

THE BLADE

March 2018

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” **John 3:16 NRSV**

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday • March 25 • 10:30 am

Join us in the waving of the palms celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem!

Maundy Thursday • 6:30 pm

Participate in the Lord's Supper and service marking the night Jesus was arrested.

Easter Sunday

9:00 am Sunrise Service • 9:30 am Breakfast

10:30 am Worship

He is Risen!

We will celebrate the renewal of God's promise with a beautiful service of rejoicing and fellowship.

Mark your calendar for the Easter Party!

The party for children through fifth grade will be March 25th at 2:00 pm. The Youth will meet at 1:00 to set up for the party.

What does Maundy mean?

Maundy is derived from the Latin word for "command" and refers to Jesus' commandment to the disciples to "Love one another as I have loved you." Due to his Jewish heritage, on that night Jesus was observing the Passover Seder, the feast of unleavened bread. Passover is the Jewish festival commemorating the exodus of the Jews from Egypt. The speed of their flight left no time for bread to rise.

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Coffee Fellowship

Lord's Supper - First Sunday of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule

June-August

9:30 am Worship Service

Nursery care is available on first floor during Sunday School and Worship

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Friday

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

March

*In like
a lion...*

Out like a lamb.

@FPC

THE BLADE

Published Monthly (June/July &
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and photos, like us
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*Our vision is to see lives changed
through joyful worship, supportive
relationships, faith formation, and
heartfelt service empowered by the
mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ.*

Prayer Families

Prayer is an important part of our life as a community of faith. We encourage you to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer. The families and individuals are selected at random.

March 4: Ginny Conger, David & Louise Crain, Maxine Dornbush

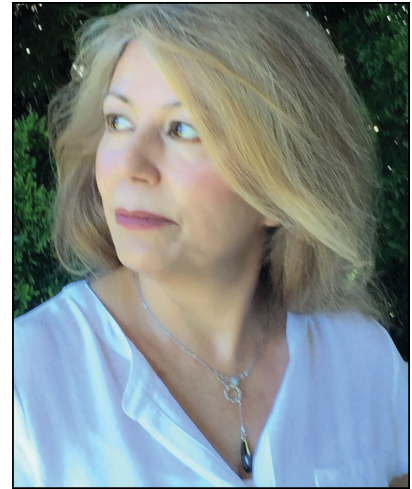
March 11: Susan Dobesh, Bill & Ann Douglas

March 18: John & Robin Eich, Sam Eich, Evelyn Fee

March 25: Henrietta Gehring



Often we come to a point in our lives when we begin to think that the only thing that we can do to be of assistance to "our neighbors" is to pray. I believe just a little differently; I think that the most important thing that we can do to be of assistance to, and to show our love for, our neighbors is to pray. If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact any of the prayer chain volunteers: Bob & Jan Jones, Dolores Canaday, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, and Pastor Nina Westfall. If you would like to become a part of this prayer team contact Jan Jones.



“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.”

First John 4:18

Perfect Love Casts Out Fears

*Why do I sense so much fear in you?
Where there is fear, that is not where I should be.
Why do I see you a captive of the world?
This is not the person I knew, this is not you.
Freedom of which you talk; are you really free?
Do you really know what it means, its beauty?
The spirit must soar, boundless with God's morals.
Don't captivate it in cell of a body, human standards.
Know real freedom, freedom of the spirit, of the soul,
No-one can captivate the soul, let it fly high, let it soar,
“Wildness,” do I call it? to be yourself is what I mean
To be a person and a spirit all in one is what it means.
Truth is the way to perfect freedom, experience its beauty.
Never will life be the same, never again will you be in chains,
Don't be afraid, come give me your hand, cast away those fears,
Fear is not where I reside, make room, room for that perfect love.*

*Love,
Pastor Nina*

Men's Brotherhood Update

By Andrew L'Amour

March 2018

Scripture Reading: And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 18:3

Quote: "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."

