



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Where to From Here?



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Now what do we do? Our Lenten Journey is almost over. We have yet to travel to the upper room with Jesus and his disciples. We have yet to hear Jesus say those powerful words that Jesus will say in Matthew's Gospel at the table, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins." We have yet to the cross on Good Friday and hear Jesus cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And we have yet to travel to the empty tomb to hear again from the group of women who will find it empty. We heard once more the words of the angels at the empty tomb, "He is not here, but has risen." That blessed day of Resurrection is almost here. Yet we know how the story will end. So now what do we do?

So what do we do now as we prepare to go forth from the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of the first witnesses of the empty tomb. After the two angels reminded Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women that Jesus had risen, Luke tells us that they remembered the words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. They went forth from the tomb changed by the resurrection of Jesus. They went forth from the tomb to be living witnesses of God's power over sin and death.

So where do we go once we leave the empty tomb? Let us follow the example of Jesus' first disciples. After Jesus appeared to seven of the eleven disciples, they simply went back to their fishing business. They went back to their vocations or stations in life and took the witness of the resurrection with them. They lived in the joy of the resurrection of Jesus while carrying out their daily, ordinary work and play and rest that they followed before Jesus had called them.

And just like those first disciples, we too are called to be every day witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus. We believe and are baptized. We have the hope of eternal life. We have the joy of the resurrection living inside of us. And like the women at the empty tomb and the eleven disciples, we have jobs and roles and stations in life that God has given to us as gift. Like those seven fishermen, we all have one or more callings in life: father, husband, mother, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparent, employee, retiree, friend, and neighbor. Each of these callings comes with a set of duties and responsibilities. As followers of the Risen Christ, by God's grace, we are called to go about our daily duties and responsibilities, to pursue our vocations with the joy, love and peace we have received through the forgiveness of Christ. And, more than likely, others will take notice and God will bless our faithful work by giving us opportunities to tell the Good News to everyone we encounter as we go about our daily living.

So where do we go from here? We go forth from Easter Sunday and the celebration of the empty tomb to live freely as God's blessed children forgiven in Christ. We go forth empowered by God's Spirit living and active within us to live in the joy of the resurrection to be every day witnesses of God's love in Jesus Christ. We go forth to share the Good News of wholeness in Christ with our hurting and broken world. So go forth boldly, filled with the Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike



Inside this issue:

Keep in Prayer	2
Easter Season	3
One Great Hour	4
Per Capita	4
Meet the New Members	5
Annual Church Garage Sale	6
Welcome School	6
Financial Information	6
Children's Ministry	7
Youth Ministry	8
Calendar	9
Birthdays	10

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) -jandjkouba@gmail.com



We Keep in Our Prayers

◆ Prayers for continued healing for Will Kroeger.

Your church musicians are always hard at work preparing lovely offerings for worship. This month, six of our Chancel Choir members will also be representing First Presbyterian, Bellevue at the Nebraska Choral Directors Association Church Choir Festival on April 29th. Mark Hayes, a very popular and prolific composer of church choral and piano music, will be the clinician working with the 90+ member choir from 10 churches in the Omaha area. The day will culminate with a concert at 4:30 p.m. featuring the festival chorus conducted by Maestro Hayes, vocal solos accompanied by the arranger, and several piano solos performed by internationally known concert pianist, Mark Hayes.



Come enjoy the inspirational concert at **St. Timothy's Lutheran Church 510 N. 93rd St. Omaha at 4:30pm, Saturday, April 29th.**



Easter Season

Easter Lilies

Once again this year you have the opportunity to purchase an Easter Lily in memory or honor of your loved ones. The flowers will beautify our sanctuary on Easter morning and may be taken home after the 10:30 am service Easter day. The price is \$15 per plant and can be ordered from the Worship Committee no later than **March 26th**. Order forms are on the table in the Library.



Holy Week

April 2nd, Palm Sunday– One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes will be on the usher stand for your convenience. This offering will be collected through Easter Sunday, April 9th.

April 6th, Thursday- Our Maundy Thursday Worship Service will start at 7:00pm. No dinner will be served this evening and childcare will not be provided during the service.

April 8th, Saturday:

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

April 9th, Easter Sunday:

- ◆ No Sunday School classes will be held.
- ◆ Easter Breakfast, hosted by the Deacon’s, will be from 9:00am to 10:00am.
- ◆ There will be an Easter photo op for individuals and families between breakfast and the service and after the service.
- ◆ Worship Service will be at 10:30 am.
- ◆ Childcare will be provided during the Worship Service.



Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 10th.

Contingency Fund

\$0	\$15,000	\$30,000	\$45,000	\$59,570.72	Goal
				\$60,000	\$75,000

We are here  **as of March 17th**





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

For over 70 years, *One Great Hour of Sharing* has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world during the Lenten season. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The programs supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* each work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. The three programs supported by this PC(USA) Special Offering are...

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- The Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People

Consider giving toward these projects during this Lenten season.



One Great Hour will be collected starting Sunday, March 26th till Easter Sunday, April 9th.

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.

Next Steps

Please take a special per capita envelope from the name tag table. Include a check for **\$40.85** 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 As of March 17th: Received: \$6,766.20 Need: \$3,201.20



Dave and Kathy Latta



The USAF brought Dave and Kathy to Bellevue 44 years ago. After retiring from the USAF, Dave owned an auto parts store and worked at Certified Transmission. Kathy worked for Bellevue Public Schools at Mission, Central, and the Welcome Center. They have two married adult children (Chris and Kim) and two teenage grandchildren.

Dave grew up in the Baptist tradition in Oklahoma and Texas. Kathy grew up in the Presbyterian faith in Illinois. They have attended FPC for over a year and note that FPC is very friendly and like a family.

**1410 Englewood Dr.
Bellevue, NE 68005**

Kathy: 402 960-0131
froglady712@gmail.com

Dave: 402 740-4456
dlatta1456@gmail.com

Received by Session 3/19/23

Bill and Rita Falt



Bill and Rita grew up not far from each other in Bellevue/South Omaha. Bill worked in the family business, Falt Fisheries/Joe Tess Place, until the business was closed last year. Rita worked at Mutual for 35 years and then with Bill. She was raised in the Catholic faith and taught CCD.

Bill and Rita met at Lum's when she noticed that his mom left her cane at the buffet, returned it, and struck up a conversation. Bill invited her to attend church here. Since they were both single, they helped each other out and grew as a couple. They have attended FPC together for some time and were married here on January 28th, 2023.



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

**6818 So. 31st St.
Omaha, NE 68107**

Rita: 402 213-7714
ritaannkingery@gmail.com

Bill: 402 680-4419
billfalt@gmail.com

Received by Session 3/19/23



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



Annual Church Garage Sale

Friday, April 21st (9am to 3pm)
Saturday, April 22nd (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 17th through April 20th from 10:00am to 7:00pm**
- ◆ **Friday, April 21st 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 sign up sheets in the Library. 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 to be picked up, please contact Cathy Talmadge at 402-290-1215. If you can assist Cathy during the week of **April 17th– April 22nd**, please contact her directly.

News from 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 2023-2024 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**



Financial Information

	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$62,638.99	\$102,724.69
Expenses	<u>\$27,097.18</u>	<u>\$68,753.40</u>
Difference	\$35,541.81	\$33,971.29



Children's Ministry



Megan Highbargin

It is finally spring! Is anyone else looking forward to the warmer weather? I sure am! It also means that we are getting close to Easter and then summer, which means VBS!

On **Saturday April 8, from 10-11am**, we will be hosting an Easter Egg scavenger hunt on the Welcome School Playground

(inside if there is bad weather). I hope that everyone (bring your kids, grandchildren, or a neighbor) can stop by, we will have some great treat bags as prizes. I want to say a special thank you to everyone that has donated candy and trinkets for the bags, it is a huge help and I know that it will bring lots of smiles to the children.

This month, the children were off for spring break and I heard from many of them about all of their adventures, it sounds like so much fun. The church helped to kick off Spring break by hosting a movie night. We showed Lyle Lyle Crocodile and it was a HIT! We had over 50 people attend, I saw friends from the church, WOW, and the Welcome School. We ate lots of candy, popcorn, and I even saw some of the kids dancing to the songs in the movie. I can't wait to host another one to kick off summer break.



In WOW we are finishing our study on the Beatitudes, it has gone really well and I have enjoyed it so much.

The children have done a great job, and I hope that

everyone enjoyed the song that they sang with Liane Kirmis on the 12th. It was the perfect song to help them remember the verses and they all loved it. For Sunday School, we finished our winter curriculum and started our spring book, our first lesson was about how Jesus taught his disciples to pray, the older children analyzed The Lord's Prayer and The Apostles Creed, it was fantastic to see their brains working, and as always Nora Boyd and Becca Griffin are fantastic teachers and really get our kids involved in the lessons. We will finish the month by studying the meaning behind Palm Sunday and the Easter Story.

