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# NEWS AT FIRST

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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.*

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## Rest for the Soul

Studies show many Americans don't get enough sleep, and the effects can take a toll on both body and mind. Whether it's a packed schedule or restless nights, a lack of rest makes it harder to think clearly, stay focused and care for our overall well-being. Over time, that constant fatigue begins to wear us down.

Our spiritual lives follow a similar rhythm. When we rush from one task to the next without pausing to spend time with God, we can feel just as drained. We need consistent, quiet moments with Him to stay grounded, encouraged and strong in our faith.

Even Jesus made space for this kind of rest. Luke 5:16 tells us that He often withdrew to quiet places to pray. If He needed that time with the Father, how much more do we? When we step away from the noise and listen for God's voice, we find the renewal our souls have been longing for.

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

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MONTICELLO IA 52310

**PASTOR**

**BILL WARHOVER**  
319-202-4977

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**WORSHIP**

**SUNDAYS 10 AM**  
w/ Facebook Live stream

8:30 a.m. Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

**RESUMES SEPT. 13**  
See you then!

# PASTOR'S Ponderings

Maybe you remember Robert Fulghum's book "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." The book recounts the wisdom that is passed along to children at an early age.

- Share
- Play fair.
- Don't hit people.
- Put things back where you found them.
- Clean up your own mess.
- Don't take things that aren't yours.
- Say you're sorry when you hurt someone.
- Flush.

There is more simple wisdom of course.

In September, the children and youth will return to Sunday School, and they will remind us of the wisdom of our faith that is passed along from generation to generation. Simple wisdom of the kingdom that Jesus comes to show us.

- All are welcomed.
- Mistakes are forgiven.
- Hurts are healed.
- Everyone is important.
- Be thankful.
- Share.
- Forgive.
- Be kind.
- Use the gifts that God gives you.
- You are loved.

There is more wisdom of the kingdom of course.

September is a good time for us to remember the wisdom we learned in Sunday School and at church.

Pastor Bill

*Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. **13** Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. **14** Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. **15** And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Colossians 3:12-15*





Church offices will be closed, Monday, September 7, 2026, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

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

Have a safe holiday weekend!



## Camp Bear Creek Presentation!

Join us on **Sunday, September 13th, for the 10 am worship.** Campers are invited to share their experience with the congregation. In sharing camper experiences, it encourages our members and reminds our sponsors of the importance of their spiritual and financial support of this ministry: Our Youth! Please join us.

September is a month of new beginnings. The kids are back to school, college fall term begins, and so do a number of ecumenical education programs, youth ministries, and various bible studies. Join First Presbyterian Church with a fresh start as we resume our schedule starting **Sunday, September 13.** Join us for:

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday school  
(3 years old through adult!)
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Worship



Confirmation will begin in September. If you have or know of an 8th or 9th grader who would be interested in joining the confirmation process, please have them contact Pastor Bill at [pastor@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmonticello.org) or 319-202-4977.

Pastor Bill will be gone on vacation September 14-22. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact elders-on-call, Dan Saunders, or Lisa Adams.



## MMA's Community VBS a SUCESS!

The 4th annual MMA Community VBS had 146 children registered and 60 volunteer helpers. It was a fun and active week at VBS where we dove deep to learn how we can trust in Jesus when we wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and need help.

Thanks to all who made the week a success. If you volunteered and showed up, helped with the meal, if you donated food or money, helped decorate or cleaned up THANK YOU.



## Nursery Resumes in September

FPC values children in worship, but also recognizes the developmental challenges for children in our worship format.

The nursery is a place where children are welcomed as they learn how to be with others in worship. At the same time the nursery is a place to offer parents/ care givers respite so that they can engage in worship more fully.

When children begin second grade, FPC encourages children to remain throughout worship so they can learn about worship through their parents and the congregation and be a part of worship. The nursery will be available if a child or parent just needs an occasional break from time to time. The nursery remains available to those children that have special developmental needs. FPC will provide books and quiet activities located at the entry to help children with this transition.

The nursery is covered by our Child and Youth Protection Policy that includes background checking of those working with our children and youth and the two-adult rule. This policy is available in full by contacting the church office.

*We encourage those members 18 years or older to take part in serving in the nursery ministry.*

Please contact the Pastor or one of the Elders if you have questions or would like to be a part of the nursery.

## Thanks for Helping Out, GREETER!

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



One of the jobs we have is that of **greeter**. The greeter arrives 15-20 minutes before Sunday worship to greet people, 'Good morning! How are you?' Give them a bulletin, and let them know about things like following worship on the screens or where the bathroom or nursery is (if they are visiting). The greeter closes the doors to the sanctuary at the beginning of worship.

After worship, the greeter opens the doors to sanctuary during the last hymn. As people are leaving, the greeter checks the pews, puts any hymnals or Bibles back in the pew racks, tears out the signed attendances sheets and gives them to Dan Saunders.

This job is filled one Sunday at a time so this commitment is just for the date you sign up on. It can be one person or a group of folks. There are always people around to help if you have questions. If you are interested in being a greeter, sign up on the sign up sheet or contact Mackenzie at [office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org).

Thanks for doing your part!

