

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.*

Seeds of Victory

Months before the U.S. victory at the World War II Battle of Midway, important work was happening far from the ocean. Code analysts were quietly studying Japanese messages, using early tools that came long before the computers we know today. Their careful work helped crack a code and gave American forces the warning they needed to avoid an ambush.

It makes you wonder what those long days felt like. Did the analysts ever grow tired of searching for answers? Did they wonder whether their efforts mattered? Did they feel discouraged when the breakthrough had not yet come?

We can understand that feeling. Christians sometimes grow weary, too. We wonder whether teaching children about Jesus is making a difference. We wonder whether small acts of kindness, quiet prayers or faithful service will ever bear fruit. We see sin, sorrow and brokenness around us and wonder how victory will come.

But God sees what we cannot. No faithful work done for him is wasted. The Spirit who helps us plant seeds of truth and love is also able to bring the harvest. And because of Christ, the final victory is already secure.



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

Pastor's {Ponderings}



Seven days in the Boundary Waters in NE Minnesota. Seven days without email, text, phone calls, television, radio, news. Seven days away from everything and most everyone.

Seven days where each day was focused on the beauty of the boundary waters, the lakes, the pines, the aspen, the loons, the eagles, the squirrels. Seven days to listen to the quiet and tranquility of creation. No rush to be anywhere.

Sometimes, getting away from it all is the only way I can reset. Remember what is really important, what really matters. This trip with a few good friends was a timely gift, a chance for renewal, to get my

priorities straight and my battery recharged. Thank you.

I was thinking about this trip and how, while my body was (and is) very tired, my relationship with God felt renewed. Somehow stronger or more front of mind. (You know how life gets, sometimes we can only take care of whatever is right in front of us.) It reminded me of St Paul's words to the church in Roman.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.

Romans 12:1-2a The Message

What St Paul seems to be saying is you don't have to get away from it all to have a moment/season of renewal. That God is present in the ordinary things that we do day in and out. When we recognize this, its easier to not get sucked in to things that everybody else is trying to sell us as important, and be reminded of what God thinks is important.

I am mindful of this for individuals and for churches/congregations. Sometimes we become more concerned about what is happening down the street or in a neighboring church and forget that we can find the God we are looking for in the ordinary things we do together.

Pastor Bill



**Pastor
Bill Warhover**

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Mackenzie Kahler

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Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Sunday school

8:30 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m.

BEAR CREEK UPDATE

1. We had 571 campers this summer. About 19% of our campers this year had no church affiliation. 39% of our campers came from Presbyterian churches, 16% from non-denominational churches, 11% from Catholic Churches, 6% from Lutheran Churches, and 5% from Methodist Churches. The remaining 4% of campers came from UCC, Baptist, and Greek Orthodox churches. Our top sending churches were: 1) West Liberty First Church United – 37 kids; 2) Bettendorf Presbyterian Church – 22 kids; 3) Davenport Our Lady of Victory Church – 16 kids; 4) Washington United Presbyterian Church – 12 kids; 5) Marion First Presbyterian Church and **Monticello First Presbyterian Church – 11 kids** each; 6) Dubuque Grand View Methodist Church – 10 kids; 7) Marion Antioch Christian Church – 9 kids; 8) Independence First Presbyterian Church and Iowa City First Presbyterian Church – 8 kids each; 9) Davenport Newcomb - 6 kids.
2. As of September 17, 2026, \$3,246,420 has been pledged towards the camp's *Forward Together* Capital Campaign.
3. Registration for our summer camp program starts on **October 1st**. Get \$50 off your summer camp fee by registering by December 31st.
4. The staff were a great balance of people who had been to Camp Bear Creek before and new fresh energy from people who had not. Out of the thirty total people on staff this summer, six were former campers, six were staff in a previous summer, nine were former campers who also served on staff previously, one was a former volunteer, and eight had no affiliation with Camp Bear Creek before the summer. We also had staff from many different places like Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Mexico and Australia.
5. Quotes from parents in their evaluations:
 - “Aubrey always shares what she learned with us. This year, Aubrey has also come back wanting to read more of her Bible than ever before. It feels like it just isn’t something we do but something she wants to do.”
 - “They both came home singing new songs. Cooper even wanted to go out and get a new Bible. The one he’s had is a youth version that’s abridged and illustrated.”
 - “Our oldest has been very open to building her faith and this gave her the perfect setting to do so.”
 - “She was sharing so much information with us when she is usually less expressive about activities.”
 - “They came home excited about Jesus and the Bible.”

October is Pastor Appreciation

Join us in October as we celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month, and thank Pastor Bill for faithful leadership, care and service to our church family. Cards and notes of encouragement may be given directly to Pastor, or in the mailboxes in the hallway.

We appreciate you, Pastor Bill!



CAMP & CONFERENCE BAKED POTATO BAR

OCTOBER
28

**DINE-IN OR
CARRY OUT**

First Presbyterian Church 4 pm — 7 pm

Please join us for our annual Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar. We will be serving baked potatoes with all the fixings, and dessert!

Adults \$10.00, children 7 & under \$5.00.

This is a fundraiser to support sending our youth to camp at no cost to the camper. Come enjoy a delicious meal and help support our youth!



Our church is blessed to have Camp Bear Creek so nearby. First Presbyterian Church was pleased to sponsor 11 campers this summer. We are the only church that covers the entire registration cost for each camper. As the only church that covers the complete registration cost for each camper, this is an important event. We will enlist the help of our campers and their parents, as they are the recipients of the fundraising efforts. Our ingredients and items needed sign up list to make this a successful fundraiser will be passed at worship. If you are unable to sign up during worship, you can call the church office to see what needs still need to be met. Thank you for your continued support of this mission!

