November 2026 Volume 27, Issue 282

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.

Giving Thanks for What's Missing

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." (Isaiah 55:8–9)

November is the time when we celebrate Thanksgiving, reflecting on the blessings God has given us. We give thanks for faith, loved ones, and the countless gifts that enrich our lives. The psalmist reminds us to *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1).* And each of us has so much to be thankful for!

But this Thanksgiving, I'd like to invite us to think about gratitude from a slightly different perspective. Have you ever thanked God for something you didn't receive?

Perhaps there was a job you desperately wanted but didn't get, only to discover another opportunity that was a much better fit. Maybe a relationship you hoped would work out came to an end, making room for healthier and more fulfilling relationships. Or perhaps a plan you were convinced was perfect for you never materialized. At the time, you may have felt terribly disappointed. Yet years later, looking back, you found yourself thinking, "Thank you, God. I'm so glad that didn't happen the way I wanted it to!"

Of course, not everything missing from our lives eventually becomes something for which we are thankful. There are genuine losses, illnesses, and heartbreaks that we would never call blessings, and faith does not require us to pretend otherwise. But there are also those remarkable moments when we discover that something we once regarded as a great disappointment became part of the path toward something we now treasure.

The prophet Isaiah reminds us of something important about the relationship between God's wisdom and our own. Speaking through the prophet, God declares, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways" (Isaiah 55:8).* These words remind us that our understanding is limited. We can only see life from where we are standing today, while God's wisdom extends far beyond anything we can comprehend.



OPERATIONS

Cash Flow Report for Month Ending 9/30/2026

The gross operating income through September 2026 was $156,293 in contribution income and Facility usage donation of $750 from Tri-Kappa and $25 from Credit Card Points. Operating Expenses were $224,816 for a Net Income ***of negative $68,523*** (that's a shortage of $7,614 per month). Any funds needed to cover cash flow were transferred to checking from Reserves and a portion of dividend income. In 2025 the Income was $140,717 and expenses were $154,625. 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 $1,728 per month compared to last year's nine month period.



Here is a breakdown of our expenses for eight months

Administration (Staff & Office)	$139,325
Moving Exp-Pastor	8,000
PNC Exp	1,034
Facilities (Utilities & Maint.)	57,858
Education	1,317
Congr Life & Missions/Per Capita	13,179
Communication	2,776
Worship	1,326
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$ 224,816**

Checking Account Balance on 9/30/2026 was $11,548 which was sufficient to cover the quarterly Multi-Peril Ins premium of $5,851 and other payables. A total of $9,000 was transferred from reserves and dividends to cover these obligations. Donations to the Building Fund were $5,055 for the 9 month period. The Building Fund is $22,744, $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 $16,120 for any needed repairs to the building. (Roofing repairs are slated to begin the first of October which will take 85% of the available funds). Please consider using the "Building Fund" envelope provided with your offering envelopes to add additional funds for future building repair needs; in addition to your regular donations.

We have diversified our investment portfolio beginning in July of 2025 which is generating a little more income. Income from our investments for 9 months was $9,653 (net of fiduciary fees of $6,618). In 2025 it was $7,790 (net of fiduciary fees of $1,317).

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 congregation to serve our members and local community.

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,); 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 (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); Nicole Dubovsky McCameron (Lucy Jacob's niece); Brothers & Sisters in Christ at New Hope Lutheran Church; **All unspoken prayers**

Sister Churches

First Presbyterian Church, Highland, IN
First Presbyterian Church, Kendallville, IN – The Rev. Stanley Kessler
Covenant Federated Church, Kentland, IN – The Rev. Wayne Meyer
Faith Presbyterian Church, Kokomo IN – Pastor Jeff W. Brown
The Presbyterian Church, La Porte, IN – The Rev. Jane Anabe

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

September 22, 2026, Mini Minutes

The September 22, 2026, Regular Session Meeting was called to order by Moderator Rev. Jonathan Basile at 6:31 pm in the conference room. Eleven elders were present and Clerk, Joy Bailey declared a quorum. Devotions for the evening were given by Elder Evans. The docket was approved and the August 25, 2026, minutes were approved as presented. The Communion Count was 54 in Regular Worship.

The Administration Team reports a checking account balance on 8/31/26 of $8,477 which was sufficient to cover staff payroll. Donations to the Building Fund were $4,750 for the 8-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 reported that after a lengthy discussion on all the information they have gathered about removing the center concrete, paving and striping, we currently do not have the funds and should plan the project in the future. The team will proceed with the F&S resealing. The team has booked our church on their list for 2027. Facilities Needs is still looking into a lift on the west side of the church.

