

# 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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## Fixer-uppers

Summer is peak time for home renovations and remodeling projects. Those can be super stressful, starting with the selection of a contractor.

In a blog about her own family's construction plans, Laura Elliott explains the challenge: "It's not just any builder I want. I want one who has impeccable workmanship, is completely trustworthy and delivers our long-awaited [projects] early and under-budget." After sifting through bids and reviews, she discovered that most builders "look like they do pretty similar work for a pretty similar price."



For spiritual renovations, however, the choice is clear. "God is the builder of everything," says Hebrews 3:4 (NIV). Elliott writes, "Jesus is not only the *builder* of His Father's house, but He is the *buyer*, and the *heir* as well." And what he's building, she adds, is "a better Bride," his church.

Faith upgrades are an ongoing, lifelong process. "The renewal of our natures is a work of great importance," said 18th-century minister George Whitefield. "It is not to be done in a day. We have not only a new house to build up, but an old one to pull down." It's a good thing God oversees this project!

—Stephanie Martin

**See page 3 for our very own "fixer-upper" update here at First Presbyterian Church!...**

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### Pastor:

Pastor Bill Warhover  
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pastor@fpcmonticello.org

### Office:

Administrator: Mackenzie Kahler  
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### Treasurer:

Dan Saunders

### Worship:

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.  
Join us on FaceBook  
livestream for worship each  
Sunday.

### Social Media:

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

I'm just back from spending a week at Camp Bear Creek. As chaplain at camp, my work is to lead the staff's Bible study each day and prepare a 5-minute message to be shared at evening worship. That is ...if we don't count the relational work of just being a part of the camp community. That part had me sharing meals, shooting archery, going to Central Park, hiking at Maquoketa Caves, painting (it was beautiful), climbing the climbing tower, riding down the zip line, swimming in the pool, dancing, singing, playing, getting drenched during paint wars as well as just being available to talk, affirm, and encourage campers and staff. (Thanks for the continued support of the ministry at Camp Bear Creek. You are doing good work there.)

After the week at camp I was tired. And this week is VBS!

In my tiredness, I am reminded of this verse from Paul to the church in Galatia. *"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."*

I, like you all, grow tired of doing good. There is always some other 'good' thing that is demanding my resources and my energy. This happens even at church where are always asking people to help, to do, to lead.

I can't imagine anything more 'good' than being with children and youth, reminding them that they are loved by God and that they are, above everything, good. I can't imagine anything more 'good' than seeing the giftedness and patience of those that volunteer at VBS. I can't imagine anything more 'good' than being a part of a group of people that believe that we are called to live differently in Jesus Christ...But at times, I grow tired.

*Let's not get tired of doing what is good...* Paul writes. The same Paul who also reminds us that 'we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.'

Thank you for all the good you do!

Pastor Bill



## Window Renovations Are Happening None Too Soon

FPC Capital Projects 2024-2027

July 27, 2025			Initial Payment Phase 1 & 2	Start Work Payment Phase 1	Start Work Payment Phase 2	Completion Payment	Total Payment
<i>Expense</i>			<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>Funds Expensed</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>	<i>FUNDS EXPENSED</i>
Sanctuary Windows All	\$130,000.00		\$32,218.00	\$11,896.75			\$44,114.75
Solar Project	\$110,250.00				\$10,700.00	\$96,300.00	\$107,000.00
Min I Splits w/ Electric	\$25,000.00				\$12,678.39	\$11,181.04	\$23,859.43
Kitchen Floor	\$10,000.00						\$0.00
Contingency	\$24,750.00		\$2,353.00	\$1,167.77			\$3,520.77
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,000.00</b>		<b>\$34,571.00</b>	<b>\$13,064.52</b>	<b>\$23,378.39</b>	<b>\$107,481.04</b>	<b>\$178,494.95</b>
<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	\$152,800.00		\$81,500.00			\$81,500.00	
Federal Cash Incentive/Solar	\$33,000.00						
PILP Loan			\$111,331.00			\$12,678.00	
<b>Total Committed</b>	<b>\$255,800.00</b>		<b>\$204,727.75</b>			<b>\$26,232.80</b>	<b>Total Cash On Hand</b>
<b>\$ Yet to Raise</b>	<b>\$44,200.00</b>						
			<i>PLEDGES RECEIVED</i>		<i>Outstanding</i>		
2024 Pledged	\$25,500.00		\$25,500.00		\$0.00		
2025 Pledged	\$70,600.00		\$56,000.00		\$14,600.00		
2026 Pledged	\$33,850.00		\$0.00		\$33,850.00		
2027 Pledged	\$22,850.00		\$0.00		\$22,850.00		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$152,800.00</b>		<b>\$81,500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$71,300.00</b>		
<b>Explanation</b>	Contingency money used so far is loan closing amount & interest				<b>\$3,520.77</b>		



## Thanks for helping out! Sunday School Teachers/Helpers

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

We, First Presbyterian Church, have envisioned being a place where all of us are empowered to live out our faith in our daily lives. One of the ways we work to empower each other is through our Sunday Schools.

Sunday Schools are offered for all ages from September through May. While the formats are a little different from age group to age group, the need is basically the same. We need people who will lead the lesson each week and helpers to assist the leader.

