



# 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.*

## SIMPLE BUT LIFESAVING

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In early 2024, Beatrice Johnson became deathly ill in hours. An upset stomach became dangerously low blood pressure; it turned out flesh-eating bacteria had attacked her entire body. When Johnson's kidneys started failing, she was put on life support. In a last-ditch effort, doctors added sodium bicarbonate — baking soda — to her IV.

Within hours Johnson was noticeably improved, and she left the hospital a month later. "I never thought something so simple would save my life," she said.

Another lifesaver many people find too simple is God's grace. We quip, "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is," and "Nothing in life is free."

We're used to payments or paybacks. We balk if a friend offers to buy our lunch. When a neighbor brings us homemade cookies, we don't dare return the plate empty.

So how can something as huge and *holy* as salvation be a free gift from God? Don't we need to *do* something to earn it: follow the 10 Commandments? go to church? live a "godly" life?

All those things are good to do, but the key is to do them as *thanks* for God's gift of salvation, not to earn it. Jesus loves you and assures you of eternal life. Just accept the gift! If that seems simple, it's because it is — but it will also save your life.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

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## Pastor's {Ponderings}

What are you thankful for?

It is the same question I asked in last year's November newsletter.

What are you thankful for?

During this last year my health insurance sponsored wellness program encourage thankfulness as a way of feeling better and maintaining a sense of well being. Every week they encouraged me to take a 'moment of gratitude'.

I really didn't need a wellness program to let me know about the importance of noticing the blessings that surround us every day. I have spent enough time with chronically ill people to know that thanksgiving might not change their circumstances but it does change how they feel about life and those around them.

I have spent enough time practicing gratitude to know that being grateful for even the smallest of things, makes me aware of how much good is going on in me and around me.

In his letter to the church of Philippi, Paul, reminds the church of all he has suffered on the account of his faith while at the same time he invites them to 'rejoice' and to 'pray with thanksgiving in their hearts.'

What are you thankful for?

Me? I'm thankful for this day, for the cool days of fall, for fields that have yielded a great harvest, for my health that is mostly good, for my wife who somehow loves me when I'm at my best and at my worst, for the gift of faith that keeps me always hopeful, for people like you who share the journey of faith and life with me.

In gratitude,  
Pastor Bill

### PASTOR

**Bill Warhover**

Mobile 319-202-4977

[pastor@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:pastor@fpcmonticello.org)

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### OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

**Mackenzie Kahler**

Office 319-465-3393

[office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org)

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### TREASURER

**Dan Saunders**

Mobile 319-480-2298

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### WORSHIP

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
(youth-adult)

8:30 a.m.

FELLOWSHIP 9:30 a.m.

### FACEBOOK:

@MonticelloFPC



The church office will be **closed Thursday and Friday, November 28 and 29**, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. If you have an emergency, please contact Pastor Bill on his mobile phone at 319-202-4977.

# “Surely he has borne our griefs ...”

When veteran Joe Serna confessed that he'd been drinking — behavior prohibited in the Veterans Treatment Court program — Judge Lou Olivera sentenced him to one night in jail. That might not seem like much, but while deployed, Serna had been trapped underwater when his truck toppled into a canal. A buddy managed to move him to an air pocket, saving his life, but the buddy and two others died. Years later, even the thought of confinement triggered flashbacks.

As Serna arrived for his jail stay, Olivera, also a vet, saw his anxiety, entered the cell with Serna and spent the night. His kind act nearly brought Serna to tears, but the judge believes any vet would have done the same. “These are our brothers,” Olivera says. “We never leave each other behind.”

Similarly, Jesus entered our troubled story alongside us, sharing in our suffering, brokenness and even death. As a comrade unlike any other, Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters, refusing to leave us behind with our self-imposed burdens. Above all, Jesus does what only God can: redeems us for the joy of new life.

**This Veterans’ Day, we honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, including veterans and members of First Presbyterian Church (printed with permission):**

**Roger Benedict | Dennis Gray | Glen King  
Larry Lamont | Curt Mayo | Dan Saunders**

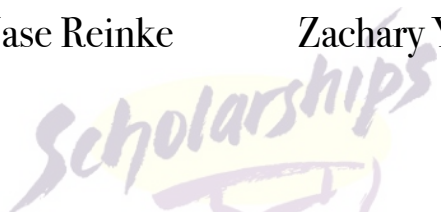
\*\*If we have missed you, please accept our sincerest apologies. Please contact the church office so we can add you to our list!



Reminder: Set your clocks back as daylight savings time ends **Sunday, November**



Taylor Gassman      Rease Saunders  
Jase Reinke          Zachary Yates



Be sure to vote!  
Election Day, **November 5**

God’s blessings on our Scholarship recipients and their future plans.



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## Remembering the Saints

When Paul wrote to the church in Rome, he addressed his letter “To all God’s beloved ... who are called to be saints” (Romans 1:7, NRSV). Paul regarded his fellow believers as people who have responded to the good news of Christ by choosing to follow and serve God.

The New Testament emphasizes that Christians are God’s beloved – special people set apart to receive his grace and to be his witnesses. All people whose minds and hearts are devoted to God are “called to be saints.”

About 700 years after the church began, leaders designated November 1 as All Saints’ Day to honor people whose lives reflect Christ dwelling within them. Because of what God has done for us, all Christians can wear the label of saint.