The Communication Team reported that they have received a Smock Grant to help purchase a second camera, joystick, and microphones. The Worship Team is working with Pastor Basile on plans for Advent. Discussion was held on having a Children's Message when children are present. The Youth/Education Team reports that the Scouts will be using a room upstairs as they need more space for meetings.

Rev. Basile spent 83 hrs. in the office during August and September. He has made 32 Pastoral Contacts and celebrated the Lord's Supper three times. Other Ministry Activities were worship leadership and preparation, sermon research and writing, church meetings, leadership and administration. He attended the Presbytery Meeting on September 22 in West Lafayette at the Korean Presbytery Church.

There being no further business, the Session voted to adjourn the meeting with prayer at 7:35 p.m. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

Joy Bailey, Clerk of Session



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS
WORSHIP

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**.



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!

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 by 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

	Nov. 1st	Nov. 8th	Nov. 15th	Nov. 22nd	Nov. 29th
ACOLYTES	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
DEACON	Greg Bossaer	Greg Bossaer	Greg Bossaer	Greg Bossaer	Greg Bossaer
FELLOWSHIP	Jane Anderson Debby Green Leslie Goss	Betsy Boasser Ardis Bamlage Linda Land	Congregational Meeting & Dinner	Sara Phelps Sherry Evans Janet Anderson	Donna Thompson Stephanie Dellinger De Anna Paschen
FLOWER CALENDAR	None	None	None	None	None
LITURGIST	Perry Powers	Dave Bramlage	Mike Sherry	Liz Rice	Jenelle Foddrill
POWERPOINT and STREAMING	Jenelle Foddrill De Anna/Betsy	Mike Rice Amber/Betsy	Dan Flora Amber/Betsy	Jenelle Foddrill Amber/Betsy	Dan Flora Amber/Betsy
USHERS	Jody Headdy	Donna Thompson	Bonnie Kelly	Jane DeMay	Andi Janke



November Congregational Meeting

The November Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, November 15th, immediately following worship in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect ruling elders to the Session. The Nominating Committee will present its recommendations, and additional nominations may be made from the floor.





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

OUR FAMILY ALBUM

















When we pray, we naturally ask God for the things we believe will make our lives better. And there is nothing wrong with that! Jesus himself encourages us to ask, seek, and knock. But sometimes, with the benefit of hindsight, we begin to understand that what we wanted so badly might not have been what was best for us after all. The plan that fell apart opened new possibilities. The door that closed caused us to notice a window that had been open all along. And occasionally, we can look back at one of those old prayers and smile, saying, “Lord, I really wanted that. But thank you for knowing more than I did.”

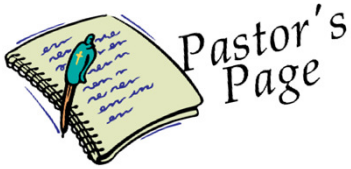
While we may not always understand why life unfolds as it does, sometimes the passage of time gives us a new appreciation for the unexpected ways God works in our lives. In fact, the very things we thought we needed turn out to be things we're grateful we never received.

So this Thanksgiving, as we count our blessings, perhaps we can also remember some of the things we didn't receive. Is there something you once desperately wanted that you are now grateful you didn't receive? And might remembering those experiences help you trust God with the things you're praying about today?

May we give thanks for the blessings we have received, for those we are only beginning to recognize, and perhaps even for a few things we are now grateful we never received at all.

Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jonathan



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.



MISSION/CONGREGATIONAL LIFE NEWS

November 27th

Perry & Kim Powers

November 28th

Mike & Theresa Baker



November 9th

Liz Rice

November 11th

Perry Powers

November 12th

Theresa Baker

November 17th

Donna Thompson

November 20th

Jim Haygood

November 25th

Linda Land

Jake Bahler

November 28th

Reesa Flora

OFFICE CLOSED

The office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26th and Friday, Nov. 27th for the Thanksgiving Holiday! The office will open back up on Monday, Nov. 30th at 9:00 a.m.



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

Nov. 23 – Nov. 28

For questions, contact Mark Hay.

HEART FELLOWSHIP

Heart Fellowship will have their monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 10th. This month's program will be discussing how to prepare for unexpected events.

For reservations, please call the church office prior to noon on Monday, November 9th or see the signup sheet in the Narthex that previous Sunday. Reservations are necessary for food preparation. THANK YOU!!!!!