

# Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

## Do We Dare To Pentecost?

It seems a little funny to be thinking about what Pentecost may hold for our life as a congregation when we haven't even gotten there yet. We still have a week to go. But is it really ever too early to Pentecost? And since when has Pentecost been a verb? But I think Pentecost makes for a better verb than a noun, don't you?

Pentecosting. You know, what happens when the very Spirit of God fills your sails and leads you out of the safety of the harbor and into new places and new possibilities. Pentecosting. Emerging from the safety of the cocoon and spreading those new wings to catch the fresh breezes of a new day. Easter reminds us that new life is always possible in Christ Jesus, but Pentecost assures us that the courage and the strength to reach out and claim that new life is ours for the taking.

I know that as we face the changes and the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead of us in the years to come, it may sometimes seem safer to dig our heels in and wait and see what the future has in store for us. There is no safety in safety; there is only safety in the risk and dare of a life of faith. I know some big important person must have said that! In many ways, faith is just another word for "risk." And risk is what is at the heart of Pentecosting.

God is the biggest risk-taker of them all. Albert Einstein once said he did not believe in God because no God could have built the kind of risks we face in life into the universe. God couldn't have created a universe with this kind of indeterminacy and unpredictability and chaos. "God does not throw dice," Einstein said.

It's good to know that even Einstein was wrong sometimes! God does take chances. God built risk into our very lives. Risk is what makes us alive and keeps us alive. Risk makes our life of faith go around and gives our spirits wings!

This year and every year of our lives will present us with so many ways and opportunities to dig our heels in and say those famous words..."But we've never done it that way before!" We will have so many opportunities to maintain the status quo and resist the new things God is calling us to consider. But we will have just as many opportunities to Pentecost. So how will you be reacting to the risks and challenges and hopes and dreams that are waiting for us?



Poet Louis MacNeice once wrote, "By a high star our course is set, our end is life. Put out to sea." I think Mr. MacNeice was no stranger to Pentecosting. Are you and I?

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Mike



Inside this issue:	
Keep in Prayer	2
Financial Information	2
Happenings	3
Pentecost Offering	4
Happenings	5
Church Needs	5
Children's Choir Director	6
Making a Joyful Noise	6
Children's Ministry	7
Youth Fellowship	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays	10

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## We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Jeanette McLaughlin who is receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for Becky Baruth and her family as she is being treated for cancer.
- ◆ Prayers for Carl Seaman receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ Prayers for George Thompson who is suffering with Parkinson's disease.
- ◆ Prayers for Shirley Hartranft who is recovering from an accident and is now at Papillion Manor room 712.

## Bakersplus.com

We just received the **First Quarter** of 2019 rebate from Bakers for **\$215.77**, this is wonderful and includes **47** households. So if you have not registered **First Presbyterian Church #HY977** 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>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	*\$42,454.95	\$168,935.39
Expenses	<u>\$26,289.77</u>	<u>\$128,724.64</u>
Difference	\$16,165.18	\$40,210.75

\* \$19,000.00 of Income came from Foundation Investment Income



## Happenings

### 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Bill Coon celebrates his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Monday, June 3, 2019. Retired Col. Coon has made Bellevue his home for 60 years. Bill retired from the Air Force after 30 years of service and resides at Heritage Ridge in Bellevue. Bill enjoys participating in activities sponsored by Heritage Ridge, joining friends and family for special meals, and growing tomatoes every summer.

Friends and family will honor Bill at his church, First Presbyterian in Bellevue on June 2 from 9:30-10:00 a.m. The family is also hosting a birthday celebration for Bill on June 3, 2019 from 2-4 at Heritage Ridge. Church members are most welcomed to attend.

### God and the Girls Inter-generational Women's Retreat

First Presbyterian Church  
Saturday, June 8, 2019  
9:00AM to 12:00PM




Enjoy an encouraging, affirming morning. Bring someone special and nurture the relationship with each other, and with God. Want to bring more than one special person? Do!

