



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Acts of Loving Kindness

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead (James 2:14-17).



This passage from the Book of James is at the heart of what doing mission is all about. Mission is something we actively engage in and not just think about. Below are several opportunities to engage in mission that Denise Seaman has compiled for us:

What are the 2023 Mission Committee currently scheduled programs? Bellevue Together School supplies and Christmas gifts, Bellevue Food Pantry, Good News Prison Ministry, Guatemala Hospital Foundation, PCUSA Gifts of the Heart, and the Mission Giving Catalog.

Act Now:

Bellevue Together is hosting a Bellevue East High School Staff Appreciation Luncheon on March 7. All 176 staff members will receive a \$10 gift card (for example - Scooters, McDonalds, Panera, Starbucks, Taco Bell...).

How can we support this recognition since the school has no PTA?

- Bring gift cards or a check to the church office made out to First Presbyterian Church with Bellevue Together in the note or made out to Bellevue Together.
- Send check to: Bellevue Together Treasurer
818 Hidden Hills Drive
Bellevue, NE 68005
- Deadline – Feb. 28th

Ongoing Acts:

- **Bellevue Food Pantry** – We focus on donations the first Sunday of each month but every day is a good day to bring in food. Thanks to Mel Hess who delivers our donation to the Food Pantry. Can you help too? Let Pastor Mike or Romi know.
- **Other Mission Opportunities:**
What else should we consider for mission opportunities? Do you know of quick hit, one and done ways to serve? These quick, one time projects are good ways to help out in a big way. Please share your ideas with any committee member. Abby Reilly, Mike Tabler, Denise Seaman, Joyce Wells, Anne McDaniel, Linda Reffert, and Mike Elliott. New committee members are always welcome!



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Staff

Rev. Dr. Michael G. Elliott (Pastor)-pastor@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 8:30 am to 2:00 pm

Romi Redden (Church Administrator)-admin@bellevuefpc.org
M, Tu, W, Th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Megan Highbargin (Children's Ministry Director)-
meganhighbargin@yahoo.com
Monday 9-3, Wednesday 9-3 & 4:30-7:30pm (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

Kimberly Pearce (Organist)-singercycler@gmail.net

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

June Kouba (Treasurer) -admin@bellevuefpc.org



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Nancy Worm's niece, Margie, on the loss of her son, Nolan.
- ◆ Prayers of thanksgiving for successful hip surgery for Darald Berg who is recovering at home.
- ◆ Prayers of thanksgiving for JoAnne Nielsen for successful surgery. JoAnne is recovering at home.

Financial Information

	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$62,297.81	\$359,482.49
Expenses	<u>\$36,669.11</u>	<u>\$347,358.88</u>
Difference	\$25,628.70	\$12,123.61



Happenings

NEW DINNER GROUPS FORMING!

We are seeking singles or couples interested in joining a small group of individuals for the purpose of enjoying fellowship and dinner together on a regular basis. (Individual groups will determine how often they wish to meet). If you enjoy exploring restaurants in the area or occasionally hosting dinner for friends in your home (not required), come join us! It's a fantastic way to get to know each other better. Contact Sally Syphers at 402-292-1632 or by email at syph31@cox.net to learn more about this small group opportunity.



Congregational Luncheon



Mark your calendars for **February 12th**. The Fellowship committee will be hosting a luncheon right after church. All are invited to attend. Ham, chicken, taters, veggies, and dessert will be served. There will be games to play and time to celebrate the fellowship of our church. Bring a friend and join us for lunch. Cost: Free will offering. Contact Rick Holbert for more information or questions. Owlybear1997@gmail.com or 402-290-5896

Butter Braids are back!

Welcome School will be selling Butter Braids starting on **Sunday, February 19th**. On **February 19th & 26th**, Tara Williams, the Director of Welcome School, will be giving out samples during Coffee Fellowship. Order forms will be available each Sunday and Butter Braids are available in 7 flavors and cost \$15. Please place your order on the order form and pay when ordered. Delivery will begin **March**



Happenings

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm with service following at 7:00 pm. There will be a sign up sheet in the Library a couple of weeks in advance to sign up to bring soup, bread or desserts.



