



Presbyterian Post

First Presbyterian Church

Being God's Church, WE ARE. Living God's Vision, WE WILL.
Being God's Church, I AM. Living God's Vision, I WILL.



Hope in the Breaking

Autumn has a way of bringing old memories to mind. This year, I've found myself thinking back to childhood. And for some reason, my mind wandered to the nursery rhymes many of us grew up hearing. They're short, catchy, and easy to remember. But when you listen closely, some of their imagery is... well, a little disturbing.

Take "Ring Around the Rosie." Sounds innocent enough, though some think it may be rooted in the Black Plague. "Ashes, ashes, we all fall down?" Sounds like one of those creepy voiceovers you'd hear in a horror movie.

Or "London Bridge is Falling Down." Many believe it reflects the repeated need to repair or rebuild London Bridge, which has been damaged, replaced, or rebuilt many times across history. Necessary as those repairs may have been, is a bridge that keeps needing to be rebuilt really something anyone would want to sing about?

And of course, there's "Rock a bye Baby," where the bough breaks and the cradle falls. As children we didn't question it. But as adults, we may think, "Who in their right mind puts a crib in a treetop?" That's a situation most of us would call DCS about.

Yet beneath their strange imagery, these rhymes reflect something true about life. Things break. Dreams collapse. What we cherish sometimes comes tumbling down. And whether the hardship happens in our own lives or in the lives of those around us, it leaves a mark.

But here's the good news. God tells a different story. The world says, "In the breaking, everything falls." But God says, "In the breaking, I hold you. In the breaking, I give hope. In the breaking, I bring life."

The prophet Isaiah promises, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out" (Isaiah 42:3). And the Apostle Paul reminds us, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair... struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8–9).

These promises tell us something profoundly hopeful. Even in the brokenness of this world, God remains sovereign, faithful, and present. Nothing places us beyond the reach of His grace. God meets us in our struggles, holds us there, and continues His redeeming work in ways we may not yet be able to see.

Don Payne, Associate Professor of Theology and Christian Formation at Denver Seminary, has written about this. He describes suffering not as an interruption to grace, but as part of its very texture. He writes, "God's gracious presence changes the character of our suffering because God does not merely and passively sympathize." God doesn't stand at a distance while we're hurting. He meets us in those difficult places with His grace.



OPERATIONS

Cash Flow Report for Month Ending 8/31/2026

The gross operating income through August 2026 was \$142,143 in contribution income and Facility usage donation of \$750 from Tri-Kappa and \$25 from Credit Card Points. Operating Expenses were \$197,894 for a Net Income **of negative \$55,841** (that's a shortage of \$6,980 per month). Any funds needed to cover cash flow were transferred to checking from Reserves. In 2025 the Income was \$129,783 and expenses were \$137,638. Expenses are higher for utilities hot summer weather and beginning in May staff expense increased with a full time pastor leading our congregation. However, giving has increased about \$1,542 per month compared to last year's eight month period.

Here is a breakdown of our expenses for eight months

Administration (Staff & Office)	\$119,071
Moving Exp-Pastor	8,000
PNC Exp	546
Facilities (Utilities & Maint.)	54,237
Education	1,067
Congr Life & Missions/Per Capita	11,745
Communication	1,787
<u>Worship</u>	<u>1,137</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$197,984

Checking Account Balance on 8/31/2026 was \$8,477 which was sufficient to cover staff payroll, etc. Donations to the Building Fund were \$4,750 for the 8 month period. The Building Fund is \$22,407, \$6,550 of this has been designated for repairs to the parking lot; \$49 for landscaping (\$470 was used in July for the area at the front entrance of the church); \$25 for a plaque and uncommitted funds of \$15,782 for any needed repairs to the building. Our building was rebuilt after the 1974 tornado and as it ages will need funds to keep it in good condition.

We have diversified our investment portfolio beginning in July of 2025 which is generating a little more income. Income from our investments for 8 months was \$5,766 (net of fiduciary fees). In 2025 it was \$3,588.

Thank you to all who have generously contributed to the financial needs of this wonderful church so we could be the Lord's hands and feet. God bless each of you for using your treasure and time to support the mission of this wonderful church.

