



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Hospitality

“Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” (Romans 12:10-13).

Fred Craddock, tells a story of a church that lost track of the importance of hospitality. Sadly, it was a church he once served, early in his ministry. It was located in the hills of eastern Tennessee.

Years later, Fred returned to that church. He brought his wife, Nettie, along for the ride — for she had never seen it. As the two of them drove to the little town, Fred reminisced about a time of controversy in that church. The nearby Oak Ridge National Laboratory was expanding, and new families were moving into the area. Fred, the young pastor, urged the people of this beautiful, little white-frame church to call on the newcomers, to invite them to join them.

“They wouldn’t fit in here,” was the curt reply.

A week later, there was a congregational meeting. “I move,” said one of the longtime members, “that in order to be a member of this church, you must own property in the county.” The motion passed, over the pastor’s objections.

When Fred and Nettie pulled up to the old church building, years later, it looked to be a busy place, much busier than he remembered. In his words:

“The parking lot was full — motorcycles and trucks and cars packed in there. And out front, a great big sign: ‘Barbecue, all you can eat.’ It’s a restaurant, so we went inside. The pews are against a wall. They have electric lights now, and the organ pushed over into the corner. There are all these aluminum and plastic tables, and people sitting there eating barbecued pork and chicken and ribs — all kinds of people. Parthians and Medes and Edomites and dwellers of Mesopotamia, all kinds of people. I said to Nettie, ‘It’s a good thing this is not still a church, otherwise these people couldn’t be in here.’”

Mercifully, our church is not at all like that church. But it does beg the question of just how good our hospitality is? How do visitors and friends to our church see us? Are we welcoming and hospitable? I don’t mean just our greeters and hosts. I mean every one of us. Do we go out of our way to make a visitor feel welcome or do we leave that job up to others?

Do we go out of our way to greet and help our visitors get situated and ready for worship or do we use the time before worship to visit with each other? Every opportunity that each of us does not take to welcome a stranger is another reason that they will not return to worship and serve Christ with us.

So how is your hospitality doing these days? Not the Membership Committee, as they are working very hard to make us a more welcoming place for visitors. How is your hospitality, personally?

Blessings, Pastor Mike



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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
- ◆ Joyce Ritchey who is hospitalized with heart and kidney issues
- ◆ Retha Dowding for healing from shoulder surgery

Financial Information

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$30,536.96	\$134,522.06
Expenses	<u>\$32,308.29</u>	<u>\$ 99,590.38</u>
Difference	<\$1,771.33	\$ 34,931.68



Community of Believers Opportunity Bellevue Together Back-to-School Event

Bellevue faith communities and community members unite to support students in every in Bellevue Public School. Read more about the event here. <https://bellevuetogether.com>.

Students and families will come in person in July for the back-to-school event. In gratitude for what God has given us, let's help fill Pre-K – 2 students back packs with these supplies to help impact lives of little ones as they go back to school In August.

Watercolor Paint Set for Kids - Bulk Set of 12 - Washable Paints in 12 Colors - Perfect for Home, School and Party- Paintbrush Included

\$17.97 on Amazon but can be purchased in multiple places



Crayola Washable Pip-Squeaks Skinnies Markers, 16 Count
\$3.89 on Amazon but can be purchased in multiple places

School Folders - 12 Cute Pocket Folders with 12 Unique Dinosaur Designs in Front, Back Cover and Inside - Kids Pocket Folders - Homework Folders - Dinosaur Folders - 12 x 9.25 Inches (Pack of 12)

\$12.97 on Amazon but can be purchased in multiple places



Please place items in the designated bins located in the narthex. You can also send or leave a check written out to First Presbyterian (write Bellevue Together in the memo section of the check) with the office, or make other arrangements with Denise Seaman



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 April 25th we have collected \$6,555.40, the remaining **balance of \$3,959.80** will be taken out of the Operating Budget

Contingency Fund

The CONTINGENCY FUND has been established to fund emergency repairs and replacements such as the HVAC. This fund currently has \$15,457. The goal is to build the Contingency Fund to at least \$75,000.

Prayerfully consider contributing, above and beyond your donations to the operating budget, to the CONTINGENCY FUND so we can achieve this important goal soon.

Respectfully submitted by
Bob Jeffus-Chair, Stewardship Committee

Bakersplus.com

We just received the **First Quarter of 2021** rebate from Bakers for **\$164.19** 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.



Thank you to everyone who so kindly helped me after surgery. Thank you for the prayers & a special thank you to the Sunday school class who said prayers for me. The food was delicious. I loved getting cards through the mail! I am forever grateful for Nancy Blazek., Coleen Greiner. Nancy Shultz, Cathy Talmadge & June Kouba. **Sincerely, Jean Lindfors**



Congratulation Graduates! Our 6th Graders



Ashlynn Erickson is the daughter of Laura & Craig and the great granddaughter of Marilyn Routt. Ashlynn attends Avery Elementary School and next year she will attend Logan Fontenelle Middle School. Ashlynn's favorite things to do in her spare time are to cook/bake, ride her mountain bike on trails and going rock-climbing. Her favorite parts of our Children's programming were VBS, playing Ga-Ga Ball and trick or treating. Ashlynn's favorite food baked potatoes and her favorite subject in school is History. Ashlynn's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 31:6 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them for the Lord your God goes with you. He will never leave you."