For all the classes, materials are provided so that the lesson is fairly easy to prepare for and has step by step suggestions in presenting the material. Each week might take 30-60 minutes to prepare. On Sunday morning, teachers and helpers need to arrive about 10 minutes before 8:30 am (unless you have things for the lesson that need to be set up prior to the children arriving). The class time normally runs for an hour (8:30-9:30 am).

Teachers and helpers need to be background check, if you not already been. The process is simple. We just have you fill out the information on the release form and the office to send to the company who performs these checks for us.

Let Pastor Bill, Lisa Keltner, Anita Benedict, Karen Anderson, Vickie Bone, or Pam Mayo know if you have questions or would like to be a part of this important ministry.

Thanks for doing your part!

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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 7**. Join us for:

**8:30 a.m. Sunday school, (3 years old through adult!)**

**9:30 a.m. Fellowship**

**10:00 a.m. Worship**





Enjoy the **FREE Community Picnic** (3rd Annual) on Back to School Night, Thursday, August 21, from 5-7 pm. Located by the United Church of Monticello, 123 N Chestnut St, the picnic is planned for our community to come together for food and conversation and to celebrate the star of a new school year.

We welcome volunteers from the community; they can sign up on the computer at: <https://bit.ly/2025freepicnic> or by calling or emailing Janet Martin, 319-480-0699, or Janet.martin29@gmail.com. Help is needed: baking chocolate chip cookies and delivering them to the picnic, serving food and drinks, moving supplies and food, clearing tables and talking with the guests, replenishing drinks, and cleaning up after the picnic.



**Community VBS**—The third annual Monticello Community VBS is taking place this week. We pray for the kids, leaders and volunteers that this week is fun, safe, and successful. Registration finished out at 125 kids! Wow! Thank you to all that donated resources, their time or financially. It truly does take a village!



## Solar Savings \$\$

In July 2024, our electric bill was \$837.00. This year's July bill was \$81, thanks to the new solar panels installed as a part of the building projects/capital campaign. Since the solar came on line in May, we have saved \$1,733.00! Thanks for your support of this campaign!

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*Scholarship Committee,*

**Thank you** for giving me your scholarship. It will help pay for college expenses next year at Kirkwood.

Carson Lambert

*thank  
you!*

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**Thank you** to *Jerry Pasker* for the donation of his time, knowledge, and equipment. You may have noticed the wifi in the Fellowship Hall hasn't been working the past couple of weeks. Jerry was able to isolate the issue to the router, which he then replaced with his own equipment. Thanks for getting us back online, Jerry!

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## Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community on Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm, and Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm. Donations can be taken at this time as well.

***If you have any extra produce from your gardens this summer, we would love to share your donation with a family in need. Fresh produce should be dropped off a half hour prior to pantry hours to ensure fresh quality to our clients.***

***Thank you!***



Other needs include: **canned fruit, cream soups, instant oatmeal-individual packets.** Gift cards to local grocers are always welcome!



♦ **Congratulations to Parker & Melissa Shakespeare**, who were married in this sanctuary on June 27th. God's richest blessings as they start their new life together.

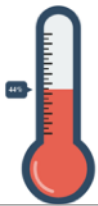
♦ **Repair work on the sanctuary windows began mid-July.** Glass Heritage is be addressing issues with the window frames, scraping and repainting the frames, and placing a protective covering over the windows. Thank you for your patience as we work to restore.

♦ **Noisy Coin offering** received Sunday, June 29, brought in **\$128.51**. This went directly to Community VBS. Thank you to all that helped make the day noisy!

♦ Congratulations to **Lisa and Mick Adams on their 30th Anniversary!**

♦ **\$15,000 was transferred from the New Covenant Endowment Fund to the regular checking account to meet the ongoing regular church expenses.** This was approved by Session in June.

GOAL: \$6,212



The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,212, although we have received only **44.44%** 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!

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount



Lorraine Haag Wellington, Decorah

Barb Null Anamosa CC

Marge Stubbe Corridor, CR

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

August 3: Dan, Janie & Jackson Saunders and Jasper, Eli & Amelia Scott

August 10: Parker & Melissa Shakespeare and Laisee Shakespeare

August 17: Scott & Barb Slater and Don & Kim Smith

August 24: Bruce & Lisa Smith and Eden Smith

August 31: Kaylee Stephen and Roger Stephen

**Presbyterian Pie Service** – The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to fill the pie desires of the community. Consider a pie for your next potluck or get-together.

If you would like to place an order or check our stock, call

**Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).**



## Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you! **800-324-9458** and use code: **HABC001**



**Life Line** will once again hold a screening event in our building **Thursday, August 21**. A limited number of complementary vouchers have been provided to us as a courtesy. If you are interested in a voucher, please contact Mackenzie at the church office by phone (319-465-3393), or by email ([office@fpcmanticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmanticello.org)).



June 29  
July 6  
July 13  
July 20  
July 27

### Worship

44  
29  
35  
34  
35

Year-to-date: June 30, 2025.

**Checking Balance \$8,330.38**

#### **Income—**

Actual. \$75,715.30  
Budget. \$169,239.39  
Percent. 43.56%

#### **Expenses—**

Actual. \$94,749.28  
Budget. \$207,811.89  
Percent. 45.59%

#### **Notes:**

1. Made second loan payment. \$406.45
2. Received Noisy Coin Offering for VBS. \$128.51
3. Balance VBS carried forward from last year. \$280  
That added to our VBS income this year brings VBS balance to: \$493.51
4. Paid start phase one windows project. \$11,896.75