



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.*

We Have Tomorrow!

During the Korean conflict, journalist Marguerite Higgins, a courageous and award-winning war correspondent, spoke with a young soldier shivering in the bitter cold. He was eating from a tin can, his face streaked with mud, when she asked, “If I could give you anything in the world you wanted, what would you ask for?”

The soldier paused for a moment, then answered quietly, “Give me tomorrow.”

What a simple yet profound longing. For those living in hardship, tomorrow represents hope—the chance to see another sunrise, to experience peace, to begin again.

As Christians, we live with the blessed assurance that we not only have today, but also tomorrow—an eternal tomorrow promised through the risen Christ. Scripture reminds us, “Death has been swallowed up in victory” (1 Corinthians 15:54, NRSV). And again, “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57, NRSV).

Because of Christ’s resurrection, we no longer fear what tomorrow may bring. Our future is secure, our hope unshaken. In Him, tomorrow is already ours.



Scholarship application packets are now available. If you would like a packet, please stop in to the church office, or email office@fpcmonticello.org to request a packet to be emailed to you. *Reminder: all applications MUST be submitted in hard copy format to the church office by April 1st.*



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

**211 W 1ST ST
MONTICELLO IA 52310**

www.fpcmonticello.org

**Facebook:
@MonticelloFPC**

PASTOR

BILL WARHOVER

319-202-4977

PASTOR@FPC

MONTICELLO.ORG

OFFICE

319-465-3393

**OFFICE@FPC
MONTICELLO.ORG**

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
MACKENZIE KAHLER**

TREASURER

DAN SAUNDERS

WORSHIP

10 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

8:30 AM YOUTH

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP

Last March, I was in St Louis to be with my mom. It was a Friday, and she wanted to go to St. Cecilia’s Catholic Church in South St Louis for the Lenten Fish Fry. It took everything she had to get into the fellowship hall. When we got her situated, you could tell it felt like home for her.

Mom had grown up at St. Cecilia’s. It was there she was baptized and there she went to grade school. It was there that her faith was nurtured, and it was there family gathered for important occasions including her mom’s, my grandma’s, funeral mass.

The church was beautiful. It was built in a German section of South St Louis and dedicated in 1926. The architecture is Romanesque, and mosaics fill the chancel. Even now, it feels big to me.

When we got mom settled at a table, mom sent me for margaritas. She didn’t drink much any more, but this was an outing and a celebration. There was a time when it looked like St. Cecilia’s would close. Those who attended church there for so long had grown old and many had died. The younger people that moved into the community weren’t too interested, and it was a very expensive building to maintain.

But then hispanic families began to move in and began to attend church there. With time, these families made it their home, and it began to reflect their culture and customs, while retaining all the familiar rites and rituals that so many had come for, for so long.

The fish fry at St. Cecilia’s had been going on as long as I can remember. Now though, the lines were out the door, even on a rainy night. Some of the children and youth moved through the crowds selling tamales. Others played guitars in the mariachi-style. The fish fry at St. Cecilia’s is now known throughout the St Louis area as The Original Mexican Fish Fry, and people come from all over the area to be there.

The hall was noisy. People sitting and talking with friends and strangers alike. Mom smiled, sipped her margarita, ate her fish, and bought her tamales to take home. It was good to be home, even if this home was very different than the one she grew up in. It was a place she always felt that she belonged, even when her faith took her to other places.

Lent is a season of preparing for Easter. Easter, when we celebrate that God is always doing something unexpected and new.

“Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?” (Isaiah 43:18-19a)

Good words to reflect on as we prepare for Easter.

—Pastor Bill

Capital Campaign and Building Projects Update

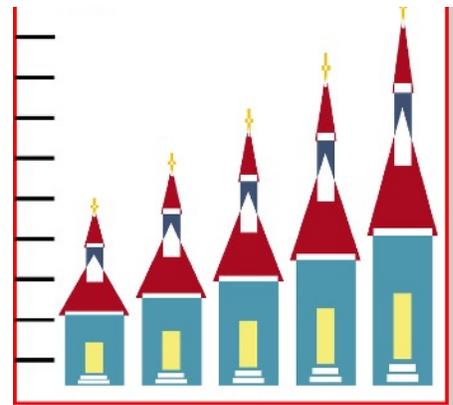
The stained-glass windows are reinstalled in the sanctuary, and Phase I of the window project is complete. The kitchen floor project is complete, and the Pie Ladies have moved back into their space. In March, Glass Heritage will begin Phase II of the stained-glass window project. This project is to scrape, repair, primer, paint, and cover the remaining stained-glass windows. This work will begin with Glass Heritage constructing the metal frames that will hold the glass coverings in their Davenport shop. As the weather warms, they will move on-site and begin the work here.

Dan has paid the final payment of \$11,970 on Phase I. In March, we will pay out the final invoices for the kitchen flooring (approximately \$5,000), and the invoice for starting Phase II (\$20,321.00). This will leave us with an expected project-balance of \$46,332.00 to pay at the completion of Phase II, and be the final payment for all the building projects we have committed to.

