

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Sabbath Keeping

“Observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, as the Lord your God has commanded you. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your ox, your donkey or any of your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns, so that your male and female servants may rest, as you do. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and that the Lord your God brought you out of there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm. Therefore the Lord your God has commanded you to observe the Sabbath day.” (Deuteronomy 5:12-15)

As summer days bring opportunities for family fun, vacations and just hanging out and relaxing, it reminds me that life should be more than just work and more work. Summer reminds me that God has gifted us with leisure and rest.

There is a natural rhythm to life and all living things follow that natural rhythm of life. It is just part of them. To work without Sabbath just isn't natural. And that's what God is trying to tell us in the Fourth Commandment. When we don't keep the Sabbath, we wind up living a life where we have no time left for the important things - only time for running around like chickens with their heads cut off.

This 4th Commandment even comes with an explanation and it goes far beyond the fact that our Sabbath is supposed to be a rest for us just as the 7th day was a rest for God. Is to be a weekly reminder to us that we are not slaves but free people, freed by God from a life with no rest and no peace. We are freed people, freed from never ending labor under the Pharaohs of this world and free to live as God's children.

For most of us the suggestion that we should or even could clear our calendars once a week is almost a joke. A whole day to spend as we see fit, a time set aside for tending to our tired spirits instead of just another day of working. Working our way through the same old stuff that we face the rest of the week. Why it sounds almost frivolous to us, we who are the inheritors of the good old Protestant Work Ethic. But I think that as we have lost the art of keeping the Sabbath holy, our lives have become less rewarding and fulfilling.

So I have a challenge for you. Well, for me too. Because Sunday is often my grass cutting and laundry day. I challenge us to try, even if just for a few weeks to try and live out that long forgotten fourth commandment. I challenge you to just stop for one day a week and rest. That's all that you have to do. Just stop and rest for one day a week. Take Sunday off for a change. Instead of using Sunday as the day that you try to catch up on everything that you haven't been able to do, just rest. Take a nap. Hang out. Just have fun. Plan your week so that Sunday is clear to do as God commands us to do. Nothing but rest and relaxation. See if it doesn't make all the difference in the world to you! Give the Sabbath a chance to refresh and restore your tired spirit.

Your in Christ, *Pastor Mike*



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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Gary Marks as he awaits a new kidney.
- ◆ Prayers for Jeanette McLaughlin receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for Cherie Wallace experiencing health issues.

Bakersplus.com

We just received the first quarter of 2018 rebate from Bakers for **\$206.22**, this is wonderful but down about 40%. So if you have not registered **First Presbyterian Church #84241** under your Baker's Plus card Community partner tab, please do so. This does not affect any other rewards you receive from Baker's.

Financial Information

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$16,849.64	\$184,574.91
Expenses	<u>\$30,614.41</u>	<u>\$163,086.07</u>
Difference	< \$13,764.77	\$21,488.84



Happenings



Splash Canyon VBS

God's Promise on
Life's Wild Ride

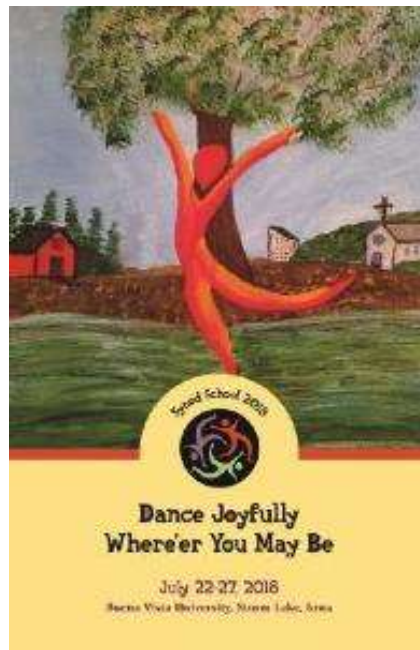
9 AM - Noon

Monday July 23 - Friday, July 27

Ages 3 (potty-trained) through
completed 6th grade

\$10 per child

Registration opens in May



Join us for Ladies' Lunch- We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month at noon. In July we are going to meet at "La Mesa" on July 26th. Make your reservation by calling the church office at 402-291-1104 or e-mailing admin@bellevuefpc.org.



Annual Picnic

Mark your calendar for July 29th. The Fellowship Committee will be sponsoring the annual church picnic right after the Sunday Worship Service. The main entrée will be Fried Chicken with sides and ice cream sandwiches for dessert. This is a free will offering event.

