

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.*

Parable of the Pufflings

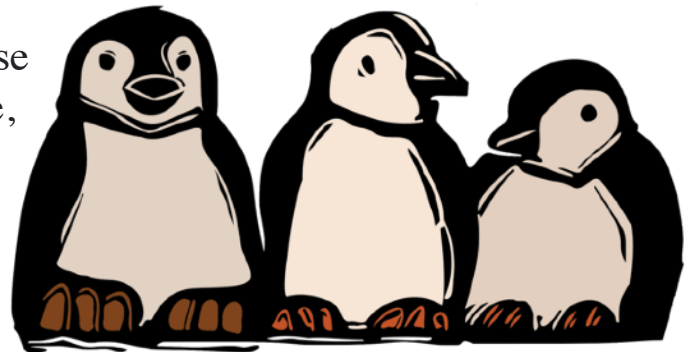
As summer ends on a remote island off Iceland, parent puffins — black and white seabirds with rainbow beaks — stop bringing fish to their chicks. These “pufflings,” whose first few weeks were lived in burrows in cliffs, now must launch into a wind current to glide out over the sea and find their own food. Some babies, however, mistake a lit-up house or gas station for moonlight on the water and, as locals say, “fall out of the sky.” Because pufflings can’t yet take off from land and fly, if left alone they starve.

So for generations, during “puffling season” people on this island have stayed up late to rescue baby birds. On his *Animal* podcast, reporter Sam Anderson tells how, with an islander’s help, he picks up a puffling one night, placing it in a box for morning release over the ocean. As the frightened, confused bird squeals and scratches to get free, Anderson supposes it thinks this is the worst night of its life. In fact, it is the best: It’s being saved.

We humans often get confused, pulled in wrong directions. We’re misled and land in trouble from which we cannot save ourselves. Scared and confused, we believe we’re irredeemably trapped in the worst of circumstances. We can’t perceive that, even now, we are being protected and rescued, that God is working to give back to us the fullness of life we cannot attain for ourselves.

Hang on, beloved one. Though you can’t sense it at this moment, you are held in God’s care, soon to be lifted on the wind of the Holy Spirit, who will carry you into better days.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Pastor's {Ponderings}

The recent tragic deaths of Dalton Camp and Cynthanee Heeren, both from Anamosa, both who died on the same day in separate UTV accidents, remind us that life is not only precious but also fleeting. As the Psalmist sings:

Who can live and never see death? Who can escape the power of Sheol? (Ps 89:48)

This community seems to have had more than its share of tragic deaths in recent years.

On October 10, we have an opportunity to come together as a community to think about and talk about how we process feelings of loss and trauma. Health care professionals from the Family Caregivers Center will bring their experience of helping people and communities cope with loss and trauma. (You can read more about this in the newsletter.) I think it is both a timely and important topic for all of us.

As we live with the trauma and the losses of dear friends, neighbors, and loved ones, the Psalmist also sings:

Turn, O Lord! Have compassion on your servants! Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days. (Ps 90)

Praying for you God's comfort in the midst of losses you have experienced.

Pastor Bill



**Pastor
Bill Warhaver**

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**Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler**

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Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Sunday school

8:30 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m.

Pastor Bill will be gone Friday, October 25th through Thursday, October 31st. If a pastoral need should arise while Pastor Bill is gone please contact Elder Vickie Bone 319-480-1758 or Elder Don Smith 319-480-2671.



**Jones County Community Conversation on
Grief, Trauma, Guilt, and Healing**
Oct 10th 1:30-3:00
First Presbyterian Church, Monticello



This conversation will focus on some of the toughest and most real experiences, emotions, and feelings about death and loss and how we cope with those feelings.

Panel members include:

- Rev Tammy Buseman, Chaplain Mercy Medical Center,
- Claude Howard, Director, Mercy Inpatient Behavioral Health, Security & Environmental Services,
- Becky Krapfl, Licensed Social Worker and Caregiver Engagement Facilitator, and
- Mary Ann Grobstich, Education and Community Outreach, Family Caregivers Center of Mercy.

This conversation is host by the Stephen Ministers of Wayne Zion Lutheran Church and presented by the Family Caregivers Center of Mercy.

For more information you can call Pastor Wade Reddy, Wayne Zion, 319-465-4834 or Pastor Bill at 319-202-4977.

(I would really encourage people to attend this event. —Pastor Bill)

Lift Update

The lift has been installed. We are still awaiting inspection by the state before the lift may be deemed operational. This requires both the lift company and the state inspector to be on-site at the same time. This is tentatively scheduled for the second week in October. Emergency services will also be on-site for a tutorial so they are educated in case of an emergency. We appreciate your continued patience as



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.

CROP Walk - Sunday, October 13 @ 2pm

Since 1969 neighbors have been helping neighbors to end hunger right at home and around the world through Church World Services and the CROP Walk. This year the CROP Walk will take place on Sunday, October 13 @ 2 pm, starting at Austin Strong Playground.

The CROP Walk not only brings area churches and communities together to raise money to support local food pantries in Monticello, Anamosa, Wyoming, and Olin but when we gather it together to walk it reminds us of Jesus imperative to feed the hungry.

Since the pandemic walker participation has fallen off and it is my hope that FPC can begin a renewal of the active part of CROP Walk by walking.