Looking ahead to April, we will have our end of the year WOW and Illuminate graduation and celebration. We will be on break until the fall, and I will definitely miss my Wednesday nights with the kids, but I will be working extra hard to get ready for VBS, please save the dates for **STELLAR July 10-14**.



IF ANYONE IS INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH THE EASTER EGG HUNT OR VBS, PLEASE CONTACT ME!



April Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

I hope you have been able to take time during Lent for some quiet time, Bible Study, or have added something positive to your daily activities. I love that Pastor Mike reminds us that we don't have to give up something for Lent, we can add something to our lives that will refresh us and bring us closer to God. Being out in nature is one huge blessing of Spring!

We started March at a Presbytery Youth Retreat called The Pause. It was a time to get away from stressors and social media and get in touch with each other and God. The weather was perfect and we met so many new friends. I look forward to going to Camp Calvin Crest at any opportunity and the young people had a wonderful time.



We had so much fun at Family Movie Night in March with a great turnout of Church and Welcome School friends. If you have ideas for a movie in the future or would like to help please let us know.

The weather is changing and we've Sprung Forward which means our school year programming is ramping up for the end of the year.



I can't believe we will already be celebrating our Graduates for WOW and Illuminate on

Wednesday April 12th. Families of our 6th and 12th grade students are invited to dinner that night and we hope you will all make the effort to attend. Please RSVP to Megan or me so we can ensure we have enough food. Thanks.



We are working on Youth Sunday and looking forward to presenting worship on **April 16th.** We will have a Lock-in the Friday before, April 14th which is always a lot of fun as

long as the whole service is written. Note to youth - make sure you have your thinking caps on so we can run through the service a couple of times and then have the rest of the night to play games and eat pizza!



Be a Blessing!
Shelli



APRIL ACTIVITIES

- Apr 5 No Illuminate - Holy Week
- Apr 8 Easter Egg Hunt 10am
- Apr 12 Wow/Illuminate Graduate night
- Apr 14 Youth Lock-in 7pm to 8am Saturday
- Apr 16 Youth Sunday



April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						10a Children's Easter Eggs Hunt
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Palm Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing Envelopes on Usher Stand 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Mtg	1:15p Heritage Ridge Communion Church Office Closed	10:30a Staff Mtg (VVR) 7p Bell Rehearsal	5:30p WOW/Illuminate 7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (VVR) 5-7p Welcome School Chick-fil-A Night 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Maundy Thursday Worship Svc		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Easter No Sunday School 9a Easter Breakfast (FH) 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Christian Ed. Mtg 6:30p Boy Scout Mtg (VVR)	10a PEO lunch & mgt (VVR & FH) Church Office Closed	7p Bell Rehearsal	9a PEO (VVR) 5:30p WOW/Illuminate Graduation 6p B & G Meeting 7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (VVR) 6:30p Membership Meeting 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Worship Meeting (CR)	10a Finance Mgt 7p - 8a Youth Lock In	12p Cathy Taimadge Baby Shower (FH)
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Youth Sunday 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Fellowship Mgt	Start taking donations for Church Garage Sale	6p Foundation Board Mgt with DA Davidson (VVR) 7p Bell Rehearsal	7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (VVR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)	9a Church Garage Sale (FH)	9a Church Garage Sale (FH)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service		7p Bell Rehearsal	7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (VVR) 6:30p Troop 467 Court of Honor (FH) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Session Mgt (VVR)		
30						
9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service						

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



April Birthdays:



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Carter Dawson | 18 Marcie Bergen |
| 1 Bev Snowden | 21 Eric VanSky |
| 1 Eliza Boyd | 22 Gabbie Emsick |
| 2 Alice Renner | 23 Kim O’Riordan |
| 3 Sylvia Pelzer | 25 Linda Hilfiker |
| 3 Audie Keaton | 25 Josh Blazek |
| 6 Deb Hudson | 26 Megan Warren |
| 8 Kimberly Pearce | 27 Carolyn Hess |
| 14 Jonathan Highbargin | 27 Mary Nelson |
| 15 Retha Dowding | 28 LeAnn Jobes |
| 17 Madison Braun | 28 Cindy Reilly |
| 17 Lori Keaton | 30 Scott Reffert |

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

