



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.*



GIVING THANKS FOR ALL THINGS

It's easy to list the blessings in life: good health, family, a satisfying career, a comfortable home. We might even be thankful for things others take for granted such as freedom and clean drinking water, reliable transportation and food enough to eat. Then there are the little things, such as gardens, sunrises, pets and coffee.

But what about life's storms or unanswered prayers? Should we be thankful for these?

Loss and hardship remind us of our dependence on God. He uses trials to draw us closer to him, to show us that He is our rock and refuge. In misfortune and grief, we discover God's comfort and strength. Should we not, then, be thankful for the storms, too?

We will host an **Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, Sunday, November 23, at 6:30pm, here at First Presbyterian Church**, with fellowship to follow. An **Ecumenical Choir** will sing as part of the service. Everyone is welcome to join this choir. They will meet at 5:00pm to rehearse and then sing during the service. Please plan to join the community in giving thanks!

Note: The Deacons will be providing fellowship after the service. If anyone would like to donate bars for this event, we would appreciate it.



Pastor's {Ponderings}

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."
--Meister Elkhart

What are you thankful for as you get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving?

Your health maybe? Or maybe your family? Or possibly a roof over your head and food on the table?

While the American tradition of thanksgiving comes from many places in our past, like that first thanksgiving when the New England Pilgrims shared a harvest meal with the native Wampanoag people, our modern celebration of Thanksgiving was born in the midst of our Civil War. In 1863, after years of fighting and horrendous losses of life and limb, President Lincoln signed a proclamation declaring, "the last Thursday of November next as a Day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens."

What are you thankful for?

A lot feels unsettled this year. As I write this, the government is shut down and the sides don't seem to be interested in talking to each other. Political violence is on an upward trend. People, even within families, have quit talking to each other over their political views. While the stock market has gone up, it feels for many their purchasing power has gone down. The Food Pantry Steering Committee is trying to figure out how to feed people if November SNAP benefits don't go out.

What are you thankful for?

As I write, I am aware that some of you have had challenges with your health or the health of a loved one, or that some of you are grieving the death of a loved one.

What are you thankful for?

Saint Paul, experienced a lot of difficulties and challenges as an apostle. In spite of these things, it seems that he was always encouraging people to be thankful and to give thanks to God. It seemed like a way for Paul and others to reframe their perspective on life, to be thankful even when things weren't the best, or when difficulties were piling up, or even when they had just been run over by life. "...in all things give thanks."

"If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough."
--Meister Elkhart

In thankfulness for you all, Pastor Bill

PASTOR
Bill Warhover

Mobile 319-202-4977
pastor@fpcmonticello.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
Mackenzie Kahler

Office 319-465-3393
office@fpcmonticello.org

TREASURER
Dan Saunders

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 27 and 28**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Bill on his mobile phone at 319-202-4977.

A **meeting of the congregation** will be held following worship on **Sunday, November 9th**, for the purpose of electing church officers.



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.



This Veterans’ Day, we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, including veterans and members of First Presbyterian Church (printed with permission):

Roger Benedict | Dennis Gray | Glen King
Larry Lamont | Curt Mayo | Dan Saunders

****If we have missed you, please accept our sincerest apologies. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our list!**



You are invited to help decorate our church for the Christmas season after our worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 30th**. 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!

Jones County Moms is a place for moms to feel the support of other moms as they navigate the experiences of motherhood in this sometimes crazy world. Meetings include faith-based devotion at the start of each meeting, programs, a speaker or craft, and child care for the children provided by older mom volunteers from area churches. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from 9am to 11 am. If schools are delayed or canceled due to inclement weather, Jones County Moms is cancelled.



Help us spread the news: Beginning in November, Food Pantry will be held on Mondays, 5-7 pm (same as always), and Thursdays (previously Fridays), from 2-4 pm. Thank you!

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 24
5 pm - 7 pm

**CLOSED: Thursday,
November 27**

OPEN: Monday,
December 1
5 pm - 7 pm

Current food pantry needs include: Cereal (not Cheerios), sugar and flour.



PROGRAM PRACTICE

Please mark your calendars! The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented Sunday, December 14th, during the 10:00 am worship service (inclement weather date, December 21st). Christmas program practice will begin Nov. 30th, 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.

Thanksgiving Day, November 27
DELIVERY & CARRY OUT ONLY!
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED



Reservations must be made by Mon. , Nov. 24

- TO REQUEST A MEAL FOR DELIVERY OR PICK-UP—Please call 319-465-3219 by Mon., Nov. 24, and leave a message and your phone number. (There is no charge for this Community Meal.)
- TO VOLUNTEER — Please call 319-465-3219, and leave a message and your phone number.
- TO MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, you may drop it off at Citizens State Bank in Monticello or mail a check to—Terry Feeling , c/o (TCD),15736 120th Ave • Scotch Grove, IA 52310

Noisy Coin Offering in November

On **Sunday, November 30**, we will be having a Noisy Coin Offering as a part of worship.