This congregation has been generous. You have given and pledged \$160,300, of which \$111,250 has already been received. We have borrowed \$142,629 to help with cash flow, and our loan rate through the Presbyterian Church's Investment Loan Program is 4.35%. Our hope is to be able to finish paying the remaining \$46,332.00 without having to borrow any more funds.

Last month, we shared with you that **there is a gap of \$73,000 between our projected income and expenses**. As of this time, \$6,000 has been pledged toward reducing the gap. **This leaves us a gap of \$67,000**. We are asking for your help. If you haven't been able to make a gift or pledge to the capital campaign before, please consider it. If you weren't sure what the new year would bring and only wanted to commit one year at a time, please consider a gift in this year. If you are able to make an additional gift or increase a pledge, it would be appreciated.

If you have questions or are able to make a gift, contact Pastor Bill or Dan.



Announcements:

Thank you to all that contributed their time, their assistance, their product and financial contributions, to our annual **Camp & Conference Soup Supper** this past Wednesday. This allows FPC to send our youth to Camp Bear Creek at no registration cost to the camper and their families.

Richard McKim, Jr. and his family wish to thank all of you (including the Sunday School students) for your support through prayers and cards during his recent deployment with the **Iowa National Guard**. It means a lot to know that people care! The Blue Star Mothers' Group of Iowa will continue sending cards to the 1,000 new Iowa National Guard members that are being deployed to take the place of those coming home. If you would like to continue showing your support, cards can be mailed to -- Blue Star Mothers of Iowa, P.O. Box 751, Johnston, IA 50131.

THANK YOU to Superior Appliance for providing a freezer to hold the pies while work was being done on the kitchen! You're the best!

Thanks for Helping Out! Giving.

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 month I have been trying to remind us of how the church in general, and this church specifically, needs everyone pitching in and contributing, to make ‘church’ work. I have talked about things like helping out in worship, or serving as an elder or deacon, or offering hospitality. This month I want to talk about our helping take care of our facility.

Over the course of a month we are fortunate to have lots of people come in and out of our church doors. There is Sunday School and Worship, there are the Pie Ladies, the Boy Scouts, and those who come needing the Food Pantry. There are activities that happen weekly and those that happen occasionally like funerals or weddings.

We can all help out by taking care of some of those little things that we see need doing. Picking up some trash on the floor, or making sure papers are put away. Get more hand towels for the bathroom, or vacuuming up the spilled snacks. If you see something that needs doing, go ahead and do it. If you need help or aren’t sure where to find something just ask.

Heather, the church custodian, does come in at least once or twice during the week. When she is in she does the vacuuming, empties trash cans, cleans bathrooms, and mops floors. Your picking up between these times helps make our facility welcoming to all who use our church.

Thanks for helping out!



Remember and honor a loved one this Easter season by purchasing an Easter lily and decorating the church sanctuary.

If you provide a lily in honor of a loved one, please contact the church office by phone/message, 319-465-3393, or email, office@fpcmonticello.org, with the name of loved one(s) to be recognized in the bulletin and newsletter.

Reminder: you are responsible for providing your own lily (these are not purchased through the church). Please arrange for your lily to arrive at in the sanctuary **after** Palm Sunday. Thank you.

Per Capita 2026 is \$46.64 Per Member

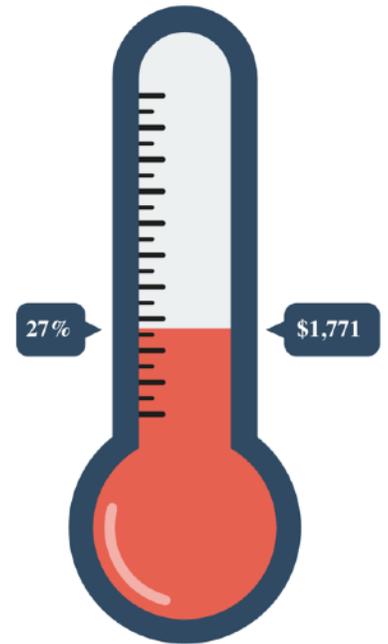
This totals approximately \$6,500 for 2026. We ask that each member consider making a contribution of \$46.63 to help offset the cost and support the larger church that we are a part of.

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.

Per capita payments received to date are **\$1,771.94 toward our required per capita payment of \$6,528. (27.14%)** Thank you for being a faithful Presbyterian!

GOAL: \$6,528



Thank you for your continuous support of the Food Pantry.

Current needs include:

- Toilet paper,
- Chili beans, and
- Diced tomatoes

Donations, food and financial, are taken during pantry hours:

Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm

Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm

BEAR CREEK

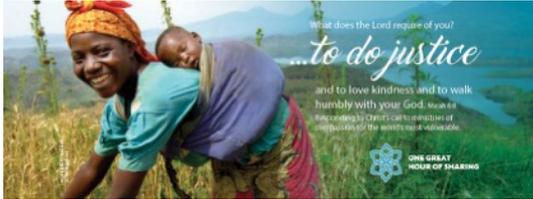
Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2026 summer camp** programs are now open.

Visit bearcreek.camp to see all of the dates and programs available this summer.

Be sure to register soon to guarantee your spot in the camp program of your choice.