Food, friendship, prayer, music, scripture & a game or two. Enjoy old friends and make new ones too!

\$10 registration with scholarships available. Ages 9 to 109. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Questions? See Linda Reffert or email [lkreffert@aol.com](mailto:lkreffert@aol.com)

 **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 23rd.

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!

Join us for **Ladies' Lunch**. We are meeting on the **Fourth Thursday** of each month at noon. In June we are going to meet at Golden Bowls on June 27th. **Starting in June you do not need to call or email to let the office know you are attending, just meet at the restaurant that day.**



## CALIFORNIA CONGREGATION'S AFTER-SCHOOL MINISTRY ENABLES STUDENTS TO TRANSCEND POVERTY



Christopher Hall's life was not always smooth sailing, but it could have turned out very different had he not been boosted by a Rising TIDE. Rising TIDE, which stands for "Train Individuals to Develop and Excel," is an after-school ministry of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Long Beach, California. Christopher, who was born into poverty in a depressed city neighborhood, is now a successful entrepreneur, a husband and a father of three.

But if not for Rising Tide, he says life might have been much different for him and many of his friends.

"Rising TIDE helps you become something better. We could easily have become gang members or been involved in alcohol, drugs or other negative things."

Rising TIDE serves children and youth from pre-school through high school with everything from tutoring and enrichment opportunities to sports and physical fitness activities to life skills training. However, Rising TIDE is about more than programming for the 100 students whom it serves. It's also about building relationships.

"Those who come from helpful and supportive families experience the Rising TIDE family as a supplementary family," says Rev. Rob Langworthy, who co-founded Rising TIDE with his wife, Rev. Adele Langworthy. "Others who don't have that kind of family at home find Rising TIDE as their source of support and inspiration and guidance and encouragement."

Rob notes the program has its best success among students who began the program in childhood and continue through adolescence. "Well over 90 percent of those who are involved in the program for several years go on to college or university," Rob says. "We have a lot of success stories of people who have achieved in life beyond what a lot of people might have expected."

Across the United States and around the world, the Pentecost Offering helps young people achieve their God-given potential. Children at risk, ministries with youth and Young Adult Volunteers benefit from Pentecost Offering gifts. And forty percent of the offering stays right here with us, to support our own (programs/ministries).

Through the Pentecost Offering, we make an impact on young people right here in our own church, our own community—as well in other churches and other communities whose children need our love. And perhaps most importantly, this churchwide offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime. Please give generously, because as has always been the case, when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray ~*

Lift our eyes, O God, to see the potential of every one of your children.

May we reach out and support those who are at risk so that their futures rise like the tides of your seas.

Amen

**We will be collecting this offering on June 9th**



SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PENTECOST



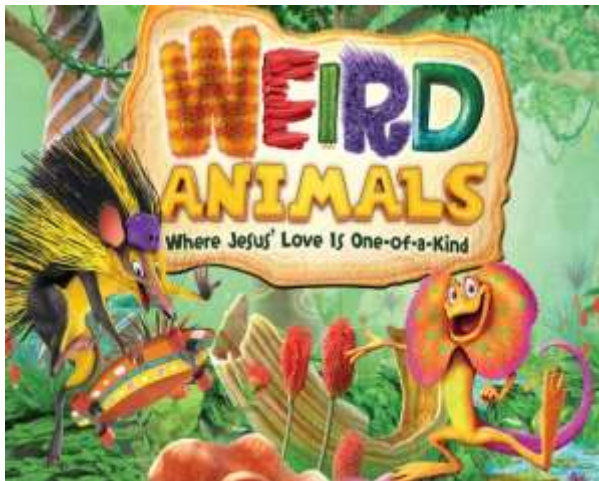
## Happenings

# let's do lunch

**Deacons Luncheon-** Come join us on Friday, June 28th at 11:00am for a luncheon and a presentation by Bill Warnes on the importance of Bees. Great food, great conversation and great fellowship!



