

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

2020 Stewardship Campaign Faith, Hope and Trust

*“For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.” (Psalm 71:5)*

Sunday, September 29th is Commitment Sunday. Our theme for this year is faith, hope and trust. As we enter into this season of Stewardship you are invited to prayerfully consider how your faith has helped you to live into hope for the future of our church and trust that God has many more long and glorious years of mission and service for us in our community.



This month you will receive a stewardship letter with an estimated 2020 Operating Budget printed on the back. We hope this estimate of income and expenses will help you understand how our congregation can best use the contributions we receive to live out the mission and ministry to which we are called. Included with the letter will be a pledge card.

After prayerful consideration, please fill out the pledge card and bring it to worship on Commitment Sunday, September 29th. You will be invited to bring the card to the front of the Sanctuary for deposit in the Joash Chest, a visible symbol of people coming together to offer our gifts to God.

Together let us prayerfully and thoughtfully learn more about what it means to more fully follow and rely on Jesus while loving and serving our community. As we grow in faith, hope and trust, let us experience more deeply the joy of Jesus Christ.

In Christian Fellowship,
Bob Jeffus, Stewardship Committee Chair



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Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael G. Elliott (Pastor)-pastor@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

June Kouba (Church Administrator/Treasurer)-admin@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Linda Reffert (Children's Ministry Director)-lkreffert@aol.com
Tu, W, Th 9:00 am to 5:00 pm (hours may vary)

Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)-youthdirector@bellevuefpc.org
Tu, Th 10:30 am to 3:00 pm (hours may vary)

Alice Renner (Chancel Choir Director)-akrennera@gmail.com

Liane Kirmis (Westminster Bells Director)-rkirmis@windstream.net

Dirk Lindner (Organist)-dirk16@cox.net

Eric Van Sky (Financial Secretary)-eric.vansky@yahoo.com



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Jeanette McLaughlin who is receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ Becky Baruth and her family as she is being treated for cancer.
- ◆ Carl Seaman receiving cancer treatment.
- ◆ George Thompson who is suffering with Parkinson's disease.
- ◆ Peg Jewell who is in declining health.

Bakersplus.com

We just received the **Second Quarter** of 2019 rebate from Bakers for **\$217.42** this is wonderful and includes **46** 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>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$17,584.93	\$224,369.14
Expenses	\$23,734.48	\$210,385.37
Difference	<\$ 6,149.55	\$13,983.77



Happenings

Kick-off Sunday September 8th

9:00am– Sunday School classes for all ages

We'll start the day with a short intergenerational gathering in the Fellowship Hall which will include donuts, coffee and juice. It's a chance for all of our Sunday School participants children, youth and adults to come together and celebrate the upcoming year of classes. Following our gathering, each class will go to their rooms for their regular lesson.

10:30am Worship

All of our Christian Education volunteers will be commissioned during the worship service.

**Starting September 8th-Worship will begin at 10:30 am.
Sunday School for children and adults will begin at 9:00 am.**

WOW begins September 11th. We need 1 shepherd for our Kindergarten through 2nd graders. The shepherd will serve from 6 to 7 PM and Linda Reffert will gladly explain the minimal duties. We also need kitchen helpers from 4:30 to 6:30 PM. We would love to have older adults involved. Please see the table in the Library or the Children's Ministry page on the website for registering your child to participate.



Word on Wednesdays



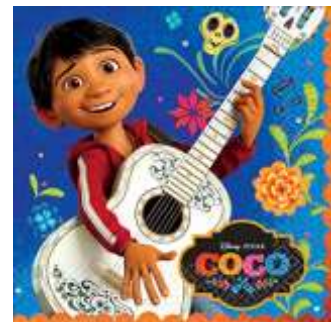
The **Presbyterian Women's Evening Bible Study** group will resume on September 12, 2019, at 7pm. We will meet at the home of Joyce Ritchey, 404 Kings Drive. We meet the 2nd Thursday each month, September thru May, at 7pm. We will use the Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study 'Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments' by Eugenia Ann Gamble. We welcome new participants to join us. Contact Marsha Holbert at 402.639.3695 to get a study book and further details.

Join us for **Ladies' Lunch**. Starting in September we are meeting on the **Third Thursday** of each month at noon. In September we are going to meet at Pinoy Grill (across from Avery Elementary) on September 19th. Please call or email **Bev Snowden** if you plan on attending **402-291-7653** or **bevsnowden2017@gmail.com**.



Happenings

Free Family Movie Night- Sunday, October 6th. That night, at 5:00 PM, we will host a free Family Movie Night, with a light supper at 5:00 PM, followed by the movie "Coco" and then arts and crafts for those who are interested. It's fun for all ages to gather in Fellowship Hall and eat and watch the movie together and I hope you will consider joining us!