Christopher Reilly is the son of Cindy & Tim and his church grandma is Sharon Elliott. He attends Rumsey Station Elementary and in the fall, Christopher will go to LaVista Middle School. In his free time, Christopher likes to play soccer, basketball and other games. His favorite activities in our Children's program were participating in the Christmas program and Christmas activities and VBS. Christopher's favorite subject in school is Reading. His favorite food is pepperoni pizza and Christopher's favorite Bible story is Jonah and the Whale.



Ian Rose is the son of Sarah & Rob Rose and his church grandpa is Ed Hink. Ian is homeschooled but participates in the Omaha Homeschool Learning Center also. The Roses are in the process of moving to San Antonio, Texas and they plan to continue homeschooling there. Ian's 3 favorite things to do in his spare time are to ride a ripstik, play football and read a good book. His very favorite activity in our children's program was VBS. Ian's favorite school subject is History and he says he doesn't really have a favorite food. Ian's favorite Bible story is the Easter story when Jesus rises from the dead.



Elizabeth Ann Routt is the daughter of Angela & Neal Routt and the granddaughter of Marilyn Routt. She attends Birchcrest Elementary. Next year, Elizabeth will attend Logan Fontenelle Middle School with her cousin, Ashlynn. Elizabeth's favorite hobbies are drawing, riding her scooter and hanging out with little sister Lauren. Her favorite activities in the Children's program have been listening to stories, the food and fellowship of WOW and VBS. Elizabeth's favorite subject in school is Reading and her favorite food is spaghetti. Her favorite Bible verse is the Golden Rule, Luke 6:31 "Do to others as you would have them do to you."





As some of you know, I will be resigning at the end of May. I have loved working these last 10 years at First Presbyterian Church. I have never worked with such a group of talented musicians and instrumentalists, and I have been doing this for 35 years.

I am so thankful for all who have stepped up to help, do solos in the summer, and especially this past crazy year.

But all things must come to an end. Steve will be retiring in June, and then we will be putting our house on the market and moving back to Texas (Where it DOES NOT snow in April) to be closer to our grandkids.

I appreciate everyone who has sung in the choir and played with the choir.

We love First Presbyterian and will miss everyone!-**Thank you again for a great ten years! Alice**

Summer Worship will be at 10:00 am starting
May 30th through September 5th.
Please join us In Person or Live on Facebook.

Welcome School

Another school year is coming to an end. April was a fun month for the children. As part of our life cycle unit in Science, we are anxiously waiting for our Painted Lady butterflies to emerge from their chrysalises. We were finally able to have our annual Mother's Night this month. The mom's got to come see what the kids do and how they do it all. They all had a great time! To continue with Welcome School tradition, the 3 and 5 day classes will be having a day at the park on Friday, May 7th. Let's hope the rain stays away.

I look forward to another great school year in September.

God Bless, Tara Williams-Director



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Before I start talking about children, I want to mention a few things for our general population.

#1 – Thanks to our Mission committee, I've had all the ingredients to put together 144 hygiene kits for Presbyterian

Disaster Assistance for a long time. I just couldn't invite you all to come help put them together, because of Covid. But now I can! Please consider joining me at 10 AM on Sunday, May 16th in Fellowship Hall. Families and individuals of all ages are welcome! I will have the ingredients on tables spread out throughout the Hall so that we aren't clumped together while we work. With lots of help, we should easily be able to crank out these kits before Worship begins. In June we will put together some goodie bags for Bellevue street repair crews. The ingredients are being provided by First Presbyterian Mission Committee.

#2 It's been lovely doing evening zooms with moms and with women of all ages in our congregation in recent months. The current women's zoom runs through May 12th. Then we are going to take a break until it gets good and cold again in the fall. Maybe October or November. Many of us have gotten sick of Zoom meetings but I hope by the fall it will be a treat again. Thanks to all who have participated!

#3 I just sent off our latest check to Presbyterian Mission Giving Catalog. With \$350 of children's Sunday school and WOW offering, we were able to donate: 2 refugee food baskets, 2 piglets, 1 Arts Education gift for Young People of Color and 3 tree sapling sets. These are items the kids picked out that they wanted to work towards donating. Great job, kids! We just love helping people all around the world, help themselves and others! I bet there are others of you in our congregation who would enjoy perusing the catalog and choosing something to gift. The mission giving catalogs are just outside the church office. Prices range from just a few dollars to hundreds of dollars. Something for everyone.

#4 I am considering hosting God & The Girls #3, an intergenerational women's retreat on Saturday, August 14th from 9 AM to Noon. Our theme will be WONDER & AWE. The date and day of week is still flexible. If you are interested in participating, or if you'd like to participate AND help, please email me at lkreffert@aol.com or talk to me in person.