**Parking Lot Maintenance.** We have called several companies and have agreed to work with Parking Lot Services to come out and repair our front drive. Due to their very busy schedule it will be scheduled for completion in about 4 to 5 weeks weather permitting.



## Vacation Bible School July 22nd - July 26th 9:00am to Noon



Do you like to clean? If so, we are looking for one or two volunteers that can come in each month and clean out the refrigerator, freezer and clean stove tops

and ovens. If this is something you are interested in, please contact the church office at 402-291-1104 or email [admin@bellevuefpc.org](mailto:admin@bellevuefpc.org).



The church office is looking for help **once a month to label newsletters.** It is usually at 9:30am and should only take about 2 hours. If this is something you are interested in, please contact June in the church office 402-291-1104

or email [admin@bellevuefpc.org](mailto:admin@bellevuefpc.org) and she will notify you each month as to what day the help is needed.

### Directory Address Changes:

Jean Lindfors- 1401 Galvin Rd South #206 Bellevue, NE 68005

Nancy St. Clair- Waterford & Woodbridge 1913 E Hwy 34 #122 Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
Phone # 402-619-6670



Worshipping, learning, and serving together in the name of Jesus





We would like to thank Rob Rose who has been our Children's Choir Director for the last two years. He will be working through Vacation Bible School and then will be leaving this position due to his increased duties as a Chaplain for the Air Force.

We are currently hiring for this position with an effective start date of August 1st. If you are interested please contact Linda Reffert at [lkreffert@aol.com](mailto:lkreffert@aol.com).

This position includes the following requirements: (additional requirements are not listed)

- ◆ Coordinate, instruct and lead music ministry for our children ages PreK through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ◆ Provide inspiration and leadership for an enjoyable music experience as part of the curriculum for children enrolled in the W.O.W. program for one hour each Wednesday evening during the program's school year term and children enrolled in the Church School program for one hour each Sunday during the nine month school term, and for 3 hours each day during our one week summer VBS program.
- ◆ Design, develop and coordinate a Children's Christmas program for worship with the Pastor/ Head of Staff, Chancel Choir Director and Organist
- ◆ Provide accompaniment on the piano, CD player or computer during all children's rehearsals.
- ◆ Coordinate with the Pastor/ Head of Staff, Director of Children's Ministries, Chancel Choir Director, and the Worship Committee the schedule for children's involvement in worship or special services.
- ◆ Design, develop and coordinate a Children's Christmas program for worship with the Pastor/ Head of Staff, Chancel Choir Director and Organist.

## Making a Joyful Noise!

Another choir year for the books! I'm having a hard time believing that it is already May, even though the winter seemed endless! I am so thankful to all of our choir members, who showed up in snow, rain, and really cold weather. They have been so faithful, and you will be hearing from many of them this summer. I'm putting their names in this article, so if you see them around this summer, please thank them. They are a great group!

**Our sopranos:** Emma Rose, Morgan Braun, Liane Kirmis, Carolyn Hess, Becky Baruth, Ann MacDonald, Laura Miller, Sarah Rose, Sally Syphers, and Carole Warnes.

**Our altos:** Nancy Blazek, Retha Dowding, Wendy Fenster, Sharon Elliott, Rita Sands, Deanna Frier, Katherine Rose, Jan Robinson, and Sue Tabler.

**Our tenors:** John Dart, Tom Blazek, and sometimes Scott Reffert.

**Our basses:** Lloyd Dowding, Jim Chatelain, Dick Brown, Bob Jeffus, Scott Reffert, Brian Wells, and Mike Tabler.

**Our outstanding instrumentalists:** Jim Chatelain (flute), Barb Simmons (flute), Maggie Blazek (trumpet, piano), Ryan Crick (trumpet), Brian Wells (cello), Andrew Baruth (percussion), Tom Blazek (tenor sax), and Josh Blazek (trombone).

