

NEWS AT FIRST

First Presbyterian Church, 211 W 1st St, Monticello, IA 52310

Clothed in Compassion

In Colossians 3:12, Paul tells us to clothe ourselves in compassion. What does that look like? Consider these parallels to actual clothes:

Each morning, we select outfits depending on our activities and who we'll see. For example, clothing looks different for a day of chores than for worship on Easter Sunday. To maintain our wardrobe, we regularly clean, fold and repair items. Likewise, each day we choose how we'll treat others. Our approach to each activity or interaction might differ, as we seek to represent Christ well. And to maintain an effective witness, we often must renew and "mend" our attitude.

One more comparison: Look in your closet. Have you updated your clothes lately? Compassion looks different than it did decades ago. While staying grounded in biblical truth, let's adapt the care we wear — making it "fit" better for today's generations.

—Janna Firestone



Scholarship applications are due in physical hard-copy form **TUESDAY, APRIL 1st!** No fooling (since they are due on April Fool's Day)! Applications can be mailed to or dropped off at the church: 211 W 1st St, Monticello, IA 52310.

We are so fortunate to be able to provide a number of options to our students looking to better their future.



Pastor's Ponderings



Wisdom says that April showers bring May flowers.

The apostle Paul, when writing to the church in Corinth, talks about the progression that is necessary for things like flowers to grow. The seed has to be planted and then watered. Only then, God willing, will that seed begin to grow, take root, flower, and bear fruit.

In April, Lent will give way to Easter. Lent, we might say, is the season of preparing the ground and planting the seed, while Easter is the season where those plants grown and bear fruit. If we have done the work of Lent (examining our faith, seeing what needs pruning or nurturing), we would think that the season of Easter would be one of abundant harvest...but God always surprises us. Growth comes in unexpected places and unexpected ways. God growth is not dependent on us. It is God who initiates, God who waters, God who brings the fruit to the plant. But yet we do have a role, a part to play.

In April, we will celebrate what God is doing and what we are doing.

On April 4th, we will gather to celebrate communion and to ask God to bless the soil and the seeds as farmers prepare to go to the fields to plant the crops.

On April 13th, our confirmands will lead us in the Palm Sunday service, profess their faith, and be received into the membership of the church.

On April 20th, we will celebrate Easter...'Christ is risen, He is risen indeed'.

May these services be an encouragement to you and I as we grow in our faith. May our faith bear an abundance of kindness and compassion as we live it out in our homes, our work, our school, our community, and our world.

I (Paul) planted the seeds, Apollos watered them, but God made them sprout and grow. —1 Corinthians 3:6 CEV



Pastor Bill Warhover

319-202-4977

pastor@fpcm Monticello.org



**Office Administrator,
Mackenzie Kahler**

319-465-3393

[office@](mailto:office@fpcm Monticello.org)

fpcm Monticello.org

**Treasurer,
Dan Saunders**

Hours vary



Worship

Sundays 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. youth Sunday school

9:30 a.m. Fellowship

If you're not able to join us in person, join us for FaceBook live stream Sunday Worship service each Sunday.

Blessing of Seed and Soil, Sunday, April 6th



The service of Blessing of Seed and Soil is also known as Rogation Sunday. I learned about Rogation Sunday when I was in seminary in Dubuque through a rural ministry class. Rogation, the practice of offering prayers and fasting in order to beseech God's blessing on seed, soil, and harvest has been around since the 6th Century. Today it is more widely practiced in the Roman Catholic or Anglican traditions but Protestants have adapted the practice to fit their worship as well.

During worship on April 6th, we will gather to ask God to bless the seed and soil. We will ask God to bless and keep safe those who work the land and tend the animals that feed us.

Please plan to join us and invite others to join us as we gather to celebrate our connection to the land and to one another.

Join us on **Sunday, May 4th, immediately following worship** for our Deacons Appreciation Mexican Fiesta, serving a taco bar in (early) celebration of Cinco de Mayo.



CAMP WORKDAY

Camp Bear Creek Work Day

Camp Bear Creek will host a volunteer work day on Saturday, May 10th, from 9am-3pm. Volunteers will help get Camp ready for the summer, including tasks like setting up arts and crafts, moving furniture, cleaning lifejackets and caving helmets, organizing supplies, splitting firewood, painting, and a whole host of other things. Volunteers from our church are needed.

Please RSVP using the link: <https://forms.gle/cKtJfxkHk7WMWRD17>. *RSVP as an individual or group by the end of day on Friday, May 2nd.*



Thank you to all that contributed their time, supplies, financial donations, and patronage to our annual Camp & Conference Soup Supper! Campers and volunteers were on-site to run the drive-thru, and 90 people were served. The event raised **\$1,163** for our Camp & Conference fund to send our youth to camp at no charge to youth or their family. Thank you!



What is Synod School?

Synod School is a learning and personal enrichment experience for people of all ages. We seek to create an environment of hospitality, healing, and hope. The week is designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children.

People come from all over the country with their friends and families to share in this week of worship, study, play, and life together. It is an opportunity to learn something new, to continue conversations begun by key speakers with others over meals or a board game, to share talents of creativity and music, to worship without being in charge, to be energized for service, and to enjoy not having to cook for a week.

