

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.*

Loving My “Enemies”

In polarized times, when people view huge concepts such as justice, government policy and care for neighbors differently, how do we follow Jesus’ command to love our enemies? I prefer the word *opponents*, but our Lord’s instructions still stand.

In the Bible, “love” doesn’t mean liking someone; it means caring for them, treating them kindly. I find *The Message* paraphrase of Luke 6:27-36 helpful: “Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst,” Jesus says about one’s enemies. So, when I contact government leaders to express my opinions, I address them with respect, whether I agree with them or not. When I encounter a neighbor whose views oppose mine, I ask myself what I would want them to do for me, whether help with an errand or be friendly. Then, as *The Message* puts it, I “grab the initiative and do it for *them*.”

And this, which might be the hardest: Amid tough times, Jesus says, “Respond with the supple moves of prayer.” It’s human nature to pray that God change our enemies’ or opponents’ minds. But it’s more Christlike to pray for their health, their families and whatever *God* desires for them, not what *I* want. Can I do this? With God’s help, yes.

–Heidi Hyland Mann



Cuatro de Mayo

Deacons **Cuatro de Mayo Mexican Fiesta Appreciation Lunch** will be held **Sunday, May 4th, immediately following worship service**. Come enjoy walking tacos, tacos, nachos, chicken or beef enchiladas (create your own), macarons and cheesecake, and slushy non-alcoholic margaritas from La Hacienda. For those who do not like Mexican food, we will have loose meat sandwiches. Free will donation gratefully accepted.

Pastor's (Ponderings)

Things have been happening in April.

Next Generation Heating and Cooling have come and installed the mini-split units in the office and classrooms. We are waiting for the electricians to come to run the electric to the units. Once that is done, they will be up and running and that part of the building project will be done.

Rabe Hardware from Blairstown was here and have completed the installation of the solar panels and have done the electrical work to connect them to our electrical panels and Alliant's service. We are waiting for Alliant to come and run their test to ensure that the power the panels produce will interface with the electric grid. We are being told that this may take a month or two.

It will be summer before any of Phase I work on the sanctuary windows begins. We will know more as the contractor finishes projects already in process. Contractors and flooring options for the kitchen are being explored, so this part of the project is still in the works.

Dan has shared in the newsletter a summary of the Building Project Expenses and Capital Campaign income. What you will see is that we have commitments from the congregation of \$151,700 (as of 4/17). Of those commitments, we have already received \$68,450 (thank you, all).

We have spent \$43,700 (as of 4/17). I would encourage you to look at all the details in these reports.

We also have approximately \$108,630 in outstanding billing from Rabe and Next Generation for work done or yet to do (electrician to connect mini-splits). Therefore, we anticipate having to make our first loan withdraw soon. The cash that has already been contributed will help us to keep the loan amount down. So, thanks again for your generosity in giving.

While all this is exciting and great, I am reminded that all these things are meant to help us be the church in this place, providing generous hospitality and space in the name of Jesus Christ to all who enter here.

Pastor Bill will be away on Study leave April 28 through May 6. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact elders Vickie Bone or Lisa Adams.

Pastor Bill Warhover
M 319-202-4977
pastor@fpcmonticello.org

Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler

O 319-465-3393
office@fpcmonticello.org

Treasurer,
Dan Saunders

WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am
8:30 am Sunday
school*

9:30 am Fellowship*
* thru May 12

Join us on FaceBook
live stream for
worship each Sunday.

Facebook:
@Monticellofpc



Congratulations to **Jackson Saunders**, **Dalton Ricklefs**, and **Drew Ricklefs**, who were confirmed Palm Sunday (April 13th), and **Cameron Pasker**, who will be confirmed May 11th.

Sunday, **May 11th**, will be our final Sunday school class for students this school year. Students will be celebrating mothers during the morning worship service, and Sunday School students and teachers will also be recognized.



Thank you to those that donated Easter lilies for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones from their families:

- In memory of Craig Parker, MaryAnn Chamberlin, & Mary Levsen, from Linda Parker & family
- In memory of Bonnie & Robert Lyon, from Sandra Lyon and Anita & Roger Benedict & family
- In memory of Lola & Ernest Benedict and Lucille & Earl Benedict, from Anita & Roger Benedict & family
- In memory of Glen, Marguerite & Rusty Orcutt and Ray, Dee & Andy Kessell, from Becky Orcutt & family
- In memory of Bud & Virginia Bone, Barb Adam, Phil, Thelma & “Butch” Kuriger, and Debbie Turner, from Jim & Vickie Bone & family



VBS 2025 is Announced!

July 28th-August 1st, 2025

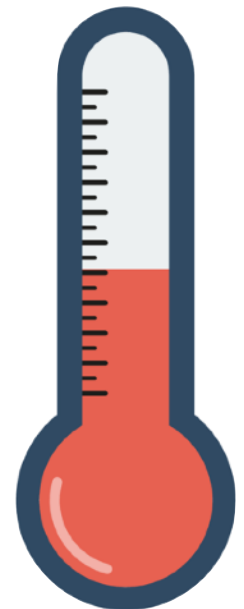
Registration begins May 1

It will again be online registration. The Monticello Ministerial Association FaceBook page will release the registration link at go-live.