-Andre Gide

Men's Brotherhood Notes: On February 15 we held our regular meeting. Susan Huggins gave the program on her Bible translation ministry in Oaxaca, Mexico. This was a very wonderful program as Susan has been doing this ministry for over 30 years. Also Adam Young came and talked about the upcoming Troop 14 Brunch on February 18. The event was very successful. The scouts and MB really thank everyone for supporting this. Men's Brotherhood sponsors our Scout Troop and it has been a highly successful scouting program over the years thanks to the leadership of Joe Tschetter.

Coming up: March 15 is the next scheduled meeting.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for humility. Pray for removal of any pride in our lives.

Action: Explore any reason, fear or other obstacle in our way that keeps us from having a spirit of humility.

With the season of Lent here, I am reminded that I need to reflect on changes needed in my life for me to continue to move forward. I had a friend who said once the only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth. We can find ourselves in a rut too often if we don't have the courage or strength to notice and admit it. Being in a rut can stifle spiritual growth. It can even kill it if we aren't mindful.

Is there really only one way to do things? There are always choices we make every day. Whether it be the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the careers

we pursue; there are all of these choices. Do we ever think that even the spiritual ideas we have involve choices? Imagine eating the same food every day. Every day! Imagine wearing the same clothes every day. Every day! Or doing the same thing over and over and over. It has been said doing the same thing over and over and expecting change is a sign of insanity.

Well I suppose it depends on what that over and over again thing is. If it is a mindless rote activity I agree. But if it is the active pursuit of knowledge, ideas involving spiritual growth through contemplation and meditation and prayer in order to gain new insights into how to be more of the mind of Christ and devote our life activities to love one another as directed in Matthew 22:39, then that would be a good thing.

During Lent Christians should be engaged in a self-examining process looking for our strengths and weaknesses and how we go forward all year spiritually, growing in the love and knowledge of God. Jesus said we must become like little children. What did he mean? According to Billy Graham, it refers to becoming more humble, removing any sense of pride that we don't need God or Jesus or the Holy Spirit in our lives. We can do it our own way without God. He goes on to say we should renounce our pride and trust God as little children trust their parents. Fear, pride, embarrassment – whatever it is that could be holding us back, we must go to God, humbly praying for help. And as little children grow physically we will be growing spiritually as we actively seek God throughout the year. And rather than giving something up for Lent, take on things that reflect our love for God. As the Humble Servant is to us, be that humble servant to others. Thanks be to God!

Youth! Start revving up for 2018 Rally

The Presbytery of South Dakota will be holding the Annual Youth Rally April 6-8 at the Ramkota Inn in Pierre.

The theme this year is "Survivor Youth Rally 2018." The weekend will be filled with challenges and obstacles just as our daily lives are, and we will use God to get through these just as we need to in our lives. "For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith." Ephesians 2:8.

Students in 7th grade or older are invited to attend. The group will be led by Bonnie Foster and will meet at the church on Friday April 6th at 2:00 pm. The trip will be funded through the generosity of the Embry Fund. The registration form is available here: <http://bit.ly/2oI5Qt2> and should be completed and turned in at the office by Sunday, March 11, 2018.

The mission this year is 'changing

lives to survive.' For the Mission Project, groups are asked to collect change and bring it to the rally. Whoever collects the most change will get to take it and give it to the cause of their choice.

For more information, or any questions, please email Bonnie Foster at bfoster1996@gmail.com, or call 605-690-6479.

Outreach Committee UPDATES

The Outreach Committee is looking at goals and potential projects for the coming year. The committee is evaluating possible projects.

In the fall the committee will sponsor a movie for the Weekend Stuff programs which provides entertainment for students living on campus at SDSU.

Potential other projects include a recipe collection to be given out at the fall Community Festival, knitting or sewing prayer ministry, hosting of the Harvest Table, cooperative projects with the Board of Deacons, gifts for hospital patients, helping to sponsor on-campus lectures and reading with elementary school students.

