

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.*

A Prayer for Roots

O God, we thirst for you, as dry tree roots thirst for water in hot, dusty soil. Help us send spiritual roots down deep into the grace and knowledge of the One who is the same yesterday and today and forever, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who gives us stability when the earth shakes and the storms of life swirl about us.

Rooted and grounded in your love, and strengthened and comforted by your grace and your Spirit who gives us hope, may we be steadfast and immovable in the work Christ gives us to do, until he comes again. Amen.

Service of Seed & Soil – May 5

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 May 5th, 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.



Pastor's (Ponderings)

There is a time and season for every matter under heaven...a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted. (From Ecclesiastes 3)

May will be a season of celebration at First Presbyterian Church, and I hope you can join us.

On Sunday, **May 5th** we will be celebrating this community's connection to the land by **blessing seed and soil** during worship that morning. While this blessing of seed and soil dates back to the 6th century it will be a new way for FPC to celebrate the work of the famers and farms that surround us and to ask that God bless those whose work it is to farm.

On Sunday, **May 12** we will be celebrating our **Sunday Schools** and offering thanks to God for those who taught and those who learned. It is also **Mother's Day**, and we will be offering thanks and asking God's continued blessings for our moms and those who are moms to us. The youth will be offering special music and the Sunday Schools are planning a special something for the moms.

On Sunday, **May 19**, we will celebrate our **graduates, and the recipients of scholarships** will be acknowledged during worship. We will also ask that God bless those young people as they transition into a new part of life. Oh, we will also celebrate **Pentecost, the birthday of the church.**

On Sunday, **May 26**, we will pause to celebrate **Memorial Day** by offering thanks and remembering those who have died while in service to this country.

There is more information about these celebrations in this months newsletter.

I hope you can join us!
Pastor Bill

There is a time to mourn, and a time to dance...

Pastor Bill Warhover
M 319-202-4977
pastor@fpcmonticello.org

Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler

O 319-465-3393
office@fpcmonticello.org

Treasurer,
Dan Saunders

WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am

8:30 am Sunday
school*

9:30 am Fellowship*
* thru May 12

Join us on FaceBook
live stream for
worship each Sunday.

Facebook:
@Monticellofpc



Congratulations to **Carter Willms**, who was confirmed Palm Sunday (March 24th). He completed his second year of confirmation classes, along with first year students Cameron Pasker, Dalton Ricklefs, Drew Ricklefs, and Jack Saunders.

Sunday, **May 12**, 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.



Thanks for Helping Out! Worship

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

Worship is the one things we do at church every week. It is at the center of our life as a congregation and it is meant to center our life.

In the past, I have talked about how many share their gifts in worship by greeting, acting as liturgist, lighting candles, helping with the offering, and running the slides. Thanks to you all for helping out.

What we still need is a group of people that would meet from time to time to plan for upcoming services, think about how the chancel should be decorated, brain storm worship ideas, and help arrange for special music during worship.

In talking with Jared Willms (Worship Committee Session liaison), who works with Dan and Stacey to make sure the week in and week out things for worship are taken care of. This group would be helpful in enhancing our worship.

If you have some ideas for, or history on, worship at FPC, talk with Pastor Bill or Jared Willms.

Thanks for doing your part!

The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,072, although we have received only **41.84%** to date.

If you are an active member and have not submitted **\$42.17**, please do so as soon as possible.

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



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

- In memory of Al Lubben, and Marj & Robert Lubben, from the Lubben, Kelchen, Grant & Robinson families
- 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
- In memory of Mildred Riemer and William West, from Pat Bonjour
- In memory of Dorothy & Harold Stralow and Edith & Maynard Saunders, from Dan & Janie Saunders
- In memory of Bud & Virginia Bone, Barb Adam, Phil, Thelma & "Butch" Kuriger, and Debbie Turner, from Jim & Vickie Bone & family
- In memory of Dick & Isabelle McKim, from Rich & Joan McKim & family
- In memory of Glen, Marguerite & Rusty Orcutt and Ray, Dee & Andy Kessell, from Becky Orcutt & family
- In memory of Craig Parker, from Linda Parker & family
- In memory of Ron & Peg Arduser, from Angie, Mark & Gage Dutra and Brett, Michelle & Cole Arduser



Join us as we honor 2024 high school graduates (and scholarship recipients, too!) of First Presbyterian Church during worship on **Sunday, May 19 at 10:00 a.m.**

Taylor Gassman

Landon Orcutt

Dawson Ricklefs

Congratulations, Graduates!

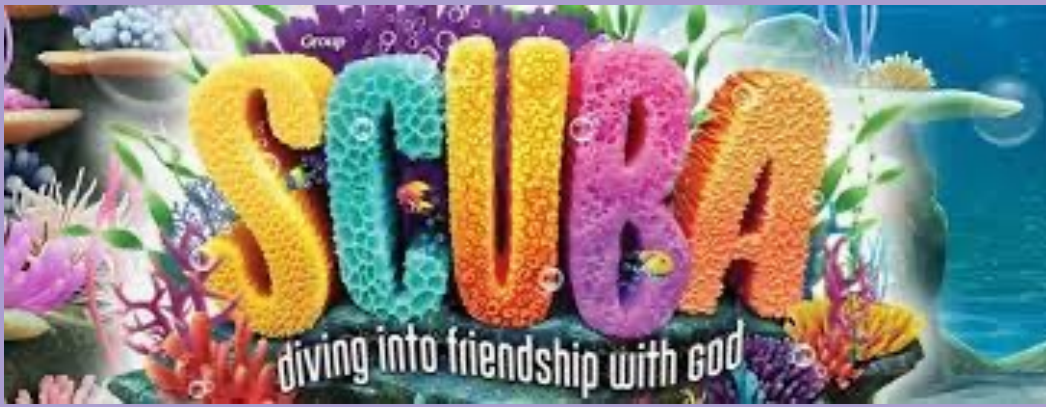


PPS

Presbyterian Pie Service

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

Thank you all for your support!



