

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

No Longer Strangers

“So then we are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom we also are built together into a spiritual dwelling place for God.” Eph 2:19-22

These are amazing words that Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus. “So then, we are no longer strangers...” These are awesome words to our ears, because they remind us that in Christ Jesus we are no longer isolated from each other. In Christ Jesus we share a common bond that is deeper than words or experiences. We are no longer strangers because we understand and see each other on a level so much deeper than mere words or ideas could ever convey.

Just a few short weeks ago we gathered in the Sanctuary to proclaim the Good News on that bright and blessed morning. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! He is risen indeed! And with his resurrection we all share in Christ’s victory over sin and death. We are united with each other in a bond that is deeper than just friendship or love. You and I, we are the forgiven. The redeemed. The ones set free from sin to live with each other in a new way. We are no longer strangers because we have been made into new people and have been brought together into a church to love and serve the Lord together. To share our common bond as the people of God.

These past weeks, we have been blessed in so many ways in our common ministry. Our youth led us in worship on April 2 and I think that I can safely speak for all of us in saying what a wonderful and moving experience their leadership in worship brought to us all. I have watched our confirmands grow in their love and devotion and knowledge of God. When they came before our Session on April 27, we were all amazed at the depth of their faith and wisdom. It was truly a moving experience to welcome them into the church and pray for the Spirit to keep them strong in the faith knowing that God has been working long and hard in their lives already. On June 4, Pentecost Sunday we will be confirming them in worship.

And so we move boldly towards the day of Pentecost. The day we commemorate the pouring out of the Spirit on us all. The day that took us from being strangers to uniting us in Christ into one people with a common desire to serve God in joy with our lives.



We are about to enter that period of the church known as ordinary time. A time that begins in June and ends in the middle of November. I’ve always thought it a little strange that we refer to this time as ordinary time, since God’s time is never ordinary. God’s time is anything but ordinary! For us, I suspect that this time will prove to be anything but ordinary. When we together serve Christ in love, nothing is ever ordinary!

And so, we are no longer strangers, you and I. And I cherish the time we share together as we grow in faith and love.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Mike



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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Mona Klingler, sister of Sue Tabler, she undergoes treatment for her cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Gary Marks for a new kidney to become available soon.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort and healing for Quentina Ellison who is having tests for seizures.

Directory Update:

Rachel & Makayla Burg: 4920 Capehart Rd, Papillion, NE 68133
rburg1992@gmail.com

Bakersplus.com

Baker's is offering the community rewards program again in **2017**. You **will not** need to re-enroll. The church received **\$258.22** from the first quarter of 2017. If you have not enrolled please do, this helps us pay for various items that are not budgeted such as the new TV in the classroom downstairs and new light weight tables for the Craft Room.



Happenings



Interested in DISCOVERING more about First Presbyterian Church? Learn who we are and what we do and how to become a member.

When: June 11, 2017 following the Worship Service from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Sign up on the sheet in the foyer or call the church office at 402-291-1104.

Boys Town Guided Tour and Special Presentation **Rescheduled for Sunday, June 11th at 2PM**

Due to the inclement weather on April 30th the tour has been rescheduled for June 11th.

Father Flanagan's "BOYS TOWN" is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. A special tour and presentation have been scheduled for FPC families and friends. We will meet at the Visitors Center (Main Entrance) at 1:45PM. There will be a guided tour of the dozens of sights and attractions starting at 2PM, and then we will all gather for a special power-point presentation at the award winning interactive Hall of History Museum at 3PM. The formal part of

the visit will end around 4PM. Prior to our visit, log on to the Boys Town website for a virtual tour at www.boystown.org.

The main entrance to Boys Town is located on the south side of West Dodge Road between 132nd and 144th Streets. The exact address is 14057 Flanagan Boulevard. Let's carpool---and be sure to bring your smart phones/cameras for the numerous photo opportunities available.

There is a sign-up sheet located in the Church Foyer. Please join us on June 11th for an education filled afternoon of fun and fellowship at Boys Town. Bring your family, friends and neighbors. This is a great opportunity to do some "PEOPLE FISHING" Please contact Bob Jeffus with any questions or if you need additional information.



