



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Happy Birthday to Us

*When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
(Acts 2:1-4)*



Pentecost, that glorious day that we, as the church, gather to celebrate God's gift of the Holy Spirit poured out on us all. Pentecost, the day that the church was born. The Apostle Paul reminded the people in the city of Rome that the One Spirit that God has poured out on us all is a Spirit of boldness and courage and not a Spirit of fear. Pentecost, the birthday of Jesus' beloved church. So we sing "Happy Birthday" as the church turns one year older.

The tune to "Happy Birthday to You" was published by Mildred Hill and her sister Patty, a Kentucky kindergarten teacher in 1893. Originally, the lyrics were "Good Morning to All." The sisters wanted the song to be a cheery way to start the school day.

Later on, in the early 20th century, someone thought up the "Happy Birthday" version. It became an instant classic. Until a few years ago, the song was under copyright. The copyright holder was Warner/Chappell Music. It bought the rights from the original publisher many years ago. When the "Good Morning to All" copyright finally expired, Warner/Chappell renewed it, based on the date "Happy Birthday to You" had first appeared in print. They had a gold mine on their hands and they knew it!

Have you ever wondered why the staff in most restaurant chains never used to sing "Happy Birthday"? Instead, they sang for their customers some weird birthday rap or some such nonsense. That's because Warner/Chappell was always watching. Armed with a team of lawyers and money collectors, with their palms up, eager to accept a hefty annual licensing fee from the big restaurant chains, one for each of their locations. To avoid the big fees, the restaurant franchises bailed out of the "Happy Birthday" copyright game altogether, and made up their own birthday jingles instead.

What that means is that when the Day of Pentecost comes around on May 28th, we can sing "Happy Birthday" to the church in total freedom and without legal ramifications!

What could be a more fitting way for us to celebrate the Day of Pentecost? What could be a better way for us to remember and celebrate the Spirit of boldness and courage that God has poured out on us than to sing to ourselves our own freedom song?

Just like it is impossible to copyright "Happy Birthday," we can't copyright and limit the Holy Spirit either. No more than we can confine the good news of Jesus Christ. The apostles learned that on the Day of Pentecost when the Spirit used them to bring the Good News to all people. And that is our purpose in Jesus Christ too. To be used, without limit, freely and joyfully to bring the Good News to everyone.

So Church, Happy Birthday to us! Sing your little hearts out for joy. Receive the best gift of all, the gift of the Holy Spirit and then go and share the gift with everyone you meet. Give the gift of the Spirit in your life, in your actions and with your words. Amen

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Mike



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Staff

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We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for all those affected by the recent fires in the area.

Financial Information

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$16,818.85	\$119,543.54
Expenses	<u>\$31,935.66</u>	<u>\$100,689.06</u>
Difference	<\$15,116.81	\$18,854.48





VBS will run from 9 AM to noon, Monday through Friday, **July 10th - July 14th**. Our theme is Stellar “Shine Jesus’ Light”. Ages 3 (and potty-trained) through completed 6th grade are invited to join us for a week of fun with science, games, snacks, music and Bible stories. Cost is \$10 per child with a max of \$40 per family and scholarships are available. Our mission project is collecting food for the Bellevue Food Pantry. **REGISTRATION IS OPEN** at myvbs.org/bellevuefpc. Some classes will have limited enrollment so plan to register early!

Graduates



Morgan Fenster is the daughter of Matthew and Emily Fenster. She is graduating from Bellevue East High School. Morgan has been a member of the Bellevedettes Varsity Dance Team, National Honors Society, Leadership Academy, East High Singers and Take II Varsity Show Choir. Morgan is a dance captain for Take II. She developed her love for dance through Jean Lanphier’s Dance Studio, where she has been a member since the age of three.

When she isn’t singing and dancing, you can find Morgan at Cornhusker Auto. She also works as a summer school paraprofessional for Bellevue Public Schools. This summer will be her third year working at Wake Robin Elementary.

Morgan has attended First Presbyterian Church since she was an infant. Her faith in God has been nurtured through her baptism in the arms of Pastor Matt Nieman, Ms. Linda Reffert’s Children’s ministry, the education she received from Pastor Mike Elliott through confirmation, and Shelli and John Dart’s unconditional love, support and spiritual guidance through Illuminate. Morgan has enjoyed being a youth volunteer during Vacation Bible School every summer since 7th grade.