We remember members and friends of First Presbyterian Church on this All Saints’ Day (**November 1**) who have entered into the kingdom of heaven in the past year:

**Marjorie Lubben | Frank Smith**  
**Sandra Stephens | John Reade**



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## Food Pantry Holiday Hours

A reminder as seasonal weather and holidays approach: the Monticello Food Pantry will be closed if the Monticello Schools are closed. With that in mind, the Monticello Food Pantry will observe the following hours for the Thanksgiving holiday:

**OPEN: Monday, November 25**  
5 pm - 7 pm

**CLOSED: Friday, November 29**

**OPEN: Monday, December 2**  
5 pm - 7 pm



**Current food pantry needs include: Canned fruits, canned vegetables, canned meat, cereal (not Cheerios), pancake mix, pancake syrup, pastas, laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, full-sized toothpaste, tooth brushes.**



Confirmation class meets **each Wednesday from 5:30 pm-6:45 pm.**

Classes will meet Nov. 6, 13, and 20,  
**Nov. 27- NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Break**

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Thanksgiving Day, November 28

**DELIVERY & CARRY OUT ONLY!**  
**RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**



Community

Thanksgiving

Dinner

**Reservations must be made by Mon. , Nov. 25**

- TO REQUEST A MEAL FOR DELIVERY — Please call 319-465-3219 by Mon., Nov. 25 (There is no charge for this Community Meal.)
- TO VOLUNTEER — Please call 319-465-3219
- If you would like to MAKE A MONETARY DONATION, you may drop it off at Citizens State Bank in Monticello or mail a check to—  
Community Thanksgiving Dinner, c/o Terry Feeling  
15736 120th Ave • Scotch Grove, IA 52310  
100% of the proceeds in excess of needs for the meal are donated to the Monticello Food Pantry

**THERE WILL BE NO DINING IN**



The two lilac bushes at the entrance to the sanctuary have been replaced with Emerald Green Arborvitae. This was made possible from the **Marge Lubben Memorial gift.**



You are invited to help decorate our church for the Christmas season after our worship service on **Sunday, Nov. 24th**. Updates will be posted on our church's Facebook page in case these plans need to be adjusted. As take-down is yet to be determined, we will make another announcement requesting your help at a later date. Thank you! -Deacons

## Care & Share



Our congregation will once again participate in HACAP's Care & Share Christmas program. The Deacons have received word from HACAP and will support six (6) “adopted” children and their families this year. Cash donations are welcome at any time. Please mark donations “Care and Share.” Watch for updates in our weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, and on our Facebook page concerning this year’s procedures and dates to participate. Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting children and families in our community at this special time of year!

***Christmas Eve Schedule - Please make plans to join us for Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Tuesday, December 24th, at 6pm.***



## Presbyterian Pie Service

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).**



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## Thanks for Helping Out, LITURGIST!

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!”*  
— 1 C o r  
12:7 The Message

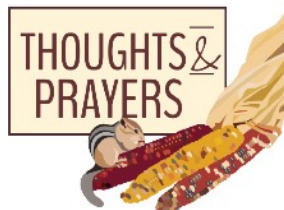
Each Sunday we invite one person to lead us in worship as the liturgist. The liturgist is responsible for inviting us in to worship through our Opening Sentences and Prayer. The liturgist next invites us to stand for the hymn and, then, invites us into our confession and offers an assurance of pardon. Finally the liturgist encourages us to pass the peace to one another.

The bulletin is normally emailed out the liturgist prior to Sunday’s service so that they can look through it and become familiar with the parts they will read and lead. Your commitment to be the liturgist is only for the Sunday that you sign up for.

You can sign up to be liturgist on the clip board at the back of the sanctuary on Sunday morning or by contacting Mackenzie at [office@fpcmonticello.org](mailto:office@fpcmonticello.org).

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Betty Lambert  
Evalena Lang  
Doug Mettler  
Betty Yount



Lorraine Haag MNRC  
Barb Null Anamosa CC  
Marj Stubbe Corridor/CR



If you, or someone you know, 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, 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. Homebound communion is also being offered to our homebound members. Please contact Pastor Bill, 319-202-4977, or the church office, 319-465-3393, to request a pastoral care or homebound communion visit.





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

November 3: Davie & Joann Warner and Jared, Bobby, Carter & Reagan Willms

November 10: Tom & Diane Yeoman and Betty Yount

November 17: Lisa & Mick Adams and Helen Alden

November 24: Jim & Karen Anderson and Ann & Rev. Randy Argall



### Session Highlights - 9 October 2024

Received estimate for replacing sill on large stained glass window and protective coving for all of the stained glass windows.

Per Capita for 2025 will be \$45.34 per member.

Kevin Cullum from Camp Bear Creek (Camp Wyoming) was present to talk about their Capital Campaign.

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held July 28-August 1, 2025. Theme will be True North Adventure in Alaskan Wilderness with God.



### OFFERING & FINANCIALS

**Income** — year-to-date: Sept 30, 2024

Actual.	\$113,747.37
Budget.	\$168,656.40
Percent.	67.44%

**Expenses**

Actual.	\$153,672.56
Budget.	\$207,144.52
Percent.	74.19%

### ATTENDANCE:

Week of:	Worship	Sunday School
Sept 29	51	13
Oct 6	47	12
Oct 13	43	7
Oct 20	52	8

