



# Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

*“Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”*

*Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.” (John 20:17-18)*

At the end of John’s Easter story, after the initial shock and the joy of being reunited with her beloved Jesus, newly resurrected, had worn off, Mary Magdalene was commissioned by Jesus to become the first evangelist of the Good News.

Mary Magdalene accepted the job with joy and went and announced to the disciples, ‘I have seen the Lord’; and she told them everything that he had said to her. As I hear these words from John’s Gospel yet again, I wonder what the disciples might have thought when they heard Mary’s proclamation. More importantly, as we hear these familiar words once again on Easter Sunday, I wonder what you will be thinking.

The good news of what God has done for you and me in the resurrection of Jesus is not something that we are supposed to keep to ourselves. The Good News of the resurrection is something that we are invited to participate in each and every day. You and I share that Good News with Mary Magdalene and all of the others who first witnessed Jesus’ resurrection 2,000 years ago.

As we celebrate the climax of that Good News, there, along with Mary in the early morning light of the garden, we too are commissioned and sent out by Jesus. Because this is Good News that is just too amazing and life-changing to keep to ourselves. It begs to be shared, needs to be shared with everyone we encounter.

Since Christ was born, more than 1.5 billion people have professed their faith in Christ. That makes potentially over 1.5 billion evangelists. Perhaps you will be the next great evangelist for Christ!



Today, and every day of our life together, you and I join in saying “I have seen the Lord” and “Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!” Blessings as you confidently and joyfully proclaim this truth in every part of your life! Happy Easter brothers and sisters in Christ. Happy Easter.

**Blessings, Pastor Mike**



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## We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Gary Sands who is recovering at home.
- ◆ Joyce Ritchey for peace and comfort in home hospice care.
- ◆ Pastor Mike's mom Eileen who is having health issues
- ◆ Jane Hink who is recovering at home.

### Financial Information

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$42,611.87	\$101,347.16
Expenses	\$43,283.02	\$70,109.73
Difference	<\$671.15	\$31,237.43





**God & the Girls #4** is coming up in just over a week! Sign up today or email Linda Reffert if you can join us. Women & girls (9 & over) of the church are invited to participate on Sunday April 3rd, from 12 to 3. We will have a potluck salad and dessert luncheon first, in Fellowship Hall. Our theme is Hope and our theme scripture is Romans 15:13. After lunch we will be doing a variety of activities, including music, art, games and discussion designed to help us feel rooted in hope. Cost is \$10 per person and scholarships available.

## Spring Clean-up!

**Spring Clean Up** will be Saturday, April 9th beginning at 9:00am. We will do some interior painting and ceiling tile repair/replacement as well as cleaning up the grounds, especially the playground. Additional tasks may be added as we get closer to the time. Coffee and donuts will be available. The more volunteers we have the faster we can get done.



## Holy Week

### April 14th Thursday-

- ◆ Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will start at 7:00pm.

### April 16th Saturday:

- ◆ Children's Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am.

### April 17th Easter Sunday:

- ◆ Easter Breakfast, hosted by the Deacon's will be from 9:00am to 10:00am.
- ◆ Worship Service will be at 10:30 am.
- ◆ No Sunday School classes will be held.
- ◆ Childcare will be provided during Worship Service

**Church Office will be closed Monday, April 18th**





# ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

## SPECIAL OFFERINGS

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### HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Over 40 years ago, the earthen dam of a nuclear waste disposal pond broke near Church Rock and dumped tons of solid, radioactive waste and 90 million gallons of acidic and radioactive liquids into the Rio Puerco. The resulting contamination of the land, air and ground water affected nine Navajo municipalities.

The toxic and cumulative effects of this human-caused disaster have impacted the Navajo people for generations — especially in the form of such chronic health problems as asthma as well as a higher incidence of miscarriages, birth defects, and liver and pancreatic cancer.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with these families through MASE, the Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment. MASE’s mission envisions respectful, peaceful communities cherishing a healthy environment.

I like to think that’s a lot like our Church’s mission, too. It is part of what led the Committee on the Self-Development of People to connect with MASE, reaching out “like the arms of the Church,” as the Rev. Dr. Alonzo Johnson with SDOP puts it, to address the systems and structures that perpetuate oppression, leading to poverty.

Susan Gordon, MASE’s coordinator, reminds us that “this is not short-term work. This is decades. And generations. Taking the long view has not prevented progress; the community took a very strong stand opposing new uranium mines on Navajo Nation and were instrumental in getting Navajo Nation to pass two fundamental laws. One prohibits new uranium mining and another prohibits the transportation of radioactive materials across the nation.”