Early registration pricing ends March 15th!





PC(USA) Special Offering **One Great Hour of Sharing** will be received on Easter Sunday. This month, we've included a special offering envelope for the OGHS offering. Offerings can be mailed in, dropped off to the church office, or dropped in the offering plate. You can use your OGHS envelope, or memo your offering "OGHS." Thank you!

Blessing of Seed and Soil, Sunday, April 12th

The service of Blessing of Seed and Soil is also known as Rogation Sunday. I learned about Rogation Sunday when I was in seminary in Dubuque through a rural ministry class. Rogation, the practice of offering prayers and fasting in order to beseech God's blessing on seed, soil, and harvest has been around since the 6th Century. Today it is more widely practiced in the Roman Catholic or Anglican traditions, but Protestants have adapted the practice to fit their worship as well.



During worship on April 12th, we will gather to ask God to bless the seed and soil. We will ask God to bless and keep safe those who work the land and tend the animals that feed us.

Please plan to join us and invite others to join us as we gather to celebrate our connection to the land and to one another.



VBS 2026 is Announced!

August 3rd-August 7th, 2026

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2025 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2026 VBS!

Stay tuned for registration date announcements

It will again be online registration. More information to come!

Narrative Lectionary

Text for March :



March 1	John 13:1-17
March 8	John 18:12-27
March 15	John 18:28-40
March 22	John 19:1-16a
March 29	John 19:16b-22



Presbyterian Pie Service



Need something sweet after that corned beef and cabbage? Contact the Pie Committee to reserve your pies today!

Contact **Kris (319) 480-1538** or **Pam at (319) 480-7700** to place your order.



March is here and so is Noisy Coin!

On Sunday, March 29th, we will collect our noisy coin offering for Camp & Conference Camp Scholarships to for our youth to attend Camp Bear Creek Summer Camp. First Presbyterian Church is the only church locally that covers the entire registration cost for each camper. Campers and their parent(s) volunteer at our two annual fundraisers (Soup Supper in the spring, and Baked Potato Bar in the fall) by way of earning their scholarships, as well as attend our back-to-(Sunday) school service each fall to share their experiences at camp with the congregation to remind our members why their financial and material donations, and contributions (event attendance) are so important to our youth.

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



March 1: Jean Krueger, and Robin, Tyler & Kinley LaFave

March 8: Tom Lambert, and Brad Lamont

March 15: Larry & Kathy Lamont, and Evalena Lang

March 22: Kyla & Jeff Lenz, and Ashley, Zach, Talan & Tate Long

March 29: Dave & Lisa Lubben, and Emma Lubben



Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Anamosa CC

Barb Null

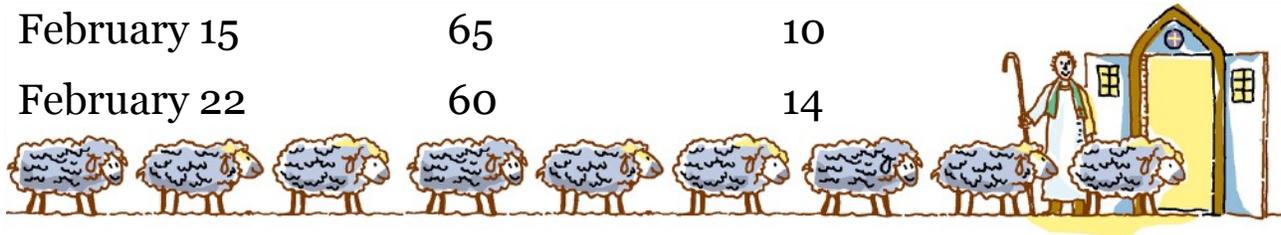
Corridor Crossing-CR

Marj Stubbe

Wellington, Decorah

Lorraine Haag

Attendance	Worship:	Sunday school:
January 25	53	10
February 1	53	11
February 8	73	12
February 15	65	10
February 22	60	14



Session Meeting Highlights – February 2026

Noisy Coin Offering in March - Possible recipient: Camp & Conference Scholarships for Camp Bear Creek. MSC

Joint worship service with United Church on Sunday, August 9th. (No communion). MSC

Thank you to those that have been giving and generous to the church. We thank you for your contribution. Every little bit helps.

Thru February 8, 2026.

Income—

Actual. \$21,856.96

Budget. \$169,183.48

Percent. 12.92%

Expenses—

Actual. \$15,632.56

Budget. \$198,083.81

Percent. 7.89%

Notes: 1. Received quarterly Foundation interest, \$10,9905.45

2. Received Peter Smith quarterly interest, \$110.34

3. Received Harriet Hintz quarterly interest and transferred to Memorial Account, \$82.42

4. Paid Church’s Shared Mission per Session, \$600

5. Paid tenth PILP loan interest payment, \$527



Capital Campaign/Building Projects—January 2026

Congregation Giving Funds. \$111,250.00

Loan Funds. \$142,628.59

Endowm/Memorial Funds. \$11,896.75

Total \$265,775.34

Expenditures. \$241,789.38-

Cash on Hand. \$23,985.96

\$\$ Yet to Raise. \$66,299.26