

# 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.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER**

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## **A DECLARATION OF INTERDEPENDENCE**

“Dependence does not destroy human personality,” writes Donald F. Baillie. Instead, people are “never so fully and so truly personal as when [they are] living in complete dependence upon God.” Jesus modeled this type of living by depending completely on his heavenly Father.

In that light, let it be declared and hereby celebrated ...

- That all people everywhere depend on one another.
- That everyone needs everyone else for freedom, life, love and happiness.
- That all things in the natural order depend on everything else.
- That the Earth and all planets and stars are mutually dependent.
- That this universally shared dependence comes from God and is of God.
- And that each individual part of this relationship has its own role in fulfilling God’s plan.



## PASTOR'S Ponderings

I am looking forward to going to the Great Jones County Fair. While I have been to many fairs, this one will be special to me. It will be the first time I get to see some of our children and youth caring for and showing their animals.

I grew up on a summer camp where taking care of animals was a part of everyday life. We had 30 horses that had to be feed, watered, and cared for every day. It taught me responsibility and I learned that those animals were dependent on me.

There is a story in the gospel of Matthew. Jesus is speaking to a crowd that has gathered and he is reminding them they do not need to be anxious about things.

“...Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?”

When I watch others caring for animals, large or small, it reminds me of these words, and how I am dependent on the God who cares for me and cares for us.

I pray that this reminder of God's care for us would allow us all to live with a sense of peace, no matter what the day brings.

God's blessings to you as you celebrate all the summer has to offer us.

Pastor Bill

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Pastor Bill will be Pastor in-residence at Camp Beer Creek **July 21 - 26**. He will not be in office, but will be available by cell.



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Worship  
Sundays at 10 am

Social Media  
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PASTOR  
IN RESIDENCE



## Lift to Be Removed

In July, Access Elevator & Lifts will remove the lift from the Fellowship Hall/Sanctuary. It is expected that the *lift will be out of service through the months of July and August*. (It might even be into September.)

The lift has to be removed in order for the preliminary work to be done for the installation of the new lift. The lead time (for manufacturing) on the new lift has been estimated at 7-8 weeks once contracts are signed and the down payment is made.

While the lift is out, worship will continue in the sanctuary with a remote feed to the Fellowship Hall. We will have bulletins, hymnals, and Bibles for those gathered in the Fellowship Hall. An elder will bring communion to you on communion Sundays.

If you know of anyone who might normally use the lift, or might be thinking about using the lift, please let them know that the lift will be out and they can worship in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks for your help and understanding.

Questions contact Pastor Bill.

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## Joint Worship Service with United Church August 4 at 10:00 am, Potluck to Follow

First Presbyterian will join United Church for worship on Sunday, August 4 at 10 am, in the park next to the United Church. Pastors Kathryn and Bill will co-officiate the service and co-celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Following the service there will be a pot-luck. Everyone should bring a dish to share. Meat, plates, utensils, and drinks will be provided. You might want to bring your own chair but there will also be chairs available to use.

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## Keeping Children and Youth Safe

FPC is committed to keeping children and youth safe. A part of how we do this is through the Children and Youth Protection Policy. This policy helps guide how adults interact with children and youth during church activities.

A part of the policy is a **background check** for those who are working directly with children and youth. Those who wish to work with children and youth are asked to sign a release. The release does ask the person to share some identifying information such as date of birth, social security number, and driver's license number. This is then sent to the provider, Protect My Ministry, who does a national background check and returns the results to the church. All the information is confidentially held in a locked cabinet in the pastor's office.

These background checks are required for those teaching Sunday School, working in the nursery, or taking part in the area VBS program.

If you have questions, contact Pastor Bill, Karen Anderson, Vickie Bone, Anita Benedict, or Pam Mayo from the CE committee.

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Dear Streif Family/First Presbyterian Church,

I am incredibly honored and grateful to have been awarded the Dale L. Streif scholarship for the 2024 year. Using this award, I can continue my education at the University of Iowa, at the Tippie College of Business. Wishing good health and good fortunes.

God Bless, Jase Reinke



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Dear First Presbyterian Church and Scholarship Committee,

I am extraordinarily thankful to again be a recipient of the Dale L. Streif Memorial Scholarship. My education so far at Coe College has been very transformative, and continuing to have the support of this scholarship to lighten the load of future tuition costs is extremely helpful. This scholarship is bolstering my shifted pursuit of a bachelor's degree in communications, and so I continue to be grateful to both the scholarship committee and the First Presbyterian Church as a whole.