Operation Christmas Child

Children in 118 countries receive miracles through shoeboxes collected by Operation Christmas Child. Approximately 7,900,000 shoebox gifts in the United States, plus another 2,400,000 from nine other countries are donated.

The gift of a simple shoebox filled with toys, treats, and basic supplies will bring joy to the children and hope to their parents who can not offer their children even the simplest of gifts for Christmas.

As the 2019 Operation Christmas Child campaign draws near, will you and your church family prayerfully consider how you can help us reach more children this year? Remember, a small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, and what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift with Operation Christmas Child.

We will have a work day to put together the boxes on Saturday, October 26th at 10:00 am in the Valley Vista Room. If you would like to help please email ebetino@cox.net. The empty shoeboxes will be available



Thank you dear First Presbyterian Church Family! You have touched my heart and my family with your cards, kind words, prayers, memorial gifts and the presence of some of you at my dad's celebration of life. It was such a painful time, but your kindness and care have meant the world! **Linda Reffert**

FILE OF LIFE	
KEEP INFORMATION UP TO DATE !! Review At Least Every Six Months !!	
MEDICAL DATA REVIEWED AS OF	MO. YR.
Name:	
Address:	
Doctor:	Phone #:
Preferred Hospital:	
EMERGENCY CONTACTS	
Name:	Phone #:
Address:	
Name:	Phone #:

Medical ID cards for wallet or purse and magnetic "refrigerator pockets" with health are on the shelf outside church office window; courtesy of UNMC and Bellevue Fire Department.



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

It's that time! Sunday School and WOW are both starting up. I'm working away to get all my ducks in a row so we can have an awesome start. Before I launch into anything about Fall though, let me just give a final thanks and numbers for VBS. When I wrote my August newsletter article, VBS has barely begun.

Thanks to so many of you, we had the biggest VBS staff we have had during my tenure. Our number of enrolled students were down a bit and I was a little confused about why God led so many of you to volunteer, when He wasn't sending more kids. We had 68, which is a good number, but it was down a bit. But gosh, the needs of some of the kids who came made it quickly apparent why we needed more help! We had kids attend who were facing health challenges, family challenges and trauma we would not wish on anyone, let alone a child. All VBS kids deserve to be known and loved but thanks to the extra help we had, we could provide extra love and attention where it was desperately needed. Thank you SO much! And thanks to the congregation members who answered Pastor Mike's challenge to boost our donations to the Bellevue Food Pantry. The VBS kids brought a lot of food, but we were able to smash to smithereens our previous donation totals. We donated more than 3,700 items to the Bellevue Food Pantry.

Now for fall, I will try to be brief where I can, because I have so many things I want to address and June won't let me have the whole newsletter!

Sunday school begins for all ages with donuts, juice, coffee and a group blessing at 9 AM on September 8th, in Fellowship Hall. WOW begins with dinner at 5:30 on Wednesday, September 11th. CE leaders and helpers for all ages and programming will be commissioned in worship on the 8th.

Session approved a new Health Policy for all church programming. It is a policy meant to get us all on the same page about what types of health challenges should keep us home, for the protection of others. If you are the parent of a child participating in Sunday School or WOW, please be sure you sign the back side (or 2nd page) of the 2019-20 Registration form. For adults who participate in programming at the

church, it would be a great idea for you to read through and follow this policy too. No one wants to be sick, but we have people in our congregation with suppressed immune systems and they especially should not be exposed to contagious illnesses. Even if you are so tough you keep on going when you are sick, please note this policy.

The cost of WOW is \$50 per child per year. This is primarily to cover food costs. We welcome guests and give them a bargain price of \$2 per session. Please do not ever let cost keep you from participating in any of our programming! It is fine to pay \$25 per semester, instead of the whole year. And we have scholarship money just waiting to be used if that would be helpful. There are so many expenses with kids, especially at the start of a school year! Third graders will be presented with Bibles in worship on Sunday, September 22nd. If you have an older child who did not receive a Bible in 3rd grade, please let me know and they can be added to the list, or given a Bible privately.

The fall Family Movie Night is Sunday, October 6th. We will gather at 5 PM for a FREE kid-friendly dinner, then show the Disney movie Coco and we will conclude the evening with crafts for kids who are interested. We would love to have you join us and we welcome guests from your family Welcome School and the community.

God & The Girls Intergenerational Retreat has been moved to Saturday, November 2nd from 9 to Noon. All females, ages from 9 and up are welcome. Last time, our theme was Relationships and I strongly encouraged you to bring someone special with you. This time our theme will be Gratitude and while you are welcome and encouraged to bring a special guest, it isn't an expectation. I hope all who attend will walk out the doors with a smile on their face and a more conscious awareness of how very much God loves them. I am still hopeful for a Food Coordinator to join our leadership team.

