

Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

No Fear

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.” Romans 8:14-17

Pentecost, that glorious day that we, as the church, gather to celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on us all. Pentecost, the day that the church was born. The Apostle Paul reminded the people in the city of Rome that the One Spirit that God has poured out on us all is a Spirit of boldness and courage and not a Spirit of fear or timidity.

As we live in these days of change and the Spirit of God offers us an opportunity for growth and new vision, I think that it is good for us to be reminded of the Spirit of boldness which God has so freely offered to us all. It is a spirit of hope and courage. Of optimism and love. God’s Spirit encourages us as we boldly face the future God longs for us to live into.

We are poised to start a whole new chapter in our life as the people of God. In just a short time we will be worshipping together, in person. Maybe not in June, but soon. That is such exciting good news! Like me, I am sure that the dawn of that new day also brings some feelings of nervousness and fear for you all too. I do know in all faith and certainty that when that time comes, we will take every precaution possible to keep us each one of us safe as we enter this new phase of our life together. It will also require each one of us to be as responsible and careful with each other as we can be and trust that we hold each other’s health and well-being seriously.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear... Paul’s words are good words to live by. As we celebrate the Day of Pentecost, let us remember that it is a good and prosperous land to which God is calling us. A land of joy and peace where God’s Spirit waits to fill us and empower us to move ahead boldly with nothing to fear. We need only trust and obey. And treat each other with love and take responsibility for each other’s health and safety

Change and newness always bring a sense of fear attached to them. But as the people of God, we must remember that by the power of the Holy Spirit there is nothing that we can’t do and that there is no road that we will walk where God is not already one step ahead of us leading us on and lighting our every step into the future.



As we prepare to leave the comfort of the familiar past and prepare to journey into future let us be courageous. It is a journey that we undertake with God leading the way into a glorious new future filled with new vision for FPC. It is not a place of fear, but a place of promise. So let’s get out our sanitizer, masks and 6 feet of separation and prepare for the amazing journey that lies ahead. Peace be to you all.

Yours in Christ, Mike



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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Nadine Buckley for continued healing
- ◆ John Wallace who has been diagnosed with Dementia
- ◆ Virginia Eidenmiller who is now living at Mabel Rose
- ◆ All those affected by the Covid-19 virus
- ◆ Carl Seaman who is in rehab

Financial Information

	April	YTD
Income	*\$69,048.55	\$189,045.91
Expenses	\$22,722.70	\$125,159.96
Difference	\$46,325.85	\$63,885.95

***Income includes \$42,100.00 Paycheck Protection Program Loan from the Federal Government to cover May and June payroll and utilities.**



All in person events for June have been tentatively cancelled.

All services will be online on our Facebook page.

If there are any changes we will inform you by email.

Newsletter: Effective August of this year we will no longer be mailing the Newsletter. We will continue to email the Newsletter to everyone on file with an email address. We do have approximately 20 people that do not have an email address that we will continue to mail the monthly newsletter to. Not mailing the newsletters will save the church approximately \$1700.00 a year. We will continue to also post the Newsletter on our Website www.bellevuefpc.org. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

Financial Support of our Church

During this time of crisis it is crucial that you continue your financial support of our church. Here are the ways you can do that:

- ☺ Using your banks bill pay to send a donation using your envelope # in the account number field. If you do not have an envelope number last name is just fine. If you need assistance just call the church office and we will be happy to help.
- ☺ US Mail—Our address is 1220 Bellevue Blvd. South, Bellevue, NE 68005
- ☺ Stopping by the church office to drop off your offering during working hours. Our hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30a to 3:00pm
- ☺ We understand that during these difficult times it may not be possible to fulfill your pledge commitment. If this is the case please let us know so we can make adjustments.

DEBT PAY-OFF CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of May 20, 2020

Some Good News---FPC loan balance is now under \$100,000. It currently stands at \$87,905. However, the Debt Pay-Off account contains only \$21,843 which will pay the monthly payments only for the next 3 months through August 2020 when the balance will still be about \$68,000.

Please continue with your contributions. If you plan to make a significant end of year payment, please consider making it sooner rather than later so we can continue making the required monthly payments through December 2020. If we can pay-off the remaining debt this year rather than later in 2021, we can save the church another \$1,000 to \$2,000, in interest expense.

