

# NEWS AT FIRST

Our Mission: *To make known the love of God through Jesus Christ.*

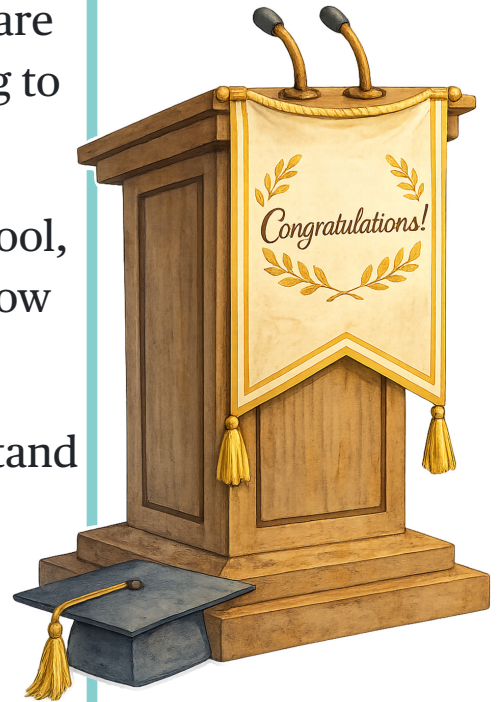
Our Vision: *We are empowered to live out our faith in daily life.*

## Commencing a Lifetime of Learning

What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.



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Deacons' Appreciation Brunch will be held Sunday, May 3rd, immediately following worship service. Enjoy egg casseroles and various other items. Free will donation gratefully accepted.

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# Pastor's (Ponderings)

Heritage Glass has started the **last phase of the window** project. This will be the **last of all the projects**, and its completion in June will signal the end of the Building Projects in this campaign.

Here is where we are with the finances:

- We anticipate there will be **\$46,400 of cost to finish** the project.
- We currently have **\$37,400 of cash on hand** to pay for this. We will pull money from our endowment funds to pay the difference as necessary.
- We **closed on the building loan** in April. We borrowed **\$142,700**. In May, we will start making payments of approximately **\$2,650 per month**.
- We have a 5 year term on the loan but are hopeful to pay it down more quickly. The interest rate is 4.4%.
- **The Gap between the money spent and the money needed to pay off the loan** stands at **\$49,000**. This number could change if we don't receive Federal Grant Money.
- Dan is continuing to work to secure the **Federal Grant Money for the Solar Project**, which totals **\$31,200**.

The Solar has been operating 1 year and we have **saved \$8,000** in general budget expenses.

## What you can do?

Remember to **make your pledge payments**. We have been blessed by your support! If you are uncertain where you are at, contact Dan Saunders.

If you are able to **increase your pledge or make an additional payment** to help bridge that \$49,000 gap, see Dan or Pastor Bill.

Thanks to each of you for your generous support of these projects!

*Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup>And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

2 Corinthians 9:7-8 NIV

Pastor Bill

Pastor Bill Warhover  
M 319-202-4977  
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Treasurer,  
Dan Saunders

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## WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am  
8:30 am Sunday  
school\*  
9:30 am Fellowship\*  
\* thru May 10

Join us on FaceBook  
live stream for  
worship each Sunday.

Facebook:  
@Monticellofpc

## Monticello Community Vacation Bible School

August 3rd-7th  
9am-12pm  
3 year old (potty trained)-6<sup>th</sup> grade

Youth  
Registration:

<https://forms.gle/4m3Zya3Cd0a6ZKVsd8>



Volunteer  
Link:

<https://forms.gle/rTRPK34QztGPKD8>



Community VBS is looking for **empty paper towel rolls for a VBS craft**. If you would like to donate your empty paper towel rolls, there is a collection box in the back of the church as well as the Fellowship Hall.

The church treasurer has sent in our per capita payment of \$6,212, although we have received only **31.58%** to date.

If you are an active member and have not submitted **\$46.63**, please do so as soon as possible.

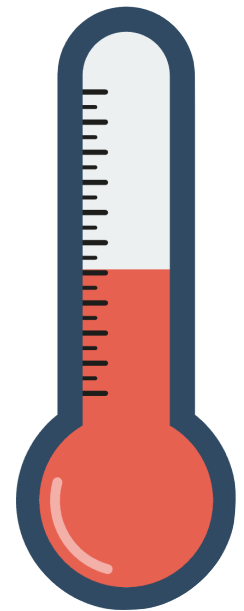
Thanks to everyone committed to a healthy and vital Presbyterian Church!

Sunday, **May 10th**, will be our final Sunday school class for students this school year. Students will be celebrating mothers during the morning worship service, and Sunday School students and teachers will also be recognized.