Lent Dinners and Bible Study



Lenten Suppers- Dinner will be offered on four Thursday nights during Lent, **March 9th, 6th, 23rd, and 30th.** Each week, a ministry of the church provides the meal which starts at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall and will go until 7:30pm. The entire meal will be provided and a freewill offering will be accepted to cover the cost of the meal. A small group Bible study called, “Faces at the Cross” will follow the dinner. Instead of giving up something for Lent this year, why not add something? Join us for a time of fellowship and reflection as we embark on this period of repentance and preparation for Christ’s passion.

Bakers Community Rewards Program

Make your purchase count through the Baker’s Community Rewards program! This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to **First Presbyterian Church #HY977** all you have to do is shop at Baker’s and swipe your Shopper’s Card. Any transactions moving forward using the Shopper’s Card number associated with your digital account will be applied to the program, at no added cost to you. Baker’s donates annually to participating organizations based on your percentage of spending as it relates to the total spending associated with all participating Baker’s Community Rewards organizations.



End of Year Contributions

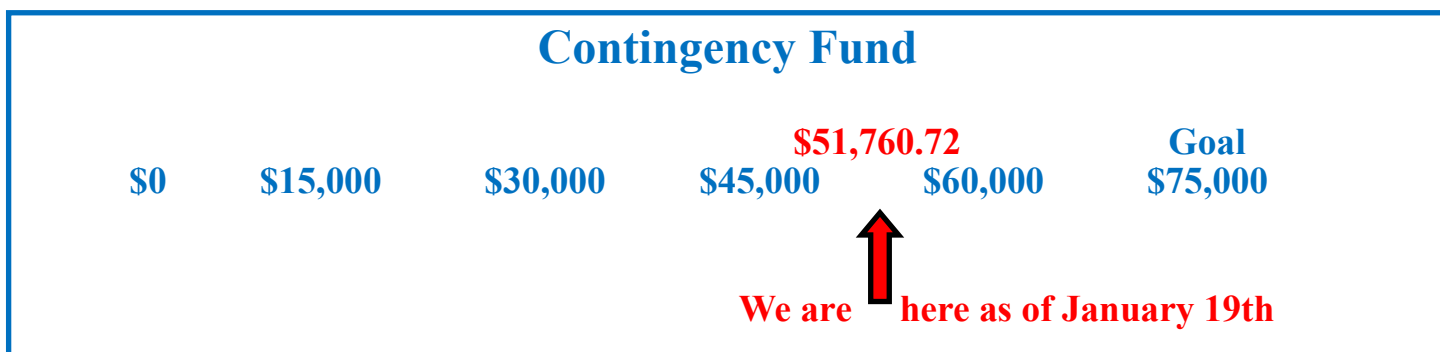
To comply with IRS regulations, all contributions intended for the current year tax statement must be dated in the current year. These contributions should be turned in as early as possible and at least by the last day of the year. The financial record for the current year will be closed out on the last 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.

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 **\$40.85** for each active member. In 2023, our apportionment will be **\$9,967.40**. 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. **As of January 19th**, we have **\$2,967.70**, so a long way to go.

Next Steps

Take a special per capita envelope from the name tag table. Include a check for **\$40.85** 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 the office by **February 9th**. If you would like to prepay your Per Capita for next year just go ahead and place your envelope in the offering plate by January 31, 2023. Our church must pay our total per capita amount by **February 15, 2023**.



News from Welcome School

Happy New Year from Welcome School!

We are so happy we are back in school for 2023! The children have enjoyed our Pirate, Safari and Space centers these last few weeks. All of the classes got to have hot chocolate parties! Yummy!! We will be selling Butter Braids for \$15 from February 16th - March 10th. Money will be collected when the order is made. Delivery will be on March 22nd. I will be there with samples on Sunday, February 19th and 26th. These are great for Easter breakfast. Contact Tara to place your order 402-291-1150.



Registration for the 2023-2024 school year has started! Tours have already begun so be sure to spread the word!

God Bless,
Tara Williams



Snow days are here!!

When the Bellevue Public School system closes for bad weather, the church office will also be closed and any event scheduled that day will be cancelled. If church is cancelled we will try to have it announced with other cancellations on KETV.



Children's Ministry



Megan Highbargin

January was a quiet month for children's ministry, we restarted all our programs the second week and it was so wonderful to be back in the swing of things. The snow cancelled one of our WOW meetings, but I know that all the kids enjoyed having the day off from school, even though the snow totals were disappointing. In Sunday School we have been studying Jesus' early life. We started the month in Matthew talking about how Joseph had to move his family to Egypt to keep Jesus safe, moved into the story of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist, and talked about how the news of Jesus began to spread to the people and how we too can share this news. In the book of John, we learned about the symbolism of Jesus being the Lamb and of when Peter and Andrew first met him. The children are so insightful during their bible time and I love hearing the ideas and thoughts that they share.

