



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” (from Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 1)

Partners in the Gospel. That is what we, as this part of the Church of Jesus Christ are all about. It is our calling and our greatest joy to hold fast to the faith that we have been given, to serve as a beacon of light and to live out God’s love to God’s children in this time and place. Every time that I think about how we are going about living out our mission as Christ’s ambassadors I am more and more overwhelmed with the faithfulness and generosity of this congregation.

I am so pleased to see that so many of our members have already received their COVID vaccines and are feeling more confident. Every week we have a few more people return after having been worshipping by Facebook for so long. It is so good to have more people present for in-person worship. Yet, despite our long year of separation, Good News abounds. Not only have we survived, but we have much to rejoice and be thankful for.

While many people have offered their own explanations for our many joys that God has blessed us with, I think that we are indeed a place where God’s Spirit has filled us up and enabled us to become more than we ever thought possible just a few short months ago. You can feel that Spirit stirring in Sunday worship. You can feel it inspiring and supporting our staff and volunteers. And that same Spirit has inspired us to step out in faith and boldly proclaim the Good News both in our part of God’s Kingdom and around the world. We continue in our abundant sharing through mission in our community, and this due to your continuing generosity.

I look forward to what this year holds for us as we continue Christ’s work more boldly each day.

And so, as the Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Philippi,

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”



Blessings, Pastor Mike



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



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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
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Linda Reffert (Children's Ministry Director)-lkreffert@aol.com
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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ All of our folks who are unable to leave their homes
- ◆ All those affected by the Covid-19 virus
- ◆ Sylvia Thompson for peace and healing
- ◆ Jean Lindfors for healing from a knee replacement
- ◆ John and Shelli Dart, both recovering from Covid and the passing of John's brother Jerry

Financial Information

	February	YTD
Income	\$36,775.90	\$103,985.10
Expenses	<u>\$27,237.08</u>	<u>\$ 67,282.09</u>
Difference	\$9,538.02	\$ 36,703.01



Holy Week 2021

All services will be in person and
broadcast Facebook Live

April 1st– 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service

April 2nd Good Friday-Noon Organ Meditation Service

April 3rd-10:00am to 11:00am Easter Egg Hunt

April 4th Easter Sunday-10:30am Easter Worship Service

Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 5th



On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ ” Then they remembered his words.

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. Luke 24:1-12

Adult Sunday School

Sunday School will begin again on Tuesday’s at 12:30pm starting April 13th via Zoom. There will be no homework for participants. Please join us as we discover the meaning of the lyrics of one of Pastor Mike’s favorite Christian Songwriters, Michael Card. It will be truly inspirational. If you would like to participate email Pastor Mike at pastor@bellevuefpc.org and he will send you the zoom invitation.



Easter Word Search

G S N O I T P M E D E R Y Y M
 J J U Y K I R Y T T F X E O L
 R L K F W E E C I O J E R C K
 X Y N G Q C U W V U P C M C K
 R C R O S S H R E D P H M N E
 I F V A I B Q U I R G P Q R N
 S A Q Z M T M I R A C L E T S
 E I A O I R C H R C O Y I U E
 N T T P R C G E Y O H S S R L
 I H H S O O C A R K I E P V K
 N W O R C S D U B R J V R G T
 O H T N G N T E S F U L A M I
 D P V O U Q F L D K A S Y S H
 Z M E S B Z Z W E M L Y E D F
 E T G L M E G K B S L T R R U

APOSTLES
 CROWN
 LAMB
 PRAYER
 RESURRECTION
 SON

CHURCH
 FAITH
 MARY
 REDEMPTION
 RISEN
 SUNDAY

CROSS
 JESUS
 MIRACLE
 REJOICE
 SAVIOR
 TOMB



PER CAPITA – PER PERSON

The **required** total Per Capita amount due from each congregation is a combined request from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the General Assembly. It is **\$39.68** for each active member, which is a **.03** increase from last year. In 2021, our apportionment is **\$10,515.20**. If we don't reach that amount from the Per Capita request, funds will be taken from somewhere else in our budget to ensure First Presbyterian meets the required Per Capita assessment.

Take a special Per Capita envelope from the name tag table. Include a check for **\$39.68** for each church member in your family. Write your envelope # on your check. If you do not have the envelope, please write Per Capita in the memo portion of your check. Leave the envelope or check in the offering plate or mail to the office. Our church paid the full amount of \$10,515.20 in February to the Presbytery. As of March 21st we have collected \$5,739.36, the remaining **balance of \$4,776.84** will be taken out of the Operating Budget

Amazon Smile

Please be sure to go (<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0379376>) when ordering from Amazon.

Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation will make a donation to First Presbyterian Church. **We have received over \$689.68 since the beginning and it could be so much more if everyone who uses Amazon selects First Presbyterian Church and uses smile.amazon.com when ordering.**

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization where .5% of their eligible purchases will be donated to our church.