Thank you to those that donated Easter lilies for the sanctuary in memory of loved ones from their families:

- *In memory of Bud & Virginia Bone, Barb Adam, Phil Thelma & "Butch" Kuriger, and Debbie Turner, from Jim & Vickie Bone & family*
- *In memory of Bob & Marj Lubben, from the Lubbens, Kelchens, Grants, and Robinsons.*
- *In memory of Al Lubben, from the Lubbens, Kelchens, Grants, and Robinsons.*
- *In memory of Craig Parker, from Linda Parker & family*
- *In memory of Glen, Marguerite & Rusty Orcutt and Ray, Dee & Andy Kessell, from Becky Orcutt & family*
- *In memory of Diane Warhover (Pastor Bill's mom), and Bud Eiler (Donna's dad), from Pastor Bill & Donna Warhover*
- *In memory of Bonnie & Robert Lyon, from Sandra Lyon and Anita & Roger Benedict & family*
- *In memory of Lola & Ernest Benedict and Lucille & Earl Benedict, from Anita & Roger Benedict & family*





Join us as we honor 2026 high school graduates (and scholarship recipients, too!) of First Presbyterian Church during worship on **Sunday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Grant Gassman**

**Talan Long**

**Tate Long**

**Dylan Ricklefs**

*Congratulations, Graduates!*



### **2026 Scholarship Recipients**

Congratulations to our 2026 Scholarship recipients. Watch our June newsletter for the full article highlighting our recipients and learn about these students' future plans! 2026, or join us at worship on Sunday, May 17, where scholarship recipients will be presented award certificates. Congratulations!



On Wednesday, May 13th at 6:30 pm, First Presbyterian Church will host the Monticello High School's **Baccalaureate service**. ALL are invited to come and join in celebrating the accomplishments of the Class of 2026 and hearing how their faith has provided for them in the past and will guide them in the future. Join us!



**Baccalaureate  
WORSHIP SERVICE**

## **PPS**

*Presbyterian Pie Service*

The Presbyterian Pie Committee is taking orders and there are pies in the freezer for sale. Call **Kris (319-480-1538)** or **Pam (319-480-7700)** to place an order or for a pick up.

Thank you all for your support !

**News from the Deacons:** The current photo poster of our church families in the Sanctuary entrance is from 2013. The Deacons will be working to have an updated **photo poster** printed of our church families! We will not be using a photographer, scheduling appointments, or doing a full church directory. What we are asking for from our church families is an updated photo. Do you have a photo on your phone that you can share? May we take a digital photo of you and/or your family during fellowship time or after church? These photos will ONLY be used for the photo poster and not posted on our website or Facebook account. If you are a tech-y person, a photo can be emailed to: [office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org). If you are not a tech-y person, please let any Deacon know. We are excited for this project and will be happy to help!



### Thanks for Helping Out! Endowments

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

The apostle Paul, while talking about the gifts that God gives to us as the church, says let those who have the gift of giving, let them give generously. This church has been blessed by the generosity of many who have contributed to our endowment funds.

Endowment funds are invested so they can draw interest or accrue value based on how the fund has been established. Income from these endowment funds help us pay the bills, are there when we have an emergency need, and provide scholarship money for students.

I would ask that you seriously consider a gift to one or several endowment funds. These gifts can be given at any time or as a part of your end of life planning.

For more information on our endowment funds or on how to contribute to them, talk with treasurer Dan Saunders or Pastor Bill.



Thank you to the Food Pantry for their continued support to our community when they need it most.

Food Pantry currently has needs that they are dividing amongst churches. They have requested the following needs of FPC:

- **canned chicken**
- **sugar**
- **cereal (no Cheerios, please)**

Please consider purchasing these items to help those in our community in need.

You can also consider monetary donations, which enables the food pantry to order from the grocer and get case pricing.

If you'd like to make a **monetary donation**, checks can be taken by drop off or mailed to:

*M M A (Monticello Ministerial Association)  
PO Box 62  
Monticello IA 52310*



## Camp Bear Creek Work Day



### CAMP WORKDAY

**Camp Bear Creek will host a volunteer work day on Saturday, May 9th, from 9am-2pm.** Volunteers will help get the site ready for summer camp! Projects will include things like setting up Arts & Crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, painting, landscaping, and a whole host of other things! This is the perfect service day for families, individuals, churches, and youth groups. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Please RSVP online at: [bearcreek.camp](http://bearcreek.camp)

## BEAR CREEK

**Summer Kickoff**  
**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1pm - 5pm**

We invite you to come to camp to help us kick off our summer! We will run activities in the afternoon for individuals and families to enjoy such as climbing wall, zip lines, crafts, and kayaking. At 4 pm, we will have worship at Bird Chapel and commission the summer staff as they prepare for their upcoming summer ministry. Alumni, families, neighbors, churches, and campers are all invited to join us for this afternoon of fun at camp. RSVP not necessary. Just come for the fun!

Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2026 summer camp** programs are now open. Visit [bearcreek.camp](http://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.



### Nursery Going on Summer Break

The nursery won't be available during worship from May 17 through September 6 to give the volunteers who have so faithfully staffed a little break. Many thanks to Amy and Phil Gilkerson, Stacey Takes, Vickie Bone, Sherri Neofotist, Suzy Gilkerson, Joan McKim, and Madonna Hough for being willing to be in the nurser this last year.

