

News at First

JUNE 2024 | 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.



Don't Be Root-Bound

As a new gardener, Jan Riggenschach used to treat bedding plants with extreme care, setting them into soil without disturbing the roots. Eventually she learned that rough — even ruthless — treatment is better in the long run.

“If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom, I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots,” Riggenschach wrote in her gardening column. “If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don’t worry if I break some of the roots. That’s better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden.”

In the same way, it’s easy to grow complacent and inward-focused in our walk with God. But bunched-up roots can’t reach out for sustenance. So for maximum faith growth, dare to let God shake you up from time to time!

You're Invited



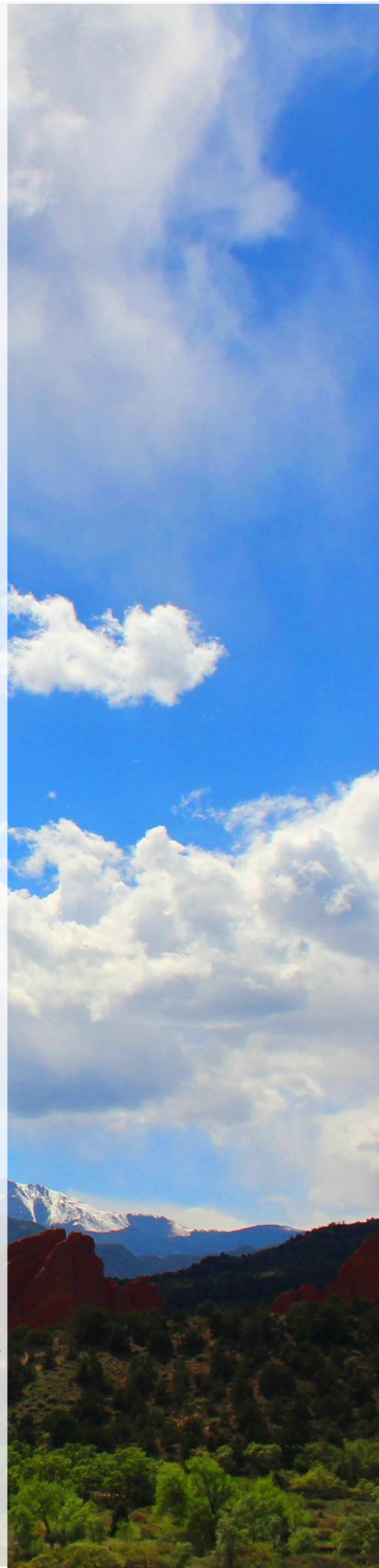
...to the Warhover's, and Morning Glory Farm, on Sunday June 23, from 2-4 pm for an open house. Come see where we live and what we do at Morning Glory.

Strawberries will be in season, so we will plan to have strawberry sundaes. 🍓 😊

We are at: 681 Hwy 1 S, Mt Vernon, IA
(just off Hwy 1, south of Mt Vernon)

Hope to see you!

Pastor Bill and Donna



Pastor's (Ponderings)

*With all my heart
I praise the Lord,
and with all that I am
I praise his holy name!*

*With all my heart
I praise the Lord!
I will never forget
how kind he has been.*

Psalm 103:1-2 CEV

The Psalmist invites us to praise God. This praise comes from a sense of God at work in us and around us. It is hard, however, to notice God at work when we are constantly busy.

It is important to take time to slow down a little and enjoy life. I have to admit I am not the best at it, but when I do, I am usually rewarded by some unforeseen blessing.

Summer is a time when moments of slowing down seem to happen for many of us.

There are vacations planned so that we can get away from our everyday activities and enjoy new people and places. There are family gatherings when we can catch up with each other. There are trips to the park or to the pool. There are golf games or fishing trips. ...It is important to take time to slow down a little and enjoy life.

