

# News at First

JUNE 2026 | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*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.*



## Reflecting the Father's Name

Renowned actor Sidney Poitier once said, "I decided in my life that I would do nothing that did not reflect positively on my father's life." For those blessed with a father they admire and respect, such a decision can be deeply shaping. How might it influence the way you set priorities, live with integrity, or serve as a positive example to the young people watching your life?

For all of us — children of the only perfect Father — may this be our prayer and intention:

*God, while earthly fathers are a blend of strengths and flaws, you give yourself to us as our heavenly Father, wholly loving, kind and deeply invested in our good. Help me seek to reflect positively on you. May my life spread your love, kindness and care far and wide, and may others see you in me. Amen.*

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

- **Canned green beans**
- **Canned fruit**
- **Peanut butter**

Gift cards (\$25 increments) to our local grocers are always a tremendous help!

Monetary donations are tax deductible and are used to purchase items with reduced case pricing. These can be mailed to Monticello Ministerial Assoc. (PO Box 62, Monticello, IA 52310, Memo: "Food Pantry")

Items can be dropped off during food pantry hours:

**Mondays, 5p-7p, and Thursdays, 2p-4p**

THANK YOU to all of our generous neighbors that make this service a possibility! ❤️ 👤 👤

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**PASTOR**  
**Bill Warhaver**

[pastor@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmonticello.org)

M 319-202-4977

**OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
**Mackenzie Kahler**

[office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org)

O 319-465-3393

**TREASURER**  
**Dan Saunders**



## WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am

Join us on FaceBook  
livestream for worship  
each Sunday.

**FACEBOOK:**  
**@MonticelloFPC**

# Pastor's (Ponderings)

I had someone ask me after church one Sunday, 'Pastor, what is going to happen to all these small churches?' This person was alluding to, I believe, the decreasing numbers of church members, the increasing cost of maintaining a church building, and the shrinking numbers of people going into pastoral ministry.

'I don't know,' I answered.

The question didn't leave me because I did know.

Paul, the apostle, the evangelist, knew. He starts all these churches in Asia Minor and Europe, in places like Philippi, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Corinth, and Rome, but then he leaves to go start new churches. It is left to those who are part of those churches to become responsible for the spiritual life of the church.

Yes, Paul writes letters of instruction and encouragement, but they are the ones who have to take care of each other. And they do. Some lead worship, even preaching. Some are prayers. Some take care of those in need. Some make sure that the communion table is set up and prepared. Everyone is doing their part as they have been given talents through the Holy Spirit.

The answer to the 'what is going to happen' is that church members will have to identify, more and more what gifts they have been given, and then work to develop those gifts. More and more churches won't have access to professional clergy as they had in the past, and the churches that want to remain vibrant will learn to lean into what God has given them.

I have watched as the Presbytery of East Iowa (our local Presbytery) has offered more and more opportunities to nurture the gifts of members of the churches instead of clergy. I have seen the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary pivot toward this as well through their 'Plentiful Gifts' initiative. You have examples of this here as well in members who have developed gifts for preaching, praying, helping, leading.

I will be away on Sunday, June 28. Jack Saunders will preach that morning. Jack and I will be working together as he prepares his sermon in the coming weeks. Jack's willingness to do this and your support for Jack and others who step out in faith is what will keep small churches vibrant.

I believe that God has given us all what we need to be the church in this place. This is true not just for today, but it is true for whatever our tomorrows might bring.

Pastor Bill

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.

**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/4m3Zya3Cd a6ZKVsd8>

Volunteer  
Link:  
<https://forms.gle/rTRPK34QztG PKDTD8>



## Thanks for helping out! VBS

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

August 3rd through 7th is the community VBS program at the Youth Development Center, located at the Monticello Fairgrounds. Up to 150 children, ages 3yrs through 6th grade, will take part. It takes a lot of people with all kinds of different gifts to make this week meaningful for children and volunteers.

Different churches have taken the responsibility for leading and providing the resources for the different stations. For example, Sacred Heart will lead each day's Bible Study. We at First Presbyterian are charged with checking in and out the children each day.

