

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.*

Just Show Up

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to “show up as you are with what you’ve been given,” we must confront these statements:

- I’m not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It’s a waste of time.
- It’s too much work.
- Who do you think you are?



“A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world,” Freeman writes.

Noisy Coin offering received Sunday, August 31, brought in **\$105.30**. This will all go directly to **PC(USA)’s Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**. Thank you to all that helped make the day noisy!

The Monticello Food Pantry thanks you for your generous donation!

Dear First Presbyterian Members,

Thank you for helping those in our community who need help providing daily food needs for themselves and their families. We appreciate the gift of **\$231.21**, from the **Noisy Coin offering** in conjunction with United Church. The summer service offering was very helpful in serving our neighbors in need.

Pastor's {Ponderings}

I hope you got to see the September 10th article in the Monticello Express on the sanctuary window restoration. Nick Joos did a nice job writing the article. In it, Roger Benedict shared some of the windows' history, and Adrian English of Glass Heritage talked about the technical aspects of the windows and the work that was being done. The article also talked about the expense of the undertaking. At this point, we (the congregation) have committed to spending almost \$165,000 on this project.

Unlike the Solar Project (\$107,000), or the Mini-splits installed in the Education Building (\$24,000), there is no real return on investment on the windows. If we just wanted to maintain the building, we could have had them stained glass replaced with colored glass and metal frames for less costs. Why did we decide to invest so much in those windows?

Rev. Zen Hess in a Christian Century article writes about the investment in beauty that churches make. "What is our building beautiful for?" He asks. "How does God use the beauty of our sanctuary in the work of sanctifying his people?"

Rev Hess goes on to talk about how beauty expands our souls instead of depleting them. How "God uses the beauty of place to open our minds and hearts for an encounter with something beyond us, something holy or sacred." Beauty transforms us. Beauty inspires us. Beauty brings comfort and hope, Hess implies.

"The big west window inspires awe," Roger Benedict said in the Express story. "When the sun hits, it is beautiful."

I guess this is what makes it worth every penny.

"One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after...to behold the beauty of the Lord,..." Psalm 27:4

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill will be gone on **Study Leave** in Colorado **Monday, October 6 through Friday, October 10**. If a pastoral need should arise while Pastor Bill is gone, please contact elder *Jim Anderson* or *Lisa Adams*.



Pastor
Bill Warhover
319-202-4977

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Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler
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Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.
Sunday school
8:30 a.m.
Fellowship 9:30 a.m.



**Dementia
Friends
Iowa**

A Dementia Friendly America initiative



**Join a growing movement
of people like you who are
helping fellow community
members live with dementia.**

**Become a
Dementia
Friend!**

You become a Dementia Friend by attending a one-hour informational session to learn about living with dementia, and the simple things you can do to support someone living with the disease.

What Happens at the Information Session?

The free one-hour session is a discussion led by a Dementia Friends Champion. It is not a training session. You'll learn some basics of dementia such as what dementia is, what it's like to live with the disease, and some tips for communicating with people who have dementia. Everyone who attends is asked to turn their new understanding of dementia into a practical action that can help someone living in your community. The action can be as big or as small as you choose—every action counts!

Remember...

You don't need to be a dementia expert or know someone with dementia to become a Dementia Friend. After you attend the session, you decide about becoming a Dementia Friend.

Sign up today!

Date:

Time:

Location:

Register or learn more:

Dementia Friends is a global movement that is changing the way people think, act, and talk about dementia. Developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom, the Dementia Friends initiative is underway in Iowa and across the United States. By helping everyone in a community understand what dementia is and how it affects families, each of us can make a difference for people touched by dementia. Dementia Friends Iowa is administered by the Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging and the Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging.

Supported by



Don't forget to join us **Wednesday, October 22nd 4:30-7 pm**, for **FPC's Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar** fundraiser. We will be serving baked potatoes with all of the fixings. This is a fundraiser to support sending our youth to camp at no cost to the camper. Grab a delicious meal and help support our youth!



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.

CROP Walk - Sunday, October 12 @ 2pm

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 12 @ 2 pm, starting at the Wapsipinicon State Park (meeting at the 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 12th, 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 the end of October .

If you would like to join me in walking on October 12, 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.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

We appreciate you, Pastor Bill!



BEAR CREEK UPDATE

1. We had 585 campers this summer. That was a 4.7% increase compared to last summer. 22% of our campers this year had no church affiliation. 30% of campers came from Presbyterian churches, 11% from Catholic churches, 13% from Community/Non-Denominational churches, 7% from Methodist churches, and 6% from Lutheran. The remaining 11% came from UCC, Episcopalian, Baptist, or other mainstream denominations. Our top five churches as it relates to sending kids to camp were 1) West Liberty First Church United – 28 kids; 2) Bettendorf Presbyterian – 19 kids; 3) Dubuque Grandview United Methodist – 18 kids; 4) Marion First Presbyterian – 15 kids; and 5) Davenport Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church – 11 kids.
2. We had 28 summer staff this year. 6 were former campers, 3 were former staff, 6 were both former campers and staff, 1 was a former volunteer, and 12 had no affiliation with Camp Bear Creek before the summer. We had a very diverse staff this summer in culture, geography, and race. 9 individuals on our summer staff were minorities or biracial and 5 of them spoke at least one other language fluently. They came from many different places including Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Virginia, Wisconsin, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand and Nigeria. Overall, they were a very supportive and encouraging group of young people with a heart for mission and service.
3. The following were a few comments that were shared by parents in their evaluations of the camp:
 - “Every year, our daughters return home with amazing stories, each time sharing something new they've learned and are eager to tell. The joy, growth, and faith they bring back with them speak volumes about the heart and mission of this camp.”
 - “Watching Cooper at pick up closing ceremony he was singing and doing the motions to the songs. This isn't something he usually does. He also brought back a new table prayer :)”
 - “He was able to discuss very openly about the theme and passages and even expressed how connected he was during one session that it brought him to tears.”
 - “All of the outside noise disappears at camp. It's a chance to be intentional about your faith and spend time in fellowship with other Christians.”
 - “She comes back rejuvenated and talking more about Jesus, her faith, her experience, she loves the songs and what she learns. It is always a positive experience for her.”
 - “They are excited about church and are listening to worship music.”
4. We have \$3,050,000 pledged towards our *Forward Together* Capital Campaign. We have reached our \$3 Million goal and are aiming to achieve our \$4 Million Stretch Goal. Thank you to everyone who has supported the camp. We are at an amazing place and we could not do it without your support and prayers.
5. Our new zipline was installed in time for our summer camp program. It is an exciting and fun addition to the camp program. We also purchased new tables and chairs for our Dining Hall and two lodges. Finally, we purchased a new copier. We will install new windows in our Dining Hall and Whippoorwill Lodge this Fall. The current windows are original (1965) and have served us very well.
6. We celebrated our 65th Anniversary during Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend. They were both fun events where churches and alumni came to camp to connect with the camp and each other.