When we slow down to enjoy life, I think, we become more aware of God's presence in the ordinary spaces of life, in the beauty, in the joy, in the quiet moments. When we are aware of God's presence in the ordinary, well we don't have to think about 'praising God'; praise instead just comes to our lips.

Praying you will be filled with all of the joy as we enter this new season.

Pastor Bill

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TREASURER
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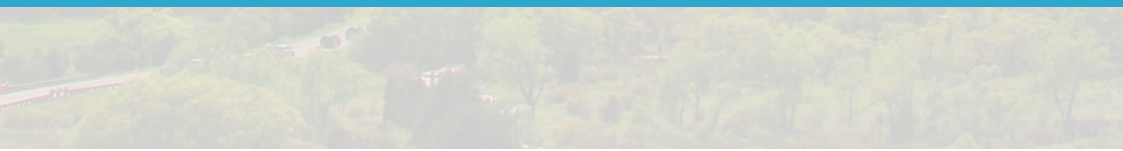


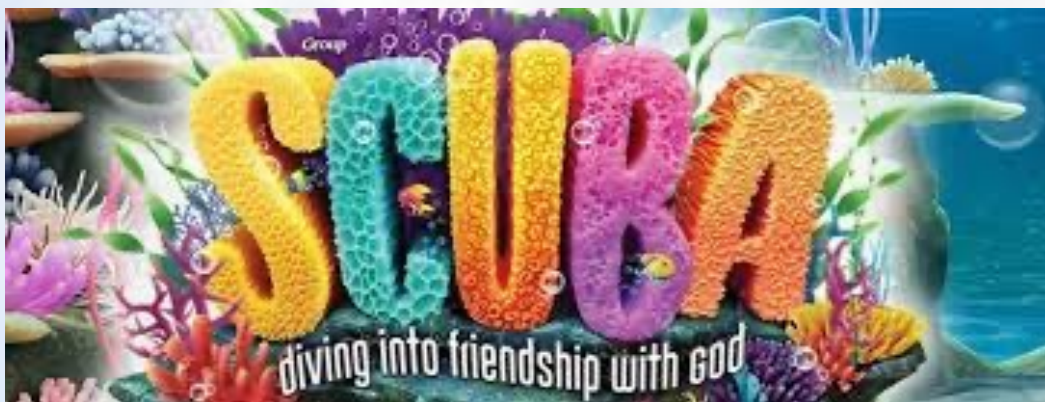
WORSHIP

Sundays 10 am

Join us on FaceBook
livestream for worship
each Sunday.

FACEBOOK:
@MonticelloFPC





VBS 2024 Registration Is Now Open!

July 29th-August 2nd, 2024

Registration is online and limited.

Sign up now to reserve your spot. Visit the MMA or FPC Facebook pages for the registration link.

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

July 29 through August 2 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!



The Session voted to have the lift replaced. As some of you know, we have had repetitive mechanical problems with the lift this year which required three separate service calls. In talking with the service person from Schmaucher Elevator, he let us know that:
#1) Parts for the lift were getting hard and harder to find. 2) The lift was at an age where we will most probably have repeated problems (especially with the electronics. 3) The latch on the top door was wearing and might be the source of future safety concerns. Schmaucher does not sell lifts.

Dan Saunders visited with Pastor Dave at St Matthew's and went to see their lift which was installed about three years ago. Dan also spoke to Dick Beck from the Congregational Church in Anamosa. The Congregational Church is in the midst of researching options of lifts and elevators for their building. Dan was in contact with Jeremy Musil from Access Elevator and Lifts in Des Moines who made a site visit and sent two proposals.

Session discussed the issue and options and voted to approved the option of the enclosed lift with self opening doors at both the top and bottom. The new lift will require the opening to be enlarged just slightly. The new lift will be turned so that it does not open into the entry from the education wing into fellowship hall. An amount of \$55,000 was approved to spend on this project, with part of that covering the lift and part covering anticipated cost for the contractor who will ready the opening for the new lift. We are hoping to have the new lift installed over the course of the summer.

