

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.*

A Purposeful New Year

The man who goes into the new year without some priorities governing his life and without some principles guiding his behavior, is prey to the tempting, unimportant and destructive things in life.



The new year is an opportunity to sort out the useless tasks and plan for the important; to review the failures and resolve to be successful; to take an inventory of causes and pledge life to purpose and service. These being done, the new will truly be new, different and better.

CHURCH OFFICE

Church offices will be **CLOSED Wednesday, December 24 through Saturday, January 3** in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

As always, if you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977. Happy Holidays!



Pastor's {Ponderings}

I am wondering what this new year will bring...

There is something about the beginning of a new year that has us pause, take stock of where things are, and make plans for what we hope will be in the new year. You will do this, won't you?

For Donna and I, the last year has been a mixed bag. Mom died. We transitioned away from farming. We reconnected with a daughter and three grandchildren who had been estranged. Donna was full time at her town job, and we welcomed new farmers into our space. Our health has been good over the last year, for which we are thankful. We (both Donna and I) continue to find meaningful ways to be with people in both our lives and our work. I guess to sum it up, things continue to change, always.

Each of us have our own story as we look back on the last year.

As I think to the new year, I don't find myself hoping for something new as much as hoping to continue in the journey that has already begun. I hope to be honest about the realities of aging, both the limitations and the opportunities. I hope to be with family in ways that strengthen and convey a sense of love. I hope to continue to find meaning in those people and that work that I am called to. I hope to be connected with God in a way that is authentic, encouraging, challenging, and peace-giving.

I am wondering what you are hoping as you live into a new year. Maybe it is something new, something bold and courageous, or something small and subtle.

We live in a world where so much of our hopes are defined by the culture that surrounds us and less so by our faith and beliefs. I wonder if your hopes reflect what you know about the love of God, or maybe better said, how this love has become a part of you.

Maybe, for all of us, the new year can be lived into by letting the love, grace, peace, and mercy lead us.

Wishing all God's best for you in the new year.

Pastor Bill

Many Thanks!

Donna and I want to express our thanks for the many cards, gifts, expressions of good wishes and Christmas blessings that we received at Christmas. We feel blessed to be a part of this community.

Pastor Bill and Donna Warhover

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

211 W 1st St Monticello, IA 52310

Worship Sundays 10:00am | Sunday school 8:30am (resuming 1/7) | Fellowship 9:30am

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC

Pastor
Bill Warhover

cell 319-202-4977

pastor@fpcmonticello.org

Office Administrator
Mackenzie Kahler

office 319-465-3393

office@fpcmonticello.org

Treasurer
Dan Saunders



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Congregation's Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, January 18, 2026
at 11:00 am, following worship.

****Please submit reports by Monday, January 12th
for the Annual Report. Thank you!



2026 Per Capita is \$46.63 (Per Member)

Per Capita is the amount we (FPC) pays per member to support the work of the larger Presbyterian Church:

locally (Presbytery of East Iowa), regionally (Synod of Mid-America), and nationally (PCUSA).

Per Capita is us paying our share to provide for training, disaster assistance, pastor education, programs to educate and encourage local churches, and much more. **Per Capita** is us helping other churches or ministries, both close by and far away, in doing the work that they have been called to. **Per Capita** is both a responsibility that we accept and a privilege that we participate in.

FPC Per Capita is \$46.63 per member. **This totals approximately \$6,500 for 2026. We ask that each member consider making a contribution of \$46.63 to help offset the cost and support the larger church that we are a part of.**

Thank You!

Thank you to those that provided poinsettias for the sanctuary during the Christmas season.

In memory of **Craig Parker**, from Linda Parker & family

In memory of **Ray, Dee, & Andy Kessell**, and **Glen, Marguerite, & Rusty Orcutt**, from Becky Orcutt & family

In memory of **Virginia & Bud Bone, Barb Adam, Phil, Thelma & "Butch" Kuriger**, and **Debbie Turner**, from Jim & Vickie Bone and family

In memory of **Robert & Bonnie Lyon**, from Sandra Lyon and Roger & Anita Benedict and family

In memory of **Ernest & Lola Benedict** and **Earl & Lucille Benedict**, from Roger & Anita Benedict and family

In memory of **Isabelle & Dick McKim**, and **Milton Gonner**, from Rich & Joan McKim

It means a lot to those of us who are deployed that people at home take time to think of us. I appreciate all your cards, prayers, and support.

Richard McKim, Jr.

Richard is now in Kuwait for the remainder of his deployment. Here's the address again --

Richard McKim
CJTF-OIR, TF Guardian
APO, AE 09366



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 church office to arrange a visit. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Call Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977, or the church office at 319-465-3393, to request your pastoral care visit.



Monticello Ministerial Association (MMA)

First Presbyterian Church is a part of the Monticello Ministerial Association, through the dues we pay and the active participation of our pastor. MMA is an association of area churches that come together to provide compassionate support to our community.

The thing MMA does, through a lot of volunteers, that most of us know about is the Food Pantry. We might, too, have heard that MMA will do a joint Vacation Bible School again in July. What we might not know is a lot of other things that MMA does.