We are also in charge of picking up/cleaning up at the end of each day. This job entails coming at noon to make sure any trash is picked up and taken to the dumpster, and if any light cleaning is needed, that is done or someone is notified (if it is a bigger issue). On Friday, all the chairs and tables are put away and the decorations removed, after which the floor needs to be swept and mopped. Usually there is lots of help with getting things taken down and put away, but we need a few people to stay to mop. We need 2-3 volunteers each day to do this.

There are other needs too. Each group of children will have leaders and helpers to help get the kids from place to place and work with the station leaders in getting the kids engaged in the activities. We need floaters who are willing to show up and help where ever they are needed that day.

If you can help or just want more information about helping, contact Pastor Bill, or anyone on the CE Committee (Karen Anderson, Anita Benedict, Vickie Bone, or Pam Mayo).

Thanks for doing your part!

**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!



Hello! Mom is doing well. She is glad to see the green grass rather than snow but always said both are beautiful in their own way. The staff do get groups outside quite often on nice days for a short time. She is still enjoying the musical entertainment Wellington Place has come in quite regularly. Decorah has a strong music heritage. Hope all is going well at FPC as spring turns to summer activities. Thanks you for your care and prayers for mom.  
—**Linda Pashek** (daughter of Lorraine Haag)

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you very much for your amazing gift to the camp ministry. We are so grateful for your long-time support and participation. We are looking forward to a fun and exciting summer! God Bless,

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

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I am so grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will go toward the progression of my Doctorate degree in Physical Therapy at Allen College.

Upon obtaining my Doctorate in Physical Therapy in December of 2027, my highest aspiration is to establish my own cowtown clinic where I can provide care for patient of all ages and backgrounds, while also specializing in pediatrics and adolescent athletes. This scholarship will assist me in the completion of my Doctorate degree, as well as provide me greater flexibility to investing my own business and the necessary equipment for success.

Thank you again for your generous gift. Your support does not go unnoticed for students like me.

Sincerely, **Karli Green**

## 2026 Scholarship Recipients

Every year since 1991, the First Presbyterian Church of Monticello has been able to offer scholarships which were given in memory of designated loved ones. Those remembered through scholarships devoted a large part of their lives to the community, to education and to the First Presbyterian Church of Monticello. The First Presbyterian Church of Monticello is proud to announce the recipients of its annual Scholarship Program. Congratulations to these 2026 Scholarship Recipients.

Grant Gassman, son of Chanda and Kevin Gassman, is the recipient of the \$750 *Virginia and Clarence Hosford Memorial Scholarship*, the \$500 *Edward H. and Margaret E. Cox Memorial Scholarship*, the \$300 *Mary Louise Helgens Memorial Scholarship*, and the \$300 *Phil and Ione Himebaugh Memorial Scholarship*. Grant is a 2026 graduate of Monticello High School. He plans to attend Iowa State University and receive a degree in Agricultural Engineering.

Halle Recker, daughter of Emily and Cory Recker, is the recipient of the *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Halle is a 2026 graduate of Monticello High School. Halle plans to attend Iowa State University and pursue a degree in Animal Science/Pre-Veterinary.

Meredith Parker, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Meredith is completing her first year at Mount Mercy University where she is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Nursing and plans to specialize in Neonatal Intensive Care.

Taylor Gassman, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Taylor is completing her second year at St. Ambrose University where she is pursuing a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry as part of the pre-med track.

Jase Reinke, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Jase is completing his third year at the University of Iowa where he plans to receive a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa's Tippie College of Business. Jase is pursuing a double major in Finance and Risk Management/Insurance.

Karli Green, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Karli is attending Allen College pursuing her Doctorate of Physical Therapy Degree and plans to specialize in pediatrics and sports training.