Sincerely, Reese Saunders

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Many thanks to the family of Marge Lubben for their memorial gift to the church in memory of Marge. The funds have been placed in the Memorial Fund for future use.

### Thanks for helping out! Nursery

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

It has been a while since we have had the *nursery available during worship*. Session talked in June and would like it to be an option for families with smaller children. All children would start in the sanctuary with their families and be dismissed with the nursery helpers after the children's message.

To make this a reality it will take people willing to staff the nursery during this time.

Our Child and Youth Protection policy requires that there are two background checked adults staffing the nursery, so we will need two adults each Sunday.

Being background checked is as simple as filling out a release with some personal information. This information is sent to a second party who does the background checking. All information is held confidentially by me, locked in the pastor's office.

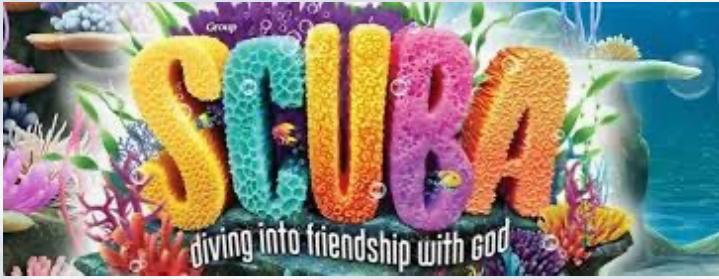
If you have a heart for children, I hope you will consider being a part of this important ministry.

*"Let the little children come unto me."* Jesus said.

If you have questions or would like to be a part of this ministry, contact Pastor Bill

Thanks for doing your part!

Pastor Bill



**Have You Registered?  
Community VBS 2024**

July 29th-August 2nd, 2024

*Registration is online and limited.*

*Sign up now to reserve your spot.*

*To register a child: [bit.ly/4bkJMcu](https://bit.ly/4bkJMcu)*

*To volunteer: <https://bit.ly/3VmtBW6>*

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND & HERE TO STAY!**

**3RD ANNUAL  
FREE  
COMMUNITY  
PICNIC**

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21 | 5:00-7:00 PM**

OUTDOOR AREA BY UNITED CHURCH OF MONTICELLO  
123 N CHESTNUT STREET  
ADDITIONAL SEATING ON THE STREET

RAIN LOCATION:  
MONTICELLO BERNDEN CENTER

**BUILD CONNECTIONS!**

**MENU:**  
GRILLED PORK SANDWICHES, HOT DOGS, BRATS, CHIPS, HOMEMADE COOKIES, ICE CREAM CUPS, LEMONADE & WATER  
GRILLED BY THE JONES COUNTY PORK PRODUCERS

**HANDS ON ART & SCIENCE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH**

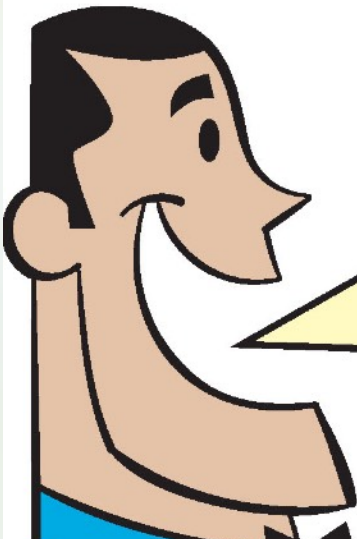
SPONSORED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES, CHURCHES, AND INDIVIDUALS

**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
- Sherrri 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!





## Lessons From Hiking

Whether I'm hiking an easier stroll or a 20-mile trek, I've noticed parallels to my journey with Christ.

- This is my journey. Too often I waste time comparing my stride, pace or equipment to that of fellow hikers.
- I don't know what's around each bend, but God does. I can't let anxiety steal my joy.
- It's best to balance hiking in silence with sharing the trail with friends.
- I'll be sore tomorrow, and that's okay. Engaging new muscles leaves a reminder that growth is uncomfortable.
- Being prepared is good; being *too* prepared makes for a heavy backpack. I need to do my due diligence and let God handle the rest.
- It's not a race, so finishing quickly offers no reward. When I'm not in a hurry, I tend to notice more of God's blessings.
- I need to look up, enjoying God's creation as I let him determine my steps.