The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,212, although we have received only **38.89%** to date.

If you are an active member and have not submitted **\$45.34**, please do so as soon as possible.

Thanks to everyone committed to a healthy and vital Presbyterian Church!





Join us as we honor 2025 high school graduates (and scholarship recipients, too!) of First Presbyterian Church during worship on **Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 a.m.**

Meredith Parker

Zander Alden

Congratulations, Graduates!



**Thanks for Helping Out!
Endowments**

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

The apostle Paul, while talking about the gifts that God gives to us as the church, says let those who have the gift of giving, let them give generously. This church has been blessed by the generosity of many who have contributed to our endowment funds.

Endowment funds are invested so they can draw interest or accrue value based on how the fund has been established. Income from these endowment funds help us pay the bills, are there when we have an emergency need, and provide scholarship money for students.

I would ask that you seriously consider a gift to one or several endowment funds. These gifts can be given at any time or as a part of your end of life planning.

For more information on our endowment funds or on how to contribute to them, talk with treasurer Dan Saunders or Pastor Bill.

Thanks for Helping Out!



PPS

Presbyterian Pie Service

The Presbyterian Pie Committee is 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 for a pick up.

Thank you all for your support !

2025 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2025 Scholarship recipients. Watch our June newsletter for the full article highlighting our recipients and learn about these students' future plans! 2025 Scholarship recipients will be presented award certificates at worship on Sunday, May 18. Join us in congratulating them!



NURSERY NEWS

Nursery Going on Summer Break

The nursery won't be available during worship from June 1 through August 31 to give the volunteers who have so faithfully staffed a little break. Many thanks to Amy and Phil Gilkerson, Stacey Takes, Vickie Bone, Sherri Neofotist, Suzy Gilkerson, and Joan McKim for being willing to be in the nursery this last year.

We want to remind parents that children are always welcomed in worship and that there are books, activity bulletins, and toys in the back of the sanctuary for your children to use during worship.

Nursery Guidelines Beginning in September

FPC values children in worship, but also recognizes the developmental challenges for children in our worship format.

The nursery is a place where children are welcomed as they learn how to be with others in worship. At the same time the nursery is a place to offer parents/ care givers respite so that they can engage in worship more fully.

When children begin second grade, FPC encourages children to remain throughout worship so they can learn about worship through their parents and the congregation and be a part of worship. The nursery will be available if a child or parent just needs an occasional break from time to time. The nursery remains available to those children that have special developmental needs. FPC will provide books and quiet activities located at the entry to help children with this transition.

The nursery is covered by our Child and Youth Protection Policy that includes background checking of those working with our children and youth and the two-adult rule. This policy is available in full by contacting the church office.

We encourage those members 18 years or older to take part in serving in the nursery ministry.

Please contact the Pastor or one of the Elders if you have questions or would like to be a part of the nursery.

Thank you to the Food Pantry for their continued support to our community when they need it most.

Food Pantry currently has needs that they are dividing amongst churches. They have requested the following needs of FPC:

- **Pasta**
- **Pasta sauce**
- **Cereal (but no Cheerios, please)**

Please consider purchasing these items to help those in our community in need.

You can also consider monetary donations, which enables the food pantry to order from the grocer and get case pricing.

If you'd like to make a **monetary donation**, checks can be taken by drop off or mailed to:

*M M A (Monticello Ministerial Association)
PO Box 62
Monticello IA 52310*





Camp Bear Creek: Worship in the Woods Sunday, June 1st, 1pm - 5pm

We invite you to come out to camp to worship with the camp community as we celebrate 65 years of Camp Bear Creek! The Presbyterian Churches in Eastern Iowa started Camp Bear Creek in 1960 and we want to take time to honor their commitment to the camp. We will also take time to commission the summer staff as they embark on the upcoming summer program.

We will run activities starting at 1pm for individuals and families to enjoy and begin our outdoor worship at 3pm. Please bring a camping chair for the outdoor worship. There is no cost for this event. Come out and enjoy an afternoon at camp! Please RSVP through the website (bearcreek.camp/retreats-events) or by phone at 563-488-3893 by May 23rd.

Camp Bear Creek Work Day



CAMP WORKDAY

Camp Bear Creek will host a volunteer work day on Saturday, May 10th, from 9am-3pm. Volunteers will help get Camp ready for the summer, including tasks like setting up arts and crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, painting, and a whole host of other things. Volunteers from our church are needed.

Please RSVP using the link: <https://forms.gle/cKtJfxkHk7WMWRD17>. *RSVP as an individual or group by the end of day on Friday, May 2nd.*

Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2025 summer camp** programs are now open.

Visit bearcreek.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.



Mark your calendars for **July 20-25, 2025** for our 71st Synod School! Registration is now open.