Luke 6:38. "Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap"

Respectfully submitted,
Lucy Jacob, Church Treasurer



Prayer Concerns

Members: Jerry Kolter; Lucy & Mert Jacob; Art Anderson; Marsha Oilar; Jenelle Foddrill; Dave Bramlage

Members who are Nursing Home Residents:

Monticello Healthcare:

Pat Potter

White Oak Health Campus:

Ruth Erdmann & Nina Dellinger

All unspoken prayers

Service Men & Women

Brian Strantz (NAVY) (son of Tom & Julie Houck); Marine Helicopter Pilot Captain Charles Tuan (Richard Bailey's grandnephew; **All unspoken prayers**)



Friends and Relatives

Natalie Hanes (Judy Dowden's daughter & granddaughter & Gina Guy's sister & niece,); Kathy Maxwell (Dave & Tom Anderson's sister); Fred Bailey (Richard's brother); Rob Hood (Ardis Bramlage's friend); Kathleen (Jennifer Haskin's friend); Joey (Jennifer Haskin's friends grandson); Maverick Davey (Chris & Linda Fullerton's great grandson); Chrissy (Fry) Downey; Frank Walker; Sophea Bailey (Richard's daughter-in-law);

Melanie Ventrice (Pastor Steve Quinlan's wife); Ruth Bramlage (Dave's sister); Kristy Hunt-Shilder (Jaci Smolek's friend); Sharon McQuiston (Ardis Bramlage's friend); Janyce Bateson (Ardis Bramlage's friend); Alex Layher (Mert & Lucy Jacob's grandson); Bronsyn Layton; Mary Hanaway (Donna Thompson's sister); Chris Bailey (Richard's son); Brothers & Sisters in Christ at New Hope Lutheran Church; **All unspoken prayers**

Sister Churches

First Presbyterian Church of Highland, Highland, IN – Rev. Tyler Orem
Hobart Presbyterian Church, Hobart, IN
Lima Presbyterian Church, Howe, IN
Salem Center Presbyterian, Hudson IN

Church Directory

Rev. Jonathan T. Basile	Pastor
Jaci Smolek	Administrative Assistant
Lucy Jacob	Treasurer
Bill Cook	Custodian
Laura Lee	Choir Director
Marilyn Denton	Organist
Jeffrey Cameo	Media Specialist
Flordeliza Sare	Nursery
Jenelle Foddrill	Youth Group Leader



Website: monticellofpc.org
facebook.com/monticellofirstpresbyterianchurch

THE SESSION:

Rev. Jonathan T. Basile	Moderator
Joy Bailey	Clerk of Session

CLASS OF 2026

Jody Headdy, De Anna Paschen; Jay Janke; Dave Bramlage; Dave Anderson

CLASS OF 2027

Joy Bailey, Liz Rice, Tom Anderson; Jenelle Foddrill

CLASS OF 2028

Sherry Evans & Dennis Boyd

THE DEACONS:

Reesa Flora	Moderator
TBD	Vice-Moderator
TBD	Secretary
Andi Janke	Treasurer

CLASS OF 2026

Andi Janke, Mark Hay
Donna Thompson

CLASS OF 2027

Theresa Baker, Greg Bossaer
Amber Brothers

CLASS OF 2028

Reesa Flora, Susie Good
Richard Bailey

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

Leslie Goss	President
Susie Good	Vice President
Ardis Bramlage	Historian/Secretary
Theresa Baker	Treasurer

Program Leaders:

Spring: N/A

Fall: N/A

Christmas: N/A

Nominating Committee:

N/A



SESSION NEWS

The August 25, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev. Jonathan Basile at 6:32 pm in the conference room. Nine elders were present and Clerk, Joy Bailey declared a quorum. Devotions for the evening were given by Elder Rice. The docket was approved and the June 26, 2026, minutes were approved as presented. There was no Session Meeting in July. The Communion Count was 89 in Regular Worship.

The Session approved a request from the Deacons to apply for a second \$5,000 grant from the "Smock Deacons Fund". This grant can be used to help others in the church that have needs. The Administration Team reports a checking account balance on 7/31/26 of \$5,424 and the offering on August 2nd was sufficient to cover payables for the 1st week of August. Donations to the Building Fund were \$3,250 for the 7-month period. The team has planned a seminar on Legacy Investing and the tax benefits of doing such practices. Ms. Finke who has worked with the Presbytery has been a known expert in the presenting of Legacy Investing within the church. We have invited her to speak on October 29th at 5:30 pm. A carry-in dinner will be planned for the presentation that will give insight to our members who could benefit from her strategies.