This fall, Morgan will be attending the University of Nebraska- Lincoln and majoring in Communication Sciences and Disorders. Her plan is to earn a masters of science in Speech- Language Pathology, so she may work in a school setting. There are many people, Mom and Dad included, hoping she returns to Bellevue Public Schools.



Graduates



Emerson Lee Griffin - Graduating from Glenwood Community High School

Accomplishments: Distinguished Scholar, National Honor Society, State qualifier in Cross Country, Hawkeye 10 All-Conference Academic Award, Division 1 Color Guard solo, Jazz band State 4th place, 4H projects shown at Iowa State Fair

Future Plans: Attend Iowa State and major in Dietetics

Jackson Phill Griffin - Graduating from Glenwood Community High School

Accomplishments: Distinguished Scholar, National Honor Society, Hawkeye 10 Academic All-Conference, State qualifier in Cross Country, Jazz band State 5th place, All-State Large Group Short Film, 4H Science and Engineering Award

Future Plans: Attend South Dakota State University and major in Agronomy



Happenings

Annual Church Garage Sale

Another successful year for the garage sale thanks to our amazing volunteers! From picking up items, to pricing and displaying everything, they are the reason it's such a success every year. Also, a big thank you to all those who donated items to the sale and to the Fellowship Committee for running the show. The garage sale made a total of \$3,321.51 for local missions, \$155 for the food bank, and provided furniture for 2 agencies for dislocated families.



Reliable Rides

Need a ride? We have you covered! Members of our church are offering rides Monday through Friday for appointments and errands. Just call the church at 402-291-1104 Monday through Thursday between 9am and 2pm and we'll get you scheduled. Please schedule your ride at least a week in advance.

Drivers offering rides:

- Nancy Blazek
- Julie Daugherty-Braun
- Nancy Shultz
- Jack Simmons
- Jack Syphers



Willis & Fran Estate Sale



The incredible, unique, and amazing Willis & Fran Estate located at 505 Ridge Road, Bellevue, 68005 will be having an Estate Sale with Twist of Fate Estate Sales on **Friday, May 5th from 4:00-7:00 pm, Saturday, May 6th from 10:00 am -3:00 pm and Sunday, May 7th from 10:00 am-3:00 pm.** This home has countless treasures from the Mid-Century Era including one-of-a-kind furniture pieces, vintage clothing, libraries of literature, and so much more. Stop by and grab something special from this fabulous property! The home will also be sold through Julie Daugherty-Braun (DB)/BHHS AMB Real Estate but not part of the Estate Sale itself. Please reach out to Julie DB with any questions you may have. 402-669-0083



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 31st: Received: \$7,129.75 Need: \$2,837.65

Contingency Fund



Bakersplus.com

We just received the **First Quarter of 2023** rebate from Bakers for **\$168.73** this is wonderful and includes **42** 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



Megan Highbargin

Hello Everyone!
Can you believe that another month has come and gone and that we are solidly into spring? I have been enjoying the many beautiful days that we have had recently, and I hope that you and your families have too.

We started the month with the collection of our fish banks, the children's contribution to One Great Hour of Sharing (plus a little help from a church member) was \$120! Can you believe it? They did a fantastic job and it will sure go a long way in helping those in need. In addition to that money, the children were also able to officially purchase their second offering goal of a BEE KEEPING KIT from the Presbyterian Giving catalog. This was a big goal for them, and I am so proud that they were able to reach it. Our church kids care so much about the world around them and have a passion for giving.



On April 8th, we hosted our annual Easter Egg hunt! We continued to host the hunt scavenger hunt style, as this was such a great way to make it fair for everyone to participate and drop in when they had time. We had about 50 children from the church, Welcome School, and few from the local neighborhood stop by.

I want to say a special thanks to all the very generous members of the church for providing the candy and treats that we placed in the bags and to Romi for helping to fill them. I really enjoyed seeing all the children and their families and was so happy that aside from the wind, the weather was nice enough to be able to have it outside.



This month, we also had our last WOW meeting of the year. We had a wonderful dinner and celebrated all the children's hard work by enjoying the warm night and playing a variety of games outside. It was nice to give all of them a chance to hang out with their WOW friends. We also honored Jack Reilly as he is graduating sixth grade this year and moving to youth/Illuminate.



