

THE BLADE

December 2017 & January 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



Sunday

December 24, 2016

7:30 pm

All are Welcome



The Sunday School children and youth will be leading the entire worship service, including the readings and songs on **Sunday, December 17**. We would also like to invite our college students to participate if they would like. Practices will take place during **Sunday School (9:00-10:15) on December 3, 10, & 17**. If you are interested in participating, please email Donna Flint at: donna.flint@sdstate.edu or call (605) 695-6787.



The Fellowship and Christian Education committees are hosting the Advent Potluck suppers on **Wednesdays, December 6, 13, & 20 at 6:00 pm**. Feel free to bring your own plates and silverware along with a dish to share! Come join us for some good Christmas fun!

Remember to Bring in Your Hy-Vee Receipts

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$16,379.80

Needed: \$133,620.20

Its that time of year!

Annual reports should be submitted to the church office by January 16th!

Mark your calendars, the Annual Congregational meeting will be Sunday, January 28th.

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00 am Sunday School
10:00am Fellowship Hour
10:30am Worship Service
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 School and Sunday Worship

Pastor's Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9:00am - 2:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm

Church Office Hours

Monday & Tuesday

9:00am - 12:00pm

1:00pm - 3:00pm

Wednesday & Thursday

9:00am-12:00pm

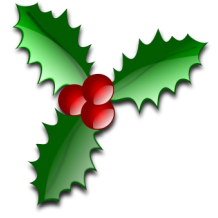
1:00pm-4:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm



December & January



THE BLADE

Published Monthly
(June/July & December/January
Combined)

First Presbyterian Church

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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 3: Henrietta Gohring; Bob & Pat Fishback

December 10: Joel & Bonnie Foster & family; Neal & Julie Foster; Elizabeth Fox

December 17: Betty Gehring; Troy & Rosa Glaus & family

December 24: Eugene & JoAnn Goodale; Jon Greseth

December 31: Carol Glantz & Don Kleinjan; Bob & Jan Jones

January 7: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher & family

January 14: Dean & Sharon Hofland; Nelda Holden

January 21: Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague; Roger & Marvis Jenner

January 28: 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: Dolores Canaday, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Ann Spitzenberger, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, Melanie Shepherd, and Pastor Nina Westfall.



The family of Alice Dempster would like to thank the congregation for all the cards, gifts, and support to her mother. The family greatly appreciates how important this church has been to their mother, father, and grandparents throughout their lives.



Friends,

Hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving.

There is much to thank for as we move forward. In this two and a half months that I have been in Brookings, where God has called me to be the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, great things are happening.

We are already blessed with a new, young, talented choir director; the possibility of a vibrant, youth director. We are looking at getting the elevator working in a way that it can be used more constructively. Various needed maintenance of the building is being considered. There is brightness, cheerfulness and laughter even among the challenges.

We as a congregation, are not only faithfully present on Sundays to worship and uplift God, but are present whenever needed. Together, we live up to the challenges and find solutions along the way.

I am excited at the possibilities. The excitement comes from the depth of faith within and an outward look at this wonderful congregation. It is a privilege to work with you and love you.

Let us keep on going.... All in His glory, faith, hope and grace.

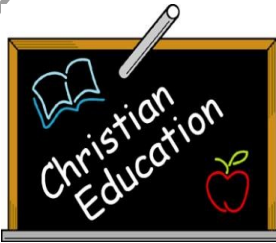
Your Pastor,
Nina



DEACONS' NOTE

The holiday season is quickly approaching and the Deacons will again be participating in Project Joy. The mission for Project Joy is to provide children and families living in Brookings County, who are in need, an opportunity to receive holiday gifts. Volunteers organize a store that is stocked with toys, gift cards, and clothing for parents to shop for their children. The Deacons will collect donations of unwrapped toys and clothing. Money may be donated and the Deacons will do the shopping for you. **Please have your donation to the church by Tuesday, December 5.** Let's open our hearts this holiday season and bring **Joy** to area children and families in need by generously donating to Project Joy.