In WOW we continued our study in the Beatitudes and had a wonderful lesson on Matthew 5:5 "God blesses those who are humble (meek), for they will inherit the whole earth." The children acted out scenes to show the difference between having humility verses being boastful and discussed ways that we can serve others. We ended this lesson with a discussion of the phrase "having to eat humble pie" and learned that there are times when we need to apologize for our actions, but that loving God produces fruit in

our lives, and to remind us of this and we made fruit of the spirit pies. These were a little messy, but delicious and a great way to remind us to be more like Jesus. In the last weeks of January, we will continue to study Matthew 5:6 and Matthew 5:7, to learn what else Jesus can teach us about how to live our lives.

I also want to let everyone know that VBS will be sneaking up on us very soon. I already have the materials to begin planning, the theme this year is **STELLAR** and it's going to be out of this world! Please save the dates: **July 10-14** if you can join us or help as a volunteer. I can't wait!



February Youth Fellowship (YF) News



*“And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.”
1 John 5:14-15*

we will have it after church at 11:45am with some lunch and conversation. I am hoping this will work better for a lot of our friends that find 9am just a little too early. Our first after church day is Feb 19th. I hope to see you all there. Youth Sunday is coming up soon and we need everyone’s help!

Isn’t it amazing that God hears us? He knows our hearts, knows our desires and knows what we need. Even though he already knows our hearts, he wants



that dialog with us. I hope you spend some time each

day this month being intentional in your relationship with God.

It’s Valentines month, how are you going to show God’s Love?

Be a Blessing and spread some Love!

Shelli

The New Year got off to a great start with a wonderful luncheon and a bunch of great workers. Thank you so much for all of your help and support.



At the luncheon I had a chat with some folks and we are going to try something new this month. We will not have 9am Sunday School on Bell days, instead



FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Feb 19 Sunday School at 11:45am lunch & stuff
Feb 22 No Illuminate—Ash Wednesday

Plan Ahead—March 3-4 PRMV Youth retreat at Calvin Crest



February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	2 1p Women's Bible Study (VWR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)	3	4
5 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Mtg	6 1:15p Heritage Ridge Communion	7 10:30a Staff Mtg (VWR) 7p Bell Rehearsal	8 9a PEO (VWR) 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 6p B & G Mtg 7p Choir Rehearsal	9 1p Women's Bible Study (VWR) 6:30p Membership Mtg 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Worship Mgt (CR)	10 10a Finance Mgt	11
12 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Christian Education Mtg 11:30 Congregational Luncheon (FH) 6:30p Boy Scout Mtg (VWR)	13 10a PEO lunch & mgt (VWR & FH)	14 7p Bell Rehearsal	15 9:30a Marty (CR) 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	16 1p Women's Bible Study (VWR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 4-9p Welcome School - Chick-fil-A Night 5:30p Presbytery Mgt	17	18
19 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10a Butter Braid Sale Starts & Samples 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Fellowship Mgt	20 President's Day Church Office Closed	21 7p Bell Rehearsal	22 5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal 6p Ash Wednesday Dinner 7p Ash Wednesday Service	23 1p Women's Bible Study (VWR) 7p Session Mgt (Z) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)	24	25
26 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10a Butter Braid Samples 10:30a Worship Service	27	28 8:30p BWC Ticket Return (FH) 7p Bell Rehearsal				

First Presbyterian Church
1220 Bellevue Blvd. South
Bellevue, NE 68005
Phone: 402-291-1104



February Birthdays:



- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Tom Blazek | 12 Betty Woolf |
| 2 Jody Clark | 14 Makayla Crick |
| 4 Merlin Stevens | 15 Becky Berg |
| 5 Donald Carlson | 19 Lori Kirkland |
| 5 Katherine Hart | 25 Lindsay VanRyckeghem |
| 6 Emily deZafra | 26 Mitch Matthews |
| 7 Abby Reilly | 27 Dona Stephan |
| 10 Sue Anderson | |

If you are interested in becoming a member of this church, please contact Romi at 402-291-1104 or email admin@bellevuefpc.org



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

