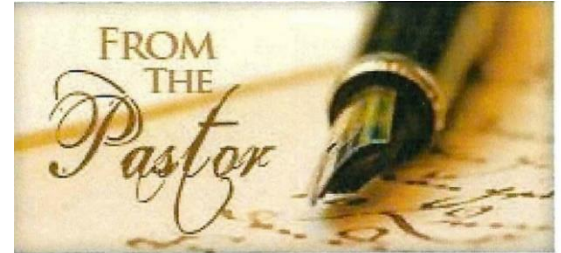


THE BLADE

December 2018 & January 2019

"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



Friends, Advent is almost here. We have decided to have the Advent Potlucks straight after the Sunday worship service to avoid the evening weather. Advent services are starting on December 2nd with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, leading into Christmas Eve service which will be on December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

ADVENT POTLUCK
will be held following
worship service on
**Sundays, December 2,
9, 16 & 23.** Come join us
for some good
Christmas fun! Feel free
to bring a dish to share!

Listed are the services during Advent through Christmas Eve. We hope to make it a blessed and spirit filled season.

This is the season of Thanksgiving and as we count our blessings, please be aware of those who might not be so fortunate.

In Matthew 25:35-36 Jesus says: **"for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."** Then verse 40 says, **And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."**

YOUTH SUNDAY
The Sunday School
children and youth will
be leading the entire
worship service,
including the readings
and songs, on
Sunday, December 16.

MUSICAL SUNDAY
Worship on **December 23**
4th Advent Sunday of Love
will be a time of uplifting
and spirit filled music
with scripture.

Pastor Nina

**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**
December 24, 2018
7:00 p.m.
All are Welcome!



Regular Sunday Schedule
September - May
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Fellowship Hour
Lord's Supper—
First Sunday of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule
June – August
9:30am Worship Service
Nursery care is available
on first floor during
Sunday Worship

Pastor's Office Hours
Tuesday - Thursday
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Friday
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Church Office Hours
Monday - Friday
9:00am – 11:30am
12:00pm – 2:30pm



December & January



THE BLADE

Published Monthly
(June/July & December/January
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First Presbyterian Church

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Secretary

Rozanne McGrath
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Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

*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.

December 2: Henrietta Gohring; Bob & Pat Fishback

December 9: Joel & Bonnie Foster & family; Neal & Julie Foster; Elizabeth Fox

December 16: Betty Gehring; Troy & Rosa Glaus & family

December 23: Eugene & JoAnn Goodale; Jon Greseth

December 30: Don Kleinjan & Carol Glantz; Bob & Jan Jones

January 6: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher & family

January 13: Dean & Sharon Hofland; Nelda Holden

January 20: Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague; Roger & Marvis Jenner

January 27: Carol Johnston; Marlys Kelsey



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: Linda Barnett, Dolores Canaday, Ann Douglas, Robby & Donna Flint, Bonnie Foster, Bob & Jan Jones, Ella Lane, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Judy Smith, Susan Smith, Nancy Thompson, Richard Wilson, and Pastor Nina Westfall.



A searching question these days might be, why are we here? History shows a simple answer: We Need Each Other. From the beginning of time to the present, God has always had an answer to this question. He provided marriage and parenthood to us and the family became our first support system. The current popular catch phrase "I have your back" is now evident in today's society. God's early church soon became a cornerstone for love and support for its followers. With God, our church and one's family we are indeed in good hands.

Scripture Reading: Hebrew 10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body.

Quote: Building bridges takes us further than building walls. — DaShanne Stokes

Men's Brotherhood Notes: The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday, November 15. Julie Steen from the Outdoor Nature Park came and gave a wonderful program on the park. Chili, sandwiches, salad and ice cream for dessert. Next month's meeting will be December 20.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for the mediation of peoples who are shut out or in.

Action: If a wall has come between you and someone, work to bring it down.