Please mail in your contributions or drop them by the office. And, again, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.

As a church family we are truly Blessed. If you have any questions, please contact me or Eric Van Sky (Financial Secretary). Bob Jeffus-Chair, Stewardship Committee





Let's Go Camping

Find all of the camping related words from the list below. The words can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.



O M A E R T S B S E E H L H
M I F B S T A M I F F I I H
G E R E U C E R O I A K C R
R E R L K G E N S R E S E A
C O M P A S S H T E E C C N
F G A B G N I P E E L S H G
K C O L B N U S R K L S E E
K P T H G I L H S A L F S R
C A M P F I R E N L Y B T A
C M O S Q U I T O E S A G C
M L G O E C E I N F T L T C
E O S R Q R E N C I E I H O
L L E I N A P K I N S R C O
O U P L E I F A T K C G I N



BACKPACK
BUG SPRAY
CAMPFIRE
COMPASS
FIRE
FISHING POLE
FLASHLIGHT

FOREST
HIKE
ICE CHEST
KNIFE
LAKE
LANTERN

MAP
MOSQUITOES
NAPKINS
RACCOON
RANGER
SLEEPING BAG

SMORES
STREAM
SUNBLOCK
SWIMSUIT
TENT
TRAIL



Newsletter Puzzle

TEHAW
1 12 25

ROERATC
24 33 6 46 34 27

NIBGE
17 9 23

FIEL
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LEVO
5

ONREUJY
37 31 40 44 13

LEOBNG
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OUY
28 26

RITSES
41 39 15

HERTOBR
8 29 11 38

CUCHHR
42 43 35 10 20

DOG
14 16

VEDIDI
22 3 36

TINUY
32 19 18

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17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

4 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 41 46



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

When I wrote my May newsletter article, I was very hopeful that we would be able to host VBS this summer. I was thankful it is late in the summer and I was hopeful that Covid-19 numbers would remain low in Nebraska, and would be steadily on the downhill slope by now. We still have not officially made the final decision about VBS. Session will vote this week about

whether or not to return to worship in the building in June. And about building usage by groups this summer. Even as late as a week ago, I was still hopeful and working towards a July VBS.

I have not closed VBS registration yet. That depends largely on session. But my hopes that Covid-19 numbers would stay very low in Nebraska and be steadily going downward by now have not panned out. And my realization that even if session lets us have VBS in some form or fashion, it would have to be a socially distant VBS. That is making me doubt I could successfully lead such a VBS. I am afraid we would have to devote too much energy to keeping kids distant from each other and their leaders to be able to provide the kind of loving and joyful experience we are so proud of offering to the community.

I do want to thank the Rose family, Deb Hudson, Joyce Luster, Barb Carlson and Susan Scranton for their work on VBS decorations this month. If we don't use them this year, I have permission to store them. So, no worries, your work was not in vain!

With my doubts mounting, I have proposed a VBS Plan B to Pastor Mike, staff and the Children's Ministry team. And people have jumped right on board to help me flesh out the vision. I envision 6 Wednesday evening Zoom sessions, beginning at 6:30 PM. Hopefully beginning in mid-June. I would love to see us offer kids interactive sessions with guest storybook readers, science, cooking, games, exercise, art, music, etc. Nora Boyd, Liane Kirmis, Sue Tabler and Cindy Reilly are brainstorming with me and will likely be leading some of the sessions. Pastor Mike and Sharon have said they would be guest readers. And we might just have a guest reader from as far away as Canada. (Can you guess who?) If you would like to be part of the planning team or if you would be willing and able to lead a 5 to 15 minute session in something you are passionate about, that kids could

engage in, please let me know ASAP. We will of course offer, prayer, fellowship and love besides our hope to inspire in every session.

We typically offer Intergenerational Sunday School on the first Sunday in June, July and August. We've done some wonderful mission work on those Sundays and I have loved, loved, loved the fact we have 2 year olds through 80+ working side by side! I had solid plans for putting together Hygiene kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and treat bags for Bellevue road construction workers for June and July this summer. And I hoped to do a Church Grandparent/grandchild event at our August gathering. I am still hopeful for August. And I'm not giving up on doing the Hygiene kits and treat bags. I'm just coming up with a Plan B for how and when those projects will be done. I am starting to feel like Plan B should be my middle name! So few of my plans can be done the way and with whom I have come to take for granted. I bet some of you spend a fair amount of time wrestling with how to "Plan B" also.