Any questions contact Ricky Holbert at 402-291-7637 or owlybear@cox.net.



Mission Committee Local Summer Outreach

Here are two ways we can “Just Do It” for kids who attend Bellevue Public Schools.

Help Bellevue’s Logan and Mission Middle School Kids

June 3- July 8 Hygiene Items

What do students need that they may not have resources to buy? Middle school counselors told us that some students don’t have a way to get these items:

- ◆ Deodorizing shoe spray
- ◆ Deodorant for boys and girls
- ◆ Underwear for both boys and girls- Youth Large and XL and Adult S to XL
- ◆ Socks- adult men and women
- ◆ Lice kits

Please place items in the bins labeled [Middle School Hygiene items](#).



Individuals, Businesses and the Faith Community
coming together to meet the needs of Bellevue families.

Support Bellevue Together

Now through July 22 - Each church with Bellevue Together is focusing on one item for school supplies for the big back to school event. We’re asking for your help to provide **800** reams of loose leaf paper.

400 reams college ruled

400 reams wide ruled paper.



Please put reams in the bins labeled [Bellevue Together](#).

Saturday July 28th Back to School Event – Bellevue Together is planning this invitation only event for over 200 students and families at New Beginnings Worship Center to have fun and receive new clothes, underwear, school supplies, books, and haircuts. All students are vetted by social workers and school counselors.

We need personal shoppers (ask Barb Carlson about last year - shifts available 8am – 2 pm), hairdressers, clothing ([specific clothing needs will be available after June 12](#)), shoes, and underwear. Contact Denise Seaman, Nancy Shultz, or Jean Lindfors for more information.

You can **JUST DO IT** by donating Items and/or time.



Calvin Crest 60th Anniversary Fun Day

Help us celebrate [60 years of incredible ministry](#) on August 25, 2018 at Calvin Crest.

The 60th Anniversary Family Fun Day is free to attend. There will be opportunities to purchase snacks, t-shirts/hats and raffle and silent auction items. Calvin Crest will also accept free-will donations to support this great ministry.

Schedule of Activities (May vary based on interest)

Saturday, August 25, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

8 :00 AM Fun Run/Walk

8:00 AM-4:59 PM Silent Auction/Raffle Prizes

10:00 AM-4 :00 PM Hayrack Ride Every hour on the hour

10:30 AM Group (Guided) Hike

10:00 AM- 5:00 PM:

Pool	Sand Volleyball
Human Foosball	Frisbee Golf
Trails	Maze
Playground	Hammocks
Gaga Ball	Screaming Eagle (age limit),
Archery (age limit)	Fire Pits
Basketball	Crafts/Tye-Dye
Face Painting	Balloon Animals
Bounce House	Dunk Tank



10:00 AM-5:00 PM Indoor games: Bingo, Board Games etc.

11:00 AM Facilitator-run Field Games (kickball, elbow tag, etc.)

12:00 Lunch

1:00 PM Facilitator-run Field Games

2:30 PM Group Hike

3:00 PM Facilitator-run Field Games

*NOTE: Events may be altered or changed. This is the most current information.

Picnic Areas open all day with live entertainment including choirs, bands, dancers, etc.



Intergenerational Sunday School

9:00 AM Sunday, July 8

We'll be making cards for Pastor Mike to share on his Home Communion visits. Come join us.

Directory Change:

Marylou Hegarty-New email address: mlhegarty13@gmail.com



Thanks to my church family for your calls, prayers & loving concern after my accident and recovery. It was so reassuring and meant so much to know you were praying for me.
God Bless You, **Jan Robinson**

We wish to send a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our church family and friends for the cards and kind words on our 50th wedding anniversary. We would also like to thank the church staff who colluded with our daughter to keep things a “surprise”. This is what one big family is about. **Jack & Sally Syphers**



Music Ministry

Even though I miss the choir and rehearsals during the summer, I LOVE to hear the different variety of music our soloists provide. In June we heard from the Roses, Lexie Ryks, Maggie Blazek at the piano, and Liane Kirmis.

In July we will from Scott Reffert, Sara Renner on her guitar, Alice Renner (with oboe obligato), Sara Renner soloing on the oboe (It's okay – she works cheap!) and Maggie and Josh Blazek on a brass duet, as well as our VBS. Kids. Oh yes and here is a prayer concern – Alice is dusting off and tuning her hammered dulcimer which she will play with Brian Wells on the banjo – (it's been 7 years since I've played, but I am practicing!).

