

8:30 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP 9:30 a.m.

FACEBOOK:

@MonticelloFPC



The church office will be **closed Thursday and Friday, November 23 and 24**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Bill on his mobile phone at 319-202-4977.

Remembering the Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved – special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

We remember members and friends of First Presbyterian Church on this All Saints’ Day (**November 1**) who have entered into the kingdom of heaven in the past year:

Joanne Schenck | Margaret Thoeni | Don Duncan
Jane Barnts | Peggy Arduser | Barbara Lowry



Please mark your calendars! The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented Sunday, December 10th, during the 10:00 am worship service. Christmas program practice will begin Nov. 26th during regular Sunday school class time. Please check your calendars to see if your child will be able to participate. Let a teacher or Lisa Keltner 319-480-4080 know if child will not be able to so we can give out parts. All children will be able to participate during practice whether they are able to perform or not on that day.

Christmas Eve Schedule - This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. Please make plans to join us for worship that day.

10:00 am — 4th Sunday of Advent worship
6:00 pm — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



You are invited to help decorate our church for the Christmas season after our worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 26th**. Updates will be posted on our church's Facebook page in case these plans need to be adjusted. As take-down is yet to be determined, we will make another announcement requesting your help at a later date. Thank you! -Deacons

Care & Share



Our congregation will once again participate in HACAP's Care & Share Christmas program. The Deacons will discuss at our next meeting how to best support our “adopted” children and families this year. Cash donations are welcome at any time. Please mark donations “Care and

Share.” Watch for updates on our Facebook page concerning this year’s procedures and dates to participate. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting children and families in our community at this special time of year!

Thanks for Helping Out, LITURGIST!

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

Each Sunday we invite one person to lead us in worship as the liturgist. The liturgist is responsible for inviting us in to worship through our Opening Sentences and Prayer. The liturgist next invites us to stand for the hymn and, then, invites us into our confession and offers an assurance of pardon. Finally the liturgist encourages us to pass the peace to one another.

The bulletin is normally emailed out the liturgist prior to Sunday’s service so that they can look through it and become familiar with the parts they will read and lead. Your commitment to be the liturgist is only for the Sunday that you sign up for.

You can sign up to be liturgist on the clip board at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning or by contacting Mackenzie at office@fpcmonticello.org.

Thanksgiving Day, November 23

DELIVERY & CARRY OUT ONLY! RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Community

Thanksgiving

Dinner

Reservations must be made by Mon. , Nov. 20

- TO REQUEST A MEAL FOR DELIVERY — Please call 319-465-3219 by Mon., Nov. 20 (There is no charge for this Community Meal.)
- TO VOLUNTEER — Please call 319-465-3219
- If you would like to MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, you may drop it off at Citizens State Bank in Monticello or mail a check to—

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, c/o Terry Feeling
15736 120th Ave • Scotch Grove, IA 52310

100% of the proceeds in excess of needs for the meal are donated to the Monticello Food Pantry

THERE WILL BE NO DINING IN

(Article as printed in the *Monticello Express*)

Bounty of Thanks

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.



And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Food Pantry Holiday Hours

A reminder as seasonal weather and holidays approach: the Monticello Food Pantry will be closed if the Monticello Schools are closed. With that in mind, the Monticello Food Pantry will observe the following hours for the Thanksgiving holiday:

OPEN: Monday, November 20
5 pm - 7 pm

CLOSED: Friday, November 24

OPEN: Monday, November 27
5 pm - 7 pm



Current food pantry needs include: Hygiene supplies, including but not limited to body wash, shampoo, dish soap, and laundry soap.



Confirmation class meets **each Wednesday from 5:15 pm-6:30 pm.**

Classes will meet Nov. 1, 8, 15, and 29,

Nov. 22- NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break



If you, or someone you know, 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, 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. Homebound communion is also being offered to our homebound members. Please contact Pastor Bill, 319-202-4977, or the church office, 319-465-3393, to request a pastoral care or homebound communion visit.



the family of Robert Fuerstenau
(grandfather of Amy Gilkerson)
the family of Barbara Lowry
the family of Rev. Bill Longer
(FPC Monticello Rev 1971-89)
the family of Thomas Bohlken
(uncle of Lindsay Ryan)
the family of John Reade
(brother of Jill Cheney)



Betty Lambert
Doug Mettler
Marj Stubbe MRNC
Lorraine Haag Pennington
Frank Smith Pennington
Barb Null Anamosa CC

Presbyterian Pie Service

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).



Reminder: Set your clocks back as daylight
savings time ends
Sunday, November 5



FAMILIES OF COLLEGE STUDENTS:

The Deacons are excited to start sending cards of encouragement to the college students of First Presbyterian Church through out upcoming collegiate school year. If you are interested in having your son or daughter receive cards from us, please notify the church office of the student's mailing address. You can call 319-465-3393 during office hours (M-Th, 8 am - 12 noon) or leave a message on the answering machine, or you can send an email to 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.



Be sure to vote!
Election Day, **November 7**

Madison Fellingner

Jase Reinke

Brendan Pasker

Rease Saunders

Caden Reinke

Robyn Takes

God's blessings on our Scholarship recipients and their future plans.

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

November 5: Kaylee Stephen and Roger & Sandra Stephen

November 12: Shay Stephen and Kevin & Gayle Stingley

November 19: Marge Stubbe and Jodi Suthers

November 27: John & Stacey Takes and Riley Takes



Session Highlights - 11 October 2023

- Sarah Bone for Campfire Girls 1.5 hours once a month – requesting fellowship hall/kitchen to use. Motion to approve subject to Mackenzie ensuring that it works with our current calendar obligations
- New Interim Executive Presbyterian Seth Normington is coming to our potato bar on Oct 25th. This is an informal visit and Seth is just wanting to get to know the people and churches of East Iowa Presbytery. Please take time to greet him and tell him what you appreciate about the area and FPC.
- Motion to receive Amy Gilkerson into the membership of FPC by reaffirmation of her faith.
- Conversation on our Child and Youth Protection Policy and PCUSA/Guide One requirements. Requirements for “boundary training which include the topic of sexual misconduct and child sexual abuse prevention training for its members (session) and at least every 36 months” (G-3.0106) (Pastor Bill) We understand that senate is going to provide us this material so we don’t have to come up with our own resources.
- Pianists needed for Dec 3, both services Dec 24 and Jan 7. This will get us thru Jan.
- Pastor’s Installation service has been scheduled for Oct 29 th .
- Dan handed out budget ledger and intake for Sept.
- Nomination Committee started on getting a ballot filled for our 2024 church calendar year.

Building:

- Purchased new Shark vacuum MSC via email 9-18-23
- Projects completed: Painted South entry way, put up some donated blinds, fixed broken window, did some caulking in nursery, have a new bell on the door so that when Pastor or Mackenzie are here, they know if anyone comes in.



ATTENDANCE:

Week of:	Worship	Sunday School
Sept 24	55	10
Oct 1	48	9
Oct 8	35	6
Oct 15	49	11
Oct 22	44	9



OFFERING & FINANCIALS

Did you remember to tithe today?

We offer a number of options. Please contact us if you'd like to hear them. We *thank you* for your contribution.



September 2023 Income: \$6,889.75

(September 2022 \$6,455.00)

September 2023 Expenses: \$15,028.21

(September 2022 \$5,205.74)