Thanks for Helping Out, ELDERS and DEACONS!

It takes all of us pitching in to make the church not only work, but work in the way it was intended.

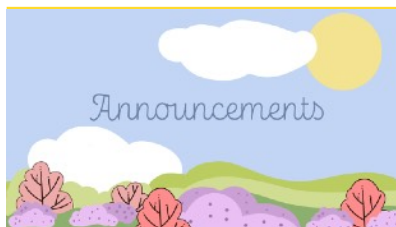
“Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people!”

— 1Cor 12:7 The Message

Elders are elected by the congregation to serve the congregation through the gifts of leadership and spiritual leadership. They do this by making decisions about the direction of the church (like our mission and vision), making sure that we are provided opportunities for spiritual growth (like worship and Sunday Schools), and actively taking a part in some of the many committees that make sure things get done and are taken care of. (Like the building committee or Christian Education committee.)

Deacons are also elected by the congregation to serve the congregation through acts of caring and compassion. The deacons make sure we stay in touch with each other by sending cards and notes to people. They arrange the fellowship time and organized the Care and Share Tree at Christmas time. They sometimes arrange for flowers to be taken to the home bound or nursing home members.

Both of these jobs take a commitment. Elders and Deacons normally serve 3 year terms and are meeting at least once a month. But they don't do this alone. They are joined by a group of others committed to leading or caring and by many members of the congregation who pitch in to help because this is how the church works and how it works best when we all use our gifts/talents together.



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

• Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Deb (Norton) Chapman, who died August 29.

• Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Janet Gottschalk, who died September 1.

- Our **Noisy Sunday offering was \$125.15 and went to Holt International.** Holt International provides global support to children. FPC has been a partner with Holt for over 35 years.
- **Congratulations to DeLainy (Fellinger) and Aaron Knipper**, who were married at First Presbyterian Church September 12th.
- **Thank you to Rev Bobby Outtersen-Murphy** for filling the pulpit, and **on-call Elders Lisa Adams and Dan Sauders** while Pastor Bill was away on his Boundary Waters excursion.
- Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Ashley Alden (granddaughter of Helen Alden), who died September 13.
- Our **prayers and sympathy** go out to the family of Arvil Wayne King (grandfather of Sarah Bone), who died September 23.
- During this season please keep **farmers and all those working to harvest** in your prayers.



Presbyterian Pie Service

NOW TAKING HOLIDAY ORDERS!



Presbyterian Pie Committee is asking for your cooperation this holiday season by placing your pie order *early*. Supplies are an issue. We will do our best to accommodate all orders and ask for your patience at this time. Thank you!

To place your order or check freezer stock, call: Kris (319-480-1538) or Pam (319-480-7700).

Food Pantry

Scouts will be out *Scouting for Food* in the coming weeks! Look for the door hangers on a door handle near you! Pick up will take place on:

Saturday, October 24.

Our current needs include:

- Cake mixes/frosting,
- pasta, and
- toilet paper.

Donations can always be made to the Food Pantry or Monticello Ministerial Association, with *Food Pantry* on the memo line (for tax credit) which allows the food pantry to purchase canned goods at a case reduced-

price. Fareway gift cards are also extremely helpful.

Thank you for your continued support of our neighbors!



Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag Wellington
Pl/Decorah

Barb Null
Anamosa CC

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

October 4: Pat Bonjour, Rob Hughes & Dennis Hall, and Tammy, Marcella, Charles & Lilly Bruns

October 11: James Bruns, and Linda Burns

October 18: Phyllis Campbell, and Marilyn Beaudine & Joseph Chambers

October 25: Jamie, Jaxon & Cohen Chappell, and Jill Cheney

Praying
FOR You

Families of College Students:

The Deacons would appreciate addresses for our trade school and college students of FPC. They send notes of encouragement to them from time to time. If you are interested in having your student received cards from the church, please notify the church office via phone or email of your student's mailing address. 📧



	<u>Worship</u>	<u>SS</u>
August 30	52	-
September 6	47	-
September 13	84	13
September 20	56	9
September 27	56	11

Narrative Lectionary Text for October :

October 4	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29
October 11	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17
October 18	Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26]
October 25	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9



Session Highlights - September 9, 2026

- Approved the baptism of Brooks and Gentry Kraus, sons of Madison and Clayton Kraus, on October 25.
- Approved to change November Session Meeting date from November 11 to November 18.
- Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser to be held Wednesday, October 28, 4-7pm.

Capital Campaign Report



Initial PILP Loan Amount	\$142,628.59
Current Loan Balance	\$136,180.00
Monthly Loan Payment	\$2,655.00
Gap between projected income & expenses to pay loan	\$ 37,146.00
Gap between projected income & expenses <i>w/o solar incentive</i>	\$ 69,246.00



Financial Report Summary Submitted by Danny C Saunders, Treasurer Year-to-Date, September 7, 2026

Checking Balance \$27,340.57

Income, Budgeted	\$169,183.48	Expense, Budgeted	\$198,083.81
Income, Actual	\$110,211.56	Expense, Actual	\$130,546.31
% Actual vs Budget	65.14%	% Actual vs Budget	65.90%

Notes: *Paid Per Capita in full, but have only received 41.58% from congregation.

*Paid third PILP loan payment, interest \$501.47 + principal \$2,153.53 = \$2,655.00

*PILP Loan Balance \$136,180.82

*Paid first phone bill with Cascade Communications, \$39.62 (past bill with Century Link was \$68.03)