

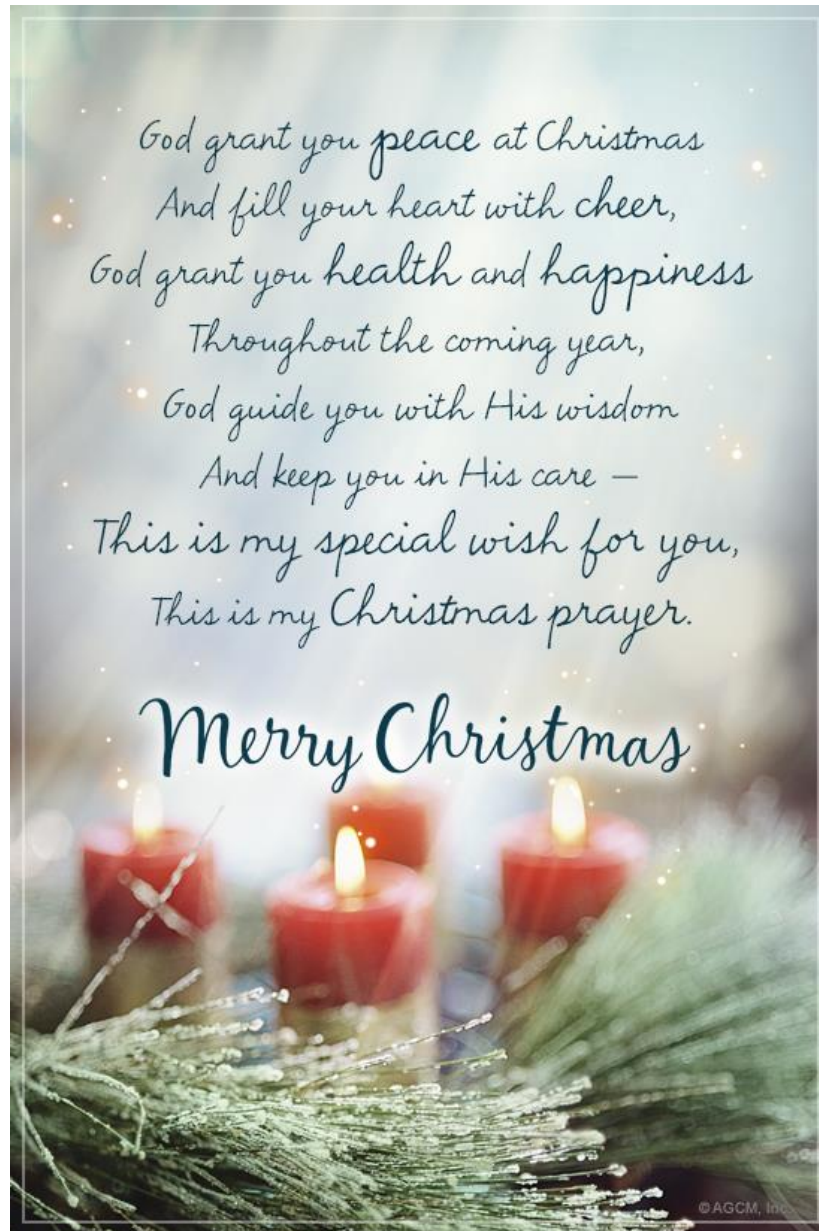
THE BLADE



December 2022

“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



*Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation,
heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ*



THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-2416
www.brookingspresbyterian.org
presby@brookings.net

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 2:30 pm

Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

Please check the website
www.brookingspresbyterian.org for the
“Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter”

May you be filled with
the wonder of Mary, the
obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels, the
eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of
the magi, and the peace of
the Christ child. Almighty
God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit bless you
now and forever.”

RAY PRITCHARD



Many thanks to our members and friends for your continued financial support. Offerings can still be made by sending a check to the church or to David Peterson.

*For your information, the per capita per person for **2022** is \$34.78 (same as last year). If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact **Jan J** at 692-5325, **Lee P** at 692-7757, or the church office at 692-2416 who will contact the prayer volunteers. (*Your concern will not go beyond the prayer team unless you request it be shared with others*)

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.