2025 Synod School Theme: Re-Forming "Normal": Expanding HOPE

Many of us carry perceptions of what "normal" is, without ever really questioning or examining them. Mary Ann McKibben-Dana notes, "the 'myths of normal' permeate almost every aspect of human experience—not just in mental health, but also in race, gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, class, disability, nationality, religion, and more." These myths don't really serve us well, or fit every individual, family or community. Both Mary Ann and Liz Theoharris, our worship leader, will explore how our personal experiences of hope might expand as we let go, or re-form, our understanding of "normal" in today's world.

"With that kind of hope to excite us, nothing holds us back!" - 2 Corinthians 3:12, The Message

Registration for **Camp Bear Creek's 2025 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.



VBS 2025 is Announced!

July 28th-August 1st, 2025

Parents-if your students loved the MMA VBS in 2024 at the Youth Development Center or if you missed the deadline for last year's VBS-

Please Mark Your Calendar for 2025 VBS!

Registration starts soon

It will again be online registration. More information to come!

Thanks for Helping Out! Giving.

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

Each month I have been trying to remind us of how the church in general, and this church specifically, needs every one pitching in and contributing, to make ‘church’ work. I have talked about things like helping out in worship, or serving as an elder or deacon, or offering hospitality, or taking time to clean up those things that need attention. This month I want to talk about our financial giving.

One of the most important ways that we contribute to the whole is through our financial giving and generosity. It takes all of us, each doing our part, to provide for the financial well being of the church.

The church’s budget expenses this year are just over \$208,000. Our anticipated income is budgeted at just over \$169,000. Of this budgeted income amount we anticipate about \$95,000 of giving (weekly offerings and per capita gifts) and \$74,000 through what I would call generosity (the endowments, scholarship funds, Pie Committee contributions, special offerings, and fund raising).

Our budget is not extravagant. There is not a lot for spending on others (Mission). It basically pays the pastor and employees, keeps the building heated and cooled, and covers the insurance. (These items make up approximately 82% of our budget.)

Our giving is like a lot of things we do as the church, some of us are able to give more and some of us able to give less, but when we are all doing what we can it makes the church work the way that God intended it to.

Thanks for doing your part!

Food Pantry Update: 🍏🍏🍞🍗🍽️

*The Monticello Food Pantry is serving the community Mondays (5 p.m.-7 p.m.) and Fridays (2 p.m.-4 p.m.).

*If you are able, consider donating to those in need. You can donate products, or consider a monetary donation. DID YOU KNOW?: When the Food Pantry receives monetary donations, they use this for needs not filled by HACAP, and those purchases are made locally (Fareway & Dollar Fresh) and are bought by the case at a discounted case pricing, so *they are able to purchase more with the money you donate. Thank you!*

*If you have a donation (product or monetary), those can be brought to the Food Pantry during normal operating hours (Mondays from 5 pm-7 pm and Fridays from 2 pm-4pm), or a half hour before. Monetary donations can be left with the check-in volunteer located in the church. For product donations, please knock on the Food Pantry door and our volunteers would be glad to help you drop off. We will be serving people during this time, so we appreciate your patience.

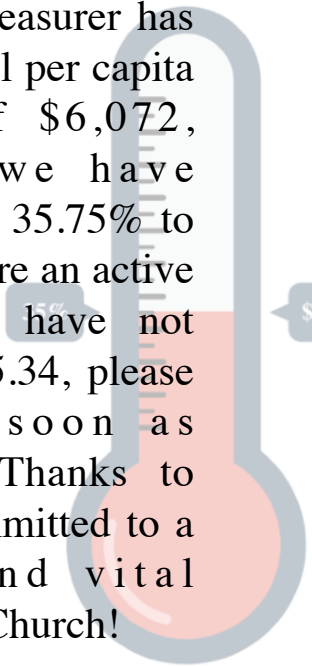
Food Pantry currently has needs, should you be able to pick up an extra item or two, or more, the next time you head to the store: **Canned fruits and vegetables, muffin mixes, cake mixes, soup, cereal (no Cheerios of any kind), regular sized shampoos, laundry detergent, and regular sized toothpastes.**

Thank you for your continued support of this local mission!

APRIL 2025

Per CAPITA \$

The church treasurer has sent in our full per capita payment of \$6,072, although we have received only 35.75% to date. If you are an active member and have not submitted \$45.34, please do so as soon as possible. Thanks to everyone committed to a healthy and vital Presbyterian Church!



Presbyterian Pie Committee

The Presbyterian Pie Committee is taking orders and there are pies in the freezer for sale. Pies make a great picnic offering, or make a regular Tuesday family dinner special. Call Pam at 319-480-7700, or Kris at 319-480-1538, to place an order or for a pick up.

We appreciate your continued business.