The Facilities Needs Team presented information about estimated costs from Central Paving and George's Blacktop Paving to the Session. Both estimates do not include removing the center concrete or striping. We currently have \$6,550 in designated funds for the parking lot repair. Discussion was held and Elder Janke will give us more information at our September meeting. The team also presented the cost of putting a chair lift on the north side of the stairs. More details will be provided at our September meeting. The Session approved the relocation of the folding chairs and white tables to a location in the Fellowship Hall. The Memorial Team continues to work with the Presbyterian Women on the remodeling of the kitchen.

The Communication Team reported that the application for a \$5,000 grant to purchase a second camera, joystick, and microphones was not approved. The Session approved the team's request to apply for a Smock Foundation Grant for these supplies. The Worship Team is working with Pastor Basile on plans for Advent. The Youth/Education Team will be presenting Bibles to our youth on September 13th during worship.

Rev. Basile spent 183.5 hrs. in the office during June, July, and August. He has made 78 Pastoral Contacts and celebrated the Lord's Supper eight times. Other Ministry Activities were worship leadership and preparation, sermon research and writing, church meetings, leadership and administration. Community and congregational engagements were meeting with Presbytery staff, Deacons, Heart Fellowship, Administration Meetings, Sunday School, and Session Meetings. I am pleased to share that my Installation Service is scheduled for Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. here at the church. I am looking forward to celebrating this occasion with our congregation, representatives from Wabash Valley Presbytery, members of the wider community, family, and friends. More than simply marking the installation of a pastor, I hope the service will be a joyful celebration of the shared ministry God has entrusted to all of us. Stephanie and I remain deeply grateful for the kindness, encouragement, and friendship we have received from the congregation. It is a joy to serve as your pastor, and I look forward with gratitude and anticipation to all that God will continue to do among us in the months and years ahead. God is good!

There being no further business, the Session voted to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 7:32 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Joy Bailey, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

DAN'S FISH FRY
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22nd
from: 4:00 - 7:00 PM

This event benefits PW and the Deacons and is another great opportunity to share our church with our community. This is Dan's final fish fry of the season, so help us spread the word and sell lots of tickets! See De for tickets, and please sign up to help. Many hands make light work!



Bazaar 2026

...is just around the corner! November 5th will be here before we know it, so now is the time to get your creative juices flowing and decide what delicious goodies you can make for the baked goods and candy table as well as what handmade arts and crafts you can share to inspire our community. (Please note: we are *not* doing a Grandmother's Attic section this year.)

We will again be serving lunch and dinner, so volunteers will be needed. It's such a great time for fellowship with each other as well as our community – and all for a great cause!

Questions? Contact Leslie, Marsha or De!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR



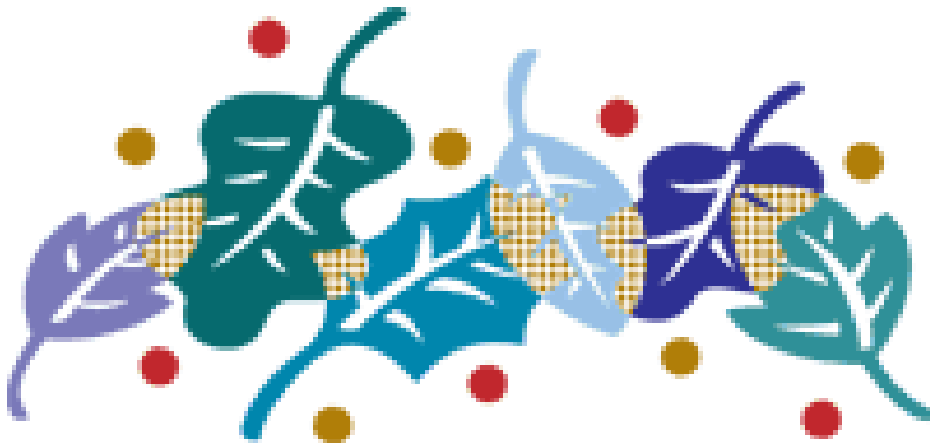
Bazaar Quilt Raffle

Sue Winings has made a beautiful lap quilt for the Bazaar, entitled "Quilt of Many Colors." Inspired by and in memory of Dolly Parton's song "Coat of Many Colors," she, like Dolly, reminds us to Be Kind. (And yes, biblically, we remember Joseph's coat of many colors!) Please buy tickets yourself and help us sell raffle tickets for this special quilt! The quilt will be on display until the Bazaar. See Leslie or Susie Good for tickets.