Last week, I sent out letters with new get-to-know-you questionnaires to all our children and church members who participate in the Church Grandparent program. If you did not receive a letter from me, please let me know. I do make mistakes from time to time! We were not able to have our Church Grandparent gathering last week, with donuts, conversation and mutual blessings. But it was pretty awesome how many families and church grandparents responded enthusiastically to continuing the program over this summer, in whatever way we can. I sincerely believe that all the generations involved in our church can benefit greatly from knowing and deliberately engaging with each other. And it's been such a blessing to see relationships grow and blossom in this program.

Finally, I want to thank all the adults who have participated in our spring and summer Devotions and Bible Study over Zoom. And thank you to Pastor Mike for starting all this. I primarily interact with kids on most Wednesdays and Sundays and it has been such a joy and a boost to me personally, to be involved with the Devotions and Study. We have so many interesting and intelligent adults that have been a joy to get to know better. Besides the opportunity to share study. I hope and pray that it has been a boost to each participant!



Youth Fellowship (YF) News



"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world."
John 16:33

With all the changes I thought this would be a great verse for us all right now. We are all experiencing so many limitations and having to figure out creative ways to do things that have been so natural and normal. It's a great reminder that God is with us through everything and he will grant us peace. We just need to remember to take a deep breath and keep carrying on.



We have had great fun learning how to use ZOOM to continue Illuminate. Beginning at the end of April we started having picnics at church every two weeks. The first week we brought our own dinner and I got Dilly Bars for us to share in the parking lot. The last two times we put different games all over the Oak Grove with pizza one week and a cook out the next. It's a bit of a challenge to be social and still distance but I think we are getting the hang of it and it is such a joy to see everyone, be together and play together.



Speaking of changes we have unfortunately cancelled all of our Mission Trips for the summer. Calvin Crest has postponed their camps until July which cancels our June plans and The Stewpot has cancelled their groups until August so the Senior High trip is cancelled too. We hope to have some fun activities this summer and I have decided to continue doing Illuminate through June even though we are usually done in April. I just want the youth to have the opportunity to have fun and get to know the new 7th graders who started joining us two weeks ago.

We continue to forge forward learning flexibility is key and there are many different ways to nurture the church family and keep us all connected and safe.

I can't wait until we can all be together again but also acknowledge we have to listen to recommendations of those in leadership. The song God Be With You Till We Meet Again has taken on such a new meaning to me. Near or far know you are in my thoughts and prayers.

Be a Blessing, Shelli



June Activities

Illuminate through the end of June with ZOOM calls and picnics ever other week.

June 3, 17 Picnic and activities 5:30pm

June 10, 24 ZOOM calls 5:30pm

MISSION TRIPS - Both have been cancelled



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Mai l i n g A d d r e s s L i n e 1
M a i l i n g A d d r e s s L i n e 2
M a i l i n g A d d r e s s L i n e 3
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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 Scott Woolf | 17 Sarah Rose |
| 6 Anita Bishop | 17 Darald Berg |
| 6 Nicole Carver | 17 Jean Lindfors |
| 6 Sheryl Shottenkirk | 18 Natalie Monico |
| 7 Emma Rose | 19 Bob Jeffus |
| 7 Becky Baruth | 19 Katie Blazek |
| 7 Jane Noden | 20 Cherie Wallace |
| 8 Daniel Rose | 21 Rob Rose |
| 8 Andrew Baruth | 21 Joan Rousseau |
| 8 Ryan Crick | 22 Rachel Brummond |
| 10 Marsha Holbert | 23 Laura Miller |
| 11 Carol Moore | 26 Jayna Davis |
| 12 Piper Brink | 27 Ann Macdonald |
| 12 Dick Brown | 27 Joshua Keaton |
| 13 June Kouba | 28 Jim Braun |
| 14 Jean Jacobson | 28 Dillon Dawson |