You will be hearing from a lot of these people during the summer, and I think you will really enjoy the music. Also, many thanks to John Dart and Rick Kirmis for their help with the microphones. They put in a lot of time getting things ready for us.

And of course, we can't forget about Dirk. His puts a lot of time in practicing the wonderful music we hear each and every week, and I can't thank him enough!

OK Dirk, I'm done being nice!

Give all of these brave souls a thank you and a pat on the back when you see them.

## Making a Joyful Noise, Alice



## Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Church Grandparents, grandchildren and the parents who made sure their kids were here for the Summer Church Grandparent Event – thank you! I know it is an awfully busy time of year and it wasn't easy for everyone, but I so appreciate your participation. And I sincerely and prayerfully hope

that the relationships formed through this program are joyful and meaningful to you. God bless you all!

June 2nd is coming up quick! All ages are invited to join me in FELLOWSHIP HALL (that's a change from where Intergenerational Sunday School usually meets) at 9 AM. We need as many hands as possible to work fast and efficient to assemble 144 hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, so that we can attend Bill Coon's 100th birthday party in the Library at 9:30.

The God & The Girls Intergenerational Women's Retreat is coming up almost as quick. It's Saturday, June 8th from 9 to Noon. I am thrilled with the leadership team and with the number of women who are already signed up. It's going to be an awesome morning! Sign up quick if you haven't already.

Our July Intergenerational Sunday School class will be held at 9 AM on Sunday, July 7th. We will be assembling treat bags for our local fire and police. Each bag will contain a note of appreciation from our church family. I would love to have some people (especially those with kids) help deliver the bags after we get them assembled. I am still undecided about what we will do for our August Intergenerational class. If you have an idea, please let me know. Just remember that it has to work for and appeal to ages 3 and up. That's kinda tough. Our congregation is big on helping other people, so I would be especially interested in an idea of that nature.

We've got 20 registrations so far for VBS and it isn't until the last week of July. Isn't that awesome! Especially when you consider that more than half aren't our kids and they aren't kids who have attended before. They're kids who have heard about our VBS and want to be part of it. I am blessed to be having more and more volunteers stepping forward too, which is just lovely. If you are considering volunteering, don't talk yourself out of it. Talk to me and let's find just the right position for you while there are still a variety of choices. This is something our church does really well and I believe you will be proud and satisfied when the week is over. To register for VBS you can fill out a form from the registration table or you can go online at [myvbs.org/bellevuefpc](http://myvbs.org/bellevuefpc).

I think you all know that I have been slimed at the end of the last two VBS's because we have reached huge goals in mission for the Bellevue Food Pantry. Well this year, it's even going to be more fun. Do you know why? Rob Rose, our Children's Music Director has agreed to be slimed if we reach our initial goal of 800 items. AND, if we hit 1,000 items, Pastor Mike is going to let the winning crew slime him. In that event, the 2nd place crew will get to slime Rob. There could be a whole lot of sliming going on that last morning of VBS. I think I'm going to start collecting cans right now! And that's one more reason to volunteer – so you can be part of all that fun and excitement.

The VBS decorating team is working away but could always use more help. You can work at home or with me at church. I will make lunch for anyone in the congregation who will stay and help in any capacity with decorating on Sunday, July 14th after worship. Last year we had a whole table full of people just making tape loops. I think we will need that again this year. There's a job for everyone! And free lunch too.



## Youth Fellowship (YF) News



*"Train up a child in the way he should go, teaching him to seek God's wisdom and will for his abilities and talents, even when he is old he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6*

any more. Of course you can come visit us on breaks and holidays!

Our Jr High Mission Trip to Calvin Crest will be June 1 & 2. We had to be flexible with our timing but really wanted the kids to experience the beauty of Calvin Crest and have that dedicated time away to do some work and have a lot of fun playing and getting to know each other better. We are leaving Saturday afternoon and returning Sunday evening.



