
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.*



Honoring the Gift of Work

The Bible affirms both the value and dignity of work. From the beginning, God placed Adam in the garden “to work it and keep it” (Genesis 2:15, ESV). In the fourth commandment, we are reminded not only to observe the Sabbath, but also to labor diligently throughout the week: “Six days you shall labor, and do all your work” (Exodus 20:9, ESV).

Work is more than a routine obligation; it is an opportunity to engage our God-given abilities in meaningful ways. Whether using our hands, minds, or hearts, we reflect the image of our Creator—bringing order, care, and creativity into the world.

Our labor allows us to contribute to the common good, find personal fulfillment, and practice faithful stewardship of the talents and strengths God has entrusted to us. As Paul writes, “We are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9, ESV).

On this Labor Day, may we take time to recognize the blessing of work and celebrate those who serve, build, teach, lead, and labor with purpose and care.

—Author unknown

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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. 8
See you then!

PASTOR'S Ponderings

In September, we are going to start using what is known as the Narrative Lectionary to guide the scripture readings that are shared in worship. The Narrative Lectionary was developed in 2010 by two professors at Luther Seminary.

The intention of the Narrative Lectionary is to help people hear the salvation story from creation to the new church by reading across the breadth of the Bible over the course of each year. (It is a four-year cycle.) The Narrative Lectionary focuses more on telling a comprehensive story (Old Testament to New Testament), where the Revised Common Lectionary often is more topical.

Here is a brief overview of the Narrative Lectionary's approach.

- **September–mid-December:** Readings begin with Creation and move through the history of Israel, covering the Patriarchs, Exodus, Kings, Prophets, Exile, and Return.
- **Christmas–Easter:** The lectionary focuses on a sustained, sequential reading of one of the four Gospels each year within a four-year cycle.
- **Easter–Pentecost:** Readings are selected from the book of Acts and the letters of Paul.

I think it is going to be a good way for us to hear scripture in new ways, and my hope is that it will nurture our faith and life so that we will be equipped for the living of our Christian faith.

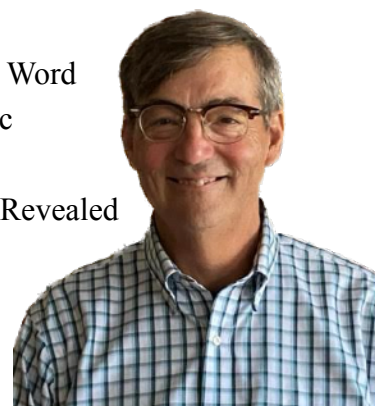
If you can't be in church or join us on FaceBook live stream, you can follow along by reading the passages of the Narrative Lectionary assigned for each week.

Narrative Lectionary, September 2025

September 7	Genesis 1:1-2:4a	Creation by the Word
September 14	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Binding of Isaac
September 21	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23, 28:10-17	Jacob's Dream
September 28	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17	God's Name is Revealed

Praying our faith may grow in small ways and large ways.

Pastor Bill





Camp Wyoming Presentation!

Join us on **Sunday, September 7, for the 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.

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



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 or 319-202-4977.



Church offices will be closed, Monday, September 1, 2025, 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!

Pastor Bill will be gone on vacation September 12-21. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact elders-on-call, Jim Anderson, or Lisa Adams.

MMA's Community VBS a SUCESS!

The 3rd annual MMA Community VBS had 133 children registered and over 63 volunteer helpers. On Tuesday and Wednesday, we had 125 children show up. It was a fun and active week at VBS where we dove deep to learn how we can trust in Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and need help.

Thanks to all who made the week a success. If you volunteered and showed up, helped with the meal, if you donated food or money, helped decorate or cleaned up THANK YOU.



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.