OUR CHURCH AT WORK

- <u>ACOLYTES</u>	<u>October 4th</u> TBD	<u>October 11th</u> TBD	<u>October 18th</u> TBD	<u>October 25th</u> TBD
- <u>DEACON</u> -	Donna Thompson	Donna Thompson	Donna Thompson	Donna Thompson
<u>FELLOWSHIP</u>	Shelle Hay Andi Janke Linda Maudlin	Bonnie Kelly Marsha Oilar	Gina Guy Judy Dowden Jody Headdy	Judy Bertram Theresa Baker Linda Fullerton
- <u>FLOWER CALENDAR</u>	Mike & Margaret Sherry	None	None	Jenelle Foddrill
- <u>LITURGIST</u>	Sherry Evans	Jenelle Foddrill	Mark Hay	Perry Powers
- <u>POWERPOINT and STREAMING</u>	Greg Bossaer Amber / Betsy	Greg Bossaer Amber / Betsy	Mike Rice Amber / Betsy	Dan Flora Leslie / Amber
- <u>USHERS</u>	Jody Headdy	Donna Thompson	Bonnie Kelly	Jane DeMay





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Sometimes hardship shows up in our own lives. Our health changes, we struggle with loneliness, or a place that once felt like home no longer does. Other times, it is happening around us. A neighbor is worried about a stack of bills they can't pay. A co-worker is weighed down with concerns about their marriage. A friend is wrestling with anger they won't talk about.

Whether we are in the middle of suffering ourselves or walking alongside someone else, God's grace equips us to bring hope into those spaces. Sometimes that means offering encouragement. Sometimes it means praying. And sometimes it simply means being present, so another person doesn't face their struggles alone.

And nowhere do we see this hope more clearly than at the cross. Jesus entered fully into the suffering and brokenness of this world, even unto death. Yet the cross was not the end. The stone was rolled away. Christ was raised. Death did not get the final word.

That is why we can speak of hope even while something is still broken. Our hope rests in the promise that the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead is still at work bringing life where we may see only endings. Nursery rhymes may leave us with cradles falling and bridges collapsing, but the story God is writing does not end with the breaking.

As we journey further into this fall season, it's my prayer that we would be strengthened by the truth that even in our struggles, God holds us. And whether we feel that weight ourselves or are called to stand alongside someone who does, may God's grace equip us to be people of hope.

This is part of our calling as the church. We bear witness together that brokenness never gets the final word. God does.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Jonathan



WORSHIP

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

ASPIRE EVENT

One night, three hours just for women!

An evening full of laughter, learning, stories and music

6:00 pm, Saturday, November 14th

Delphi United Methodist Church

Aspire started in 2014 with the first evening in Phoenix, AZ; it is now held in over 75 cities each year. Aspire brings together gifted teachers and authors, comedians, and musicians who lift the name of Jesus and encourage women in their journey of faith.

A group rate (\$25) applies to groups of 10 or more, and PW has committed to underwriting some of this cost. Please contact Susie Good to reserve your spot; **RSVP deadline is October 18th.**

MISSION/CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWS

October 4th

Joe & Linda Maudlin

October 13th

Darrell & Karen Brewer

October 15th

Jack & Jane DeMay

October 22nd

Jason & Kelly Phillips

October 27th

Mert & Lucy Jacob

October 29th

Art & Janet Anderson

October 3rd

Peyton Hannon

October 4th

Margaret Sherry

October 5th

Andi Janke

October 8th

Leslie Goss

Cary White

October 11th

Bruce Hanway

October 13th

Sherry Evans

October 14th

Ardis Bramlage

October 15th

Meg Andrews

Mike Rice

October 22nd

Jennifer Haskin

October 27th

Peggy Horton



SOUP FOR SOULS

The Methodist Church hosts Soup 4 Souls on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 4:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Our church is responsible for the 4th Tuesday of each month. We need to provide at least two people to work and donate two plates of brownies. Volunteers are needed. Please contact Judy Bertram if you are willing to serve.



Chair Exercise Class

The Chair Exercise Class for mature adults and those with mobility limitations is scheduled for 10:00 am to 11:00 am; classes will be held every Tuesday and Thursday. Please come and join the fun!!

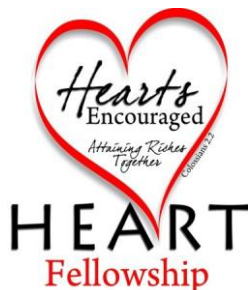


REMINDER

Food Pantry Pick-up

Oct. 26 – Oct. 31

For questions, contact Mark Hay.