We had some great moments for our church family in May including the Grandparent Blessing and Senior Recognition. I chose the above scripture thinking of the importance of community and connection with our children and their church grandparents. These have become relationships that encourage and inspire and help both groups feel more connected as a church family. The great thing is we not only teach our kiddos but they have so much to teach us and they inspire us.



We hope to move our service day at the Open Door Mission to June 9th because we won't be home in time on the 2nd. Keep your eye on e-mail for updates.

June 23 is our final Triennium Mixer at New Life Presbyterian Church at 2:00pm. We are heading to Triennium July 15th. It's coming up so quickly and I know everyone is getting very excited.

Be a Blessing. Shelli



Senior recognition is always a wonderful time to hear what our young people have accomplished and what they have planned for their future. I was of course a little weepy but like I said during worship, if they weren't great kids we wouldn't be sad to see them move on to college. That's not to say we aren't very proud and excited for their futures, we are just sad we won't be seeing them every week

### June Youth Events

- June 1 & 2** Jr High Mission Trip
- June 9** Youth Active Service Open Door Mission
- June 23** Triennium Mixer 2:00pm-New Life Church
- July 15 - 20** Triennium at Purdue University





~ June 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<b>1</b> 10a MackInnon Memorial/ Luncheon 12p Jr. High Mission Trip 3p Private Event (FH)
<b>2</b> Panty Sunday 9a Inter-Generational Sunday School 10a Worship Service 11a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 7p Venture Crew 26	<b>3</b> 1:15p Heritage Ridge 2p Harmony Court 2:45p Richmond Village	<b>4</b> 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR)	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 7p Troop 467	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 9a God and the Girls
<b>9 Pentecost</b> Uncle Sunday 10a Worship Service 4:30p Youth Active Service/ Open Door Mission 6:30p Boy Scout Committee Meeting (VVR)	<b>10</b> 1p Women's Bible Study (CR) 4p PEO (FH/VVR)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 6p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR) 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p Troop 467	<b>14 Flag Day</b>	<b>15</b> 2p Private Event (FH)
<b>16 Father's Day</b> 10a Worship Service 11a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	<b>17</b> 7p Venture Crew 26	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7p Troop 467	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> Next Sunday Panty Sunday 10a Worship Service 5p Crossroads Connection	<b>24</b> 1p Women's Bible Study (CR)	<b>25</b> 7p Troop 499 Commit- tee Mtg (VVR)	<b>26</b> 10:30a P.E.O. (VVR)	<b>27</b> 12p Ladies Lunch (Golden Bowl) 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467	<b>28</b> 11a Deacons Summer Luncheon	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 10a Worship Service	<b>Notes:</b>					



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## June Birthdays:

- |                      |                   |                    |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Bill Coon          | 10 Marsha Holbert | 21 Cherie Wallace  |
| 3 Scott Woolf        | 11 Carol Moore    | 22 Rob Rose        |
| 6 Anita Bishop       | 11 Cameron Tarvin | 21 Joan Rousseau   |
| 6 Nicole Carver      | 12 Dick Brown     | 22 Rachel Brummond |
| 6 Sheryl Shottenkirk | 13 June Kouba     | 23 Laura Miller    |
| 7 Emma Rose          | 14 Jean Jacobson  | 26 Jayna Davis     |
| 7 Becky Baruth       | 17 Sarah Rose     | 27 Ann MacDonald   |
| 7 Angie Uhl          | 17 Darald Berg    | 27 Joshua Keaton   |
| 7 Jane Noden         | 17 Jean Lindfors  | 28 Jim Braun       |
| 8 Daniel Rose        | 18 Natalie Monico | 28 Dillon Dawson   |
| 8 Ryan Crick         | 19 Bob Jeffus     |                    |
| 8 Andrew Baruth      | 20 Katie Blazek   |                    |