VBS 2024 is Announced!

July 29th-August 2nd, 2024

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2023 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2024 VBS!

Registration starts May 6, 2024

It will again be online registration. Watch the MMA or FPC Facebook pages for a link when registration goes live!

Parichat: Holt International Sponsor Child

Name: Parichat

Birthday: June 27, 2007

Gender: Girl

Parichat is healthy, eats well, and maintains good personal hygiene. She does well at school, especially in math and Thai.

She gets up at 6:00 am, before taking the bus or riding on her aunt's motorbike to school. When she arrives home at 4:00 pm, she normally focuses on her homework before assisting her grandmother with chores. On weekends, she supplements her income by selling clothes online.

She is closer to her grandparents and always helps them with house chores and work. Her grandparents are her primary caregivers. Her mother helps cover the family bills. Parichat has close friends at school and is more of a leader when she is among her peers.

She likes fruits and selling clothes online.

Thank you to our Sunday School classes' generosity; their offerings help us to sponsor this child.



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

Consider making a donation, if you're able.

Current needs include:

- Peanut butter
- Dry cereals
- Dry soup mixes
- Toilet paper
- Baby wipes
- Deodorant
- Laundry detergent
- Tooth brushes
- Tooth paste

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:

*MMA
(Monticello Ministerial
Association)*

PO Box 62

Monticello IA 52310



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 5: **Keith, Amy, Brooklyn & Dylan Keltner and Glen King**

May 12: **Janean King and Jean Krueger**

May 19: **Robyn, Tyler & Kinley LaFave and Tom Lambert**

May 26: **Brad Lamont and Larry & Kathryn Lamont**



Camp Bear Creek Work Day



CAMP WORKDAY

There will be a work day at Camp Bear Creek on **Saturday, May 11th, from 9am-3pm**. They are hoping for volunteers to help get the site ready for the summer, which will include things like setting up arts & crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, and a whole host of other things.

A link will be sent out soon for volunteers to RSVP so Camp Bear Creek can plan accordingly.

Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2024 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.



Mark your calendars for **July 21-26, 2024** for our **70th 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 for more information.



Running Slowly

At a track meet, we sat in the stands, cheering for our son. I chuckled as a young sibling of an athlete asked, “Why are they running so slow, Mommy?”

These athletes had been training for years, and many were setting personal best times and even state records. Most spectators would provide little competition for the runners. But the child was comparing how he’d felt while running at the park, sprinting to a soccer game.

Along the track, dozens of teammates and coaches cheered. Each time an athlete passed, she heard strong, pointed encouragement. “You’ve got this!” “Someone’s approaching; time to pick up the pace!” “Great stride — keep going!” The coaches and runners knew what was helpful and understood how hard the athletes were working.

My point: Consider who you allow to speak truth into your life. Do you listen to loved ones who “train” alongside you? Or do you give sideline critics too much space in your thoughts? Heed Proverbs 2:2 (NLT), which advises, “Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding.”

—Janna Firestone

2024 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2024 Scholarship recipients. Watch our June newsletter for the full article highlighting our recipients and learn about these students’ future plans! 2024 Scholarship recipients will be presented award certificates at worship on Sunday, May 19. Join us in congratulating them!



Keep in your
THOUGHTS &
PRAYERS

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag

Pennington

Frank Smith

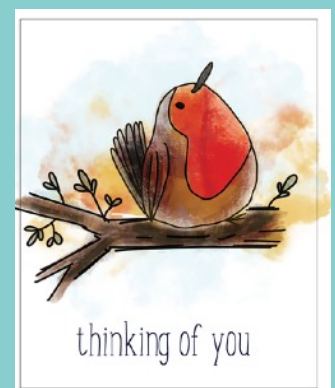
Horizon, Waterloo

Barb Null

Anamosa CC

Marge Stubbe

Corridor, CR



Updating Contact Information - We are working to update our contact information. Maybe you have dropped your land line in the last few years, or change your cell number. Maybe you got hacked and started using a new email address. Please helping us by sending us your current contact information so we can update our records.

Name _____

Address _____

Preferred email _____

Best phone # to reach you by _____

Is it a cell number Y/N or your land line Y/N

Emergency Contact name _____ and

phone # (cell preferably) _____

You can email this information to office@fpcmonticello.org

Or cut this out and mail it to:

FPC Monticello

211 W 1st St

Monticello, IA 52310

Or call the office at 319-465-3393, leave a message and we will return your call.

Session News

Audit Committee completed audit for 2022 and 2023. No discrepancies found.

Shared updated information on our sponsor child from Thailand thru Holt International. Funds come from our Sunday School offering.

Blessing of the Seed and Soil to be held May 5 during worship.

Pastor Bill and Elder Sherri Neofotist served home communion to 4 members.

Pastor Bill continues to contact members, and is involved with Monticello Ministerial Association.



OFFERING & FINANCIALS

Did you remember to tithe today?

We offer a number of options. Please contact us if you'd like to hear them. During these uncertain times, we *thank you* for your contribution.



March 2024 Contributions: \$8,296.12

2023 \$6,023.10

March 2024 Expenditures: \$9,985.64

2023 \$6,299.47

Attendance

	Worship	SS
March 31	121	7
April 7	62	6
April 14	59	7
April 21	70	8
April 28	53	6