Also, the Deacons would like to thank everyone for their generous donations towards the Thanksgiving Trimming Baskets. Your help made it possible to deliver a full Thanksgiving meal to a Brookings family in need. We are now set for the Christmas Trimming Basket donations. Our church will be responsible for donating packets of scalloped potatoes. If you prefer to give a monetary donation please mark so in the memo of your check or envelope. All donations should be to the church before **Sunday, December 17.**



CE Committee Request

The CE committee is considering an alternative format for Vacation Bible School in 2018. Instead of one full week of VBS, we are thinking of having one-night Bible School events periodically through the summer. Input from families and potential volunteers would be appreciated. Please share your thoughts with any member of the CE committee (the list is on the bulletin board).

Important Dates to Remember:

December 24 & December 31: No Sunday School

January 7: Sunday School Resumes



The poinsettia is known as the Flower of the Holy Night. During this Advent Season we'd like to enhance the beauty of our sanctuary with these beautiful plants. If you would like to provide a poinsettia, please sign your name on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the office. If you choose, you may indicate who the poinsettia is in honor or memory of. We'd like to display the poinsettias starting on December 3 through December 31, so feel free to start dropping them off. The names of those contributing plants, and who they are in honor and memory of will be printed in the bulletin.



A LOOK at the BUDGET

2017	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Income	14,314.28	17,884.12	11,913.21	19,714.56	9,647.26
Expense	13,816.46	9,206.75	10,281.58	9,839.62	8,764.45
Difference	497.82	8,677.37	1,631.63	9,874.94	882.81
June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	To Date
10,747.03	19,148.58	9,451.13	12,028.35	19,258.51	144,107.03
10,584.73	7,452.96	11,471.83	13,879.12	18,637.77	113,935.27
162.30	11,695.62	-2,020.70	-1,850.77	620.74	30,171.76

Financial Issues facing the congregation.

Dave Peterson, treasurer & Jeanne Manzer, clerk of session

Church officers, boards and committees spend a great deal of time making sure to find ways to be a loving, prayerful and well-maintained place to worship and provide space for activity.

Real Clean, a professional cleaning company has been approved by the Session to make our facilities a clean, welcoming place.

However, at nearly double what we budgeted for this year, we need to find ways to make that part of how we maintain our space.

Church staffing needs also need to be considered. That includes hiring a choir director and continuing to search for someone to direct youth activities. We are excited about the potential growth these investments will make in our church.

All of this means, though, that we will spend significantly more money next year. Normally we would look to cut the budget in other places, but since we have been doing that over the last few years, there isn't much left to be trimmed.

The bottom line is that we encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider support for our church maintenance and programmatic activity with their giving.

Please know that our pastor, session, church boards and committees carefully and prayerfully seek God's direction and ultimately God's sustaining grace in all that we do.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

December 2017



Scripture Reading: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. - - Isaiah 9:6

Quote: "Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas." - Peg Bracken, author

Men's Brotherhood Notes: The regular monthly meeting was held on Wednesday, November 15. Tater tot hot dish, salad and ice cream for dessert. The program was a discussion on Church security. Next month plan on Men's Brotherhood being December 21, looking forward to a good program.

Prayer Concerns: Keep homeless, hungry, lonely and those in prison especially in your thoughts and prayers at this time of year.

Action: Respect others who do not agree with you. Kindness can win over friends.

Christmas time is here and it is hard to wrap my head around it considering the balmy weather we have been enjoying this fall. It is supposed to be snowy and cold and chilling to the bone. Instead I have been thinking about going out and mowing up some more leaves that have blown in. Not going to do it, but I did think about it! Right Chad?

Every year with the Black Friday sales and the Cyber Monday sales we are expected to get wrapped up in buying more and more stuff. Thankfully as an after-thought they have conceded Giving Tuesday where donations to charities are given a place at the table. What would businesses do if we didn't have Christmas to drive the economy? How did humanity survive without Black Friday and the four-to-five-week interval between Thanksgiving and Christmas? This year's Sioux Falls Argus Leader bragged on its front page that the issue which arrived on Thanksgiving Day weighed over four pounds! My poor paper delivery person! We don't even get a break on Thanksgiving Day from all the buy, buy, buy influences. Plus stores that traditionally have been closed for that holiday are now open - some all day!

