

# THE BLADE

*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*

## August 2020

“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*



**First Presbyterian Church** will be participating in two programs **collecting school supplies** for children going back to school this fall. Please see info below about these two great programs. Pastor Norlita will **bless the backpacks and products** collected by our First Pres family at our **August 30<sup>th</sup> service**. Thank you!! Susan Smith, Outreach Chairperson

“**Family Back 2 School Project**” is a **Brookings community effort** which will meet the challenge of providing school supplies to children attending school in Brookings County who are struggling with the cost. This year’s **event will be held on Thursday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at the Faith Reformed Church**. In 2019 with your help, we were able to supply 525 children with the supplies they needed for the new school year. Each child also received a pair of shoes. This project combines the efforts of many individuals, churches, service groups, school counselors, Social Service agencies, the Salvation Army, local businesses, and many other groups who have concern for children. Due to COVID-19, the committee is **requesting monetary donations in lieu of supplies**. The committee will then purchase supplies needed. **Monetary gifts will be received** at the next two Sunday (**August 2 & 9**) worship services.

In 2019 **Bienvenidos a Brookings** gave 45 Latino and Hispanic children, in Flandreau, backpacks filled with school supplies needed to start a new school year, at a new school, in a new country, with new language, customs and hopefully new friends. This helped these children begin on equal footing with other children in the community.

**Bienvenidos a Brookings** will do so again, and our own **Outreach Committee of FPC Brookings, is asking us to help**. Here are some of the **new school supplies** that our church **members/friends can donate**: Kleenex (Boxed), Disinfectant Wipes, 24 pack of Crayons, glue sticks, pencils, 2”binders, notebooks, folders, loose-leaf paper, erasers, etc. (The complete list of needs is on the Bulletin Board at church, across from the office.) **Monetary donations** in lieu of supplies **are also welcome**. Checks can be made **to Bienvenidos a Brookings**. Questions? Contact Jeanne Manzer, [jjwordsmith@mac.com](mailto:jjwordsmith@mac.com), text to 605-691-1018.

**Muchas Gracias!** (Thank you!)



# AUGUST



## THE BLADE

### First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue  
Brookings, SD 57006  
(605) 692-2416

[www.brookingspresbyterian.org](http://www.brookingspresbyterian.org)  
[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net)

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 2:30 pm

### Session Members

Donna Flint (clerk),  
Dolores Canaday, Martin Maca,  
Mike McCann, David Peterson,  
Susan Smith, Terry Spitzenberger

### Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190  
[pastorfpcbroomings@outlook.com](mailto:pastorfpcbroomings@outlook.com)

**In office** 9 am-12:30 pm  
Monday through Thursday

### Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath  
[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net)

### Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates and  
photos, like us on  
Facebook



[www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings)



We are back in the church, however, there are some who do not feel comfortable attending considering the circumstances. Offerings can still be made by sending a check to the church or to David Peterson.

Thank you for your support.  
David Peterson, Treasurer



Our team of prayer volunteers are eager and ready to pray for you, a loved one, or any special request. Contact Jan Jones at 692-5325 and/or Lee Peterson at 692-7757. (Concerns are confidentially held within our prayer team unless it is to be shared by the requester.)

## Prayer Families

We encourage everyone in our community of faith and life together to pray for those listed below during daily prayer time.

**August 2:** Richard & Dolores Canaday, Ginny Conger

**August 9:** Susan Dobesh, Maxine Dornbush, Bill & Ann Douglas

**August 16:** John & Robin Eich, Samuel Eich, Mary Ermel

**August 23:** Evelyn Fee, Robert & Pat Fishback, Robby & Donna Flint

**August 30:** Joel & Bonnie Foster & family Lynn, Paige & Gayle; Neal & Julie Foster, Elizabeth Fox

We would appreciate flowers from  
your gardens for our worship service  
in the Sanctuary.