Through it's Neighbor Helping Neighbor program, MMA is able to provide vouchers for help with gasoline, help with utilities or rent assistance. MMA works with mental health providers to get people the support they need, or can reimburse a one night emergency hotel stay. All this happens through a network of area agencies: Jones County - HACAP, Jones County Community Services, Monticello Police Department, and the Monticello Counseling agencies.

Programs like these and the Food Pantry can only happen through donations from community members and churches. If you would like to support any of the MMA programs you can make your check to:

MMA
PO Box 62
Monticello, IA52310

Please indicate if you wish your gift to be used for a particular ministry (Food Pantry, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, General Fund)

Thank you!
Pastor Bill

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- The Deacons wish to thank you for your generous financial donations to the **Care and Share** program. This year, we sponsored six children and their families. Your gifts and financial support were truly a gift for these families!



- You are invited to stay after worship and help **take down decorations after worship Sunday, January 4**. Many hands make for light work!

As we approach the winter weather season, watch for winter weather related announcements. A decision will be made whether to hold Sunday morning worship, ideally by 6 am. If it is decided to cancel worship, announcements will be made to KGAN, KWWL, and KCRG, as well as on our Facebook page: @MonticelloFPC.



Thanks for helping out! *Food Pantry*

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

January is our turn to volunteer to help at the food pantry.

The food pantry operates out of the back of the building to the east of the church. The church is used to have people to sign in and make choices about what they want from the pantry. Those needing food then wait their turns to go into the pantry itself. The volunteers at the food pantry assist with getting the food items and quantities requested as they are available and helping to suggest options if not. Regular volunteers will be here to check folks in and help volunteers with questions.

Volunteers are needed to staff the Food Pantry in January on Mondays from 5-7 and Fridays from 2-4. Volunteers are asked to come 15 minutes early to get oriented on what is available. While getting people the food they need is important, a serving of kindness and hospitality is also appreciated. Thanks for helping out!



First Presbyterian Church is responsible for staffing the Food Pantry in the **month of January**. It is important to have *two volunteers staffed each shift*. Weekly times are:

Mondays, 5 - 7 pm || Thursdays, 2 - 4 pm

CLOSED: Thursday, December 25, and January 1

Please call the church office at 319-465-3393 to sign up for a shift and help us fill the month of January. Many hands

make for light work. Thank you!

Any donations will be gratefully accepted, especially: **vegetable oil, instant pudding and Jell-o mixes, and boxed mac and cheese.**



Thanks to all who were able to come and carol! Your presence brought a lot of joy to those we visited. Thanks to Larry and Kathy Lamont for the gift of pizza.

Thank you for your continued support of the Presbyterian Pie Committee!

To place your order or check freezer stock, call:

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



Narrative Lectionary Text for
January :



January 4	John 1:35-51
January 11	John 2:1-11
January 18	John 2:13-25
January 25	John 3:1-21

Announcements:

Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Kim Steiner, daughter of Vernon (Pete) and Mary Jane Steiner, who died Thursday, December 4.

Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the families of Sgt. William Howard, and Sgt. Edgar Torres Tovar, the two US Army and Iowa National Guard soldiers who were ambushed and killed by terrorists in Syria Saturday, December 13.

Christian Education classes (and Fellowship) are on holiday break. Confirmation classes will resume Wednesday, January 7. Sunday School classes (and Fellowship) will resume Sunday, January 11.

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

January 4: Pam Goettsch, and Lori Gravel

January 11: Dennis Gray, and Lorraine Haag

January 18: Shay, Jacob & Beckham Haase, and Brooke, Brayden (Cigrand),
Eli & Amelia (Scott) Holmes

January 25: Lisa Hosford, and Mike & Cheryl Howie

Thoughts & Prayers

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Anamosa Care Center, Anamosa

Barb Null

Corridor, Cedar Rapids

Marj Stubbe

Wellington Place, Decorah

Lorraine Haag

Session Meeting Summary - December 2025

- Approved the 2026 church budget
- Approved Unified Mission Pledge 2026

OFFERING & FINANCIALS



Thank you to those that have been giving and generous to the church. We thank you for your contribution. Every little bit helps. year-to-date:
December 7, 2025.

Income—

Actual. \$140,697.97

Budget. \$168,015.58

Percent. 84.24%

Expenses—

Actual. \$194,211.56

Budget. \$207,811.89

Percent. 93.46%

Notes: 1. Withdraw of \$8,000 from Endowment Fund and \$7,000 from Education Building Trust Fund / New Covenant Funds to pay bills. That's \$30,000 since July 7, 2025. This is unsustainable in the long-term.

2. Paid 8th PILP interest payment of \$554.77.



Week of:	Worship:	SS:
November 30	CLOSED-Inclement weather	
December 7	40	13
December 14	62	15
December 21	42	—

Capital Campaign/Building Projects--December 2025

Congregation Giving Funds.	\$92,150.00
Loan Funds.	\$142,628.59
Endowm/Memorial Funds.	\$11,896.75
Total	\$246,675.34
Expenditures.	\$227,820.57-
Cash on Hand.	\$18,854.77
\$\$ Yet to Raise.	\$72,549.26