In August we will here from the Cricks, the Roses, Scott Reffert, and the newly formed mens' quartet made up of Scott Reffert, John Dart, Tom Blazek, and Brian Wells. I have no one signed up for Sunday Sept. 2nd, so you might have to hear from Rev. Mike Elliott and Steve Renner – keep your fingers crossed!!!!
Come out and support our awesome soloists!

**Making a joyful noise,
Alice**



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

As I write this, it's 32 days until VBS. Now, that may sound like a long time to you, but to me, it's crunch time! We have most, but not all of our staff. So, if you're waiting to see if I really need you – the answer is YES! There is

still some variety in the jobs left to fill, so if you are picky, call soon. Student registration is running ahead of the last couple years and that's wonderful! I expect 65 – 70 kids but we can definitely handle more, so if you haven't registered your kids yet or invited friends, neighbors and relatives, please invite them. The kids will be loved, laugh, sing, eat, play and learn. We have a wonderful staff and it will be a great week! VBS runs 9 AM to noon Monday – Friday July 23 – 27. It's just \$10 per child (with a \$30 maximum family charge) and that price includes a tshirt if they are registered by JULY 5th. I do order some extra tshirts, for last minute registrations but it's not likely to be a size you would have chosen. You can register on paper at the church or online at vbsmate.com/Bellevuefpc. And yes, there will be slime. Last year, the crew that brought the most food got to slime me and it was such a powerful motivator that I'm offering it again. Even though it is gross!

We still have quite a ways to go in decorating for VBS. So far, the Decorating Team has been: Jean Lindfors, Nancy Shultz, Liane Kirmis, Jane Hink, Barb Carlson, Megan Warren and Cindy, Abby, Christopher and Jack Reilly. Jean and Landy Jacobson are working on a waterfall for Fellowship Hall and Gary Sands built a wonderful surprise for our water party at the conclusion of VBS. Cathy Talmadge is providing camping and rafting props for our main stage and Becca Griffin is providing camping gear for the Bible Story Room.

If you want to work independently or take projects home, I'd be happy to give you something to work on. If you would prefer to come during official VBS Decorating hours, I invite you to join me between 1 PM and 5 PM on Tuesday, July 3rd,

between 1 and 7 PM on Thursday, July 12th or between 1 and 5 PM on Friday, July 13th. The downstairs middle doors will be unlocked and we'll be working in the Craft Room or the Large Sunday School room.

The official VBS set up day is Sunday, July 15th after worship. If you sign up ahead of time, and you'd like a free lunch, I will feed you. But even if you don't want lunch or can't stay very long, please consider staying for a little while. There is a huge variety of tasks and we will put you to work at something you are comfortable doing. The sign up sheet is out on the VBS table.

I also want to remind you that I am looking for a few people to help for 20 minutes to 1 hour – 1 to 2 times per month in Sunday School, beginning in September. If you would like more information or know you are interested and want to be plugged in, please let me know. Becca Griffin, Nora Boyd, Rob Rose and Cindy Reilly are involved so you know it will be fun and done well.

The adult Bible Study that Pastor Mike and I led on James over the last month has been a real joy! We had to add extra tables to the Cry Room because we got such great participation and discussions each week. I have read James a number of times but I learned some new things and saw some of the passages in a whole new light. And I loved getting to know some people I had only known by face before. We had some participants who had never done Bible Study before and a few who have done it for years and years. And yet, it worked beautifully and we have had so many positive comments from participants. Mike and I will be leading more weekday Bible studies throughout the next year. Days and times will change but I hope you will consider joining us if you haven't already and you can make it work.

And just one final reminder for our church grandparents and grandchildren – don't forget to pray for each other and to check in with each other at church. What a great blessing you are!



Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Shelli Dart

"I said, 'I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will keep a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence.'"
 – Psalm 39:1

"Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.'" - John 11:21-22



It's hard to stick with plans sometimes in the summer but I was so impressed that we had a group ready to serve at the Open Door Mission on

our assigned day. We were a small but mighty group of me, John, Kathryn and Emma and we were joined by Cindy & Abby Reilly and Bev Snowden. Well done and thank you!

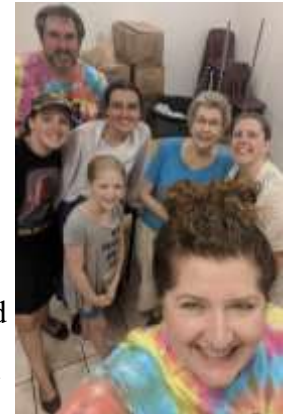
This month's scriptures are from the Jr Hi Mission trip am and pm devotions. The youth pick the scripture either from their favorites or doing a "God Pick" - you open the Bible and choose the scripture your finger falls on. Psalms was a perfect reminder that we might get hot and tired and grumpy but we should only be encouraging and kind. John 11 reminds us that even when things are at their most tragic and awful that God is more powerful than any situation we find ourselves in and God is always faithful. These are reflections and comments from the Youth, not the leaders. I am so inspired by them and love that they are so open and ready to discuss scripture and lead devotions.