Dec. 4: Dee W, Skip W, Bruce & Lori W

Dec. 11: Dorothy W, Alan & Sue Y, David & Lucy B

Dec. 18: Linda B, Bob B, Teri B, Don B

Dec. 25: Chad & Diane B (Tate, Trent), Jan B, Lavonne B

Session Update—

1. Updated Membership: 92 (2 members requested to be removed from church roll and 7 members were moved to inactive list)
2. The Church Use Committee reports that our church will host a Girl Scout Troop- they will have access to the basement twice a month for their meetings.
3. The Buildings and Grounds committee wishes to express thanks to Rick Salonen (tree trimming and refuse removal), Bruce Westergaard (painting in sanctuary), and Bruce Westergaard and Terry Spitzenberger (lightbulb changes throughout the building and cleaning upstairs for the oral interp contest)
4. The Fellowship and Outreach Committee is planning for Advent Dinners after church on December 4 and 18.
5. The Worship Committee is planning for pulpit supply- their goal is to include a wide variety of people to lead worship - please contact a member of the committee if you are interested in helping out!
6. The Congregational and Pastoral Care (CPC) Ministry Team from Presbytery has notified us that our CPC liaison will be Diane Larson (an elder at Spirit Lake) and Reverend Ruth Clendenin (pastor at First, Aberdeen) will be our session moderator.

On November 22nd, we begin the next leg of this church's journey. Reverend Kaul, in working with us over the last few years, asked the question "Where is God leading this church?" Let's continue to ask this question. Perhaps we should also ask the question, "What is the work that God is calling us to do; where is God sending this church?" With or without a pastor, this church can follow God's call. Over the next couple of months, please keep this church in your prayers as we all seek to discern our next steps.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Flint
 Clerk of Session
 First Presbyterian Church of Brookings, SD
 Commissioned Ruling Elder
 Presbytery of South Dakota
<https://robbyanddonna.weebly.com/>

Monthly Financial Report							
2022	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>To Date</u>
<u>Income</u>	10,809.10	20,706.79	14,882.60	8,442.89	12,928.35	13,307.38	81,077.11
<u>Expense</u>	13,991.56	12,687.94	13,746.67	15,397.83	12,148.82	12,196.48	80,169.30
<u>Difference</u>	-3,182.46	8,018.85	1,135.93	-6,954.94	779.53	1,110.90	907.81
		adj 125					

Monthly Financial Report							
2022	<u>July</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>	<u>To Date</u>
<u>Income</u>	10,450.17	10,926.73	7,708.69	10,458.91			120,621.61
<u>Expense</u>	10,437.47	11,327.89	10,723.52	11,052.93			123,711.11
<u>Difference</u>	12.70	-401.16	-3,014.83	-594.02	0.00	0.00	-3,089.50



Worship Committee

Celebration of Christmas Season:

Christmas this year is on a weekend. After a random survey of congregation members, the Worship Committee made a decision to have church service on Christmas Eve only. The service is planned to begin at **4:30 pm on December 24th** at the sanctuary and on Zoom. The service will be conducted by Elizabeth Fox.

Poinsettias for Christmas: We are accepting **monetary donations** for poinsettias to grace and beautify our sanctuary starting **Sunday, Dec. 11th**. If you would prefer to purchase and bring your own poinsettias, we will be glad to display them also. Names of those honored or remembered will be included as always in the PowerPoint. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office counter.



FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH NEWS

At our October meeting we decided to have two Advent Potluck dinners after church. The first Sunday in Advent is November 27. Since that is Thanksgiving weekend, the first Advent Potluck will be on Sunday, **December 4** after church in the basement hall. We ask that families bring a casserole, salad, snack, or dessert to share, but please join with us in fellowship even if you are unable to bring any food. The second will be on Sunday **December 18** with the same format.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for fellowship or outreach activities for our church, please contact one of us: Andrew L'Amour, Chad Broksieck, Robbie Flint, Bonnie Foster, Roger Jenner, Dan Kemp, Martin Maca, or Susan Young.



Christmas is coming!

