



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

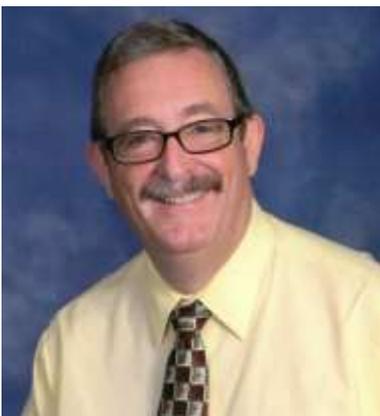
That You May Believe

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” John 20:30-31

For most of us it has been many years since we had to worry about going back to school in the Fall. I, for one, do not miss those days. Do you? On the other hand, for us here at First Pres, Fall is also the time that Sunday School resumes. This year, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying the Gospel of John. I invite all of you, especially those of you who may not have participated in our adult education offerings for a while now, to join us in the Valley Vista Room at 9AM on Sunday morning beginning on September 12 as we learn more about John’s Gospel.

We will be using a book from the Kerygma program entitled “That you may believe. The Gospel of John.” By Carol Miller. She describes John’s Gospel in this way: “In the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke) we see Jesus among the people teaching the ethical demands of the Kingdom of God. That is, what would God have us do with our lives. In John’s Gospel, Jesus invites us to see God at work in him in a unique way as he offers to us the gift of eternal life. The main reason John writes his Gospel is to help us see God by looking at Jesus. John’s urgent desire is that we may come to believe and thereby receive eternal life. In order to have the best picture of Jesus, we need both the Synoptic Gospels and the unique and stunningly beautiful Gospel according to John.

In Michael Card’s book on John’s Gospel entitled “The Parable of Joy,” he writes: “realize, as you listen to the text, that you are sitting at the feet of the last living contemporary of Jesus. Give him the respect he deserves. Pay close attention as he takes you aside and whispers explanations in your ear, things he only realized years after the fact. None of the other Gospel writers will do this for you. John only cared that you would come to believe and know in your heart that his friend Jesus is truly the Son of God.”



Please consider being a part of this class as we study John’s unique view on the life of Jesus.

Blessings, Pastor Mike



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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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Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)-shelli.dart@gmail.com
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Liane Kirmis (Music Ministry Director)-lianekirmis12@gmail.com

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



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Bev Snowden as she recovers from hip surgery.
- ◆ Jean Jacobson as she recovers from shoulder surgery.
- ◆ Jane Hink as she recovers from heart complications.
- ◆ Jim Chatelain who is in rehab.

Financial Information

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$18,124.97	\$211,196.86
Expenses	<u>\$24,369.28</u>	<u>\$196,165.29</u>
Difference	<\$6,244.31	\$ 15,031.57



Happenings

Alzheimer's and other Types of Dementia Care Partners Support

Thursday, September 9th 6:30 p.m.

**First Presbyterian Church
1220 Bellevue Blvd S.
Bellevue, NE**

**Come join us
All are welcome!**

Over 35,000 people in Nebraska are living with Alzheimer's or dementia, and more than 61,000 people care for loved ones with the disease.

Caring for a person with Alzheimer's or dementia often involves a team of people. The role of a care partner is not limited to spouses, partners or close family members. Care partners may include "families of choice" such as friends, neighbors or long-distance relatives.

Whether you provide daily caregiving, participate in decision making, or simply care about a person with the disease, this session is for you. Come hear about support from these resources. No one needs to face this disease alone.

Alzheimer's Support Group – Bellevue
Hillcrest Support Sessions Overview
Eastern Nebraska Office on Aging
Care Partner Stories

**Kathie Bickerstaff
Dr. Anna Fisher
Support Team
Gene Cash & Maureen Kowker**

Questions? Call [\(402\) 291-1104](tel:4022911104)



Happenings

Kick-off Sunday September 12th

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.

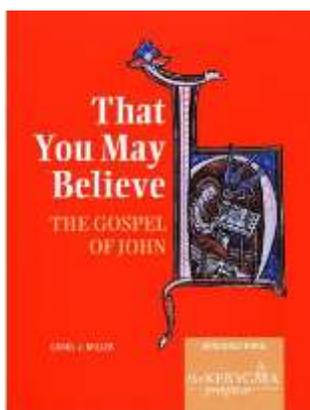
10:30am Worship

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

**Starting September 12th-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 Kindergartner 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 for registering your child to participate or go to the website under Children's Ministry and fill out the paperwork and bring to Linda Reffert.

WOW!
Word on Wednesdays



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School will begin Sunday, September 12th at 9:00am after the Intergenerational Blessing the Valley Vista Room. The class will be "That You May Believe, The Gospel of John". Please sign up at the table in the Library if you are interested in attending. If you have any question please contact Pastor Mike at pastor@bellevuefpc.org or call 402-291-1104.