# NURSERY NEWS

## Nursery Going on Summer Break

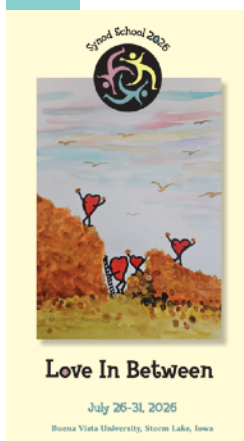
The nursery won't be available during worship through August to give the volunteers who have so faithfully staffed a little break. Many thanks to Amy and Phil Gilkerson, Stacey Takes, Vickie Bone, Sherri Neofotist, Suzy Gilkerson, Joan McKim, Madonna Hough, and JoAnn Warner for being willing to be in 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.



- **Thank you to the Deacons** for the wondering Appreciation Brunch Sunday, May 3!.
- **Glass Heritage will be doing work around the Fellowship Hall entrance.** During this time, other doors may need to be utilized to access the Fellowship Hall.
- **Congratulations to Maddie and Clayton Kraus** on the **birth of their twin boys, Brooks and Gentry**, born May 21st.
- **Congratulations to Larry & Kathy Lamont** on the celebration of their **60th wedding anniversary!**





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](https://lakesandprairies.org/synod-school) for more information.



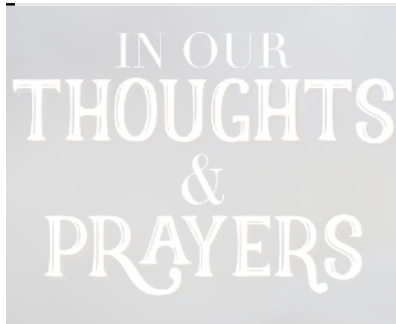
Each week during worship, we'd like to include a couple of church families on our Family Prayer list. For the month of June, please remember to include in your prayers each week our June families:

June 7: **Kris Read, and Pam Recker**

June 14: **Jim, Rhonda, Jase & Caden Reinke, and Lindsey, Dustin, Dawson, Dylan, Dalton & Drew Ricklefs**

June 21: **Colin, Lindsay, Aisling & Nicky Ryan, and David & Helen Sackett**

June 28: **Dan, Janie, Rease & Jack Saunders, and JP, Eli & Amelia Scott**



Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Barb Null

Anamosa CC

Lorraine Haag

Wellington, Decorah

### **Pies... Pies... And MORE Pies!**

Presbyterian Pie Service is putting all of the season's fruits to use in the kitchen! They are 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 to pick up.

Thank you all for your continued support!



Narrative Lectionary  
 Text for June :  
 June 7 Ruth 2:1-23  
 June 14 Ruth 3:1-18  
 June 21 Ruth 4:1-22  
 June 28 Esther 4:1-17

### Attendance

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Apr 26	52	7
May 3	52	13
May 10	69	8
May 17	78	-
May 24	40	-

## MAY 2026 SESSION SUMMARY

- \*Motion to authorize the Treasurer to transfer from the Streif Fund from up to \$30,000 to the general fund to meet expenses. **MSC**
- \* Motion to authorize the spending of up to \$500 from Memorials to purchase and iPad A16 and an adapter for the tripod stand to hold it. (Lisa) **MSC**
- \* Motion to approve the transfer of records from the Peniel Presbyterian Church, Castle Grove, Iowa to the Presbyterian Historical Society. (See log of records to be included.) **MSC**

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

May 4, 2026.

#### Income—

Actual. \$67,606.95  
 Budget. \$169,183.48  
 Percent. 39.96%

#### Expenses—

Actual. \$60,896,85  
 Budget. \$198,083.81  
 Percent. 30.74%

Notes: 1. Paid second 1/6 of per capita to Presbytery of East Iowa, \$1,065  
 2. Paid Glass Heritage to start work on Phase 2 of window project, \$20,321.25

### Capital Campaign/Building Projects—June 2026

Congregation Giving Funds.	\$185,653.37
Loan Funds.	\$142,628.59
Endowm/Memorial Funds.	\$70,000.00
Expenditures.	\$267,504.32-
Cash on Hand.	\$46,574.39
<b>\$\$ Yet to Raise.</b>	<b>\$40,945.89</b>