Betty Lambert

Evalena Lang

Doug Mettler

Betty Yount

Marge Stubbe, Corridor, CR

Barb Null, Anamosa CC

Lorraine Haag, Wellington, Decorah



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

April 6: **Jean Krueger, and Robin, Tyler & Kinley LaFave**

April 13: **Tom Lambert, and Brad Lamont**

April 20: **Larry & Kathy Lamont, and Evalena Lang**

April 27: **Kyla & Jeff Lenz, and Ashley, Zach, Tate & Talan Long**





• **Thanks to the Presbytery of East Iowa!** FPC Monticello was awarded a \$2,500.00 grant through the Presbytery of East Iowa’s Mission/Social Justice Initiative Grant for our solar project. This is one of the many ways the Presbytery works to encourage mission and social justice initiatives and support churches through out the presbytery. **Thank you PEIA.**

• **Thank you** to all that contributed their time, their assistance, their product and financial contributions, to our annual **Camp & Conference Soup Supper**. This allows FPC to send our youth to Camp Bear Creek at no registration cost to the camper and their families.

- Congratulations to the **Monticello HS Jazz Band** who is going to State! The Jazz Band includes FPC members **Meredith Parker, Jack Saunders, and Cameron Pasker**.
- Well done **Monticello FFA and Drew Ricklefs** who earned a silver on their parliamentary procedures.
- Good job! To **Carter Willms** who played the ‘Baker’ in Midland Middle/High Schools production of Into the Woods. (Reviewers said he mastered the right mix of serious, contrite, and playful.) Oh yeah, he was directed by his mom, Bobby.
- Congratulations to **Wyatt James Bone**, son of Christopher and Sarah Bone, brother of Brooklyn and Kennedy Bone, who will be **baptized** March 23.
- **Congratulations** to Cindy & Jim Plummer on the birth of their first grandchild, **Rhodes Beckham Plummer**, son of Jeff and Lindsey Plummer, born on March 13th.
- Remember and honor a loved one this Easter season by purchasing an **Easter lily** and decorating the church sanctuary. If you provide a lily in honor of a loved one, please contact the church office by phone/message, 319-465-3393, or email, office@fpcmonticello.org, with the name of loved one(s) to be recognized in the bulletin and newsletter.

Reminder: you are responsible for providing your own lily (these are not purchased through the church). Please arrange for you lily to arrive at in the sanctuary after Palm Sunday. Thank you.

March 2025 Session Summary

- Spraying plan for the building will remain the same this year.
- All applications for the Solar Energy Audit are approved.
- Discussed Vacation Bible School this summer.
- Discussed Student Graduation Recognition.



	Worship:	Sunday school:
March 2	56	11
March 9	49	n/a
March 16	48	7
March 23	82 (baptism)	10

March 10, 2025		Initial Payment	Start Work Payment	Completion Payment	Total Payment
Expenses		FUNDS EXPENSED	FUNDS EXPENSED	FUNDS EXPENSED	FUNDS EXPENSED
Sanctuary Windows All	\$130,000.00	\$11,896.75	\$20,321.25		\$32,218.00
Solar Project	\$110,250.00		\$10,700.00		\$10,700.00
Mini Splits w/ Electric	\$25,000.00				\$0.00
Kitchen Floor	\$10,000.00				\$0.00
Contingency	\$24,750.00				\$0.00
Total	\$300,000.00	\$11,896.75	\$31,021.25	\$0.00	\$42,918.00
Income		FUNDS RECEIVED		Cash on Hand	
Commitment from Endowments/Memorial Funds	\$70,000.00	\$11,896.75		\$58,103.25	
Commitment from Congregation	\$151,700.00	\$65,150.00		\$34,128.75	
Federal Cash Incentive/Solar	\$33,000.00				
Total Committed	\$254,700.00	\$77,046.75		\$92,232.00	Total Cash on Hand
\$ Yet to Raise	\$45,300.00				
		PLEDGES RECEIVED			
2024 Pledged	\$25,500.00	\$25,500.00			
2025 Pledged	\$62,500.00	\$39,650.00			
2026 Pledged	\$34,850.00	\$0.00			
2027 Pledged	\$28,850.00	\$0.00			
Total	\$151,700.00	\$65,150.00			

Year-to-date: March 12, 2025.

Checking Balance \$28,034.76

Income—

Actual. \$33,646.80
 Budget. \$169,239.39
 Percent. 19.88%

Expenses—

Actual. \$34,750.12
 Budget. \$207,811.89
 Percent. 16.72%



Notes:

1. Transferred \$31,021.25 from Capital Building fund to checking to make down payments to Glass heritage \$20,321.25, and Rabe Hardware \$10,700.
2. Transferred Bazaar account to checking \$2,366.24. Closed Bazaar account.
3. Transferred \$6,000 from Corporate Trust accounting to checking. Renamed Corporate Trust account Emergency Fund account.
4. Paid Next Generation \$7,703.21 for boiler repair.
5. Paid Next Generation \$409.90 for air exchanger repair.
6. Remaining amount from the \$8,366.24 transferred to checking to pay for boiler repair is \$2,253.13 to help towards buying new boiler for \$11,073.55 Next Generation estimate.

Where to get money? Above \$2,253.13 + \$1,049.00 to be received late April and late August from Marugg interest + \$3,302.13. Transfer \$7,771.42 from Memorial savings to cover cost. That still leaves \$21,352.38 in Memorial savings.