Can You Serve

6 Deacons are needed for a 2 year term beginning in January 2022-

A Deacon is to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith.

The following Elders are needed for a 2 year term beginning in

January 2022: Fellowship, Personnel, Finance, Building & Grounds, Worship, Membership & Christian Education

An Elder must exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibility for the life of the congregation.

3 Foundation Members are needed for a 2 year term beginning in January 2022- Foundation members are responsible for the Stewardship of the church's endowment fund.

3 Board Members are needed for Welcome School for a 3 year term. Each term is based on the school year which is July to July. We still need for this year and the first meeting will be in September. A Board Member oversee the operations of our Welcome School Child Development Center.

If you are interested in any of the above position or know someone who would be great in one of the positions please contact June at the Church office 402-291-1104 or admin@bellevuefpc.org.



Thank You-I'm so very grateful for my church family's amazing, loving support these past months after my broken hip surgery and subsequent week in ICU, followed by rehab!

Your good wishes in cards, calls, texts and prayers helped to brighten my days and lift my spirits!

Pastor Mike's prayer with Shelli and me at the operating room door was especially comforting!

I love you all, and can't thank you enough! **Bev Snowden**



Arrows to Aerospace Parade



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



BEST CHICKEN SALAD SANDWICH FILLING

Ingredients:

1 cup light mayonnaise
 1 cup low-fat plain yogurt
 2 teaspoons paprika
 2 teaspoons seasoned salt
 3 cups dried cranberries
 2 cup chopped celery *
 2 cups chopped green apples *
 2 cups red sliced seedless grapes
 2 cups chopped pecans
 8 cups canned chicken drained
 Black pepper to taste
 40 hamburger buns

* Using a food processor makes quick work of chopping up these ingredients. Be careful not to dice too fine.

Some prep can be done the day before. Mix mayonnaise, yogurt, paprika, seasoned salt, and cranberries. Salad can be covered and refrigerated at this point and finished the next day. Add celery, apple, grapes, and pecans the next day. This keeps the apples from going brown, the grapes from making the salad from being too wet and the pecans crunchy.

One level (give or take depending on the size of the bun) ice cream scoop of salad on a hamburger bun works well. Cut sandwiches in half with a serrated knife before serving.

Serves 50 to 60 depending on the size of the bun and how much filling is on each bun.

EGG SALAD SANDWICH FILLING

This filling can be made the day before.

Ingredients:

3 dozen hard boiled eggs, chopped
 2 to 3 cups mayonnaise
 2 cups sweet pickle relish, drained (save the juice)
 4 stalks celery, chopped *
 Salt and pepper to taste

* Using a food processor makes quick work of dicing up this ingredient. Be careful not to dice too fine.

In a large bowl, stir together 1 ½ cup mayonnaise, eggs and drained relish until blended. Add more mayonnaise if filling seems stiff. The goal is to have a filling stiff enough to sit on a bun but moist enough to be tasty. Store salad covered in refrigerator until ready to use.

One level (give or take depending on the size of the bun) ice cream scoop of salad on a hamburger bun works well. Cut sandwiches in half with a serrated knife before serving.

Serves 30 to 40 depending on the size of the bun and how much filling is on each bun.

HAM SALAD SANDWICH FILLING

This filling can be made the day before.

Ingredients:

4 cups mayonnaise
 2 cups sweet pickle relish
 1 teaspoon black pepper
 4 teaspoons salt
 4 pounds boneless ham, chopped *
 2 onions, chopped *
 2 small green peppers, chopped cx *
 4 stalks of celery, chopped *
 30 hamburger buns

* Using a food processor makes quick work of dicing up these ingredients. Be careful not to dice too fine.

In a large bowl, stir together mayonnaise, relish, salt, and pepper until blended. Add the ham, onion, green pepper, celery and toss to coat. Store salad covered in refrigerator until ready to use.

One level (give or take depending on the size of the bun) ice cream scoop of salad on a hamburger bun works well. Cut sandwiches in half with a serrated knife before serving.

Serves 50 to 60 depending on the size of the bun and how much filling is on each bun.

Deacon Reception Sandwich
 Recipes
 (requested by popular demand)



Contingency Fund



PER CAPITA – PER PERSON

The **required** total Per Capita amount due from each member is **\$39.68** which is a .03 increase from last year. In 2021, our apportionment is **\$10,515.20**. As of **July 27th** we have only collected **\$6,555.40**, the remaining **balance of \$3,959.80** has been taken out of the Operating Budget. If you have not yet given your Per Capita or can donate an extra amount, 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.

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 \$759.96 as of May 31st it could be so much more if everyone who uses Amazon selects us and uses Amazon Smile when ordering.**

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.

Bakersplus.com

We just received the **Second Quarter of 2021** rebate from Bakers for **\$164.40** 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.



