



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Small Gifts. Big Impact.

This Christmas giving season you may be wondering what gift can I give that won't be on backorder or sitting on a ship off the coast somewhere? You may also be asking yourself "what gift can I give that will have a lasting impact and real meaning?" Well, we have an answer for you. Consider Presbyterian Gifts through our Presbyterian Mission Agency for your end of year contributions and gift giving.

This year we will be taking a break from the Shoebox project and will be lending our support to the global Presbyterian Gifts program. The list of ways you can support are wide and varied; from providing art supplies to children and creating gardens for people to overcome food insecurity, to helping families recover from national disasters like flooding and fires.

As Presbyterians, we are a people rooted in the grace of Jesus Christ. It is our gratitude for God's grace that moves us to join in God's mission in the world around us. We hope you'll join us in supporting this worthwhile Christmas giving opportunity. Please check out our table in the narthex starting in November for more information and a list of giving opportunities. The deadline for returning all gift forms is Sunday, December 19th.

Below is just a sample of items you can give. A full order form will be on the table in the Library and linked under events on our website.

KITS AND TOOLS

| NAME | QTY | ITEM# | PRICE |
|--|-------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Farm Bundle | _____ | OG10031 | \$1,300 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Farm Bundle | _____ | OG10033 | \$5,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing Machine | _____ | OG20014 | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kitchen Kit | _____ | OG30004 | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Life Pack | _____ | OG30002 | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supplies for Displaced Students | _____ | PG10002 | \$30 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Net | _____ | OG10035 | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishery Kit | _____ | OG10038 | \$75 |

PEOPLE | RELIEF AND ASSISTANCE

| NAME | QTY | ITEM# | PRICE |
|---|-------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WASH Aid \$25/share \$500/full | _____ | OG30019 | \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Winter Heating Fuel for Refugees | _____ | OG30010 | \$240 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Famine Relief Food Voucher | _____ | OG10036 | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Food Basket | _____ | PG10001 | \$50 |

LIVESTOCK

| NAME | QTY | ITEM# | PRICE |
|---|-------|---------|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pair of Goats | _____ | OG10023 | \$178 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cow \$50/share \$450/cow | _____ | OG10024 | \$_____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family of Chickens | _____ | OG10019 | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piglet \$40/piglet | _____ | OG20009 | \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beekeeping | _____ | OG10028 | \$240 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Oxen and Plow | _____ | OG30013 | \$1,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Egg a Day \$300/annually | _____ | OG10037 | \$300 |

PEOPLE | EDUCATION AND FORMATION

| NAME | QTY | ITEM# | PRICE |
|--|-------|---------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educate a Child | _____ | PO10001 | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts Education for Young People of Color | _____ | CJ10005 | \$80 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education Scholarship Fund for Communities of Color | _____ | CJ10004 | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Agriculture Training | _____ | OG10014 | \$65 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Experiential Faith Formation | _____ | PO10002 | \$100 |



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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
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Linda Reffert (Children's Ministry Director)-lkreffert@aol.com
Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 4:30 pm (hours may vary)

Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)-shelli.dart@gmail.com
Tu, Th 10:30 am to 3:00 pm (hours may vary)

Liane Kirmis (Music Ministry Director)-lianekirmis12@gmail.com

Dirk Lindner (Organist)-dirk16@cox.net

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



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Jane Hink as she recovers from heart complications, and is currently in rehab.
- ◆ Jim Chatelain who is in rehab.
- ◆ Gary Sands who is recovering from surgery on his leg.
- ◆ Please keep George Grahams family in your prayers.
- ◆ Pastor Mike's mom Eileen as she struggles with health issues.

Financial Information

| | <u>September</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Income | \$13,057.32 | \$241,308.97 |
| Expenses | <u>\$32,628.15</u> | <u>\$259,646.18</u> |
| Difference | <\$19,570.83 | <\$18,337.21 |



Happenings



Get out your rakes, gloves, shovels and clippers and join us on Saturday, November 6th for a fall clean-up.

We will begin with coffee and donuts at 8:30am and will follow with cleaning up our church grounds and some painting of doors, etc. shortly after. Please join us for a fun morning of fellowship and an opportunity to prepare our building for the upcoming fall and winter seasons.