Sunday School ends on Sunday, May 16th. It's been a good year and I have really enjoyed the kids and I have been thankful for Zoom. But I have to confess that I really look forward to meeting in person in the fall and having our other teachers back! And I know the kids look forward to that, also.

VBS registration will open on May 1st at myvbs.org/bellevuefpc. That's coming up! I predict the 3 and 4 year old class will fill very fast. And I need to hold the line on keeping that class small. So, if you have a 3 or 4 year old you are hoping to have participate in VBS, I'd recommend you plan to register that first week in May. I have a little more flexibility in groupings for older kids, but registering early is still the safest. VBS runs 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, July 19th through 23rd. Ages 3 (and potty trained) through completed 6th grade are invited to participate. Cost is \$10 per child, which includes a tshirt and the music cd. What a bargain! There is family max of \$30 and scholarships are available. There will be a volunteer registration open that day too at the same site. I have a great start to the crew of volunteers we need, but registering allows you to tell me what size tshirt you prefer and exactly where you do or do not want to work. Youth ages completed 7th grade and up are welcome, as well as adults, of course. Youth volunteers get their tshirt for free. Adult volunteers are encouraged to donate the \$7 tshirt cost.

The 6th graders that you see recognized earlier in the newsletter have all been active in Sunday School and/or WOW. We couldn't host a WOW graduation this year because of Covid, but we wanted to recognize these special young people as they transition from our children's to our youth program.



May Youth Fellowship (YF) News



trombone. It was amazing. Amber Renter and Kathryn Rose did a beautiful job with their sermons, I am so proud of them sharing not only scripture but also a piece of themselves and what God means in their lives. It was a fantastic and inspiring day.

The scripture was one that the youth said helped them through the last year and there are many others they shared in

preparation for Youth Sunday last month.



As the youth finish up school we have finished Illuminate and Sunday School for the year. With Spring and finals, it's just to difficult to corral young people.

It's been a strange year but things are getting back to a bit of normal. I hope we will remember the lessons we learned from this past year, how to live in community, how we can show God's love to others, how we can still be the church even when we can't be together.

Be a Blessing, Shelli

MAY INFORMATION

Illuminate and Sunday School have ended for the year.

We are working on plans for our Summer Mission Trips and some fun activities this summer.

"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height or depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

John and I were sad to miss the entire month of March due to Covid but thrilled that Laura and Tom Miller were able to take over and keep things going with the Youth particularly since we had Youth Sunday in April. We did a lot of work last year in preparation before everything was shut down. What a joy it was to have the Youth lead this year!



It was delightful to have our instrumentalists play for worship, many thanks to Mandi Crick for leading that group of young people. They played beautifully. We also had the joy of hearing Josh Blazek and Dirk Lindner's duet for Josh's competition piece for the



May-21

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>IP=In Person</p> <p>FB=Facebook Live</p> <p>Z=Zoom</p>						10a Presbytery Mtg (Z)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	10:30a Staff Mtg (VVR)	8p Women's Group (Z)	7p Troop 467		
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)		12:30p Sunday School (Z)				
11:30a Deacons Meeting (VVR/IP)		6:30p Troop 467 Comm. Mtg (VVR)				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	12:30p Sunday School (Z)	6p B & G Mtg (VVR)	6:30p Membership Mtg (Z)		
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)		5:30p Christian Educ. (Z)		7p Worship Mtg (Z)		
6:30p Boy Scout 467 Comm (VVR)				7p Troop 467		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15a Children's Sunday Sch. (Z)	6:30p Troop 499G	7p Troop 499G Mtg (VVR)		7p Troop 467		
10a Hygiene Kits (FH)						
10:30a Worship Service (IP/B)						
11:30a Fellowship (VVR/IP)						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)	6:30p Troop 499G	7p Troop 499G Mtg (VVR)		12p Newsletter due		
				7p Session Mtg (Z)		
30	31					
10:00a Worship Service (IP/FB)	Church Office Closed					
	6:30p Troop 499G					

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May Birthdays:

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Marilyn Routt | 13 Barb Simmons |
| 2 Morgan Braun | 15 Susan Tamayo |
| 2 Mason Braun | 18 Austin Braun |
| 2 Matthew Clark | 19 Rachael Monico |
| 4 Hattie Urwin | 19 Margot Boyd |
| 4 Gabrielle Keaton | 21 JoAnn Carpenter |
| 5 Miles Monico | 22 Nora Boyd |
| 7 Brandon VanSky | 23 Carolyn Lowrance |
| 8 Deanna Freier | 25 Fianna Glenn |
| 8 Landy Jacobson | 26 Sally Syphers |
| 11 Ryan Baruth | 27 Jaci Marks |
| 12 Lexie Ryks | 27 Bryan Kirmis |
| 13 Dave Hartranft | 29 Mike Tabler |

