



Hilltop Highlights

A Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church

Pastor Martha's Musings...

These past four weeks we've been going "Deeper in Faith" in our sermon series for "a Journey of Spiritual Formation." I hope that you've been able to learn and grow in your own faith as we've been exploring what it means to follow Christ in today's world. Here's where we've been and where we're headed over the next three weeks:



Week 1: Spiritual Formation and Discernment:

How we come to know about God happens in different ways at different times, but these experiences each play a role in faith development.

Week 2: Spiritual Formation for the Here and Now:

God is constantly acting in our lives and guiding us - but we can miss noticing these God "nudges" because we aren't aware or focused in the present moment. The Examen is a useful prayer in noticing our emotions and finding where we feel God is present.

Week 3: Values & Practices:

Spiritual practices in the Christian tradition have been around for hundreds of years. Values like love, justice, kindness, and humility shape our spiritual practices like prayer, worship, crafting, and journaling.

Week 4: Where is God?

We learned from Jesus the rhythm of serving others and then drawing energy from being alone with God. We can use the power of stillness, silence, and solitude as well as service to follow this cycle ourselves.

Where we're headed:

Week 5: Nature, Sabbath, & Rest

We have seasons in our lives when we experience growth, harvest, regeneration, and renewal. We will look at the seasons of our lives and also look to see what role Sabbath and rest can play in understanding our lives in relationship to God.

Week 6: Spiritual Discernment:

The process of figuring out God's guidance and leading for our lives is called discernment. Spending time in prayer and discerning with others are two ways we listen for God's guidance and enable us to hear the difference between God's voice and our own desires.

Week 7: Co-Laborers in Christ:

How does our wider Christian community shape or impact our spiritual development? We can use our experiences of, and in, community to deepen our personal faith journey.

Let's keep our hearts open as we continue the journey these last few weeks!

**I pray that the Lord, who gives peace, will always bless you with peace. May the Lord be with all of you.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:16**

**Peace in Christ,
Pastor Martha**



Inside this issue:

Prayers	2
Financial Information	2
Contingency Fund	2
Bellevue Together	3
Back to School Event	3
Melodrama	4
Parade	4
Children's Ministry	5
Youth Ministry	6
Calendar	7
Birthdays	8

Staff

Rev. Martha Edwards (Pastor)- pastor@bellevuefpc.org
 Work Days: Tues-Friday, Sunday
 Church Office Hours: Tues 9-3, Wed 9-7, Thurs 9-6

June Kouba (Temporary Church Administrator)- admin@bellevuefpc.org
 Tues, Wed, Thurs 11:00 am to 4:00 pm

Cindy Reilly (Children's Ministry Director)- 1stpcbkids@gmail.com
 Tuesday 1-3 pm, Wednesday 5-7:30 pm (hours may vary)

Shelli Dart (Youth Ministry Director)- 1stpcbyouth@gmail.com
 Tu, Th 10:30 am to 2:00 pm (hours may vary)

Liane Kirmis (Music Ministry Director)- lianekirmis12@gmail.com
 Tu, Wed 10:30 am to 3:00 pm (hours may vary)

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

Tara Williams (Treasurer)- tarawilliams123@yahoo.com



We Keep in Our Prayers

- ◆ Prayers for Don Glenn for continued healing and comfort as he battles health issues.
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the family and friends of Jack Simmons and Mike Tabler who have recently passed away.

Financial Information

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Income	\$27,677.38	\$191,452.67
Expenses	\$23,148.62	\$147,288.50
Difference	\$4,528.76	\$44,164.17

Contingency Fund as of May 31st: \$74,329.22



Happenings



Collection Sundays (see tote in foyer):
July 5th, July 12th, July 19th

Bellevue Together Back to School Event

Are you ready to practice the value of service? Our mission with **Bellevue Together** continues. Please consider one of these opportunities!