Let us pray: Thank you, God for connecting us. Thank you for neighbors, each with needs and gifts to share, and for our church, the whole Church, together, and for Jesus Christ, Amen.

**One Great Hour will be collected on Palm Sunday**



## 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. We will owe **\$39.68** for each active member. In 2022, our apportionment will be **\$10,118.40**. **We were \$4,000.00 short in 2021 so the remaining amount came from the General Fund which contributed to the negative balance last year.** If we don't reach that amount from the per capita request this year the funds will again be taken from somewhere else in our budget to ensure First Presbyterian meets the required per capita assessment.

### Next Steps

Please take a special per capita envelope from the name tag table. Include a check for **\$39.68** for each church member in your family and extra if you can for shut-ins and confirmands who are unable to pay. 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 the office. Our church paid our total per capita amount in February.

**Current Totals: Received \$6,859.20 Needed Total \$10,118.40**

## Contingency Fund

\$0      \$15,000      \$30,000      **39,830.72**      \$45,000      \$60,000      **Goal**      \$75,000

**We are here as of**  **March 24th**

\$15,891 was paid to Aire Serv for the new roof top HVAC unit

## Bakersplus.com

We just received the **Fourth Quarter of 2021** rebate from Bakers for **\$162.92** 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.



### Annual Church Garage Sale

**Friday, April 29nd (9am to 3pm)**  
**Saturday, April 30rd (9am to 1pm)**



Clean out your basement, closets and garage, of all those unwanted things and bring them to the church starting:

- ◆ Monday through Thursday, April 25th through April 28th from 10:00am to 7:00pm
- ◆ Friday, April 29th from 9:00am to 3:00pm

Please, no tires, chemicals, computers, computer monitors, mattresses, adult clothing, rear projection,

console or CRT TVs, baby seats, baby cribs or items that are dirty, don't work or are broken.

All proceeds from the sale will go to local mission. If you can volunteer your time that week as well as work the days of the sale we need folks to sort and price items. There will be signup sheets in the foyer. Even if you can only work a few hours that will help greatly.

**Thank you, your Fellowship Committee.**

If you have a large item needing a pickup please contact Cathy Talmadge at 402-291-4157. If you can assist Cathy during the week of April 25th– April 30th please contact her directly.

## 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! We even got out the scooters!

New families are inquiring about welcome school and tours are happening weekly. Registration for the 2022-2023 school year, is in full swing. Please call the office if you have any questions or if you or someone you know are interested in registering.

(402) 291-1150

Thank you and God bless!

Tara Williams – Director



## Children's Ministry



Linda Reffert

It's just about here! God & the Girls #4 is coming up on Sunday, April 3rd from noon to 3 PM. It's open to girls and women ages 9 and up. To help the leadership team know how many to prepare for, please sign up ASAP at the

Registration table or by emailing me at [lkreffert@aol.com](mailto:lkreffert@aol.com). It's going to be a fun afternoon of exploring and celebrating hope, through music, word, scripture, games, art, etc. The time flies by but our prayer is that each participant goes home feeling loved, encouraged and hopeful. The cost is \$10 per person and scholarships are available. The leadership team for this event is: Liane Kirmis, Sharon Elliott, Joyce Wells, Jean Lindfors, Nancy Shultz, Nancy Worm, Joyce Luster and me (Linda Reffert).

WOW is coming to a close very soon. April 6th will be our last meeting and we will begin with a special dinner and brief graduation program for 6th and 12th grade students and their families. RSVP for parents and/grandparents/guardians of graduates, is due by April 3rd. After dinner and the brief program, our graduating 6th graders will go join Illuminate for the evening. All younger participants will come to WOW for music and games.

Friday Night Fun is coming up quickly for 2nd through 6th graders. It's Friday, April 8th from 6 to 9 PM, and the kids are welcome to bring a friend but I do need RSVPs by that Wednesday so I can have enough pizza and prizes. It will be a fun way to close out the WOW year for our older elementary kids.

Last year we tried hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt on the day before Easter. It was such a success we decided to go with Saturday again this year. It will be Saturday, April 16th from 10 to 11 AM.

Weather-permitting, it will be held on the Welcome School playground. Families are invited to bring friends any time during that hour to hunt for eggs. If the weather is bad, we'll move the hunt right inside the front doors of the church. Thanks to Sue Tabler, Nancy Shultz and the Reilly Family for helping to put on this fun event! And thanks to June Kouba for helping me assemble eggs and fill all the goodie bags for kids. They will go home with a lot of loot!