# **Congregational Meeting Updates**

## **July 26, 2020**

Session has begun conversation with Brookings United Church of Christ at their request about entering into a shared pastor possibility between the two churches. No formal decisions have been made to date. The Session will keep the congregation informed concerning this request.

Rick Salonen was elected to fill the vacancy on the Nominating Committee.

### **Mid-Year Financial Status**

Dave Peterson, Treasurer

As of June 30, 2020, we have \$74,185.12 in the checking account and have a net Ordinary Income of \$6,304.88. Compare this to 2019 where the numbers were \$52,471.69 and \$4,789.41. Also, the first half income and first half expenditures were quite similar. Initially this looks good but we have experienced some irregularities over the past year. For much of 2019 we did not have a Pastor and thus did not spend approximately \$57,500 of the budgeted amount. As a result, we ended 2019 with a \$19,492 budget surplus, increasing the checking account balance.

Looking forward to the second half of this year using the second half of last year and making adjustments for salary and other changes we will likely end the year with expenditures exceeding income by at least \$15,000. Realize it is difficult to make accurate projections with so many variables so track the progress as we continue to provide monthly reports to the congregation.

## **Session Meeting Update**

### **July 9, 2020**

Session has called a congregational meeting for July 27th for the purpose of electing an at-large member of the nominating committee to complete Gary Larson's term. There will also be an update on the church finances at this meeting.

Session has contacted United Church of Christ, Brookings, to continue the conversation regarding sharing a pastor. A meeting will be planned in July with our session and their board to begin conversations.

Building and Grounds reports that the church water heater has broken and is being replaced. In addition, new extinguishers will be purchased to meet the new fire code for FE13 clean agent extinguishers.

Christian Education reports that Sunday School will resume September 13th, assuming we are still worshipping in the building at that time. If not, options for virtual Sunday school will be explored.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Flint  
Clerk to the Session

## Revelings August 2020

### COMMUNITY IS CARING



#### Romans 12:3-13

<sup>3</sup> For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. <sup>4</sup>For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. <sup>6</sup>We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; <sup>7</sup>ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; <sup>8</sup>the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

#### *Marks of the True Christian*

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; <sup>10</sup>love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. <sup>11</sup>Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. <sup>13</sup>Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. <http://bible.oremus.org/> NRSV

We continue with the second installment in the series of “Community Is” drawn from the Todaydevotional.com website by Bret Lamsma, adapted for our own church community and family. Drawing from the verses in Romans 12, we see the emphasis by Paul on God’s grace, the measure of faith we’re assigned/given, the spiritual gifts in a variety of forms also bestowed upon us by God. We also see the admonition to continue in patience, diligence, extending hospitality and compassion, but most of all to continue not just have hope, but rejoice in it (Paul’s words). All of these are things we may struggle with at times under the best of circumstances, and they may become almost impossible in the very trying times of crisis, even a global pandemic. As we’ve seen since March, everything has changed, swiftly in ways that have made or can make us uneasy. Hope may seem fleeting, rejoicing, well.....

Here are some thoughts that Lamsma wrote reflecting the Romans 12 verses:

Concerning a recent passing of a person, “Care was expressed in tangible ways. People brought them (the family) meals, and many others prayed for them and sent cards, a number of people gave hugs when they were needed. (Obviously before our pandemic when it was safe to do so). Some supporters had dealt with similar situations before, and others could only sympathize, having little idea what (the person) and family were dealing with. But the entire community cared for them in whatever way they could. Paul, in Romans 12, urges his listeners to use whatever gifts they have been given to their fullest ability. What matters is that we use them to the best of our ability for the good of others. In community, people care for each other. They use their gifts to help each other and to see that anyone who is wounded or hurting or in some other difficulty is looked after and loved. Sometimes healing is possible. Other times mourning and support are needed when healing won’t take place. At times we all need caring for. Having a community around us to do that, is essential.”