Jack is the son of Cindy and Tim Reilly and brother to Christopher and Abby. His church grandparents are Sally and Jack Syphers. He currently attends Rumsey Station Elementary school and will attend Papillion LaVista Middle School in the fall. Jack's favorite activities are anything music related, 4-H, and cooking.

At our church, his favorites activities have been participating in the Christmas programs and VBS. In school Jack loves math and his favorite food is sushi. Jack says that his favorite bible verse is Ephesians 5:19 "...singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves and making music to the Lord in your hearts." Coming up in the next months, we will have our last Sunday School class, honor our teachers, have the grandparent blessing breakfast, and start prepping for VBS!



May Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11



I am proud of the youth for sharing their hearts with all of us on Youth Sunday. It's one of my favorite worship services because we really hear their faith in their own words. They are so transparent, sharing their fears with us and fear is something we all deal with. Uncertainty about the future, fear of the passage of time, fear of the unknown. These are universal fears and I think it's reassuring that we all have faced these and we all have the same assurance that God is with us always. I think it's amazing and telling how many of us love the above scripture from Jeremiah. Hope wins over fear every time!

Liane Kirmis picked some great music for our youth bell choir, John Dart directed and Kim Pierce added a creative touch to the music on Youth Sunday to make it an even more special day. Thank you all so much!



It's hard to believe that the school year is winding down and Illuminate is already finished. Our last day of Sunday school will be May 21st with the Grandparent Blessing Sunday.



We are looking to graduation and summer now, I just can't believe it! Our two trips this year will be Calvin Crest in June and Synod School in Storm Lake Iowa in July. Please remember Synod School is open to everyone of all ages. If you have any questions let me know.

It's been a wonderful year and I look forward to making more memories and getting closer to God and as a group on our trips this summer.

Be a Blessing!

Shelli



MAY ACTIVITIES

May 14 Mother's Day & Graduate Recognition day
May 21 Grandparent Blessing Breakfast
 Teacher recognition Sunday
May 28 Summer Worship Time Begins 10am



May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Mowing Team 2 1:15p Heritage Ridge Comm.	10:30a Staff Mgt (VWR) 7p Bell Rehearsal	7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (CR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Deacon's Mtg	Mowing Team 3 10a PEO lunch & mgt (VWR & FH)	7p Bell Rehearsal	9a PEO (VWR) 6p B & G Meeting 7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (CR) 6:30p Membership Meeting 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Worship Meeting (CR)	10a Finance Mgt (Admin Office)	11a Joan Gearhart Memorial Svc (Sanc)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Mother's Day 9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:30a Christian Ed. Mtg (VWR) 6:30p Boy Scout Mtg (VWR)	Mowing Team 4	7p Bell Rehearsal	7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (CR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9a Sunday School 10a Coffee Fellowship 10:30a Worship Service 11:40a Fellowship Mgt/Luncheon (VWR & FH)	Mowing Team 5	6p Bells Potluck (FH) 7p Bell Rehearsal	7p Choir Rehearsal	1p Women's Bible Study (CR) 7p Troop 467 (Classrooms) 7p Session Mgt (VWR)		
28	29	30	31			
Pentecost Offering envelopes on Usher Stand 9:30a Coffee Fellowship 10:00a Worship Service 11:00a Amanda Reservation (FH)	Mowing Team 1 Church Office Closed in honor of Memorial Day					

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



May Birthdays:



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Marilyn Routt | 13 Barb Simmons |
| 2 Morgan Braun | 15 Clara Stilen |
| 2 Mason Braun | 18 Austin Braun |
| 2 Matthew Clark | 19 Margot Boyd |
| 3 Nicolai Schultz | 21 JoAnn Carpenter |
| 4 Gabrielle Keaton | 22 Nora Boyd |
| 7 Brandon VanSky | 23 Carolyn Lowrance |
| 8 Deanna Freier | 26 Sally Syphers |
| 8 Landy Jacobson | 27 Bryan Kirmis |
| 11 Ryan Baruth | 29 Mike Tabler |
| 12 Lexie Ryks | |
| 13 Dave Hartranft | |

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



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