The first Mission trip of the year was a success due to

a great work ethic by our youth. Camp Calvin Crest is a perfect first work trip for the kiddos since it is close to home, it's a lovely area and a great place to play when all the work is done. The kids worked together beautifully as a team and worked very hard. They stained 9 picnic tables, helped remove and chop up downed trees, split logs for firewood filling 4 1/2 pickup trucks and unloading them. Our longest day of work required long pants, love sleeve shirts and boots. We were peeling off our wet clothes at the end of the day. Later one of the kids said their clothes had never been as wet and gross as they had without playing sports. Yep, they worked hard with no complaint. I am so proud of them! And for the first time in many years there was no mulch - and there was much rejoicing. Many thanks to John, Laura and Tom for all their help and hard work!

It's nice to have a break from the routine and the choir has the summer off too. We have special music each week, many times presented by some of our youth. I hope you come this summer so we can see you and also to support the different musicians each week some of which are your peers!



We are getting ready for our Senior High Mission trip to Louisiana to clean up and rebuild from flooding. Please keep us in your prayers to not only minister to those we are helping but also to be open to being ministered to. Many times we go to help and end up having our own learning and growing experience. If you are not going on a mission trip this summer I hope you can find somewhere locally to volunteer some time. You'll be surprised how much it will lift your own spirits.

Be a Blessing, You Too Will Be Blessed! Shelli

Summer Youth Events

July 8-15 Sr Hi Mission trip to Lafayette, Louisiana
 Aug 19 Back to School Lake party 3 - 6
 Aug 24-25 MRV Calvin Crest Youth Retreat



~ July 2018 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pantry Sunday 10a Worship Service 11a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 7p Venture Crew 26	2 Lawn Team 2 1:15p Heritage Ridge 2p Harmony Court 2:45p Richmond Village	3 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 6p Mission Mtg (VVR)	4 Independence Day Church Office is Closed	5 7p Troop 467	6	7
8 Sr. Hi Mission Trip Undie Sunday 9a Inter-Generational Sunday School 10a Worship Service	9 Lawn Team 3 Sr. Hi Mission Trip	10 Sr. Hi Mission Trip	11 Sr. Hi Mission Trip 9a P.E.O. (VVR) 6p Finance Mtg (CR)	12 Sr. Hi Mission Trip 6p Building & Grounds Meeting (CR) 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p Troop 467	13 Sr. Hi Mission Trip	14 Sr. Hi Mission Trip 10a Women's Book Club (VVR)
15 Sr. Hi Mission Trip 10a Worship Service 11a VBS Decorating (Lunch) 11a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	16 Lawn Team 1 7p Venture Crew 26	17	18	19 7p Troop 467	20	21
22 Next Sunday Panty Sunday 10a Worship Service	23 Lawn Team 2 9a VBS	24 9a VBS	25 9a VBS	26 9a VBS 12p Ladies Lunch (La Mesa) 7p Troop 467	27 9a VBS	28
29 10a Worship Service 11a Annual Church Picnic	30 Lawn Team 3	31	Notes:			



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July Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Dawn Matthews | 20 Ron Lowrance |
| 1 Randy Reffert | 23 Ron Luster |
| 3 Lila Rickel | 23 Paul Boyd |
| 8 Chuck Clark | 23 Marie Zipse |
| 10 Tina Fettes | 24 Mia Pancoe |
| 10 Carole Warnes | 24 Patrick Warren |
| 12 Shirley Hartranft | 25 Denny Hilfiker |
| 12 Will Oxtoby | 25 Rita Hurlbutt |
| 13 Donna Davis | 26 Heather Pancoe |
| 13 Betty Kieran | 26 Heather Glenn |
| 14 Jackson Griffin | 26 Rick Kirmis |
| 14 Emerson Griffin | 27 Ivna Johnson |
| 14 C.J. Keene | 28 Joe Medakovich |
| 18 Brian Stephan | 29 Heidi Brink |
| 19 Gary White | 29 Lisa Lewis |
| 19 Tara Williams | 31 Marilyn Schlafman |
| 19 John Wallace | 31 Marcia Smith |