- ⇒ **Welcome/Check in:** Greet families at their assigned time and check off the list.
- ⇒ **Family Navigator:** Receive a card for each child, help shop for clothes, and direct to backpack/school supplies. Sign up for orientation before your shift
- ⇒ **Backpack and School Supply Room:** - Help students select a backpack and supplies for preschool through high school.
- ⇒ **Shoe/Sock Room:** Help find and try on new shoes and choose socks.
- ⇒ **Books Room:** Help families select books.
- ⇒ **Hygiene Room:** Help select hygiene products for 4th to 12th grade.
- ⇒ **Clothing check & Bagging Station:** Help clear empty hangers and resupply racks as needed.
- ⇒ **Provide Snacks for Volunteers:** Provide 2 dozen treats/snacks for volunteers.

August 3-4 (Monday & Tuesday): 10 am- Noon, 12 pm-3 pm & 5-7 pm

August 5 (Wednesday): 10 am-Noon set up, 1-3 pm set up if needed.

August 6 (Thursday): 1:30-7:15 pm

August 7 (Friday): 1:30-7:15 pm

August 8 (Saturday): 8:30 am to 3 pm

***Shifts are 2-3 hours. Volunteer for what works for your schedule.**

Come 30 minutes before your event for orientation, a vest and name tag.

New Beginnings Worship Center
2231 Jefferson St

Contact Denise Seaman at 402-981-9050 or seaman@cox.net for any questions.

Sign up to volunteer at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4FAEA92AA5F4C25-64582818-2627>

Use this QR code.



Mahoney State Park

Pelican Pete's Amazing Feat Melodrama

This hilarious western-style comedy is a staple performance piece put on by Popcorn Productions at the Kountze Theater inside Eugene T. Mahoney State Park in Ashland, Nebraska. It routinely features interactive audience-participation elements where you are highly encouraged to hiss at the villain and cheer for the hero.

Sunday, August 9th at 3:00 pm

Tickets are \$10 each

**If you plan on attending the park is located at :
28500 W Park Highway**

You will need a valid Nebraska Vehicle Park Entry Permit.

If you have any questions please contact Marsha Holbert at 402-639-3695



The Arrows to Aerospace parade will be marching down Mission Avenue on
Saturday, August 15th

This is a great opportunity to show people the spirit and mission of
First Presbyterian Church.

The Fellowship and Membership Committee are looking for volunteers to help decorate
the float on Friday evening the 14th at 5:30pm.

We also need CHILDREN, YOUTH and ADULTS, to participate in the parade. We need
people to ride on our float and people to walk alongside. Please meet at the church no
later than 8:30am on Saturday morning wearing your VBS T- shirt or church shirt if you
have one.

**Let's show our community what a strong, exciting church
we are!**



Children's Ministry

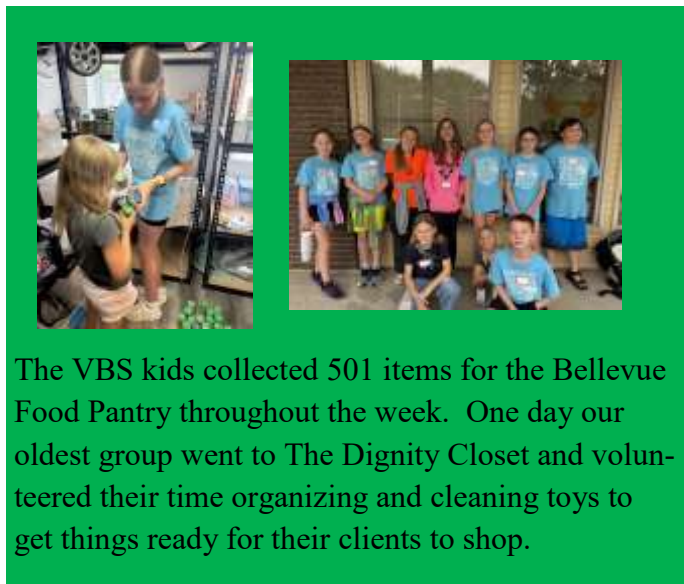


Cindy Reilly



We just wrapped up a wonderful VBS week in Rainforest Falls! Over 40 children blessed us each day with their energy and were excited to sing, play and learn with us.

I am so thankful for all of the volunteers who stepped up to lead activities, serve as crew leaders, create delicious snacks and help decorate. Thank you to everyone who donated items to help us with snack ingredients and items for science



The VBS kids collected 501 items for the Bellevue Food Pantry throughout the week. One day our oldest group went to The Dignity Closet and volunteered their time organizing and cleaning toys to get things ready for their clients to shop.