Building Projects - Sanctuary Windows Update

The work on the sanctuary windows began in July and continued through August. As the craftspeople from Glass Heritage got into the work on the large windows on the west side of the sanctuary, they discovered more damage to the wood framing than they expected and found that the leading that connects the pieces of glass in the lower 2/3rds of the windows would need to be refurbished. In August, Session approved a change order to address the issues with the framing and approved Glass Heritage's proposal for the restoration of those panels needing work. The cost for this additional work is \$26,643, including taxes. The cost will exceed the contingency moneys that had been budgeted for the projects. Session will be discussing how to cover these additional cost in the months to come.

Glass Heritage will be removing those glass panels in the next month or so and taking them to their shop in the Quad Cities. The plan will be to start restoration in November or December and for the windows to be replaced in January or February of 2026. The congregation is invited to visit Glass Heritage's renovation shop during the restoration.

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?' Give them a bulletin, and let 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 the 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 any hymnals or Bibles back 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 this 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.

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I want to sincerely thank you for awarding me the Dale L. Streif, Edward H. & Margaret E. Cox, Mary Louise Helen's, Phil & Ione Himebaugh, and Virginia & Clarence Hosford Memorial Scholarships. Your generosity and support throughout my life means so much to me as I continue my education. I am truly grateful for the encouragement and investment all of you have made in my future. I thank you again, **Meredith Parker**



Scholarship Committee,

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

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:

Cold cereals (not Cheerios)

Pasta

Canned fruit



THANK YOU!! to our Presbyterian Pie Committee for their generous donation of \$6,000 to the General Fund!

If you need a pie, please contact them at the number(s) listed below!

Presbyterian Pie Service

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.



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.**

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!

Lisa Adams

Jim Anderson

Vickie Bone

Bill Gilkerson

Sherri Neofotist

Jeff Parker

Kris Read

Jared Willms

Grant Gassman, youth

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 7: Kevin & Gayle Stanley, and Marge Stubbe.

September 14: Jodi Suthers, and Riley Takes.

September 21: Robyn Takes, and John & Stacey Takes.

September 28: Dave & Joann Warner, and Jared, Bobby, Carter, and Reagan Willms.

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Lambert



Lorraine Haag Wellington, Decorah

Barb Null Anamosa CC

Marj Stubbe Corridor, CR

August 2025 — Session Report

- Motion was approved for new printer lease with Office Machine Consultants. (See attached proposal).
- Motion was approved to change order for contracted work with Glass Heritage.



August 3, UC joint	approx 55
August 10	28
August 17	42
August 24	42

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
Total	\$300,000.00		\$34,571.00	\$13,064.52	\$23,378.39	\$107,481.04	\$178,494.95
<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	
Total Committed	\$255,800.00		\$204,727.75			\$26,232.80	Total Cash On Hand
\$ Yet to Raise	\$44,200.00						
			<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		
Total	\$152,800.00		\$81,500.00	\$0.00	\$71,300.00		
Explanation	Contingency money used so far is loan closing amount & interest				\$3,520.77		

Financial Report-Summary
Yr to Date Aug 4, 2025

By Danny C Saunders, Church Treasurer
Checking Balance \$31,991.22

Income Budgeted	\$169,239.39	Expense Budgeted	\$207,811.89
Income Actual	\$98,902.80	Expense Actual	\$114,478.50
% Actual vs Budget	58.44%	% Actual vs Budget	55.09%



Notes:

- Transferred from New Covenant Endowment Fund to checking to cover bills, \$15,000.
- Received from Pie Committee Ladies, to checking. THANK YOU! \$6,000.
- Received from Lena Marugg interest, deposited to Emergency Fund, \$524.50.
- Received quarterly interest from Presbyterian Foundation Funds, \$10,908.77.
- Received quarterly interest from funds accounts, Peter Smith, \$110.38, to checking, and Harriet Hintz, \$73.03, to Memorial Fund.
- Paid annual insurance premium for work comp, \$1,125, and quarterly insurance premium for building/liability, \$2,550.50.