—Janna Firestone

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## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

Current needs for those wishing to make a donation to the food pantry are:

- **Cold cereals**
- **grape jelly**
- **chunky soups**
- **toilet paper**
- **baby wipes**
- **deodorant**
- **laundry detergent**
- **tooth brushes**
- **tooth paste**

**Gift cards to our local grocers are always a tremendous help as we received bulk pricing.**

**Items can be dropped off during food pantry hours, Mondays from 5 pm-7 pm, and Fridays from 2 pm-4 pm, or 30 minutes prior to opening.**

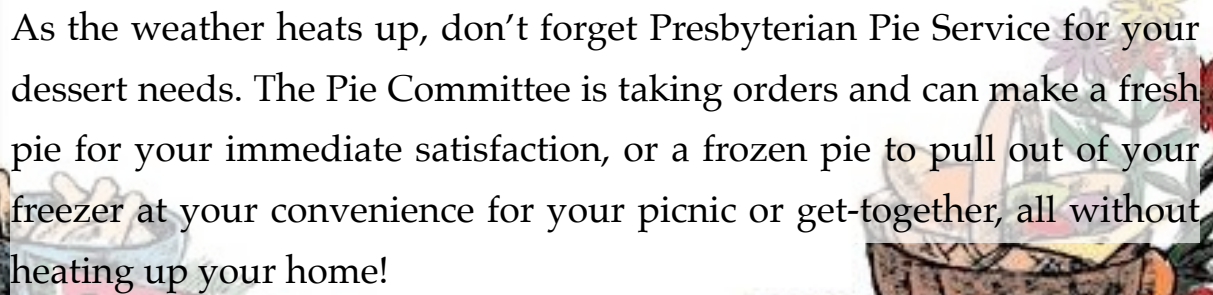
THANK YOU to all of our generous neighbors that make this service a possibility!

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**PER CAPITA UPDATE** — The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,072, although we have received only **44.68%** to date.

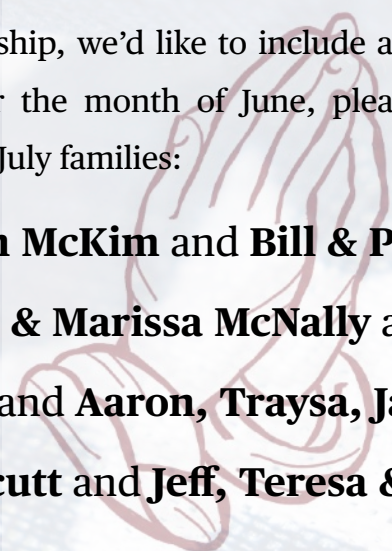
If you are an active member and have not submitted **\$42.17**, please do so as soon as possible.





As the weather heats up, don't forget Presbyterian Pie Service for your dessert needs. The Pie Committee is taking orders and can make a fresh pie for your immediate satisfaction, or a frozen pie to pull out of your freezer at your convenience for your picnic or get-together, all without heating up your home!

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



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 July families:

July 7: **Rich & Joan McKim** and **Bill & Penny McLaughlin**

July 14: **Mike, Kim & Marissa McNally** and **Sherri Neofotist**

July 21: **Barb Null** and **Aaron, Traysa, Jayden & Landon Orcutt**

July 28: **Becky Orcutt** and **Jeff, Teresa & Meredith Parker**

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag Pennington

Barb Null Anamosa CC

Frank Smith Horizon, Waterloo

Marge Stubbe Corridor, CR



IN OUR  
**THOUGHTS**  
&  
**PRAYERS**



## Updating Contact Information-LAST CALL

(If you haven't already updated or received a call, Mackenzie will be contacting you to update this 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](mailto: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 HIGHLIGHTS - JUNE 2024

- Session approved to hold joint worship and communion with the United Church on August 4.
- Working on getting new lift installed.
- Pastor Bill continues to visit with members at home and in the care centers, and working with the MMA and Food Pantry.
- September 15th Rev. Dr. Howard Chapman will fill the pulpit when Pastor Bill is gone for study leave.
- October 27th Interim Presbytery Executive, Rev. Seth Northington, will fill the pulpit when Pastor Bill is on vacation.

## ATTENDANCE

	Worship
June 2	33
June 9	48
June 16	34
June 23	43

## 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.

May Contributions: **\$6,404.80**

(May 2023 \$18,871.55)

May Expenditures: **\$16,181.24**

(May 2023 \$8,189.21)