If you are not an AmazonSmile customer please log in to Amazon.com and go to help and type in Amazon Smile . Click on the Amazon Smile logo and you will be prompted get started and to select an organization. You must be logged in to Amazon Smile (<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0379376>) to shop in order for your purchases to qualify.

TAGG (Together a Greater Good)

They will donate a percentage of your purchase from a variety of businesses directly to First Presbyterian Church. Just download their app to your phone and select First Presbyterian Church to support and you will see a large list of participating vendors in the Bellevue, Papillion and Omaha areas. **Hy-Vee has now joined and will donate 1% of each total purchase to First Presbyterian Church.** Just take a picture of your full receipt once you have downloaded the TAGG app.

Bakersplus.com

We just received the **Fourth Quarter of 2020** rebate from Bakers for **\$179.89** this is wonderful and includes **44** 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.



Welcome School

Spring is finally here! The children at Welcome School are certainly ready for some nicer weather so they can play outside. We've been keeping ourselves busy in the meantime doing a lot of activities. Riding our trikes up and down the hallway has always been a great wintertime tradition! All of the classes had pajama day. That's a fun day the kids wear their jammies, read books, and eat pancakes.

Ahoy Matey! Mrs. Souerdyke's classes have been sailing the high seas with their pirate center. They've even been digging for pirate booty!

Mrs. McCann's class has been busy learning all about their bodies. They have the doctor/vet center in their room.

Mrs. Bishop's class has been practicing being teachers in their school center.

It's great fun to pretend to be the teacher. Learning is so fun!

We are almost full for next year. We have 5 spots in the 2-day class for children who will turn 3 by October 1st. Spread the word!

God bless,
Tara Williams



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Gosh it's great to be planning in-person events! I have my first shot done and the 2nd one in mid-April and it will be such a relief. Even if we do need to proceed cautiously, it will sure be nice to proceed.

As I write this, the Easter Egg Hunt is coming up this Saturday. I sure appreciate those who have volunteered to help with this. Thanks go out to Nancy Shultz, Cindy & Abby Reilly, Sue Tabler and Joyce Wells. And thank you to all our members and friends who donated trinkets and treats for the kids. It will be a great Hunt and we couldn't have done it without you!

Women's Wednesday Evening Zooms will start back up at 8 PM on April 7th and run for 6 weeks. Women of all ages who have participated before, or never have, are welcome to join in. Just email or call me and let me know you'd like the Zoom invite.

As you plan for summer, please consider sending your kids or grandkids to Camp Calvin Crest, our local Presbyterian camp out by Fremont. It's an awesome outdoor and faith-filled opportunity. I accompanied my kids to Calvin Crest when they were young and then sent them on their own as they grew. I had hoped to take my oldest grandson this summer, but he has a baseball tournament the weekend of his camp. I just really, really highly recommend it as a positive, encouraging place for kids in the beautiful outdoors! And the camp has made a number of adaptations to be more Covid safe.

To check out this year's camps, just go to www.calvincrest.camp. Our presbytery offers scholarships but they are going quick, so don't put it off. We have some opportunities for some

scholarship help too, within our church so please don't let finances prevent you from sending a child to camp. My kids had scholarship help to go to camp and there is no shame in it. Kids summer activities really add up.