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 serve 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. They sometimes arrange for flowers to be taken to the home bound or nursing home members.

Both of these jobs take a commitment. Elders and Deacons normally serve 3 year terms and are meeting at least once a month. But they don't do this alone. They are joined by a group of others committed to leading or caring and by many members of the congregation who pitch in to help because this is how the church works and how it works best when we all use our gifts/talents together.

Food Pantry

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 25.

Our current needs include: **cereals (not Cheerios), canned meat (not tuna), and canned fruit.**

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!

Narrative Lectionary Text for October:

October 5	Exodus 16:1-18
October 12	1 Samuel 3:1-21
October 19	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14
October 26	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13





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).

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. 📧



Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag
Wellington Pl/Decorah

Barb Null
Anamosa CC

Marj Stubbe
Corridor/Cedar Rapids



ATTENDANCE

	Worship	SS
August 31	34	-
September 7	67	14
September 14	52	11
September 21	55	14

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 5: Tom & Diane Yeoman and Betty Yount

October 12: Lisa & Mick Adams and Helen Alden

October 19: Jim & Karen Anderson and Roger & Anita Benedict

October 26: Christopher, Sarah, Kennedy, Brooklyn & Wyatt Bone and Erin Bone

Praying
FOR You

Session Highlights - September 10, 2025

- Approve use of facility for Republican Party Caucus on Monday, February 2, from 4-9pm. They might use sanctuary, overflow room, and fellowship hall. No conflicts noted on the calendar for that night. This was approved by the Session.
- Approve the change of October Session Meeting date from 10/8 to 10/1. This was also approved by the Session.

FPC Capital Projects 2024-2027

Sep 21, 2025					Initial Payment Phase 1 & 2	Start Work Payment Phase 1	Start Work Phase One Restoration	Initial Payment Phase Two	Start Work Payment Phase 2	Completion Payment	Total Payment
Expense					FUNDS EXPENSED	Funds Expensed	Funds Expensed	Funds Expensed	FUNDS EXPENSED	FUNDS EXPENSED	FUNDS EXPENSED
	Phase One Including Project Change	Phase One Restoration	Phase Two	Sanctuary Windows All							\$0.00
Sanctuary Windows All	\$51,487.00	\$21,000.00	\$81,285.00	\$153,772.00	\$11,896.75	\$11,896.75	\$10,500.00	\$20,321.25			\$54,614.75
Tax	\$3,604.09	\$1,470.00	\$5,689.95	\$10,764.04							\$0.00
Sanctuary Windows Complete	\$55,091.09	\$22,470.00	\$86,974.95	\$164,536.04							\$0.00
Solar Project	\$107,000.00								\$10,700.00	\$96,300.00	\$107,000.00
Min I Splits w/ Electric	\$23,859.43								\$12,678.39	\$11,181.04	\$23,859.43
Kitchen Floor	\$8,553.79										\$0.00
Contingency	\$24,750.00			\$500.00	\$2,353.00	\$1,990.51					\$4,843.51
Total	\$328,699.26				\$14,249.75	\$13,887.26	\$10,500.00	\$20,321.25	\$23,378.39	\$107,481.04	\$190,317.69
Income					FUNDS RECEIVED					Cash On Hand	
Commitment From Endowments/ Memorial Fund	\$70,000.00				\$11,896.75					\$58,103.25	
Commitment From Congregation	\$152,800.00				\$82,800.00					\$82,800.00	
Federal Cash Incentive/Solar	\$32,100.00										
PILP Loan					\$111,331.00		Total Owed for Windows			\$12,678.00	
Total Committed	\$254,900.00				\$206,027.75		\$109,921.29			\$15,710.06	Total Cash On Hand
\$ Yet to Raise	\$73,799.26										



Financial Report Summary Submitted by Danny C Saunders, Treasurer Year-to-Date, September 8, 2025 Checking Balance \$22,964.28

Income, Budgeted \$169,239.39

Expense, Budgeted \$207,811.89

Income, Actual \$104,901.24

Expense, Actual \$130,866.92

% Actual vs Budget 61.98%

% Actual vs Budget 62.97%

Notes: *Paid August and September interest on PILP loan, \$411.37 each month

*Paid Glass Heritage for Phase One restoration of west window, \$10,500.00

*Paid CPS for electronic filing of solar credit with IRS. No news to date. \$500.00

*Paid for AED defibrillator from Dr Fisher; money came from Memorial account. \$1,850.00