For the time being the committee has decided to discontinue the Second Sunday Movie events. It will continue to advertise church events in various publications.

If you would like to join the Outreach Committee and participate in these programs and events contact Susan Smith.

*Our Lenten Journey:
Pray, Renew,
Prepare*

PROJECT JOY.....

Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts to Project Joy! Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Project Joy is a charitable, non-profit organization, dedicated to providing children and families living in Brookings County, who are in need, an opportunity to receive holiday gifts through the generous donations of individuals, businesses, and organizations.

Don't forget!

Lenten Potlucks

continue in March

Potluck Soup Suppers start at 6 pm on:

March 14

March 21



A program will follow the delicious meal. Please join us!

Deacon Notes

A new year and a new moderator for the Deacons. At first when I was asked to be moderator I had my doubts, but God knew better, so here I am. We have an amazing group of seven Deacons. In January we spent time dividing up duties and assignments between group members. Your Deacon should be contacting you in the next several weeks.

A project that we are doing in 2018 is delivering meals for 60+ Dining. The First Presbyterian was assigned Routes 1-3 and Bethel Baptist is assigned Routes 4-6. The dates in 2018 are February 12-23, June 4-15, September 24-October 5, and December 17-21. Those who are interested in helping, please mark these dates on your calendars. We will post a sign-up sheet closer to the dates listed above. Thank you to each of you who signed up for February. Our routes were filled immediately.

The Deacons are trying to put together a new direc-

tory of addresses, phone numbers, and emails. The directory would be available to the congregation. If you have had a change of address, phone number, or email please let us know. The directory would be used only by church members and not be given out to the public. If you want your information kept private, place "private" by your information. It would then only be used by church officers. If snowbirds would like to include their address down south, we would enjoy sending out a card or two during the winter.

A thank you to Dolores Canaday for all her assistance with transfer of duties of moderator. Dolores went above and beyond as a Deacon. We thank her, and she will be missed.

As we enter the season of Lent and prepare for Easter, let's be mindful of the needs of others and let a Deacon know so assistance can be given.

Ella Lane, Moderator

Pickford directs FPC choir

By Bonnie Foster

Let me introduce you to Anna Pickford. She has been our interim choir director since October 2017.

Anna grew up in Custer, South Dakota, and is the youngest in her family. She credits her father, who plays the guitar, with her love of music. As a child her dad would make up silly songs for doing chores, such as making your bed, or brushing your teeth. What a fun memory!

Anna is a recent SDSU graduate with a Music Education Degree. She is using her degree offering private lessons on flute and piano at a downtown Brookings studio.

In her spare time, Anna likes to hike and bike, or go swimming. However, she equally enjoys coloring, cross-country skiing, making homemade cards and scrapbook-

ing.

Anna enjoys spending her summers back home in Custer working with the Parks & Forestry Association. You can find her at either Jewel Cave or Wind Cave Bookstores throughout the summer.

She is not sure what her long-term goal is, but for now, she wants to keep teaching flute and piano lessons and hopefully teach at the elementary level.

Her time at First Presbyterian has helped her grow beyond her comfort zone, enforced her love of music, and enabled her to grow in faith. Anna thanks everyone for being so welcoming and supportive. She is glad to be a part of our church family, and wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

Anna will soon join the church as a member. Welcome, Anna!



Scholarship applications due March 31

Applications for the SDSU Scholarship (\$500), funded by the Embry Fund are due March 31st. Applicants should be active in the church and attending SDSU for the 2018-2019 school year.

Sign up for Camp Rimrock!