Sunday school teaching staff will be Nora Boyd, Becca Griffin and myself most Sundays. Deb Hudson and Cindy Reilly will help us as needed. As of this moment, we still have not filled the Children's Music position. It is a paying position and we really want an experienced children's music teacher, so it's a pretty specialized need. Keep thinking about who you might know. In the meantime, I am scrambling to figure out how to make sure we have music as a regular part of our WOW and Sunday School. Music is just so important!



Youth Fellowship (YF) News



Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.

Proverbs 23:12

Another verse from our Middle School mission trip and a

great scripture for back to school time. I hope you are all enjoying getting back into the swing of school and seeing all your friends. I'm excited we will be back together again soon!



John and I had a wonderful time at Camp Calvin Crest Family Fun day. The BBQ was delicious and the weather was perfect for hiking and a hayrack ride. I encourage everyone to make sure you have it on your calendar for next year, usually the 4th Sunday of August. It's free and it's fantastic.

We also had the joy of watching all of the youth and church members that were involved in the Arrows to Aerospace parade. Another thing to put on your calendar, if you're not marching with your school or club, don't forget your award winning church float for next year! It's always fun to see the kiddos marching in the parade.



Sunday School kicks off September 8th at 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall where all ages will meet together for donuts and juice then we will be dismissed to our own classrooms.

September 8th is also our first YAS - Youth Active Service of the year. I've moved it to the second Sunday which will hopefully be easier for folks to schedule and it won't interfere with other activities. We encourage parents and other church family to join us. We meet at the church at 4:30pm and are usually back to the church by 7:30pm at the latest.

It will be wonderful to get back to Illuminate and WOW on September 11th. With such a small group of 7th graders and no 8th graders we will all meet together again this year. We start with dinner and afterward have study and games. A number of the youth last year were also requesting crafts some weeks so that will also be in our schedule.

Please don't forget to register for Sunday School and Illuminate. The forms are on the table in the library. We need to make sure we have updated phone numbers and e-mails to make sure we are keeping in touch and have the best method to communicate with everyone.

I can't wait to see you all again soon and look forward to a great year.

Be a Blessing. Shelli

September Youth Events

- Sept 8** 9:00am Sunday School Kick-off
- Sept 8** 4:30-7:30pm YAS Open Door Mission
- Sept 11** 5:30 Illuminate Resumes
- Sept 29** Youth Usher and Liturgist



~ September 2019 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pantry Sunday 10a Worship Service 7p Venture Crew 26	2 <i>Labor Day</i> Church Office is Closed	3 10:30a Staff Meeting (CR) 5:30p Christian Education Mtg (L) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	4 7p Choir Rehearsal	5 7p Troop 467	6	7
8 Undie Sunday 9a Fall Kick-Off 10:30a Worship Service 4:30p Youth Active Service/ODM 6:30p Boy Scout Committee Meeting (VVR)	9 10:30a PEO (FH/VVR) 1p Women's Bible Study (CR)	10 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	11 9a P.E.O. (VVR) 5:30p WOW/ Illuminate 6p Building & Grounds Mtg (CR) 6p Finance Mtg (Admin Ofc) 7p Choir Rehearsal	12 6:30p Membership (VVR) 7p PW Bible Study (Ritchey Home) 7p Troop 467 7p Worship Mtg (CR)	13	14
15 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	16 7p Venture Crew 26	17 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	18 5:30p WOW/ Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	19 7p Troop 467	20	21
22 Next Sunday Pantry Sunday 9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service	23 1p Women's Bible Study (CR)	24 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal 7p Troop 499 Committee Mtg (VVR)	25 5:30p WOW/ Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	26 7p Session (VVR) 7p Troop 467	27	28
29 9a Sunday School 10:30a Commitment Sunday 10:30a Worship Service	30	Notes:				



First Presbyterian Church
1220 Bellevue Blvd. South
Bellevue, NE 68005
Phone: 402-291-1104

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Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

September Birthdays:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Jodie Graham | 17 Beth Dawson |
| 3 Elaine Sanborn | 18 Makayla Burg |
| 4 Becca Griffin | 18 Joan Farley |
| 5 John Kieran | 18 Brian Urwin |
| 8 Maria Lewis | 19 Mary Bond |
| 8 Riley Hasbrouck | 20 David Albert |
| 9 Jan Robinson | 20 Bill Zipse |
| 11 Kathryn Rose | 21 Michael Brink |
| 11 Mary Hughey | 24 Tannis Clark |
| 12 Lloyd Dowding | 28 Jeanette McLaughlin |
| 12 Anne Webster | 28 Brian Renter |
| 14 Nancy Hartranft | 29 Don Fenster |
| 14 Faith Hartranft | 30 Marty Davis |
| 14 Makayla Coats | |