Literature on the new lift will be posted on the bulletin board outside Pastor Bill's Office. If you have any questions please talk to Pastor Bill or any member of the Session.



Many thanks to Dave Loeffelholz and DJ Feeds in Hopkinton for supplying the corn and soy beans for the Blessing of Seed and Soil Service on May 5.

Many thanks to Zach Long from The Lock Shop who came and got the door to the Bridal Room open after it became inadvertently locked.

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for choosing me for the Dale L. Streif Scholarship. It means so much to me to be a part of the selected few to receive this special scholarship. This will be sued to further expand my education pursuits.
Thank you so much!

Zach Yates

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.



2024 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 2024 Scholarship Recipients:

Taylor Gassman, daughter 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*, the \$300 *Phil and Ione Himebaugh Memorial Scholarship* and the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Taylor is a graduate of Monticello High School. Taylor plans to attend St. Ambrose University and receive a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Biology.

Zachary Yates, son of Carrie and Doug Yates, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Zach is a graduate of Monticello High School. A major in Mechanical Engineering and a possible minor in Aerospace Engineering at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology are a part of Zach's future plans.

Jase Reinke, Cascade, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Jase is completing his first 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.

Caden Reinke, Cascade, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. Caden will be a senior at the University of Iowa where he is studying Chemical Engineering. Caden is super excited for his upcoming internship and hopes that it will lead to a career and love for what his degree as a chemical engineer allows him to do.

Rease Saunders, Monticello, is the recipient of the \$1,000 *Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship*. After completing two years at Kirkwood Community College, Rease now aspires to obtain a bachelor's degree in Communications at Coe College.

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 Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538) to place an order or to pick up.

Thank you all for your continued support!

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag Pennington

Frank Smith Horizon, Waterloo

Barb Null Anamosa CC

Marge Stubbe Corridor, CR

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
Anita Benedict
Vickie Bone
Sherri Neofotist
Kris Read
Dan Saunders
Don Smith
Jared Willms

Due to recent spamming events,
please contact the church office for
Session contact info. Thank you!





Taking regular vacations is key to our well-being. It's important to spend time with loved ones, experience physical and mental refreshment, enjoy changes in scenery and routine, and prepare for future productivity.

Just remember: God's work goes on all summer long. When you're on vacation, your friends at church miss you. No one else can fill your unique role in the congregation. Your presence and gifts help the church thrive. So please give your regular offerings before you leave for vacation. And if you have the opportunity, try to attend church while you're away. Have a wonderful summer!

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 2: Evalena Lang and Kyla & Jeff Lenz

June 9: Ashley, Zach, Talan & Tate Long and Dave & Lisa Lubben

June 16: Emma Lubben and Kathy Luensman

June 23: Sandra Lyon and Carmel & George Manternach

June 30: Curt & Pam Mayo and Matt, Jackie, Finley & Vivianne Mayo

Food Pantry

Current needs for those wishing to make a donation are:

- Cold cereals
- Bread
- Dry soup mixes
- Toilet paper
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste
- Dry cereal
- Grape jelly
- 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:

M, 5p-7p, F, 2p-4p

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

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@fpcm Monticello.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.

MAY 2024 SESSION SUMMARY

Session voted to replace the lift (elevator).

Pastor Bill will be on vacation June 1-2. He will be Pastor-in-Residence at Camp Bear Creek July 21-26 (changed from June 16-27), and on study leave September 14-20 to attend a conference in Parkville, MO.

He visited with 8 members in assisted living, nursing homes, or by phone calls.

Attendance

	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
May 5	44	8
May 12	43	4
May 19	87	-
May 26	32	-

OFFERING & FINANCES

We appreciate your continued financial support. If you'd like to learn more about your contribution options, please contact Dan Saunders, treasurer or the church office.

April Contributions: \$18,658.72 (April 2023 \$5,484.08)

April Expenditures: \$16,640.93 (April 2023 \$17,224.41)