Over the years, and also recently, there has been a lot of talk about walls. We had the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall. History gave us the Great Wall of China and the Maginot Line. Walls to keep some out and others in. Fortressed cities. Castles with their walls. The thing about walls is they are not just to keep some folks out, but also can keep others in. That is why we have jails. Walls have notoriously failed in their original purposes.

There was another "wall" so to speak over the span of time and it was that divide, that gulf, that wall that separated God from man. God fashioned man out of the earth, breathed life into him, man sinned and sin was the wall that came between God and man. To mediate that separation the temple was built but there was a veil that still separated God from man. And only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies, God's presence on earth, once each year on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. Mankind could not access God directly without the priestly mediator.

Now comes the birth of Jesus in the fullness of time, to be our mediator. (1 Timothy 2:5) We celebrate the birth of Christ recognizing that He came to reconcile us to God, to tear down the wall, ripping apart the veil that separated us from direct access to God. He is our Mediator, the Intercessor, the one who enables us to approach the throne of God directly. No wonder the angels sang Hallelujah. We should all shout Hallelujah! The Christ is born!



Adam Young was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor ceremony on November 18, 2018. Adam thanks Pastor Nina, Mike McCann, Men's Brotherhood, and all the members of the congregation for supporting him and Boy Scout Troop 14.



Dates to Remember

- **December 3**, last day to donate to Project Joy.
- **December 23 & 30**, there will be no Children's Sunday School. No change in schedule for the Adult Sunday School.
- **January 6**, new officers will be installed during worship service.
- **January 16**, Annual reports should be submitted to the church office.



FEEDING BROOKINGS 2018

has asked First Presbyterian Church to donate 200 boxes of scalloped potatoes for Christmas. The deadline is **Dec. 16**. Thank you for your generosity!

Feeding Brookings 2018 for Thanksgiving served 162 households, 531 individuals, and 221 children.



Poinsettias are beautiful flowers and are known as the Flowers of the Holy Night. The shape of the poinsettia flower and leaves are sometimes thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men to Jesus. The red colored leaves symbolize the blood of Christ. The white leaves represent his purity. We would like to encourage you or your family to participate in the annual tradition of our members bringing a plant for Christmas remembrances and celebration. We'd love to display your poinsettia throughout Advent. If you need someone from church to pick up your purchased plant from a local florist or store, please call the church office. You can also drop off your poinsettia during office hours.

HY VEE

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts

The goal of \$150,000.00 has been met and a check for \$1,000.00 was given to First Presbyterian Church from HyVee.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$43,044.49

Needed to Date: \$106,955.51





PIECES and PRAYER

A small group has been meeting at the church to sew together pieces of fabric and creating Prayer Quilts. First, let me tell you what a prayer quilt is, what its purpose is, and who sews, ties, knots, prays, and who receives one. Anyone who can cut, match, sew, thread a needle and tie a knot or cheer us on can participate. At this time we have two young people working with us and the experience is wonderful. And there is a special spot waiting for you too, no age or gender limits.

A prayer quilt is sewn in a variety of patterns and fabric and then tied with yarn or crochet thread. When it is time to present the quilt to a person who is in need of prayers, either for healing, encouragement or celebration, the quilt is dedicated, and members of the congregation are encouraged to tie a knot and say a prayer for the recipient, then sign a card. This is a physical sign of our love and prayers for God's people, not just the congregation, but friends and loved ones of our members

We have been so fortunate to have much (and I mean a lot) of fabric donated to the cause. This was the gift that really got us serious after a lot of talk and prayer that we needed to do this. We recently had a sewing machine given to us that means we don't have to carry our machines every time. We do have a wish list--another machine (or two), sewing scissors, bobbins for Singer machine, batting, large eye needles, thread--both for sewing and crochet thread for tying, notions of all kinds, such as pins, rulers, rippers, etc., extension cords and of course money to buy what we need and do not have. If you are down-sizing and have retired your sewing room, please consider what we may be able to use for this mission project. And if you feel the need to create again, come and join us.