As I’ve observed our church family as community of faith during these last six months, I stand amazed at how much all that Lamsma describes is demonstrated here. Even as this time of pandemic has come to and upon us. I’ve heard amazing words about meals delivered, doctor appointment driving help, phone calls made, emails sent, cards and flowers delivered. How amazing is the what that our church family loves and cares for those in the kingdom of God, inside and outside of our church’s walls. Thank you for being the body of Christ. Keep up your hope, keep using your gifts as

God calls us to be faithful. And let's continue to find ways to rejoice each day, even in the smallest of ways. Stay safe, strong and blessed.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Rev. Norlita

## MESSAGES for AUGUST

Sunday August 2: "Loaves & Fishes " Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday August 9: "Water Walking" 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15, Matthew 14:22-23

Sunday August 16: "God's Extravagant Love in Mercy" Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2, 29-32, Matthew 15:10-28

Sunday August 23: "Who Do You Say That I Am" Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday August 30: "What Will You Give" Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6,23-26, 45; Matthew 16:21-28



Thank you for food pantry donations however the need is never ending. Food Pantry donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off at our church or the Food Pantry at 217 4th St. between 9:30 and 5 MWF.

Thank you to Nelda Holden, Dave Peterson, Ella Lane, Marjorie & Harold Poppen, Elizabeth Fox, and Ann & Bill Douglas for delivering 60+ dining in July. Consider volunteering in October when it is our turn again; it only takes about 45 minutes to deliver the food and less time the second day because you know where you are going.

**Please donate** a can of Lysol or Microban disinfectant to the church—it will be so helpful for our expenses this year. Thank you!



*I wish to thank you Rev Norlita, Deacons, Men's Brotherhood and others for the calls, prayers, walking outside, and any other assistance since the passing of Lois. All are appreciated.*

*God bless you,  
Dee Watson*

Congratulations to Don Norton  
for being elected President of the Brookings Rotary Club  
for the ensuing year!



## Upcoming Events

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB FREE FOOD TRUCK** will be distributing boxes of food. This program is intended to help ensure farmers' produce reach those who need them and do not go to waste during COVID-related distribution chain interruptions. All individuals and families are welcome, and no sign up is necessary.

**Dates:** Mondays August 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 2:00-4:00 PM

**Location:** Pioneer Park-6<sup>th</sup> St & First Ave.

\* Please use the east entrance and exit to the west on Western Avenue

**BROOKINGS EMPOWERMENT PROJECT (BEP)** will be hosting a guest speaker and picnic (food is provided for first 40 attendees) at the Pioneer Park Bandshell on Monday, August 10, 5:30-7:30 pm. Guest speaker Phyllis Arends, former Director of NAMI SD, will answer questions about mental health. All are invited.

### **WORDPLAY FUN: Calling All Wordsmiths and Joke Tellers**

Rev. Norlita is asking those who are interested, to participate in a Pun Competition. Please submit your best Puns and Corniest Jokes to the Church Office for publication in the September Blade. We as church will then vote on them in September via email, mail, phone calls. The winners will be announced in the October Blade. Thanks for your help. Looking forward to the responses!

### **90+ BIRTHDAYS -- *Happy Birthday!***

Two members of First Presbyterian Church are celebrating special 90+ birthdays in August. If you would like to send birthday cards and best wishes, here are their addresses:

#### August 3

Dorothy Williamson  
1340 Trail Ridge Circle  
Brookings, SD 57006

#### August 26

Bob Bartling  
808 Christine Ave  
Brookings, SD 57006



\*We are heartily sorry for the July Blade calendar omission of Gene Goodale's birthday on July 19<sup>th</sup>. We wish you many years of God's blessings.



## MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

August 2020



**Scripture Reading:** Proverbs 17:22 A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

**Quote:** "Tis good to laugh. Yer gotta laugh and laugh out loud," said the leprechaun. "You can cry if you want to but laughin's better." – Jacqueline Edgington, Happy Jack

**Men's Brotherhood Notes:** Men's Brotherhood has suspended its meetings for the time. Please watch for news of this fall's activities.