Crossroads Connection

ministers to current inmates at Omaha Work Release Center and provides social services to former inmates who are transitioning to outside life. They conduct a weekly Sunday evening worship service attended by inmates, former inmates, sponsors and volunteers. Providing the meal and worship service is an outreach that our congregation has participated in for many years.

Our next event is on Sunday, June 11th. This is an excellent outreach to volunteer for because you decide what level of participation

interests you.

- We need salads and desserts for the meal. These can be prepared ahead of time and delivered to the church on the day of the event.
- We also need help preparing the meal. The time commitment varies based upon the meal.
- You can also go with us to serve the meal. We meet here at the church at 5:00 pm and carpool to the location of the dinner. We usually return by 9:00 pm.

Thank you for your support of this ministry over the years and in the future!



Happenings



Join us for Ladies' Lunch. We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday of each month at noon. June**

22nd we'll meet at **Roma's** in Bellevue. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 402-291-1104 or e-mailing admin@bellevuefpc.org.



Dave and Val Jean Hansen will have their open garden on Sunday, July 2nd from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Be sure to stop by their home at 2207 Glenwood Ave. in Papillion to see their lovely flowers!



Vacation Bible School
July 24th through
July 28th
9:00 am to Noon

High Seas Adventure

Annual Picnic
Mark your calendar for July 30th. The Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring the annual church picnic right after the Sunday Worship Service. We will have tamales and enchiladas with sides. For those who want something different we will have hot dogs and chips. The Fellowship Committee will furnish desserts (but since there are just a few members of the committee we will gladly accept desserts from anyone).



This is a free will offering event. Any questions contact Ricky Holbert at 402-291-7637 or owlybear@cox.net.

Synod School 2017



"Synod School is well organized, with inspiring worship leaders, talented instructors, and a great children's program."

July 23-28, 2017
Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, Iowa
www.lakesandprairies.org/SynodSchool
800-328-1880, ext. 207

Let Justice Flow



Summer Community Outreach

You have several opportunities this summer to impact youth and collaborate with other churches in the Bellevue Faith community who partner with Bellevue Public Schools (BPS) to impact lives of students and families.

Adopt Logan Fontenelle Middle School

We're adopting Logan Fontenelle Middle School and working with Emily Fenster, 8th grade counselor, to identify needs for the next school year. Please consider helping in June and July. Mission Committee members will be collecting items before church.

June – Personal hygiene kits. Please gather the following items needed (any brand) for Middle School hygiene kits or donate **\$12.00** and the Mission Committee will purchase for you.

- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste – travel size
- Floss
- Washcloth
- Comb
- Deodorant
- Bar soap
- Shampoo
- Body lotion



July - Gather school supplies (on sale then) for students. We'll publish specific middle school items in July.

Partner with other Bellevue Faith Community churches

July - Bring boys gently used or new clothes for the Faith Community Partners July 29th Back to School Event:

- size 8-12
- underwear/socks
- tennis shoes – men's sizes 5-7.5

July 9th – Provide Saturday lunch and games in Gemini Park to kids who otherwise may not have food. Our brown bags will advertise VBS! We'll need help making and transporting lunches and monitoring games. Sign up on June 18th.

July 29th – Help with back to school event at New Beginnings Worship Center for all qualified BPS students.

Questions? Contact Mission Committee members Anne McDaniel, Joyce Wells, Denise Seaman, Mary Bond, Gene Cash, Don Hayton, Carole Warnes, Melissa Young. New members are welcome! Talk with us to join and participate!



Steeple

For several months now, the Building and Grounds Committee have evaluated problems involving the current condition of our steeple. As many of you know already, these problems, along with issues involving poor drainage around the church grounds, have slowly been deteriorating the condition of the steeple and certain concrete slabs on the north side of our building. An architect was hired to help in identifying the problems and finding a solution to help preserve our signature steeple, as well as address the other issues with poor drainage around the church. The following problems were identified:

- 1.) Water has been leaking behind the siding on the upper tiers of the steeple, causing the white residue to run down the brick. This also has caused deterioration in the mortar holding the bricks together.
- 2.) The concrete slab under the steeple, which the benches are sitting on, has structural deficiencies causing it to move in freeze/thaw cycles. This has caused the concrete itself to crack and chip away.