HEART FELLOWSHIP

Heart Fellowship will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13th. This month's program will be a tour of the new White County Recycling Facility on Sixth Street. Plan to meet in the facility's parking lot at 11:15 prior to the tour. Following the tour, those in attendance will meet for a "Dutch Treat Lunch" at the Esmeralda Family Restaurant located at 204 Rickey Road. For reservations, please call the church office prior to noon on Monday, October 12th, or see the signup sheet in the Narthex that previous Sunday. Reservations are necessary for lunch reservations. THANK YOU!!!!

ADMINISTRATION

What's YOUR Legacy??

We all share gifts to our church in many ways. Our varied gifts of our time, talent, and treasure are the ways we celebrate our love of Christ and the work we can all do in His kingdom.

Our church has been richly blessed by the generosity of the members who have gone before us. First Presbyterian has been the beneficiary of many peoples' time and talents—as well as the commitment of financial investments to help secure its future.

Have you ever thought about what happens to our church after you're gone...when you're no longer here to make your weekly/monthly/annual gift that helps our church both survive and thrive?

Legacy Giving is an act of faith, hope, and generosity that has the power to transform lives and strengthen the mission of the church for generations to come. It allows individuals the opportunity to make a long-term impact on their congregation and denomination—and, surprisingly, there are many different tools to accomplish that, some of which you might never have considered.

As the Administration team celebrates and stewards the loving gifts which have been shared with our church in the past, we invite our members and friends to a 45-minute presentation by **Ms. Sherry Finke, sponsored by the Presbyterian Foundation, to learn more about Legacy Giving.** She has generously offered to remain after the presentation to answer individual questions.

Thursday, October 29, 2026

5:30 Carry-in Dinner

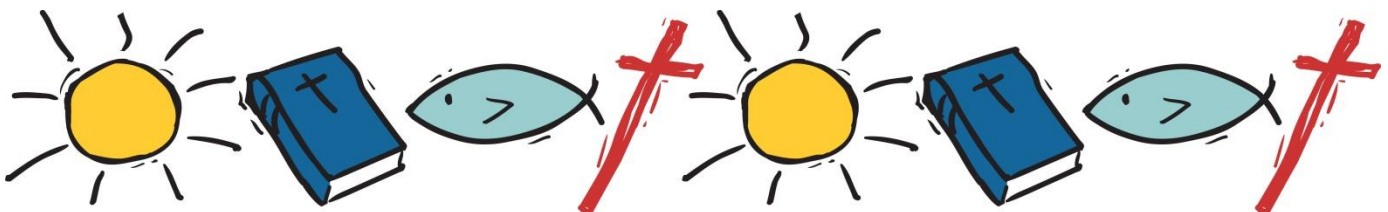
Administration Team will provide a meat dish, drinks, and table service.

Please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert.

Please sign up through inserts in our Sunday bulletins or the sign-up sheet in the office.

6:15 Legacy Giving presentation by Ms. Sherry Finke from the Presbyterian Foundation

Please join us!



EDUCATION/YOUTH NEWS



The White County United Way is collecting new and gently used coats, hats and gloves for the Coats For Kids program. Our church has been asked to be a drop off location for this great project! We will have a collection box in the fellowship room October 4th - October 24th for donations. If you should have any questions, please see Andi Janke.



Operation Christmas Child!

Help our church to send good news and great joy to children in need by participating in OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!

We will be collecting for this wonderful mission project, October 18th - November 15th. Please take a shoebox and a brochure and have fun filling the box for a young boy or girl so that they can feel the love of God through your gift to this wonderful program! Filled boxes should be returned to our church by Sunday, November 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Andi Janke at 574-870-1789



COMMUNICATIONS TEAM NEWS

COMMUNICATIONS ALERT: WE GAVE WRONG INFORMATION

ONE CALL NOW UPDATE: CORRECTION!!!!!!

We are now able to send information through texts, emails and voice. If you would prefer to receive via text/email it's very easy to do, just use your cell phone and text: **ALERT to 22300.**

Those who select this way will receive a text and an email (if you have one on file with church). The beauty of this way is that the message will not be "dropped" or thought to be a spam call by your phone service and you will have the message in written form.

Those who don't want texts/emails or have only a landline will receive a "text to speech" voice message. This will be a "mechanical sounding" voice.

Text/email messages will be ones that are rather short. If a long message is needed we will still do those using the voice message option.

Please see Betsy if you have any questions or need help to decide.