Synod school is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

Visit lakesandprairies.org/synod-school for more information.

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



May 4: **Dave & Lisa Lubben, and Emma Lubben**

May 11: **Kathy Luensman, and Sandra Lyon**

May 18: **Carmel & George Manternach, and Curt & Pam Mayo**

May 25: **Matt, Jackie, Finley & Vivi Mayo, and Rich & Joan McKim**

Keep in your
THOUGHTS &
PRAYERS

Betty Lambert

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Barb Null

Anamosa CC

Marge Stubbe

Corridor, CR

Lorraine Haag

Wellington, Decorah



• **Noisy Coin** offering for Holt International totaled \$167.21. Thank you for your support of this mission!

• There will be **NO Fellowship** on Sunday, May 4th, as the Deacons prepare for their *Cuatro de Mayo* Mexican Fiesta Appreciation

Lunch, served immediately following worship. The last Fellowship of the spring will be Sunday, May 11th (Mother's Day).

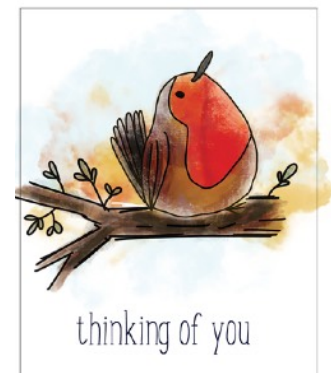
- Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church, Thank you very much for your gift of \$1,000 to the Camp Bear Creek ministry. We are very grateful for your commitment to the camp and its positive impact on young people today and in the future. We could not be as effective a ministry without your participation, involvement, and support. Thank you again for your generous support!!

Kevin Cullum, Executive Director, **Camp Bear Creek**

- Thank you Pastor Bill and the entire First Presbyterian of Monticello community for your generous gift. Sending our warmest wishes for a happy and blessed Easter. Sandy/**University of Dubuque Theological Seminary**.
- **Congratulations to the Monticello HS Jazz Band** who took 8th place in division 2A in the state! The Jazz Band includes FPC members *Meredith Parker, Jackson Saunders, and Cameron Pasker*.

Session News

- Approved motion to receive Jackson Saunders, Drew Ricklefs and Dalton Ricklefs into membership of the church by their profession of faith.
- Discussed Baptism Banner policy.
- Discussed Nursery policy/guidelines.



FPC Capital Projects 2024-2027

April 6, 2025		Initial Payment	Start Work Payment	Completion Payment	Total Payment
<i>Expense</i>		<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>
Sanctuary Windows All	\$130,000.00	\$11,896.75	\$20,321.25		\$32,218.00
Solar Project	\$110,250.00		\$10,700.00		\$10,700.00
Min I Splits w/ Electric	\$25,000.00		\$12,678.39		\$12,678.39
Kitchen Floor	\$10,000.00				\$0.00
Contingency	\$24,750.00				\$0.00
Total	\$300,000.00	\$11,896.75	\$43,699.64	\$0.00	\$55,596.39
<i>Income</i>		<i>FUNDS RECEIVED</i>		<i>Cash On Hand</i>	
Commitment From Endowments/Memorial Fund	\$70,000.00	\$11,896.75		\$58,103.25	
Commitment From Congregation	\$151,700.00	\$68,450.00		\$24,750.36	
Federal Cash Incentive/Solar	\$33,000.00				
Total Committed	\$254,700.00	\$80,346.75		\$82,853.61	Total Cash On Hand
\$ Yet to Raise	\$45,300.00				
		<i>PLEDGES RECEIVED</i>	<i>Outstanding</i>		
2024 Pledged	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00	\$0.00		
2025 Pledged	\$69,500.00	\$42,950.00	\$26,550.00		
2026 Pledged	\$33,850.00	\$0.00	\$33,850.00		
2027 Pledged	\$22,850.00	\$0.00	\$22,850.00		
Total	\$151,700.00	\$68,450.00	\$83,250.00		

Year-to-date: April 7, 2025.

Checking Balance \$16,269.12

Income—

Actual. \$43,404.52

Budget. \$169,239.39

Percent. 25.65%

Expenses—

Actual. \$52,981.91

Budget. \$207,811.89

Percent. 25.5%

Notes:

1. Transferred from memorial to checking to pay for file cabinet, \$1,353.65
2. Paid quarterly building insurance premium, \$2,003.50
3. Noisy Coin Offering paid to Holt International, \$167.21
4. Paid Dubuque Seminary donation, \$500
5. Received memorial for Shirley Russ, from John & Sue Russ, placed in memorial fund, \$1,500
6. Paid Camp Bear Creek annual pledge, \$1,000
7. Received donation for Camp & Conference, \$50
8. Paid PEIA for Unified Mission Pledge, \$600
9. Received interest check from Lean Marugg Fund, placed in emergency fund, \$524.50



Attendance

	Worship	SS
March 30	61	10
April 6	49	9
April 13 Palm/Confirmation	50	8
April 20 Easter	115	11