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## Food Pantry

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The Food Pantry continues to serve the community on Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm, and Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm. Donations are taken at this time as well. If you have any extra produce from your late summer/early fall gardens, we would love to share your donation with a family in need. ***Please leave your fresh produce donations DURING***

***PANTRY HOURS.*** Produce is being left outside of hours and produce is going bad in the heat and we're unable to share with our clients.

Monetary donations are always helpful in allowing us to make purchases at case pricing. Other needs include:

**Cereals**  
(no Cheerios, please)

**Canned, ready-to-eat meals**  
(Ravioli, Spagetti-O's, stews, etc.)

**Bar soap or**  
**Deodorant**



**THANK YOU!!** to our Presbyterian Pie Committee for their generous donation of \$4,000 to the General Fund!

If you need a pie, please contact them at the number(s) listed below!

## Presbyterian Pie Service

The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to do their work to provide pies to the people of the community.

Call today to place your order for a fresh, oven-ready or thaw-and-serve pie.

To place your order or check freezer stock, call:

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



Pastoral  
Care



If you would like to request a pastoral visit for any reason, please contact Pastor Bill to arrange. Oftentimes the pastor is not aware that a visit is desired until after the opportunity has passed. Pastor Bill can be reached at **319-202-4977**.

## Questions, Comments, Prayer Requests?

If you have questions, comments, or special prayer requests, the session would love to hear from you! Oftentimes, these things go unaddressed simply because we are unaware. Please bring your questions, comments, and special prayer requests to a session member, and your feedback will be shared with the committee. Thank you!

**Lisa Adams**  
**Jim Anderson**  
**Bill Gilkerson**

**Jeff Parker**  
**Kris Read**  
**JP Scott**

**Stacey Takes**  
**Jared Willms**  
**Jackson Saunders, youth**

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

September 6: Helen Alden, and Jim & Karen Anderson

September 13: Ann & Rev Randy Argall, and Roger & Anita Benedict

September 20: Chris, Sarah, Brooklyn, Kennedy & Wyatt Bone, and Erin Bone

September 27: Jim & Vickie Bone, and Mark Bone

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Lambert



Lorraine Haag Wellington, Decorah

Barb Null Anamosa CC



•Mike Paddock, husband of our custodian (Heather Paddock), had a massive heart attach about 10 days ago. Mike's kidney's had also stopped functioning. Mike was able to come home where he is recovering so that heart surgery can be done but is also having dialysis 3 x's a week.

After speaking with our building and personnel committees, it was agreed that the best way to support Heather would be to let her know that she doesn't need to worry about things here right now and she

should take care of Mike. many have stepped up to distribute the workload. We are still needing help with the following tasks: **Fellowship Hall - Pick up and vacuum.** (Maybe every 2 weeks at this time), and **Sanctuary - Vacuum** (Every 2 weeks). *When to do these tasks are up to the individual(s). Basically it can be anytime between Tuesday and Saturday.* Please let Pastor Bill know if you can take on any of these tasks, or if you see any areas in the church that need to be addressed. We will continue to monitor the needs of our church family and our building. Thank you!

- Congratulations to **Melissa & Parker Shakespeare** on the birth of their daughter, Mabel Rose, on July 23.
- Thank you to **Kristy Parker** for leading us in service August 16 while Pastor Bill was out on vacation.
- Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Frieda Lovell, who died August 14.



|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| August 2           | 40 |
| August 9, UC joint | 47 |
| August 16          | 39 |
| August 23          | 46 |

## August 2026 – Session Report

- Motion to approved the 2026-2027 Confirmation Syllabus. **MSC**



### Capital Campaign Report

|                                                                       |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Initial PILP Loan Amount                                              | \$142,628.59 |
| Current Loan Balance                                                  | \$138,334.35 |
| Monthly Loan Payment                                                  | \$ 2,655.00  |
| Gap between projected income<br>& expenses to pay loan                | \$ 37,146.00 |
| Gap between projected income<br>& expenses <i>w/o solar incentive</i> | \$ 69,246.00 |



### Narrative Lectionary

Text for September :

|              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| September 6  | Exodus 20:17                      |
| September 13 | Genesis 6:5-22;<br>8:6-12; 9:8-17 |
| September 20 | Genesis 12:1-9                    |
| September 27 | Genesis 39:1-23                   |

### Financial Report-Summary Yr to Date August 16, 2026

By Danny C Saunders, Church Treasurer  
**Checking Balance \$36,970.58**

|                    |              |                    |              |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Income Budgeted    | \$169,183.48 | Expense Budgeted   | \$198,083.81 |
| Income Actual      | \$102,482.68 | Expense Actual     | \$117,602.99 |
| % Actual vs Budget | 60.57%       | % Actual vs Budget | 59.37%       |

#### Notes:

- Paid fifth-1/6 of total payment of per capital to Presbytery of East Iowa. \$1,065
- Made second payment on PILP loan, interest \$492.30 + principal \$2,162.70 = \$2,655.00
- PILP Loan Balance \$138,334.35
- Received quarterly foundation interest from Streif Fund. \$11,041.80
- Received Strief Fund Foundation accounts to General Fund. \$15,000.00