**Prayer Concerns:** Pray for a gift of laughter if you need one; pray thanks if you have one! Always pray and say thanks!!

**Action:** Share a good laugh with a friend every day. Here's one that I encourage you to tell someone you know:

A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!"

"Why not?" asked his mother.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me. Two, I don't like them."

His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why YOU WILL go to church. One, you're 47 years old. Two, you're the pastor!"

Having a sense of humor is more than being able to tell jokes. I don't tell jokes well. But I do try to find a shade of humor in any situation. If you can't, that is okay but always try to smile and be cheerful, even if you have to fake it.

Growing up I was very nervous and self-conscious about many things about myself and my life. It wasn't until I had a friend who taught me to laugh at myself. It was like opening a rose. The petals just keep unfolding; the many things to laugh about seem endless. I find a good time for me to share any humor is in stressful situations. Many times there is a tension. It helps relax folks. It lets people know I feel emotionally okay and it allows them to open up too. I have never found that it diminishes the seriousness of the procedures. God gave us the gift of humor to share. Share it!



**The Scouts Troop 14** will not be meeting until after school starts again in the fall.

### **HY VEE**

Remember to save  
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$69,434.66

Needed to Date: \$80,565.34

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

# August 2020

| Sun   | Mon   | Tues  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|-----|
| <p>♥ Please pray for Pam Larson as Gary's birthday would have been on August 27th</p>                     |   |   |  |  | OFFICE CLOSED  | 1   |
| 2<br>10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary   | 3<br>BIRTHDAY:<br>Dorothy Williamson                            | 4<br>9:30 am Coffee Group Hillcrest Park                                  | 5<br>ANNIVERSARY:<br>Chad & Diane Broksieck    | 6<br>9:30 Bible Study Hillcrest Park   | 7  | 8   |
| 9<br>10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary   | 10  | 11<br>9:30 am Coffee Group Hillcrest Park                                 | 12   | 13 9:30 Bible Study Hillcrest Park<br>Session Meeting via Zoom 6:30 p.m.<br>BIRTHDAY: Dennis Hopfinger | 14 BLADE ARTICLES DUE<br>ANNIVERSARIES:<br>Robby & Donna Flint<br>Dan & Carolyn Moerke | 15  |
| 16<br>10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary  | 17<br>ANNIVERSARIES:<br>Bob & Jan Jones<br>Joel & Bonnie Foster | 18<br>9:30 am Coffee Group Hillcrest Park<br>BIRTHDAY:<br>Scott Hinricher | 19<br>ANNIVERSARY:<br>Stanley & Julie Scubelek | 20 9:30 Bible Study Hillcrest Park<br>ANNIVERSARIES:<br>Andrew & Beth L'Amour<br>Martin & Sally Maca   | 21   | 22  |
| 26<br>10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary  | 24  | 25<br>9:30 am Coffee Group Hillcrest Park                                 | 26<br>BIRTHDAY:<br>Bob Bartlinig               | 27<br>9:30 Bible Study Hillcrest Park<br><br>(Prayers for Pam Larson and family)                       | 28   | 29  |
| 30<br>10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary<br>Backpack Blessing<br>BIRTHDAYS<br>Paige Foster<br>Dennis Langland | 31  |   |  |  |  |     |



# The Blade

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



**Return Service Requested**

**Regular Sunday Schedule**

**September - May**

9:15 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship Service  
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Lord's Supper—  
First Sunday of each month

**Pastor's Office Hours**

**Monday-Thursday**

9:00 am – 12:30 pm

Appointments also available  
at times as needed/desired

**Pastor's Sabbath**

**Friday and Saturday**

(in emergencies,  
please call/text pastor's cell #)

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday - Thursday**

9:00 am – 2:30 am

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