First Presbyterian Church will be participating in the Christmas Feeding Brookings by donating 200 cans of fruit. For ease of collection, we are asking for **donations of money** instead of the actual cans of fruit. Please make your donation by Monday, **December 12**; the deacons will then purchase and deliver the fruit for the giveaway on December 22. May your Christmas be blessed.

Food prices continue to rise, and more people are needing help to feed their family. Donations to the Food Pantry can be made on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 5pm at 217 4th Street. **Monetary donations** can be placed in the offering plate with a notation on the check to go to the Food Pantry.



News You Can Use



UPCOMING DECEMBER MEETINGS

- Monday, Dec.5: **Worship Committee Meeting** via **Zoom** at 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, Dec 6: **Mission/Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM
- Thursday, Dec. 8: **Session Meeting** in person at 7:00 PM
- Sunday, Dec. 11: **Fellowship/Outreach Meeting** following worship

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS** will meet next on January 3, 2023
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 AM in the FPC Center Meeting Room
- SISTERHOOD** on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 11:30 AM at the **Senior Activity Center**
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Thursday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

SERVING IN DECEMBER

DECEMBER

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Chad B
& Andrew L

Communion Servers:
Elder: Ella L Deacon: Pam L.
Communion Usher: _____

DECEMBER LITURGISTS

Dec. 4: Rick S
Dec. 11: Lee P
Dec. 18: Donna F
Dec. 24: Dolores C

Volunteers are needed to be a Greeter on Sunday Morning!



Christine L'Amour is the new leader of a girl scout troop that began meeting in our church in November. The **Troop #57024** will meet the second and fourth Thursday's of each month. Katie Kreinert is co-leader with Christine. The troop, ten girls in all, are the Daisies (K-1st) and at this level the girls learn the foundations of what it means to be a Girl Scout. The girls are working towards earning their petal badges - each petal represents a different value inherent in the Girl Scout Law.



Christine works at the First Bank and Trust East Branch in Brookings. She is the daughter of Andrew and Beth L'Amour.

FAREWELL & GOD BLESS!



Dear FPC Church Family,
Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness, your prayers, your financial support over the years, especially my farewell monetary gift. My hearty thanks to the Fellowship committee for the farewell cake and coffee reception. The cake was awesome and very delicious. To the church session members and the congregation thank you for my Black Hills Gold necklace will always be treasured and close to my heart. I will miss you all and will hold you in prayers. Faithfully, Rev. Norlita J. Kaul

Thank you to Cliff R for the beautiful stained glass lighted church he created and donated to the church.



Thank you to Dan K for the step stools he built for the church. One will be located at the north door and the other will be in Ella L's van for when she transports members to church services.

Thank you to the members of First Presbyterian Church for the beautiful yellow rose for my 90th birthday.

Maxine D



December 2022
Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met November 17 for dinner. We had very good attendance for our meeting. Carolyn Groves from the Domestic Abuse Shelter presented the program on their services. Tater tot hot dish and salad was the menu and ice cream for dessert and it was extremely good. If you are looking for a nice, balanced delicious meal just let Mike know you are coming!

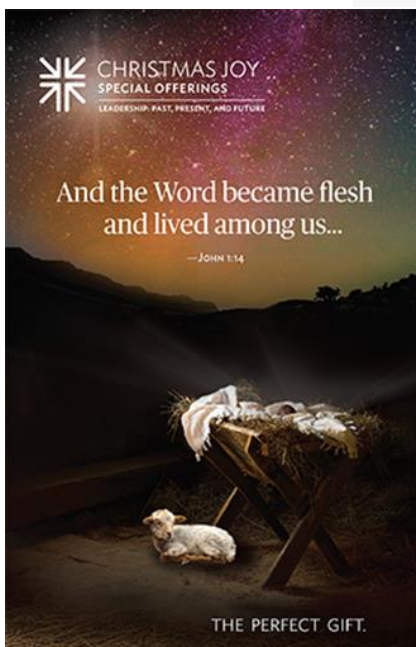
Seasonal thoughts: All of a sudden here we are – Thanksgiving and then Christmas. How did it happen so fast? It seems like only yesterday I was out in my garden pulling weeds and watering the plants. Messing around in my pathetic yard. Making plans to do this or that to maybe get it into some kind of acceptable shape so the neighbors would approve.