VBS online registration will open on Thursday, April 14th. It opens earlier this year because VBS comes earlier than most years. Don't let it sneak up on you! VBS is Monday, June 27th through Friday, July 1st from 9 AM to Noon. I am thankful to Barb Carlson, Sheila Sloniker and Susan Scranton for helping with decorations. Jean & Landy Jacobson and Rick & Bryan Kirmis are working on some really cool elements for the VBS set in Fellowship Hall! Our theme is Rocky Railway: Jesus Power Pulls Us Through. Ages 3 (and potty-trained) through completed 6th grade are invited to be participants and youth and adults ages completed 7th grade and up are invited to volunteer.

VBS will be such a fun and meaningful week and I hope you will consider being a part of it and inviting others too. And it's sure a bargain compared to other summer programming! Cost is still just \$10 per child and that barely pays for the tshirts, but scholarships are available upon request.

VBS Set Up day will be on Sunday, June 19th. I'll feed you a free lunch if you will stay after church to help that afternoon! There will be a job for everybody – all ages and ability levels so please consider joining us for an hour or two. Also, I'm looking to borrow old trunks or suitcases and fake trees of any size or type that are easy to set up. If you can loan me any of these things, please let me know, so I can plan on them.



## April Youth Fellowship (YF) News



*“Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.” Matthew 6:34*

I can't believe it's already April! So much to do before the end of the school year and graduations and mission trips and all of the things. I don't know if you're feeling like me, the to-do list keeps growing, but I really felt convicted by this scripture. Worrying about tomorrow takes the joy out of today but it also makes you miss out on so much of your life. I was talking to the group the other day about wishing away their school years because they get spring break and summer break and I don't, lol. I think we can all get in that mode of thinking the next thing will be the great thing and we miss out on the beauty that each day holds. Live each day to it's fullest, enjoy time with family and friends. If I look too far in the future I will already start missing our delightful Seniors that will be graduating next month! I instead choose to enjoy the time we have together, each and every day.



at Neon Night at West Hills. This was a Presbytery-

Most of March we've been busy working on Youth Sunday and had a wonderful time

wide event sponsored by the Youth Ministry Working



Group and included a neon dance, glow in the dark games and of course pizza.

Our next YMWG sponsored event will be at Hope Church on April 10th and will include worship, games and food trucks. These are great opportunities to meet new people and have fun together.

On April 6th we will have our last WOW/Illuminate and will recognize our graduates from both 6th grade and High School. We are inviting families to join us that night for a special meal and celebration.

Happy Easter and Be a Blessing, Shelli



### APRIL ACTIVITIES

- Apr 6** Last WOW/Illuminate—graduate recognition for 6th and 12th graders
- Apr 10** Ignite Youth event at Hope Church 6-8pm
- Apr 17** Easter Sunday 9am Breakfast 10:30am service

### SUMMER TRIPS

- June 3 - 5** Middle School to Camp Calvin Crest
- July 24 - 29** Senior High to Storm Lake Iowa





# April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
(Sanc) Sanctuary (Z) Zoom (VVR) Valley Vista Room (CR) Crv Room (FH) Fellowship Hall (L) Library						
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (IP/FB)	1:15p Heritage Ridge 7p Bell Choir Re- hearsal	10:30 Staff Mtg (VVR) 7p Bell Choir Re- hearsal	5:30 WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	7p Troop 467	6p Friday Fun Night	9a Spring Clean Up
11:30a Deacons Mtg (VVR) 11:30a God & The Girls (FH)						
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Palm Sunday Service (IP/FB) 6p Youth Gathering (Hope Church) 6:30p Troop 467 Comm Mtg One Great Hour Offering final collec- tion	10:30a PEO (VVR/FH) 7p Bell Choir Re- hearsal	5:30p Christian Ed Mtg (CR) 7p Bell Choir Re- hearsal	9a PEO (VVR) 6:30p B & G Mtg (CR) 7p Choir Rehearsal	10a Finance Mtg (VVR) 7p Maundy Thursday Service 7p Troop 467		10a Easter Egg Hunt
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00a Easter Breakfast 10:30a Easter Service (IP/FB)				6:30p Membership Mtg (Zoom) 7p Troop 467		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:00a Sunday School 10:00a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service (FH) (IP/FB) 11:30a Membership Class (CR) 11:30a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)	10a Garage Sale Drop Off	10a Garage Sale Drop Off 7p Bell Choir Re- hearsal	10a Garage Sale Drop Off 7p Choir Rehearsal	10a Garage Sale Drop Off 7p Session Mtg (Zoom) 7p Troop 467	9a Garage Sale Drop Off 9a - 3pm Garage Sale	9a - 1p Garage Sale

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## April Birthdays:

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