You can participate by walking on October 13th, sponsoring a walker, or making a contribution to the Crop Walk. Checks should be made out to CWS/CROP and turned in either to the walker or office before the end of October .

If you would like to join me in walking on October 13, please let me know. You can email me at pastor@fpcmonticello.org. Phone me at the church office or at my cell 319-202-4977.

Thank you for considering participating in this years CROP walk.



October is Pastor Appreciation Month, an observance that some clergy don't publicize. It's an ideal time to thank pastors for their dedication to God's people and the ministry. A written note, a card or even a free meal is a nice gesture of appreciation. But if you were to ask pastors what they'd like or what they need, most would probably reply, "Pray for me."

That's what the apostle Paul requested throughout his letters. To the church at Rome, he urged, "Join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

As you appreciate and encourage your pastors, remember them in your prayers. Then let them know you're doing so!

We appreciate you, Pastor Bill!



BEAR CREEK Celebrated

On Sunday, September 8, we celebrated FPC's connections with Camp Bear Creek. The 7 campers and 5 counselors/staff members shared their favorite moments at camp. The campers attended camp through scholarships from FPC Camp and Conference Committee that has provided full scholarships to camp since the 1960s.

FPC member, former Bear Creek staff person and current board member, Phil Gilkerson, shared with us some facts about Camp Bear Creek:

- Camp had 27 staff this summer from all over the state, the country (Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Virginia, and California), and the world (Mexico and Ghana). Brendan Pasker, Hailey Wilson, Grace and Jared Willms, Lillian and Marcella Bruns served on staff. Taylor Gassman and Meredith Parker volunteered as counselors for a week.
- Camp served over 550 campers (87% capacity rate)
- In April, Newsweek named the camp as one of the top 500 summer camps in the country.
- Camp is in the beginning stages of a new capital campaign. This \$3 million dollar campaign will focus on updates to buildings and infrastructure so that camp can continue to provide Christ centered, life changing experiences into the future. This campaign will focus on these six areas:
 - 1- Update the current facilities which includes such things as replacing the windows and furnishings in Deer Center and the two lodges.
 - 2- Build a High Ropes Course for individual challenges as well as team challenges.
 - 3- Replace the well that serves the north side of camp (where the Owl's Nest and office are located)
 - 4- New duplex cabin for staff and volunteers such as nurses, chaplains, and camp leadership staff.
 - 5- New maintenance shop.
 - 6- Last but not least...a new swimming pool

"We are excited to share that the camp has already received a \$1 million pledge towards the campaign." Phil reported.



Don't forget to join us **Wednesday, October 30th 4:30-7 pm**, for *FPC's Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar* fundraiser. We will be serving baked potatoes with all of the fixings. This is a fundraiser to support sending our youth to camp at no cost to the camper. Grab a delicious meal and help support our youth!

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.

Food Pantry

Boy Scouts will be out *Scouting for Food* in the coming weeks! Look for the bags on a door handle near you! Pick up will take place on **Saturday, October 19**.

Our current needs include: **macaroni and cheese, pasta sauce, Rice-a-Roni, canned fruit, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, rice, soup laundry detergent, toilet paper, and shampoo.**

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!



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: Pam (319-480-7700) or Kris (319-480-1538).

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. 📧



Betty Lambert

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Lorraine Haag
Pennington/Monticello

Barb Null
Anamosa CC

Frank Smith
Horizon/Waterloo

Marj Stubbe
Corridor/Cedar Rapids



ATTENDANCE

	Worship	SS
September 1	42	-
September 8	64	9
September 15	42	11
September 22	54	11

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 6: Lisa & Bruce Smith and Kaylee Stephen

October 13: Roger Stephen and Kevin & Gayle Stingley

October 20: Marj Stubbe and Jodi Suthers

October 27: John & Stacey Takes and Riley Takes and Robyn Takes

Praying
FOR You

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

Vickie Bone

Dan Saunders

Jim Anderson

Sherri Neofotist

Don Smith

Anita Benedict

Kris Read

Jared Willms

Session Highlights - September 11, 2024

- Activated nominating committee to begin the work of finding candidates for elders, youth elder, deacons and 2025 nominating committee.
- Waiting on estimate from Adrian English, Davenport, Iowa, for the sill reconstruction under the large stained-glass window.
- Monticello Fire Department want to do a walk thru of the church and also see how to work the new lift.
- Camp & Conference Baked Potato Bar is scheduled for October 30th.
- Pastor Bill will be on vacation the week of October 27th. Interim Presbytery Executive Rev. Seth Northington will fill the pulpit and Rev. Kristy Parker will be on call. Elders to contact if emergency comes up will be Elders Vicki Bone and Don Smith.



Financial Report Summary
Submitted by Danny C Saunders, Treasurer
Year-to-Date, August 31, 2024

Income, Budgeted \$168,656.40

Checking Balance \$55,812.47

Income, Actual \$103,903.78

% Actual vs Budget 61.61%

Expense, Budgeted \$207,144.52

Expense, Actual \$111,605.68

% Actual vs Budget 53.88%

Notes: Received Harriet Hintz interest of \$67.34; Transferred to Memorial Savings. Received Peter Smith interest of \$110.03; Added to Main Checking account.