Bible Points for the Week:

- *God is Our Creator*
- *God is Love*
- *God Knows Everything*
- *God is Forever*
- *God is Our Safe Place*



Each day the kids had activity blocks for games, science/art, Bible stories and music.



July Youth Fellowship (YF) News



“I hear about your faith in our Lord Jesus and about your love for all God’s people. As you share your faith with others, I pray they may come to know all the blessings Christ has given us. My friend, your love has made me happy and has greatly encouraged me. It has also cheered the hearts of God’s people.” Philemon 1:5-7

First, on a personal note, I want to thank you all for the calls, cards, prayers and meals you have been sending after John’s heart surgery in May. It’s hard to believe it has almost been 2 months! Your support and love and prayers have been sustaining both of us and John is improving every day. I think the above scripture is a perfect. Thank you all for being so wonderful and supportive and for showing God’s love to us every day.

I am writing this as the church is full of happy children’s voices. I am so proud of all of the youth that volunteer at VBS. The Littles love being around the Bigs and you all are setting such a great example for them.



children’s voices. I am so proud of all of the youth that volunteer at VBS. The Littles love being around the Bigs and you all are setting such a great example for

The pictures this month are from the PMRV (Presbytery of Missouri River Valley) Youth gathering at 1st Omaha on June 7th. We not only got to play a bunch of games but got a recap of 1st



Omaha and Hope’s group mission trip this summer. All of our churches have busy youth and summers are hard to pin down schedules so those two churches decided to work together. Part of the discussion that day was the possibility of doing more co-op activities and maybe including summer mission trip co-ops. Typically the sponsors of mission activities want at least 15 people in the group so joining together will open up more trip opportunities to all of our area churches.

Speaking of group events, the PMRV Youth Committee sponsors 4 events each year and the feedback has been so positive we will be adding a few more this coming school year. Keep your eyes on the news letter and emails for these opportunities. Currently the schedule is September 27th at Skinny Bones, December 27th Smash Park Pickleball, January 18th Glow Party, a Spring and Summer event are being planned too. Times and additional details will follow.

I hope you are enjoying your summer so far. Be safe, make good choices and be a blessing!

With Grace, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love!

Shelli



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

July 26-31 Synod School

[Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, IA](#)



July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			11:30a Brunch Bunch Lunch at First Watch	7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)	1:30p Piecemakers	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9a Coffee Fellowship		1p Staff Meeting (VVR)	9:00a PEO (VVR)	9:30a Finance Meeting		
9:30a Worship Service			6p Building & Grounds Mtg	7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
10:30a Deacon Mtg (VVR)						
10:30a Technology Mtg (CR)						
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30a Hygiene Kit Assembly	10:30a PEO Lunch & Mtg	6:00 Membership Mtg (ZM)		7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
9a Coffee Fellowship						
9:30a Worship Service						
10:30a Christian Ed Mtg (VVR)						
10:30a Worship Mtg (CR)						
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9a Coffee Fellowship				7p Session Meeting (VVR)		
9:30a Worship Service				7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
10:30a Fellowship Mtg (VVR)						
26	27	28	29	30	31	
9a Coffee Fellowship				7p Troop 467 (Classrooms)		
9:30a Worship Service						
10:30a Personnel Mtg						
10:30a Mission Mtg (CR)						

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- 1 Dawn Matthews
- 1 Randy Reffert
- 8 Chuck Clark
- 13 Betty Kieran
- 14 Jackson Griffin
- 14 Emerson Griffin
- 14 Violet Higgins
- 14 Isabelle Goracke
- 15 Brian Stephan
- 16 Tara Williams
- 17 Ron Luster
- 23 Paul Boyd
- 24 Patrick Warren
- 25 Rita Hurlbutt
- 25 Denny Hilfiker
- 26 Rick Kirmis
- 27 Ivna Johnson
- 28 Joe Medakovich
- 29 Heidi Brink

Want more information about First Presbyterian Church? Please contact Romi at 402-291-1104 or email admin@bellevuefpc.org