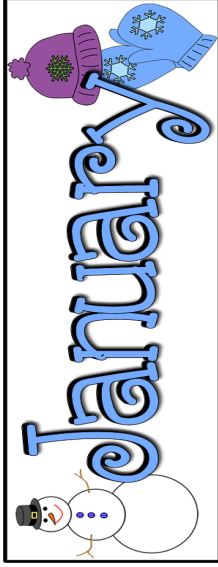
With the celebration of the advent of the Christ what we are losing when we get so focused on the economics of the season rather than the spiritual aspects of it? Christ came in the form of a human being to demonstrate God's love for humanity. God created us, has loved us from the very beginning of creation, still loves us despite our failings and will always love us. I really don't think he came so we would have an excuse to buy things, or so our business would end up in the black at the end of the year.

Christ came to humanity as Jesus to demonstrate to us that we humans can love one another, that we should love one another and that we must love one another. Because certain folks rejected that message and killed him because of that message does not diminish it. It doesn't make it any less important. The fun part of Christmas has become a very important part of our culture. It is a fun time and a celebratory time. A time of feasting, family, friends and sharing of gifts with one another. Enjoy and celebrate it. But we cannot hold those activities above the most important part of the season – the coming of the Christ in human form to show us the way to really live with one another. All thanks to God!



December Volunteers: Ushers: Daniel & Michele Kemp
 Sound: Bruce Westergaard
 Dave Peterson Lynn Foster
 Counters: Dave Peterson
 Dee Watson
 Henrietta Gohring
 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Greeter: Ginny Conger 12:00-6:00 Salvation Army Bell Ringing 6:00 Game Night 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission/Finance	6:00 Advent Potluck 7:00 Choir Practice BIRTHDAY: Dean Hofland	9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees		
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship—All Music Sunday Greeter: Ginny Conger 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees	6:00 Advent Potluck 7:00 Choir Practice	9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session		
9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship—Youth Sunday Greeter: Ginny Conger No Small Group Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir Practice BIRTHDAY: Carrie Van Buren ANNIVERSARY: Dee & Lois Watson	7:00 Scouts	9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	6:00 Advent Potluck 7:00 Choir Practice ANNIVERSARY: Stephen & Carrie Van Buren	9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood		
CHRISTMAS EVE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 Worship Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 7:30 Candlelight Service No Small Group Bible Study No Bell Choir	CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	OFFICE CLOSED 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Heidi Miller ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Pat Fishback	7:00 Choir Practice	9:30 Women's Bible Study ANNIVERSARY: Skip & Sharon Webster; Neal & Julie Foster	11:30 Lunch Bunch (The Pheasant)	BIRTHDAY: Larry Shepherd
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30 Worship Greeters: Rick & Bonnie Salonen No Small Group Bible Study No Bell Choir BIRTHDAY: Jan Broksieck						



January Volunteers:

Sound: Bruce Westergaard

Ushers: John Eich; Adam & Susan Young; Ginny Conger; Mike McCann

Counters: Nelda Holden
Bob Bartling
Elizabeth Fox

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	1 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission/Finance	2 7:00 Choir Practice	3 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees BIRTHDAY: Marlys Moore	4 BIRTHDAY: Lisa Bretsch	5 BIRTHDAY: Matthew Schuurman
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 6:00 Game Night 7:00 Bell Choir Practice BIRTHDAY: Susan Schuurman	8 7:00 Scouts	9 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees	10 7:00 Choir Practice BIRTHDAY: Neal Foster	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session BIRTHDAY: Joel Foster	12 BIRTHDAY: Daniel Moerke	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 6:00 Second Sunday Movie Night— <i>War Room</i>	15 OFFICE CLOSED MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Katy Young	16 BLADE ARTICLES DUE ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Julie Scubelek	17 7:00 Choir Practice	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood	19 BIRTHDAY: Adele Sudlow	20 BIRTHDAY: Malia Glaus
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 6:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	22 7:00 Scouts	23 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	24 7:00 Choir Practice	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Brock Peterson; Art VanderWaal; Beth Rindels	26 11:30 Lunch Bunch (The Pheasant)	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting Greeters: Dick & Donna Wilson 6:00 Small Group Bible Study 7:00 Bell Choir Practice	29 7:00 Scouts	30 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Frances Trapp	31 7:00 Choir Practice			

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.