We want to remind parents that children are always welcomed in worship and that there are books, activity bulletins, and toys in the back of the sanctuary for your children to use during worship.



Mark your calendars for **July 26-31, 2026** for our 72st Synod School! Registration is now open.

Synod school is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

Visit [lakesandprairies.org/synod-school](http://lakesandprairies.org/synod-school) for more information.

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



May 3: **Marissa McNally, and Sherri Neofotist**

May 10: **Barbara Null, and Aaron, Traysa, Jayden & Landon Orcutt**

May 17: **Becky Orcutt, and Jeff, Teresa & Meredith Parker**

May 24: **Linda Parker, and Melody, Jerry, Gary, Brendan, Cameron & Dax Pasker**

May 31: **Wayne & Joanne Peach, and Jim & Cindy Plummer**

Keep in your  
THOUGHTS &  
PRAYERS

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Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Barb Null

Anamosa CC

Lorraine Haag

Wellington, Decorah



• Congratulations to the Monticello HS BPA on their national competition qualification (Other top-10 finishers for the Monticello BPA group included: **Dylan Shover:** Economic Research Individual, 10th place).

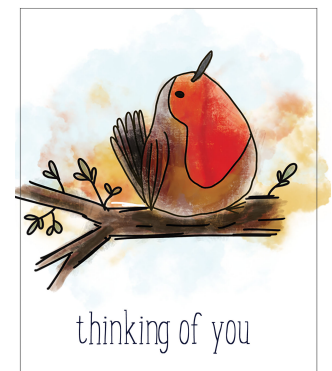
• There will be **NO Fellowship** on Sunday,

May 3rd, as the Deacons prepare for their Appreciation Brunch, served immediately following worship. The last Fellowship of the spring will be Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day).

- Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church, Thank you very much for your wonderful gift of \$1,000 to the Camp Bear Creek ministry. We are very grateful for your commitment to the camp and its positive impact on young people today and in the future. We could not be as effective a ministry without your participation, involvement, and support. Thank you again for your generous support!!

Kevin Cullum, Executive Director, **Camp Bear Creek**

- We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous investment of \$500. The investment will be directed towards the Annual Seminary Student Scholarship Fun. We are truly grateful for your ongoing commitment to our students and community. **University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.**
- Congratulations to the Monticello FFA who attended the Iowa FFA Leadership Conference in Ames. (Including: **Drew Ricklefs** who received a Silver in team ag sales)
- Congratulations to the MHS Jazz Band for earning 6th place in Class 2A at the Iowa Jazz Championships! (Including Jazz Band members: **Cam Pasker** and **Jackson Saunders**)
- Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Ron Kelchen, father of Josh Kelchen, who died Tuesday, April 21.
- **Noisy Coin offering** received Sunday, March 29, brought in **\$282.14!** This will all go directly to our Camp & Conference Campership Fund. Thank you to all that helped make the day noisy!





Narrative Lectionary  
Text for May :

- May 3 Acts 17:16-31
- May 10 Philippians 1:1-18a
- May 17 Philippians 2:1-13
- May 24 Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7



**Mackenzie will be away on vacation** May 9-17. Bulletin announcements for Sunday, May 10 and 17 should be sent to her by May 5th. Building use or use of tables/roaster request should also be submitted by May 5th.

## Session News

- Approved the following leaves for Pastor Bill: Vacation August 17-23, Study Leave June 24-27 (Rural Ministry Ideas Conference in Arkansas), and November 9-13 (Pastoral Leadership Revitalization Conference in Kansas City).
- **MSC** to receive Mary Schmidt into the church's membership via Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church in Lost Nation.

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

*Thru April 6, 2026.*

### Income—

Actual. \$47,495.01  
Budget. \$169,183.48  
Percent. 28.07%

### Expenses—

Actual. \$47,184.17  
Budget. \$198,083.81  
Percent. 23.82%

- Notes:*
1. Paid Dubuque Seminary per annual budget, \$500
  2. Paid Presbytery of East Iowa Shared Mission per annual budget, \$600
  3. Paid 1/6 of per Capita to Presbytery of East Iowa, \$1,065
  4. Paid Camp Bear Creek per annual budget, \$1,000
  5. Paid quarterly building insurance premium to Church Mutual Insurance, \$2,550.50
  6. Paid April interest on PILP loan (capital campaign)
  7. Paid balance of kitchen floor remodel, \$3,829.98 (total paid \$9,615.83)

## Attendance

	Worship	SS
March 29 Palm/Confirmation	77	8
April 5 Easter	116	9
April 12	60	11
April 19	59	14
April 26	52	6

## Capital Campaign/Building Projects—May 2026

Congregation Giving Funds.	\$177,553.37
Loan Funds.	\$111,331.00
Endowm/Memorial Funds.	\$70,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$279,653.37</b>
Expenditures.	\$266,994.47-
Cash on Hand.	\$43,103.25
<b>\$\$ Yet to Raise.</b>	<b>\$49,045.89</b>