3.) Improper drainage on the north side of the building (around fellowship hall), causing the sidewalk and concrete slabs to sink and pull away from the building. This has allowed water to find its way down to the foundation of the building, increasing our risk for damage to the foundation itself.

The building and grounds committee has worked closely with our architect in coming up with a plan in fixing these problems. This plan was recently approved by the session, giving the renovation project the green light to proceed.

Starting this spring/summer, you will begin seeing work done around our church campus to fix these problems. Once the time frame is set, we will work to educate everyone further in when this project will be completed and what areas of the church grounds will be blocked off.

As always, Jack Syphers, Ken Trinkle, Jean Jacobson, or myself will be available to answer any questions or to further explain details involving the scope of this project.

Respectfully submitted, Ryan Crick

Financial Information

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$29,843.28	\$153,505.51
Expenses	<u>\$29,258.40</u>	<u>\$142,348.30</u>
Difference	\$584.88	\$11,157.21

Happy Father's Day





SPECIAL OFFERINGS PENTECOST

Creating Hope for Today and Tomorrow: Pentecost Offering Helps Teen Mothers and Their Children Flourish

As a high school student, Lily Jones had a beautiful 18-month-old daughter and a strong desire to finish school.

Lily knew the importance of education to her future and that of her daughter Sophia, but day care posed a problem. Family had been helpful caring for Sophia, but they could no longer provide the day care Sophia needed. In Ligonier, Indiana, a town with a population of 4,400, child care choices are limited, particularly for those in challenging financial circumstances.

Fortunately, Lighthouse Ministry Daycare, a provider housed in and supported by Ligonier's First Presbyterian Church, had a spot for Sophia.

Parents like Lily and children like Sophia are top concerns for Lighthouse. "Our first priority is to provide child care so teen parents can get through high school," says Rachel Bales-Case, director of Lighthouse. Sophia and most of her 20 classmates at Lighthouse receive care at a reduced cost. Lighthouse serves not only children whose parents are students, but also a number of children whose parents work at low-wage jobs.

One of the funding sources of Lighthouse is the Pentecost Offering that First Presbyterian receives each year. This Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) church-wide offering serves youth, young adults, and at-risk children. Congregations retain 40 percent of the Offering for local causes, while 60 percent is sent to the national church to support Young Adult Volunteers, ministries with youth, and work on behalf of children at risk.

Thanks in part to the generosity of First Presbyterian and other local supporters, the future looks bright for

Sophia and Lily. Sophie is now four and is flourishing in the preschool curriculum that Lighthouse teaches. Lily is enrolled in college studying to be a teacher when she graduates. She works at her old high school as an assistant for special-needs students and has two other part-time jobs. She is also a board member at Lighthouse.

Without Lighthouse, finishing high school would have been challenging for Lily, and college likely would have been unthinkable. She is grateful for the opportunities she has received and for a safe and nurturing place for Sophia to stay during the day. "You know and trust the people there at the church," she says.

John Lersch, Pastor of First Presbyterian, considers Lighthouse a ministry of the church, and he notes the congregation's support of Lighthouse, which started in 2008, is indicative of its concern for others.

"In this church, the people have good hearts," John shares. "It is not just about ourselves. It's about others. That is the sign of a healthy church."

First Presbyterian's Pentecost Offering is another example of its good-heartedness. Through the Offering, the church helps youth, young adults, and at-risk children in its own community and also reaches out across the country through ministries of the national church that serve children, youth, and young adults.

Please give generously to this Offering, and support the future of our young people.

Let Us Pray Caring God, we pray for teen mothers and for their children. Grant them lives filled with hope and promise. Help us to reach out to them and extend the embrace of your loving arms. Amen.

The Pentecost Offering will be collected on Sunday, June 4th





A big THANK YOU to the many musicians who helped Westminster Bells prepare beautiful music for our worship this year! In addition to our dedicated “regular” ringers, a number of talented “substitutes” and instrumentalists have helped

us make a joyful noise. It definitely takes a village! Hopefully, I’ve remembered everyone. Please join me in thanking:
Connie Mohr, Maggie Blazek, Valerie Yates, Rebecca Griffin, Sharon Elliott, Judy Carver, Rita Sands, Mary Jo Schiefelbein, Joyce Ritchey, Grace

Hartranft, Deanna Freier, Mary Hughey, Melissa Young, Josh Blazek, Anne McDaniel, Andrew Baruth, Tom Blazek, Cassie Norton, Lindsay Micks, Karen Harned, Marty Davis, Brian Wells, Rebecca Horton, Dirk Lindner, Ryan Crick, Sue Tabler, Ash Hudson, Makayla Crick, Katie Crick, and Marty Davis.