Because we are not always on top of things, we are going to have a "suggestion box", which will probably look a lot like an envelope on the Volunteer Bulletin Board. If you know of anyone who should receive a quilt, please share that person's name with Lee Peterson, Bonnie Foster, Nancy Thompson, Dolores Canaday, Paige Foster, Gayle Foster, Secretary Rozanne or put in the suggestion box.

This is an exciting adventure and I hope you will join the fun and fellowship. Meetings are set for the second Sat. at 9:30 AM so that the school children can participate. We try to be done by 11:30. We will be meeting in a new location which is the quilting room on the main floor of the church. Our next meeting will be on **December 8**. If you have questions you can contact any of the persons above. See you there!





DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Sound
Dave Peterson

Ushers
Dan & Michele Kemp
Lynn Foster
Bruce Westergaard

Leaders of Children's Time
Dec. 2 Lee Peterson
Dec. 9 Joel Foster
Dec. 16 Carrie Van Buren
Dec. 23 Donna Flint
Dec. 30 Gary Larson

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Advent Potluck 6:00 Game Night | 3 | 4 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) | 5 7:00 Choir | 6 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 Deacons 6:30 Committees BIRTHDAY: Dean Hofland | 7 | 8 9:30 Prayer Quilt Sew Day |
| 9 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Advent Potluck 11:30 Worship Committee 6:00 Bell Choir practice BIRTHDAY: LaVonne Broksieck | 10 7:00 Building & Grounds | 11 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission & Finance | 12 7:00 Choir | 13 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Children's Service 11:30 Advent Potluck 6:00 Bell Choir practice ANNIVERSARY: Dee & Lois Watson | 17 BIRTHDAY: Carrie Van Buren | 18 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) | 19 7:00 Choir | 20 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood ANNIVERSARY: Stephen & Carrie Van Buren | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Children's Sunday School cancelled 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship-Service 11:30 Advent Potluck 6:00 Bell Choir practice | 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service BIRTHDAY: Rozanne McGrath | 25 <i>Christmas</i> OFFICE CLOSED  | 26 7:00 Choir BIRTHDAY: Heidi Miller ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Pat Fishback | 27 9:30 Bible Study | 28 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Children's Museum) ANNIVERSARIES: Skip & Sharon Webster Neal & Julie Foster | 29 BIRTHDAY: Marge Poppen, Sally Maca |
| 30 Children's Sunday School cancelled 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Bell Choir | 31 BIRTHDAY: Jan Broksieck | | | | | |



JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Sound

Bruce Westergaard

Ushers

Ginny Conger

Mike McCann

John Eich

Susan & Adam Young

CHILDREN'S TIME LEADERS

Jan. 6 Carrie Van Buren

Jan. 13 Jan Jones

Jan. 20 Donna Flint

Jan. 27 Joel Foster

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| | | 1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) | 2 7:00 Choir | 3 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 Deacons 6:30 Committees | 4 BIRTHDAY: Marlys Moore | 5 BIRTHDAY: Lisa Bretsch |
| 6 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Bell Choir practice BIRTHDAY: Matthew Schuurman | 7 7:00 Building & Grounds BIRTHDAY: Susan Schuurman | 8 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission & Finance | 9 7:00 Choir | 10 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session BIRTHDAY: Neal Foster | 11 BIRTHDAY: Joel Foster | 12 |
| 13 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour 11:30 Worship Committee BIRTHDAY: Daniel Moerke | 14 | 15 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Katy Young | 16 7:00 Choir BIRTHDAY: Julie Scubelek | 17 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood | 18 Blade articles due at office | 19 BIRTHDAY: Adele Sudlow |
| 20 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Bell Choir practice BIRTHDAY: Malia Glaus | 21 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED | 22 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) | 23 7:00 Choir | 24 9:30 Bible Study | 25 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Children's Museum) BIRTHDAY: Brock Peterson, Beth Rindels, Art VanderWaal | 26 |
| 27 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Bell Choir practice | 28 | 29 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) | 30 7:00 Choir | 31 9:30 Bible Study | | |

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.