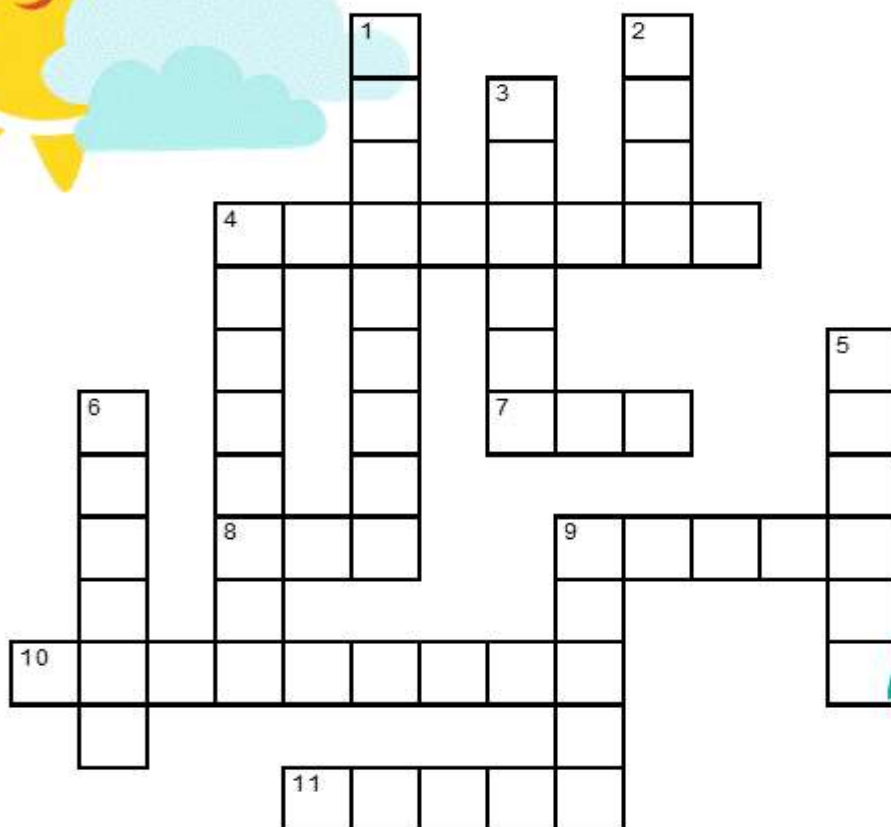
Maker Fun Factory VBS is coming up Monday, July 19th through Friday the 23rd from 9 AM to Noon. It's going to be so much fun! Kids from age 3 (and potty-trained) through completed 6th grade can be students and Youth ages completed 7th grade and up through college, along with adults can be on staff. I have the registration website created and it will go live in May. I was looking at t-shirt possibilities yesterday and I think they are going to be pretty cool. Cost is \$10 per child to a family max of \$30. I sure appreciate those of you who have already talked to me about volunteering and those of you who are brainstorming what neighbors and relatives you can bring. Some staffing areas are already full or near full. It's awesome!

Our last WOW of the year is coming up on April 7th. I want to thank Liane Kirmis for being with me this whole year, and all our Zoom volunteers who helped make Zoom WOW as good as it could be. Thanks go out to: Mike & Sharon Elliott, Sue Tabler, Becky Berg, Anita Chappell, Jean Jacobson, Nancy Shultz, Cathy Talmadge, Cindy Reilly and Denise Seaman.

Sunday school will go on through May 16th. Thanks go out to Cindy Reilly and Nora Boyd for filling in for me when I travelled and was away from WiFi. They did a great job! At this time, we are planning for all in-person Children's programming in the fall. I sure hope that this is a plan that can come true! And I thank all our families and volunteers for their patience and flexibility through this last trying year.



Easter Crossword



ACROSS

4. You might do this to eggs for Easter
7. A hen makes this
8. Used to color eggs
9. The hen's baby
10. Colorful candy you might find in an Easter basket
11. Peter Cottontail is one

DOWN

1. Eggs might be made from this
2. Look for eggs
3. Easter Day event
4. Yellow or white spring flower that grows from a bulb
5. What the Easter Bunny brings
6. A pretty hat worn on Easter
9. Don't eat too much of this or you might get a belly ache



April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
IP=In Person FB=Facebook Live Z=Zoom						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	Office Closed	10:30a Staff Mtg (VVR)	5:30p Illuminate (IP)	6:30p Membership Mtg (Z)	11a Memorial Service	
10:30a Easter Service (IP/FB)	1:15 Heritage Ridge 6:30p Troop 499G	6p WOW (Z)	6p WOW (Z)	7p Worship Mtg (Z) 7p Troop 467		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	12:30p Sunday School (Z)	5:30p Illuminate (IP)	7p Troop 467	Private Event	Private Event
9:40a Youth Sunday School (Z)		5:30p Christian Educ. (Z)	6p B & G Mtg (VVR)			
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)						
1:00p Deacon's Meeting (Z)						
6:30p Boy Scout 467 Comm (VVR)						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	12:30p Sunday School (Z)		7p Session Mtg (Z)		
9:40a Youth Sunday School (Z)		7p Bell Choir Rehearsal		7p Troop 467		
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)		7p Troop 499G Mtg (VVR)				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	12p Newsletter due				
9:40a Youth Sunday School (Z)		12:30p Sunday School (Z)				
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)		7p Troop 499G Mtg (VVR)				

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April Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Carter Dawson | 22 Gabbie Emsick |
| 1 Bev Snowden | 23 Kim O’Riordan |
| 1 Eliza Boyd | 25 Linda Hilfiker |
| 2 Alice Renner | 25 Josh Blazek |
| 3 Sylvia Pelzer | 26 Megan Warren |
| 3 Audie Keaton | 27 Carolyn Hess |
| 6 Deb Hudson | 27 Mary Nelson |
| 14 Jonathan Highbargin | 28 LeAnn Jobes |
| 15 Retha Dowding | 28 Eoin Healy |
| 17 Madison Braun | 28 Cindy Reilly |
| 17 Lori Keaton | 30 Scott Reffert |
| 18 Marcie deZafra | |
| 21 Eric VanSky | |