It's time to start thinking about Summer camp! Registration at Camp Rimrock is open now- our church registrations will be sent in on May 13th. Through the generosity of the Embry fund, each child may attend one camp for a \$25 fee. For more information, check the website: <http://pioneerrimrock.camp/>

- June 10-15: Young Adventure camp (completed grades 3-6)
- June 24-20: Seekers (classic camp for students who have completed grades 3-6)
- June 29-July 2: Family Camp
- July 5-8: You and Me (completed grades K-2 plus adult partner)
- July 15-21: Pathfinder (classic camp for students who have completed grades 6-8)
- July 22-28: Wilderness Camp (completed grades 7-12)



Communion set answers prayer at ULC

Upon its closing, the Olivet Presbyterian Church donated hymnals, a communion service, candlesticks and alter items to First Presbyterian Church. Since the church already has many of these items Dolores Canaday searched for a group that could use some of the pieces. The communion set has found a new home at the United Learning Community. Chaplain Tufte picked up the items on Feb. 15. She said this donation was an answer to prayer for a set for the community.

World Day of Prayer celebrated at FPC

Church Women United celebrated World Day of Prayer at 2 pm on March 2, at First Presbyterian Church. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement led by Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year. The prayer service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname and the World Day of Prayer International Committee. The country of Suriname is located in the northeast area of South America, next to Guyana, on the Atlantic Ocean. The theme of this gathering was "All God's Creation is Very Good!" All church men and women were invited to this World Day of Prayer. An offering was taken to support the Church Women United programs. Lunch and fellowship followed the program.

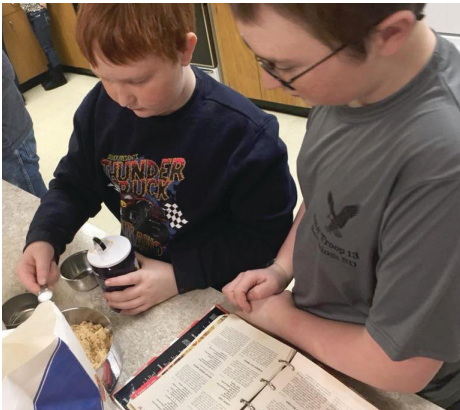


Cookie crew bakes sweet treats

On Sunday, February 10th, FPC youth gathered for fun and baking!

Kids from 2nd grade through 10th grade joined in the fun -- of reading recipes, doing math,

following directions, and taste testing! The goal of the day was to make Valentines cards and goodies to share the love of Valentines Day to our homebound members.



HY VEE

RECEIPTS

We made it!

First Presbyterian received a \$1,000 check this month for collecting \$150,000 in Hy-Vee receipts. But now the tally starts over again so ...

Remember to Bring in Your
Hy-Vee Receipts
THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000.00
Received to Date: \$63,392.65
Needed: \$86,607.35



Church Secretary Rozanne McGrath receives a \$1,000 check from Hy-Vee Assistant Manager Emily Hamer.

MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Committees	2 11:30 Lunch Bunch Birthday: Priscilla Eitel	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 7:00 Bell Choir Practice Birthday: Sam Artz	5 7 pm Buildings & Grounds Committee 7 pm Scouts	6 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 pm Mission & Finance	7 6 pm Soup Potluck 7 pm Choir Birthday: Teri Bierstedt	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:15 pm Deacons 7 pm Session	9 11:30 Lunch Bunch	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Youth Rally Registration Deadline	12 7 pm Scouts	13 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	14 6 pm Soup Potluck	15 9:30 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood Birthday: Henrietta Gohring	16 11:30 Lunch Bunch Birthday: Helen Peterson	17 Birthday: Hannah Moerke
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	19 Anniversary: Carey & Lisa Bretsch 7 pm Scouts Birthday: Harold Poppen	20 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) Birthday: David Crain	21 6 pm Soup Potluck 7 pm Choir Birthday: David Peterson	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study	23 11:30 Lunch Bunch	24 Birthday: Sharon Hofland
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 2 pm Children's Easter Party 6:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	26 7 pm Scouts Birthday: Amir Rottluff	27 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) Birthday: Evelyn Fee	28 7 pm Choir	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday	30 11:30 Lunch Bunch Birthday: Delores Koepsell	31 SDSU Embry Scholarship applications due

The Blade
First Presbyterian Church
405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested

**THE BLADE IS
AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of by post mail, contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 692-2416.