Sunday, November 7th

Youth Mission Silent Auction & Luncheon

It is time for our annual fundraising event which begins **Sunday, November 14th**. The proceeds fund our youth mission projects for 2022. We need your help in providing donated craft items, holiday gift items, gift baskets for children and adults, themed baskets, babysitting hours, yard work, books and toys...you name it!

Items or descriptions of items will be on display, with bid sheets and the congregation is invited to bid on any items they may wish to purchase. Items donated can be given to Shelli as early as Sunday, November 7th.

Sunday, December 12th will be the last day for bidding. The bidding will close 30 minutes after worship service and the winners will be announced at a luncheon, hosted by the youth and youth leaders, following the service. If you would like to contribute or have any questions, please contact Shelli Dart at the church office (402-291-1104). Thank you for your support!



The Angel Tree will be ready to go on November 14th. This is a great opportunity to help more families celebrate Christmas, no matter their financial status. Each angel on the tree has a gift request and a child's age for your reference. All gifts should be returned, unwrapped to the Church by Sunday, December 5th so they can be distributed to families the next weekend. You may put your gift in a shopping bag or a pretty Christmas bag if you choose. Do not wrap. Thank you for your support!

Hanging of the Greens

Join your church family for a time of fellowship, worship, and giving to others in our community. We will gather at 5:30 pm Sunday, November 28th in Fellowship Hall and have dinner, then we will begin putting up the trees and decorating whatever and wherever we can!



Advent Calendar

Sunday, November 28– 1st Sunday of Advent

Worship at 10:30am
Hanging of the Greens at 5:30pm

Sunday, December 5 – 2nd Sunday in Advent

Worship with Communion and Westminster Bells 10:30am

Sunday, December 12 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

Worship and Children's Christmas Program at 10:30am
Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Holiday Youth Mission Silent Auction & Luncheon at 11:30am

Sunday, December 19– 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship and Chancel Choir Cantata 10:30am
Christmas Joy Offering received

Friday, December 24th-Christmas Eve

Young Family Worship at 5:00 pm (Childcare is not provided)
Pre-Service Music Performances at 6:30pm
Worship with Chancel Choir, Westminster Bells, Carols and Candlelight at 7:00pm (Childcare is not provided)

Sunday, December 26

No Sunday School
Worship and Carol Singing 10:30am in Fellowship Hall

Children's Christmas Program

Please join us as we celebrate the Reason for the Season--**Jesus!**

The Children's Christmas program will be presented during worship on **Sunday, December 12th.**

The children have been busy practicing their songs on Sunday and a dress rehearsal will take place Saturday, **December 11th at 9:30am** in the sanctuary.

Please call or email Linda Reffert if you have questions lkreffert@aol.com or 402-291-1104

Happy Birthday, Jesus

The annual Happy Birthday, Jesus party is on **Sunday, December 12th.** After the children have presented their Christmas program in worship, they will go to the

Valley Vista Room where the party will be held. Treats will be provided.

The Christian Education committee will have games and activities as well as a special Christmas gift for each child.

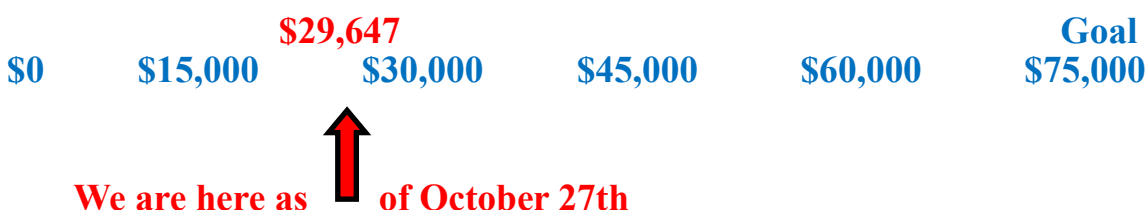


Snow days are coming!!

