



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.

As we enter into the next phase of our shared life and begin to fully reopen our church and resume “business as usual” and in the usual way, it brings with it both relief and fear. It has been a long and trying year that we are finally leaving behind us. Alleluia. Amen. Moving forward is a little scary, but together, journeying with God, we can safely reopen and fully reconnect as a family. So, with prayer and with great joy, let’s move ahead.

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 this season 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.

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 hiking boots and knapsacks and prepare for the amazing journey that lies ahead. Peace be to you all.



Blessings, Pastor Mike

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



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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ All those affected by the Covid-19 virus
- ◆ Nadine Buckley as she recovers from a fall.

Financial Information

	<u>April</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$19,109.37	\$153,631.43
Expenses	<u>\$24,236.93</u>	<u>\$123,827.31</u>
Difference	<\$5,127.56	\$ 29,804.12





A Memorial Service for Betty Cash will be held here at First Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, June 2nd at 10:00 am.



Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for all of the beautiful cards, and kind words I have gotten this past week. The reception was lovely - thank you Worship Department! And beautiful flowers are especially appreciated at my house.

Sorry Dirk, but you haven't heard the last from me yet. I will be at the church filing music and such. Steve's official last day of work will be July 2, and hopefully we will have the house ready to put on the market.

So we will be in out through the summer. Many of you have asked what we are going to do with Sara. We thought about building her a shed in the back, but Brian and Joyce Wells have generously offered to have her stay with them. She will be full-time faculty at the Omaha Conservatory of Music, and was named Adjunct woodwind professor at Washburn University in Topeka Kansas. She will be working about 2 days/week at each.

Silly Grandpa and I will be having fun spoiling the grandkids!

Thanks again for all of your friendship and kindness. Hopefully I will see you sometime this summer!

Alice Renner



Gary and Rita Sands will be celebrating their 65th Wedding Anniversary on June 7th. They were married in the Historic First Presbyterian Church on Franklin St.





VBS is happening in-person this summer! Yippee! It'll run from 9 to noon, Monday through Friday, July 19 - 23rd. Our theme is Maker Fun Factory; Created by God and Built for a Purpose! Ages 3 (and potty-trained) through completed 6th grade. Cost is \$10 per child with a max of \$30 per family and scholarships are available. Our mission project is collecting food for the Bellevue Food Pantry. REGISTRATION IS OPEN at myvbs.org/bellevuefpc. Some classes will have limited enrollment so plan to register early!

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 **May 24th** we have collected \$6,555.40, the remaining **balance of \$3,959.80** has been 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 \$15,932. 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.



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Please consider joining me in Fellowship Hall between 9:30 and 9:45 on Sunday, June 13th to help put together treat bags to show our appreciation to Bellevue Public Works Street Repair personnel.

They do their best to keep our streets in good shape through all kinds of weather, and avoiding all kinds of crazy (or crabby) drivers. All ages are welcome to help with this project.

I just looked back to my June 2019 newsletter article and I was bragging about having 15 kids already signed up for VBS. That makes me feel really good to make the announcement that we already have **40** kids signed up for this summer's VBS! The 3 and early 4 year old class has the least flexibility, size-wise. So if you are thinking about enrolling a child for that class or inviting a friend or relative to sign up their 3 or 4 year old, don't delay! Otherwise, I would love to have a big VBS this year and to have to scramble to fit everyone in. What an awesome problem that would be!

Just a reminder – VBS runs Monday, July 19th through Friday, July 23rd from 9 AM to Noon. Children ages 3 (and potty-trained) through completed 6th grade are invited to participate. It's just \$10 per child and that includes a tshirt, music and snacks. What a bargain! Registration forms are available on a table in the Library or online at myvbs.org/bellevuefpc. I'm still looking for volunteers and volunteer registration is online at the same address or you can talk to me in person or email. At this time, I am particularly looking for crew leaders. There is no planning or prep involved and youth as young as completed 7th grade can help in this way.

Liane Kirmis is working away on VBS decorations and our two lovely Nursery ladies are helping when they don't have kids in the Nursery. But two people who normally help the most with the big decorations aren't available this year. If you are a person who can take a

picture of a robot made from boxes and tin cans and create a 4 or 5 ft. one for decorating, please let me know. Or if you can look at our pieces and parts and figure out how they can best be used to make the hallways and nooks fit our theme, please, please, please let me know! I would love to have your help.

Pastor Mike and I have been working on preparing an adult Bible Study for the month of June. It's so fun to be planning an in-person study and we will be looking at the book of Ephesians from Tuesday, June 8th through Tuesday, June 29th at 1 PM. You can email Pastor Mike or sign up in the Library if you'd like to participate. We will be sending out the reading assignments and discussion questions to those who are signed up.