I guess this time of year is designed to give us a time out from all the plans and activities we have from the spring through the fall. Technically it is still fall meteorologically until the end of November but we will use this time to assess the previous year and plan for the next.

Easy enough to assess what went right and what we need to improve on for the next year when it comes to the secular, general activities of our lives. We can be sure to have time to reflect on and give thanks for the many spiritual blessings we have received this past year. Although I lost seven trees when the derecho hit last May I am completely grateful that no harm was done to my house nor to me nor my wife Beth. So we can give thanks for the blessing of another safe year.

We give thanks to our God during the season of our national holiday Thanksgiving and so fulfill the law that we should love our God above all things. Now on to Christmas where the lesson is to love our fellow human.

Christmas is a time when traditionally we have shared our blessings from the year with our fellow human beings, family, friends, and others especially the less fortunate or other charities who help in some way. Jesus came to help us understand how important it is to love God and to love one another. By his example as servant leader and the will to sacrifice himself, we are taught the lessons of love - love God and love one another.



**Donations accepted
Nov. 27-Dec 18**

HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$200,000.00
Received: \$61,681.05
Needed to Date: \$154,811.30

Required for \$1,000 donation:
\$200,000.00

HyVee has stopped printing out receipts when grocery orders are done **on-line**. You will receive a receipt online. Please send a copy of the receipt by email to Rozanne at presby@brookings.net, she will pass it on for totaling.

I AM A CHRISTIAN

When I say that "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living." I'm whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success. I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I am not claiming to be perfect. My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou. I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace, somehow!



Susan's Saga



The Word of God is like seed, which is full of promise for an abundant crop. An apt parable explains the mystery of how it is at work:

"Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come."

There is a certain wonder at how a seed can germinate and produce a whole plant. The farmer prepares the ground and sows, but the seeds grow and develop on their own through a mysterious process that we don't fully comprehend. Bible translation is like that. There is a series of actions involved in translating God's Word so that it is available to a group of people, but how God uses it for the furtherance of the Kingdom may not be obvious to us. Like a growing crop, the results are not immediate, but in due time they will become apparent. God's Word doesn't operate on a human time table, and though it may seem hidden, like seeds in the ground, it is at work in its own inimitable way, changing people's lives from the inside out.

Thank you for your part in sowing the seed of God's Word for a people group in Mexico.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quotation is taken from the *Holy Bible*, New Living Translation, Mark 4: 26 - 29.



Susan Huggins is serving in full-time ministry as a Bible translator among the Mixtec people of Oaxaca, Mexico. Susan's sending agency, Wycliffe Bible Translators, is a non-denominational organization; she raises her own funds to support this ministry.





December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9:30 Bible Study	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3
4 (Donna F) 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom Advent Meal following worship	5 7:00 PM Worship Committee Mtg via Zoom	6 9:30 Coffee Group 6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Dean H	7	8 9:30 Bible Study Girl Scouts 6:30-8PM Session Meeting at FPC 7:00 PM	9 BIRTHDAY: LaVonne B	10
11 (Elizabeth F) 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Fellowship/Outreach Mtg following worship	12	13 9:30 Coffee Group	14	15 <i>BLADE Articles Due</i> 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Sisterhood at Senior Activity Center 5:30 Men's Brotherhood	16	17 BIRTHDAY: Carrie V
18 (Rev. Bob O) 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Advent Meal following worship	19	20 9:30 Coffee Group ANNIVERSARY: Stephen & Carrie V	21	22 Girl Scouts 6:30-8PM	23 	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> (Elizabeth F) 4:30 PM Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom BIRTHDAY: Rozanne M
25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> NO WORSHIP TODAY 	26 ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Pat F	27 9:30 Coffee Group	28 ANNIVERSARY: Neal & Julie F	29 9:30 Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Sally M	30 ↓	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i> BIRTHDAY: Jan B

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Worship Service

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday

9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Our newsletter is also available electronically by email.

Please contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 605-692-2416, to notify us.