Our five octaves of handbells have been polished and readied for their summer respite. Rehearsals resume again in August. Please contact Liane Kirmis (402 296-5751) if you are interested in learning to ring (7th graders through adults). I will schedule workshops to teach ringing skills at your request this summer! Liane

Grandparent Blessing



Sunday May 21st was our final week of Sunday School classes for children and youth. To end the year and kick-off summer we held a Grandparent Blessing. We shared breakfast and the kids were paired with an adult in the church, they took turns blessing each other and will pray for each other over the summer. It was a lovely idea and a beautiful way to end the school year. Thank you to our Grandparent volunteers, their new Grandchild partners and to Linda Reffert who blesses our congregation with her creativity.



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Well, VBS registrations are starting to come in. Hurrah! VBS isn't until July 24th but registration online and in our building is open now and active. Early registration sure helps with things like putting kids into crews and ordering tshirts that will fit, and such. Please think about registering your children and grandchildren soon, and invite your friends and neighbors. This is something our church does really well and you will be proud you invited people, I promise! And most importantly, the kids that come will have a week of learning how very much God loves them and our church welcomes them, And the kids get to sing, do science projects, play games, eat snacks and make new friends, all reinforcing God's amazing love.

Of course, I still need help with VBS. My latest volunteers are **Mary Jo Schiefelbein** for Snack Crew, **Emily DeZafra** will lead Preschool Music, **Cindy Reilly** is leading Registration and **Makayla Coats** is going to help with our littlest kiddos. My biggest need at this point is for the role of Crew Leader. There is no prep, no public speaking and no duties outside of VBS hours duties with this role. It should be easy – for anyone who can follow a schedule, learn 8 to 10 names (with nametag backup) and be caring and kind with kids. You can be too young for this job, but you cannot be too old. VBS runs from 9 to noon on July 24th through the 28th, and I would love to add you to our team!

Wow, it was awesome to see Fellowship Hall so full of church grandparents and grandchildren! Thank you to everyone who participated or helped with our church grandparent event. And thanks to our church grandparents: **Mary Jo Schiefelbein, Rita Sands, Bill & Carole Warnes, Jack & Sally Syphers, JoAnne Nielsen, Nancy Worm, Joyce Luster, Nancy Shultz, George Sayles,**

Jane Hink (with Mary Lehr), Jean Jacobson, Becky Berg, Sharon Elliott, Rick Holbert, George Thompson, Mike & Sue Tabler, Don Fenster, Bev Snowden, Carl & Denise Seaman, Mary Hughey, Deanna Freier, Anne Webster, Tannis Clark, Rick Kirmis, Michelle Thompson, Margaret Jackson, Jane Noden, Cathy Talmadge, Flossie Flora & Tom Miller.

Sunday school has now finished for the school year for all ages. But coming up on Sunday, June 4th from 9 AM to 9:45, I will host an intergenerational Sunday School and we will put together hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Our goal is 72 again, and the Mission committee has generously funded the purchase of all the supplies for the bags. It has been wonderful the last couple years to see our littlest kids all the way through some of our most senior members working side by side on putting these kits together. When they are finished I mail them off to PDA headquarters and my prayer is that none of them will be coming back to Nebraska, because we sure don't want any disasters here! I guess I should pray that they sit unused for a while. But they will be ready when they are needed and I sure appreciate any and all of you who come help! Our next intergenerational Sunday School will fall on Sunday, July 2nd and we will put together notes and cards for our deployed service people and the people that Pastor Mike visits.

First Presbyterian members (all of whom wish to remain anonymous) presented us with a generous sum of money for camp scholarships this summer and we gave it all away! These donations are providing a marvelous, faith building and nature rich experience for our kiddos and what could certainly be a life-changing experience. I am so often amazed at how great First Presbyterian people are at selflessly providing donations just when we need them for WOW and camp, VBS and mission trips. I know God is ultimately to be given the credit, but thanks to all of you who let Him speak to your heart to provide these things for our children and youth!



June Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Shelli Dart

Mark 16:15 “He said to them, ‘go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation’.”

Sunday May 21st was a big day for the children and youth of our church. It was the last day of Sunday School and we celebrated with a Grandparent Blessing.

Adults from the congregation were paired with children and youth to be prayer partners for the summer. It was a lovely way to end the school year.

During worship we recognized our graduating Seniors and presented them with blanket from the church. Many thanks to Lisa Lewis who lead us since there was no way I could have done it since it was a bit of an emotional day.

Church starts at 10 a.m. beginning the 28th through the summer until Labor Day so please not your calendars.

June is Mission Trip month. Our Middle Schoolers will travel to Camp Calvin Crest in Fremont from Friday the 16th through Sunday the 18th. We will meet at the church at 10 a.m. to load the vans and head to Fremont for lunch. We will check into the camp then begin working. There are numerous things that must be done to keep the camp in good shape and we always work hard but play hard too.

June 25th - July 2 the Senior Highs will travel to The Stewpot in Dallas, TX where we will work with



homeless children and adults. This was one of the favorite trips of past youth groups and I am excited to take the kids there again this year. I encourage you all to check out the website for The Stewpot and see all the amazing ways the help support homeless people and also help them get back on their feet so they can get jobs and apartments. The hope and healing they provide is beautiful.

I hope you all have a happy and safe summer. That you will take the opportunity to go out of your comfort zone and try something new this summer. I wish you could all see how the youth come together and work so hard for other people on these mission trips. I hope that we as a congregation can also come together and support our community and find a way to make a difference for someone.

Be a Blessing!
Shelli



June Youth Events

- June 4** **Confirmation Sunday 10 a.m.**
- June 16th- June 18th** **Middle School Mission Trip to Camp Calvin Crest**
- June 24th - July 2nd** **Senior High Mission Trip to The Stewpot in Dallas, TX**



~ June 2017 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Pentecost Panty Sunday Pentecost Offering Col- lected 9a Inter-generational Sunday School (L) 10a Worship Service 11:30a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 7p Venture Crew 26</p>		<p>6 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 6p Mission Mtg (VVR)</p>		<p>8 6p Personnel Mtg (Pastor's Ofc) 7p Troop 467</p>		
<p>11 Trinity Sunday 10a Worship Service 11a Membership Class 2p Boystown Tour and Special Presentation 5p Crossroads Con- nection</p>			<p>14 Flag Day 6p Finance Mtg (Admin Ofc) 6:30p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR)</p>	<p>15 7p Troop 467</p>		
<p>18 Father's Day 10a Worship Service</p>	<p>19 7p Venture Crew 26</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 12p Ladies Lunch (Roma's) 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467</p>		<p>24</p>
<p>25 Next Sunday Panty Sunday 10a Worship Service</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 8:45a PEO (VVR/ FH)</p>	<p>29 7p Troop 467</p>	<p>30 1p PieceMakers Quilt Group</p>	<p>Notes:</p>



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M a i l i n g A d d r e s s L i n e 5

June Birthdays:

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|----------------|
| 3 | Bill Coon | 16 | Chris Shewchuk |
| 3 | Scott Woolf | 17 | Darald Berg |
| 4 | Shannon McCon | 17 | Jean Lindfors |
| 6 | Anita Bishop | 18 | Natalie Monico |
| 6 | Nicole Carver | 19 | Bob Jeffus |
| 6 | Sheryl Shottenkirk | 20 | Cherie Wallace |
| 7 | Becky Baruth | 21 | Joan Rousseau |
| 7 | Angie Uhl | 22 | Rachel Burg |
| 7 | Jane Noden | 23 | Margo Lytle |
| 8 | Ryan Crick | 23 | Laura Miller |
| 9 | Andrew Baruth | 24 | Jasmine Silva |
| 10 | Marsha Holbert | 26 | Jayna Davis |
| 11 | Carol Moore | 27 | Ann Macdonald |
| 12 | Dick Brown | 27 | Joshua Keaton |
| 13 | Kathy Radosta-Kunce | 28 | Jim Braun |
| 14 | Jean Jacobson | 28 | Dillon Dawson |