When the Bellevue Public School system closes for bad weather the church office will also be closed. Any events scheduled that day may or may not be cancelled. Closing will be determined by the committee hosting the event and an email will be sent to those participating. **If Sunday Worship is cancelled it will be announced on the local TV stations as early as possible**



Contingency Fund



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 \$846.89 as of June 30th 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 **Third Quarter of 2021** rebate from Bakers for **\$178.50** 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.



2022 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Results as of October 21, 2021

Sunday, October 10th was Stewardship Commitment Sunday. We have now received 56 pledges totaling \$177,990. To those of you have already turned in your 2022 pledge, thank you for your generosity. If you have not turned in your pledge please do so as soon as you can so we can have a budget that reflects the correct pledge amount.

If you wish to pre-pay part or all of your 2022 pledge---be sure to do so before December 31, 2021.

For any questions regarding the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, please contact me or our Financial Secretary Eric Van Sky.



End of Year Contributions

To comply with IRS regulations, all contributions intended for the current year tax statement must be dated in the current year. These contributions should be turned in as early as possible and at least by the last day of the year. The financial record for the current year will be closed out on the last day of the current year. Contributions received after December 31st will be entered in the next year's record and will appear on the next year's statement. Contributions received after December 31 cannot be back dated.

News from Welcome School

News from Welcome School: October has been super exciting and full of activities!

Mid-October we hosted a fun Father's Night Out for all the students and their Dads. We had an amazing response that night and very engaged Dads!

We had a visit from the Bellevue Fire Department. They talked to us about fire safety and the kids got to sit in the fire truck!

If you were to walk by the Welcome School classrooms, you would see centers reflecting a camping ground, a dinosaur excavation site and a farm with a horse!! It's so fun to watch the kids so engaged in their learning every day.

God Bless, Tara Williams - Director



Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

Thank you, thank you, thank you! We had to change the date for Trunk or Treat at the last minute because of the weather. Right away my email started getting flooded with people who had signed up to help but

canceled because of the change. I started wondering how many families would cancel attending because of that too. I envisioned a pitiful little event with a handful of kids. Boy, was I WRONG! The official count was 27 host trunks and 104 trick or treaters. We didn't even try to count parents or older siblings. What a great event! If you have ideas for other easy family-friendly events we can host outside, and invite our VBS families and our Welcome School friends, please let me know.

Thanks go out to all the people who hosted trunks. They were: June Kouba, Pastor Mike and Sharon, Tara Williams (Welcome School Director) and family, Megan Warren, Deb Hudson, the Reilly family, Marty Davis, the Boyd family, the Zipse family, Liane Kirmis, Mike & Sue Tabler, Becky Berg, Nancy Blazek, Rachel & Bryan Brummond, Cathy Talmadge, Nancy Worm, Anita & Plyman Chappell, the Highbargin family, Barb & Jack Simmons, Marsha & Ricky Holbert, Anne McDaniel, Jody, Chuck & Matthew Clark, Ken Trinkle, Bev Snowden and Jean Jacobson. My husband Randy hosted a trunk and I did my own. I made him use his own car because I didn't think we'd have enough. Gotta have more faith in you all!

I just trained most of the kids who are eligible to

be acolytes this year. They will start up in worship in November. So I started putting together a schedule for the rest of the calendar year. It was kind of scary how few weeks that really is! And we have quite a bit coming up. The kids will sing in worship on Sunday the 14th.

Hanging of the Greens will be held on Sunday, November 28th. It will begin with a light supper and I hope some Christmas carol singing. Then the adults will launch into decorating the church and children who are old enough to do crafts are invited to join me down in the Arts & Crafts room.

I'm looking for groups of 2 to 3 kids or intergenerational groupings of parents and/or grandparents with kids who are interested in reading Christmas Bible passages together. We will record them in late November or early December (I hope) and play the recordings during the 5 PM Christmas Eve service. Please let me know if you or your family are interested in participating. I am also be looking for kids or youth or families who are interested in sharing musical gifts during that service.

The children will put on their Christmas program during worship on December 12th, under the direction of Liane Kirmis. Dress rehearsal will be from 9:30 to 11 AM on the 11th in the sanctuary. Following the program, we will have our Happy Birthday Jesus party in the Valley Vista room. It's wonderful to be able to plan events and activities again. Especially at Christmas.



November Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.” Genesis 1:27

Our study this fall is based on Bob Goff’s book “Everybody Always” so we’ve been talking about loving our neighbors, who our neighbors are and also about loving all people at all times, not just when someone is or isn’t looking. Paul and Peter had a discussion about this over 2000 years ago and it’s still an ongoing thing in all of our lives. In Galatians 2:11-21 Paul is reprimanding Peter for being friends with the Gentiles and eating dinner with them but only when the Jerusalem Christians weren’t looking. Gentile Christians came from a different tradition and background than Jewish Christians and there was a disagreement on whether they had to follow the Jewish tradition to be a Christian. Peter had started welcoming all Christians of all backgrounds until someone else was watching. I think we all still encounter this in our lives, people of different faiths, educational backgrounds, economic backgrounds, ethnicities and some people are still hung up on the us versus them mentality. People are focusing more on differences instead of similarities and I think as Christians it’s a good reminder in the above scripture, we are all created in



the image of God therefore we are all part of the family of God, beautifully, wonderfully and uniquely created. We are called to love God, how can we not love those He made in His image?



Last month we had a wonderful time at the Miller/Stevens house doing cleanup, cooking out and playing. It was the perfect weather and lots of fun. I’m so proud of how hard everyone worked and how well they all worked together.

November we look forward to setting up for the Angel Tree and Silent Auction and then an afternoon of baking cookies and making Care Packages for our friends in College followed by games and probably eating some of those cookies. It’s so hard to believe the year is almost over. We are so blessed to have been able to be back to semi-normal this year. I hope we are all remembering to count our blessings this Thanksgiving Time. I count myself as blessed for being able to be around this delightful group of youth.



Be a
Blessing,
Shelli



NOVEMBER ACTIVITIES

Nov 7 **3-5 Cookie Baking, Care packages, Games**
 Nov 10 **Angel Tree Set-up**
 Nov 14 **Silent Auction Table Set-up**
 Nov 24 **No Illuminate - Happy Thanksgiving!**



November 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|--------|--------------------------|
| (Sanct) Sanctuary (Z) Zoom (VVR) Valley Vista Room (FH) Fellowship Hall (CR) Cry Room (L) Library | 1 1:15p Heritage Ridge 6:30p Troop 499G | 2 10:30a Staff Mtg (VVR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal | 3 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal | 4 7p Troop 467 | 5 | 6 8:30a Fall Clean Up |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB) 2p Youth Fellowship | 10:30a PEO 6:30p Troop 499G | 5:30p Christian Educ. (CR) 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal | 9a PEO 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 6p B & G Meeting (VVR) 7p Choir Rehearsal | 6:30p Membership Mtg (Z) 7p Worship Meeting (VVR) 7p Troop 467 | | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB) 11:30a Deacon Meeting (FH) 6:30p Troop 467 Comm Mtg | 6p Finance Mtg (VVR) 6:30p Troop 499G | 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal | 7p Session Meeting (Z) 7p Troop 467 | | |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB) 11:30a Fellowship (VVR) | 6:30p Troop 499G | 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal | | Thanksgiving Day Church Office is Closed | | |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |
| 9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB) 5:30p Hanging of the Greens | 6:30p Troop 499G | 7p Bell Choir Rehearsal | | | | |

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Phone: 402-291-1104

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Mailing Address Line 5

November Birthdays:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 Joyce Luster | 17 Ethan deZafra |
| 3 Jim Millard | 18 Andrew Oxtoby |
| 6 Brooks Brink | 21 Isabella Keaton |
| 6 Margaret Jackson | 23 Christy VanRyckeghem |
| 8 Willis Regier | 24 Ed Hink |
| 10 Linda Kroeger | 24 Don Martin |
| 10 Caleb Highbargin | 24 Bethany Dart |
| 11 John Eidenmiller | 26 Roger Freier |
| 11 Diane Regier | 28 Sharon Elliott |
| 13 Marty Griffin | 29 Jack Reilly |
| 15 Virginia Eidenmiller | 30 Ashley Hudson |
| 16 Rick Holbert | |