Women, ages 9 and up are invited to our summer Intergenerational Women's Retreat, God & the Girls #3, which will be held from 9 to Noon on Saturday, August 14th. Cost is just \$10 per person and you are welcome to invite friends and neighbors. Our theme is WONDER & AWE and I expect it to be an encouraging and uplifting morning for all who can participate. Registration will open by July. Mary Lehr, Liane Kirmis and Denise Seaman are helping me on the leadership team for this event. I am looking for a fun game leader (I have the games), someone who will coordinate food and someone else for registration to round out our leadership team. If you are willing, please let me know.

And just in case you are thinking about fall already and want to mark it on your calendar – we expect Sunday School to be in-person and to begin on Sunday, September 12th. WOW & Illuminate will also be in-person and begin on Wednesday, September 15th. Our theme for WOW for next year will be NAVIGATING THE BIBLE and my dream would be to have our WOW kids able to confidently look up any Bible verse or story they might be curious about by the end of the year. As well as understand the structure and makeup of both Testaments. We'll play games, eat together and have music each week too, of course. It should be a great year!



June Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” Deuteronomy 31:8

This is another scripture the youth said helped them this last year.



It is exciting to see things returning to our new normal and see so many faces return to in-person worship. It is always delightful to see people virtually but hearing people sing during worship is so lovely.

We were able to recognize both our 2020 and 2021 Graduates on Mother’s Day, and I am so glad we were able to get it done before the Rose family moved to Texas.

I’m so glad we were able to end the year of Illuminate with welcoming our new 6th graders into the group with dinner and games at the church. We took the necessary precautions but let me tell you I



am going to be delighted when we can sit more than 3 to a table and play games without masks. The youth were so good and didn’t complain and I was just happy to be with everyone. We even got in some ultimate spoons, a group favorite.

We will be able to have a Mission Trip/Fun Trip to Camp Calvin Crest June 11-13 and am so thankful they are willing to have us come. So many places are still in a wait and see mode and I would have been so disappointed to totally miss another summer mission trip. I think the youth are really looking forward to some fresh air and sunshine mixed with a bit of work, I know the adults all are.

We look forward to more church and youth events this summer and welcoming more folks back to worship. It’s been one of the longer years that I remember but I hope we all learned to be flexible, understanding and compassionate. I’m proud of the creative ways our youth and our whole church have found to continue sharing God’s love with each other and our communities.

Be a Blessing, Shelli



JUNE ACTIVITIES

June 11 - 13 **Camp Calvin Crest Mission Trip**
Those completing 6-12 grades are invited



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
IP=In Person FB=Facebook Live Z=Zoom		10:30a Staff Mtg (VVR)	10a Betty Cash Memorial Svc	7p Troop 467		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00a Worship Service (IP/ FB)	1:15p Heritage Ridge 6:30p Troop 499G	1p Adult Bible Study (IP/ VVR)	6p B & G Mtg (CR)	6:30p Membership Mtg (IP/VVR)		
11:00a Deacons Meeting (IP/ VVR)		5:30p Christian Educ. (IP/ CR)		7p Worship Mtg (Z) 7p Troop 467		
6:30p Troop 467 Comm Mtg						
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00a Worship Service (IP/ FB)	6:30p Troop 499G	1p Adult Bible Study (IP/ VVR)		11:00a Chuck Nelson Memorial Svc/Reception 7p Troop 467		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00a Worship Service (IP/ FB)	6:30p Troop 499G	1p Adult Bible Study (IP/ VVR)		7p Session Mtg (Z) 7p Troop 467		
11:00a Fellowship (IP/VVR)						
27	28	29	30			
10:00a Worship Service (IP/ FB)	6:30p Troop 499G	1p Adult Bible Study (IP/ VVR)				

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June Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Scott Woolf | 17 Darald Berg |
| 6 Anita Bishop | 17 Jean Lindfors |
| 6 Nicole Carver | 18 Natalie Monico |
| 6 Sheryl Shottenkirk | 19 Bob Jeffus |
| 7 Emma Rose | 19 Katie Blazek |
| 7 Becky Baruth | 21 Rob Rose |
| 7 Jane Noden | 21 Joan Rousseau |
| 8 Daniel Rose | 22 Rachel Brummond |
| 8 Ryan Crick | 22 Kim Regan |
| 8 Andrew Baruth | 23 Laura Miller |
| 10 Marsha Holbert | 26 Jayna Davis |
| 11 Carol Moore | 27 Ann Macdonald |
| 12 Piper Brink | 27 Joshua Keaton |
| 12 Dick Brown | 28 Jim Braun |
| 14 Jean Jacobson | 28 Dillon Dawson |
| 17 Sarah Rose | |