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Fall is here and I am working like crazy to get everything in order for Sunday school and WOW to start. The amount of volunteers we need to do both programs is overwhelming but First Presbyterian always comes through and it all comes together! I still have a few gaps in Kitchen help, table parenting and shepherding for WOW and need a substitute teacher or two for Sunday school but I'm trying to trust and have faith. It will sure be good to be able to meet in person this year! Please let me know if you have any questions about volunteering in any of the above-mentioned capacities, or if you are interested in signing up. It's wonderful to have new people involved.

Sunday School for all ages starts on September 12th with an Intergenerational blessing and coffee/juice & donut time in Fellowship Hall at 9 AM. PreK-6 ran through a 4 year curriculum that we really enjoyed and we decided to start it over again this fall. It's reformed theology, fun and fits our large group/small group class model well. Becca Griffin and Nora Boyd are coming back to teach and they are awesome.

We will have 3rd Grade Bible presentations in worship on Sunday, October 3rd. Any child 3rd grade or older that does not have a Hands-On Bible is invited to participate. Just let me know if you have an older child that needs a Bible.

WOW will start Wednesday evening, September 15th with dinner at 5:30 PM. Faith Education and Music will rotate from 6 to 7. The schedule and menu for WOW are available on the church website or on a table outside the Sanctuary.

In WOW this year, the Littles (K-3) will be sharing favorite Bible stories. I found a cute curriculum

that will allow me to tell them in a fun and interactive way and then we will do a game or craft that goes along with the story. Bigs (4-6) will work on getting really comfortable using their Bibles. Looking up books, chapters and verses can be very overwhelming, especially when there are so many unfamiliar names and words, spread over 1,338 pages! I hope to be able to help it all make sense. As always, both groups will have a memory verse of the week and I will reward them for learning it.

We'll bring back the treasure chest and kids will get to choose a prize every 5th time they come to Sunday School or WOW and every time they bring a guest for the first time. Their guest gets a prize too.

At this time, I am not putting any Family Movie nights on our schedule. If kids can be vaccinated for Covid before the end of the year, there may be one over Christmas break. We also won't host Trick or Treat Around the Church this year, because of Covid. But we WILL host a Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on October 27th from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Weather can be iffy at the end of October, but it was sure fun last year and it's worth trying again. I hope you will consider participating!

I am so grateful to have Liane Kirmis back as Children's Music Director. I am sure that leading the Adult Choir and Bells as well as Children will be a lot to handle, but I can already see how things are going to flow together more smoothly and she sure knows a lot more about choosing and teaching children's music than I do! Thank you, thank you Liane!



September Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“Come to me all you who are weary and heavy laden. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your soul.” Matthew 11:28-29

This is my favorite tree at Camp Calvin Crest. I don't know why I love it so much but I really do. Down the hill is one of the outdoor worship spaces where we have done camp fires and s'mores in the past. Camp is just one of those places that refreshes me, gives me rest and makes me happy.

I'm including a pic of the shelter we helped build for our Mission trip this summer. This is from Family Fun day and everyone was so thankful for the shade and very complimentary of the great work our team did this summer. Well done!

It's funny that we were locked down for so long and couldn't really interact much but it definitely wasn't restful. Things were awkward and a bit scary and we couldn't meet in person and everything was very not normal. I think a lot of us found comfort in nature,

there sure were a lot of walkers and picnickers and bikers this last year.

I think we need to remember in all situations to find that quiet time with God, I like quiet or nature to reconnect and refresh my heart and mind.



I'm so excited to get back to normal here at church, Sunday School kicks off on September 12th and Illuminate resumes on the 15th. I look forward to adding back outings and mission projects each month. There are also some cool changes to our meeting spaces that are in progress. I look forward to seeing everyone soon and showing you the groovy changes we are making to create a space for Youth Fellowship that is not only great for learning but also a space that is fun and relaxing and yours.

Be a Blessing, Shelli



SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

Sept 12
Sept 15

9am Sunday School Kick-off
5:30-7pm Illuminate Resumes



September 2021

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:30a Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship Service (IP/FB)		Church Office Closed 6:30p Troop 499G	10:30a Staff Meeting (VVR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	9a PEO (VVR) 6p B & G Mtg (VVR)	6:30p Alzheimer's Support Group (FH) 7p Troop 467		
11:00a Deacon Meeting (FH)			7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	6p Finance Mtg (CR) 7p Choir Rehearsal			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9:00a Kick Off Sunday (FH) 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)		5:30p Christian Educ. (CR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	6:30p Membership Mtg (Z) 7p Worship Meeting (VVR)			
11:30a Fellowship (VVR) 6:30p Troop 467 Comm Mtg				7p Troop 467			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
9a Sunday School	6:30p Troop 499G	7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	7p Session Meeting (VVR) 7p Troop 467			
26	27	28	29	30			
9a Sunday School 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)	6:30p Troop 499G	7p Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	7p Troop 467			

First Presbyterian Church
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Phone: 402-291-1104

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September Birthdays:

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

