

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.

Rusty Stevens, a ministry leader in Virginia, described trying to finish mowing the lawn before dinnertime. His 6-year-old son darted in front of him and grabbed the

mower handle. But when Stevens stopped pushing, the mower soon stopped.



The busy dad fought the urge to tell his son to get out of his way and instead offered to help. Stevens began pushing again, leaning over and walking awkwardly to accommodate his eager assistant. Although the mowing commenced, it was slow-going and not as efficient as the solo effort.

That’s when Stevens realized a ministry parallel: “This is the way my heavenly

Father allows me to ‘help’ him build his kingdom!” The church leader pictured God busy “seeking, saving and transforming the lost, and there I was, with my weak hands ‘helping.’”

Although God surely can tackle all the work of ministry and evangelism alone, he “chooses to stoop gracefully to allow me to co-labor with him,” said Stevens. What a blessing and privilege that God lets us work alongside him!

211 W First St
Monticello, IA 52310
(319) 465-3393

Pastor:

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

Office:

Administrator: Mackenzie Kahler
office: 319-465-3393
office@fpcmonticello.org

Treasurer:

Dan Saunders

Worship:

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Join us on FaceBook
livestream for worship each
Sunday.

Social Media:

Facebook: @MonticelloFPC

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

What is your favorite Jesus' story? What is that story about Jesus that gets you thinking, brings you comfort, stretches you to live differently, or is just perplexing? (What the heck is that all about!).

In July and continuing in August, I am sharing with you some of the Jesus' stories that I have found compelling.

One of these stories comes from Mark's gospel where Jesus Heals a blind man....sort of.

They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"

He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."

Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't even go into the village."

I am not sure what this double healing means exactly ... but I know it gets me thinking about how sometimes I see people as less than human. I see them as things instead of as people with God life in them. Or I see them as objects to be used to accomplish what I want done.

Other times I think this is how it is when I think I know something about how God works...but then I figure out I really didn't know at all.

Either way, I am glad we have a God who loves us when we don't know, or aren't sure, or even seeing people than less than God created them to be.

What is your favorite Jesus story?

Thank
You!



Thanks for helping out! Sunday School Teachers/Helpers

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

We, First Presbyterian Church, have envisioned being a place where all of us are empowered to live out our faith in our daily lives. One of the ways we work to empower each other is through our Sunday Schools.

Sunday Schools are offered for all ages from September through May. While the formats are a little different from age group to age group, the need is basically the same. We need people who will lead the lesson each week and helpers to assist the leader.

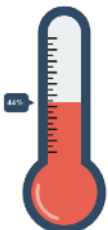
For all the classes, materials are provided so that the lesson is fairly easy to prepare for and has step by step suggestions in presenting the material. Each week might take 30-60 minutes to prepare. On Sunday morning, teachers and helpers need to arrive about 10 minutes before 8:30 am (unless you have things for the lesson that need to be set up prior to the children arriving). The class time normally runs for an hour (8:30-9:30 am).

Teachers and helpers need to be background check, if you not already been. The processes is simple. We just have you fill out the information on the release form and the office to sends to the company who performs these checks for us.

Let Pastor Bill, Lisa Keltner, Anita Benedict, Karen Anderson, Vickie Bone, or Pam Mayo know if you have questions or would like to be a part of this important ministry.

Thanks for doing your part!

GOAL: \$6,072



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.

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

Enjoy the **FREE Community Picnic** (3rd Annual) on Back to School Night, Wednesday, August 21, from 5-7 pm. Located by the United Church of Monticello, 123 N Chestnut St, the picnic is planned for our community to come together for food and conversation and to celebrate the star of a new school year.

We welcome volunteers from the community; they can sign up on the computer at: <https://tinyurl.com/5f4f85p3> or by calling the United Church of Monticello, 319-465-3473 and leaving a message.



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry continues to serve the community on Mondays, 5 pm - 7 pm, and Fridays, 2 pm - 4 pm. Donations can be taken at this time as well.

If you have any extra produce from your gardens this summer, we would love to share your donation with a family in need. Fresh produce should be dropped off a half hour prior to pantry hours to ensure fresh quality to our clients.

Thank you!



Other needs include: **oatmeal, kidney beans, shampoo, toilet paper, baby wipes, deodorant, laundry detergent, tooth brushes, and tooth paste.** Gift cards to local grocers are always welcome!



Community VBS—The second annual Monticello Community VBS is taking place this week. We pray for the kids, leaders and volunteers that this week is fun, safe, and successful. Registration was increased, and finished out just over 100 kids! Wow! Thank you to all that donated resources, their time or financially. It truly does take a village!

August 2024 Newsletter

the family of
Marie Ryan
mother of member Colin Ryan

the family of
Dave McNally
father of member Mike McNally

Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount



Lorraine Haag Pennington

Barb Null Anamosa CC

Frank Smith Horizon, Waterloo

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!

Jim Anderson
Peg Arduser
Anita Benedict
Vickie Bone
Curt Mayo
Sherri Neofotist
Dan Saunders
Don Smith
Stacey Takes
Meredith Parker

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

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

August 4: Linda Parker and Melody, Jerry, Gary, Brendan, Cameron, & Dax Pasker

August 11: Joanne & Wayne Peach and Cindy & Jim Plummer

August 18: Kris Read and Pam Recker

August 25: Jim, Rhonda, Caden & Jase Reinke and Lindsey, Dustin, Dawson, Dylan, Dalton & Drew Ricklefs

Presbyterian Pie Service – The Presbyterian Pie Service continues to fill the pie desires of the community. Consider a pie for your next potluck or get-together. If you would like to place an order or check our stock, call Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).



Session Report - July 10, 2024

Updated the Wedding and Memorial Gift policies.

Pastor Bill was in contact with 12 members either in-home, hospital, care center, assisted living, or by phone.

This fall, All American Lawn and Landscaping will be removing the 2 trees by the front steps and replacing them with Emerald Green Arborvitae.

Removal and replacing of the lift will be taking place soon.

Financial Report - July 2024

General Fund Financial Update for the first 6 months of the year.

Year	Income/Actual	Expense/Actual
2024	\$70,843	\$83,752
2023	\$69,842	\$56,668

While our giving has held steady over the last year our expenses have risen. Most of the increase in expenses is having a full time pastor again. The treasurer Dan Saunders continues to monitor income and expenses and reports each month to the Session. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask Dan or one of the Session members.

We want to thank you for your continued financial support of the ministries here at First Presbyterian Church.

Attendance



	Worship
June 30	43
July 7	39
July 14	37
July 21	41
July 28	62



Thank you!

June Contributions 2024	\$6,695.29
June 2023	\$14,506.40*
June Expenses 2024	\$44,740.72**
June 2023	\$10,212.62

*Amount includes Pie Committee Donation

**Amount includes elevator expense