Traditionally Noisy Coin Offerings are where people bring their loose change to contribute to a special cause. In November, that cause will be **MMA's Neighbors Helping Neighbors**. MMA's Neighbors Helping Neighbors program provides financial assistance: **for individuals and/or families with rent and utility bills, and stranded and transient travelers' assistance with food, gas, or shelter guided by our Monticello Police Officers.**

Funds are also used to help pay gas for individuals with medical appointments in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, or Dubuque and reimburse mental health service for individuals unable afford co-payments or annual deductibles.

As part of Holiday on 1st, Above and Beyond Hospice sponsors a **Luminary Tribute** as a way to honor and remember loved ones. The event takes place on December 13th, from 4 to 7 pm. The luminaries will be placed, weather permitting, outside the library near the parking lot.

Anyone who would like is invited to decorate a bag in memory of a loved one and drop it off at the Above and Beyond office to be included in the luminary walk. Bags will be available in Monticello and Anamosa area churches and select area businesses after the first week of November. Questions may be directed to David Wise at 319-465-3059.



Luminaria

Narrative Lectionary Text for November:

November 2	1 Kings 19:1-18
November 9	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24
November 16	Isaiah 9:1-7
November 23	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14
November 30	Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30



Care & Share



Our congregation will once again participate in HACAP's Care & Share Christmas program. The Deacons have received word from HACAP and will support six (6) "adopted" children and their families this year. Cash donations are welcome at any time. Please mark donations "Care and Share." Watch for updates in our weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and 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!

Christmas Eve Schedule - Please make plans to join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, **Wednesday, December 24th, at 6pm.**



The Christian Ed Committee is very happy to share that they made **\$1,703** at the **Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser**. This is up over \$275 from last year. There were 101 adults served and 19 children, for a total of 120 served. Thank you to everyone that contributed and participated in this event!

BEAR CREEK

Congratulations to Camp Bear Creek for reaching \$3 Million in their capital campaign. The campaign will continue to raise \$4 million to address all of the needs of the campaign.

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.

Reminder: Set your
clocks back as
daylight savings
time ends

Sunday, November 2



Meredith Parker
Taylor Gassman
Jase Reinke

Kylie Bauer
Carson Lambert



Be sure to vote!
Election Day, **November 4**

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



Confirmation class meets **each**
Wednesday from 1:15 pm-2:30 pm.
Classes will meet Nov. 5 (3:15pm), 12, and 19,
Nov. 26- NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break

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).**



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 2: Jim & Vickie Bone and Mark Bone

November 9: Pat Bonjour and James Bruns

November 16: Tammy, Marcella, Charles, & Lillian Bruns and Phyllis Campbell

November 23: Jamie, Jaxon, & Cohen Chappell and Jill Cheney

November 30: Mike, Alexis, Amelia, & Isabel Corbin and Barbara Decker



Evalena Lang
Doug Mettler
Betty Yount



Lorraine Haag
Wellington/Decorah
Barb Null Anamosa CC
Marj Stubbe Corridor/CR



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.



Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Kay McNally, mother of Mike McNally, who died Monday, October 13.

Session Highlights - 1 October 2025

Session Minutes are to be reviewed by Presbytery.

Assignment of November 30th's Noisy Coin Offering: MMA's Neighbor Helping Neighbor program, Approved.

Capital Campaign/Building Projects--November 2025

Congregation Giving Funds.	\$83,350.00
Loan Funds.	\$111,331.00
Endowm/Memorial Funds.	\$11,896.75
Total	\$206,577.75
Expenditures.	\$190,715.80-
Cash on Hand.	\$15,861.95
\$\$ Yet to Raise.	\$75,550.00

Please remember to get your 2025 Capital Campaign pledges in before the end of the year. If circumstances have changed for you since you made your pledge and you won't be able to, please let Dan Saunders or Pastor Bill know.



OFFERING & FINANCIALS

Income—year-to-date: Sept 28, 2025

Actual.	\$111,877.01
Budget.	\$169,239.39
Percent.	66.11%

Expenses

Actual.	\$153,269.10
Budget.	\$207,811.89
Percent.	73.75%



ATTENDANCE:

Week of:	Worship	Sunday School
Sept 28	33	11
Oct 5	60	15
Oct 12	44	7
Oct 19	44	7

