

THE BLADE



December 2023

"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

A Christmas Prayer

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

Carla Gasser
AT THE CROSSROADS

*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*

December

THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

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

Pastors

Robby and Donna Flint
presbypastor@brookings.net
605-695-3735 (Robby)
605-695-6787 (Donna)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 12:00 Noon

Office Manager

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”

*it's
the most
Wonderful
TIME OF THE
year*



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 2023 is \$38.00. 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.

December 3: Elizabeth F, Betty G, JoAnn G

December 10: Ian & Abby G & daughter Violet, Jon & Linda G & daughters Grace & Lottie

December 17: Scott & Jennifer H & daughters Skylar, Saige, & Ramsie; Dean & Sharon H

December 24: Nelda H, Dennis H & Carolyn C, MK H

December 31: Roger & Marvis J, Bob & Jan J



Counting our Blessings

Friends, this is our first article for the Blade, serving as your pastors. We thank you for your enthusiastic welcome as we begin our work. We thought in this first article we could write a little bit about our call.

As a basic plan, we will divide responsibilities in accordance with what we feel are our gifts, strengthened through the Holy Spirit. We both feel called to preach, so that responsibility will be shared.

Robby's main focus will be pastoral care- visitation, hospital visits, praying with you in times of difficulty and in times of joy. Robby will spend a few hours each week in the church office- studying and being available for coffee and conversation.

Donna will serve as moderator for the session and attend other meetings as needed. Donna will also work with Rozanne and the committees to manage the administrative, planning, communication, and organization work of the church.

For worship services, we will honor our commitments for the rest of the year- pulpit supply here has already been arranged and we also are committed to other churches for several weeks through the end of the year. Starting in January, one of us will preach every Sunday, *except one week per month*.

We hope that you will think of this one week a month as an opportunity to explore your own calling to preach or to lead worship; maybe you have an idea for a unique worship experience, or perhaps you know of someone you would like to invite to lead worship. For members of our church who preach elsewhere, we hope you will take a week or more to lead worship here and stay connected with us. Share your ideas with us and we will work with the worship committee to plan for this one week a month (*usually* the 4th Sunday).

Though we know we are taking on a role as leaders, we believe God calls us to *enable each of you* to find your niche in this church- we believe the Holy Spirit works through *each one of us*. We have already pulled out the list of ideas you all supplied during the Town Hall meetings and are thinking about how to make those dreams come alive. We're ready to hear more of your ideas about what this church is called to do and be in this next phase of its life. Please keep the lines of communication open!

We are looking forward to our journey together, doing the work Christ calls us to. We are strengthened by the Word of God, found in Isaiah:

So do not fear, for I am with you;

do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you;

I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. -Isaiah 41:10

We look forward with joy to our work together in the future.

Yours in Christ,

Robby and Donna

Session Update November 2023

	Elder of the Month	Deacon of the Month
December	Bruce W	Bonnie F

Mission and Finance reported that the Peacemaking Offering was received, and \$50 from that offering can be designated by the church to a local mission. It was decided that this money would go towards Bienvenidos, Brookings.

The session reviewed the minutes from the Fall presbytery meeting and noted that Ann Spitzenberger was installed as moderator of Presbytery for this year. Congratulations Ann! Robby and Donna Flint were recommissioned as Commissioned Ruling Elders for another 3-year term.

The session signed a 1-year contract with Pastors Robby and Donna Flint to serve as part time pastors effective November 10th. Presbytery has designated Donna to serve as moderator of the session.

Session thanked Reverend Stan Gruneich for his service to the church both as pulpit supply and session moderator.

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Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk of Session

Monthly Financial Report

2023	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June
Income	12,410.10	9,412.93	8,870.38	18,219.43	13,238.10	14,285.07
Expense	8,993.79	8,371.22	8,573.44	11,181.86	8,935.27	21,255.43
Difference	3,416.31	1,041.71	296.94	7,037.57	4,302.83	-6,970.36

July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	To Date
15,930.49	6,376.33	9,361.01	15,642.07	0.00	0.00	123,745.91
5,927.50	6,543.93	5,532.07	6,373.75	0.00	0.00	91,688.26
10,002.99	-167.60	3,828.94	9,268.32	0.00	0.00	32,057.65



December 25, 2023



News You Can Use



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, Dec. 5: **Mission/Finance Meeting** via Zoom at 6:30 PM
- Sunday, Dec. 10: **Fellowship/Outreach Meeting** following worship service
- Thursday, Dec. 14: **Session Meeting** at FPC at 7:00 PM
- Sunday, Dec. 17: **Worship Committee** at 9:30 AM, before worship

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

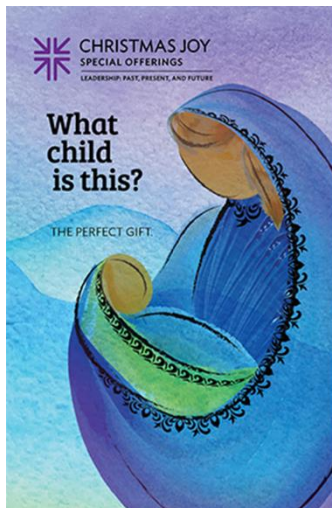
- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- CHOIR** on Sunday, **Dec. 24** at 9:45 AM, North Meeting Room prior to worship
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 AM in the FPC Center Meeting Room
- SISTERHOOD** on Dec. 21 at 11:30 AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Dec. 21 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

Serving in December

Sunday Coffee Fellowship Sue Y

	Pulpit Supply	Liturgist	Candle Reading
Dec. 3	Elizabeth F	Nancy O	Tia G
Dec. 10	Donna F	Robby F	Linda B
Dec. 17	Robby F	Donna F	Lee P
Dec. 24	Steve VB	Judy S	Nancy T
Dec. 31	Steve VB	Terry S	

Volunteers are needed to be a Greeter on Sunday Morning!



**Donations accepted
December 3-24, 2023**



An opportunity is coming up to provide help for those in need in the Brookings community.

-Project Joy will be held on Saturday, **December 9, 2023**. Donations of unwrapped toys can be made at the Brookings radio station (Project Joy Trailer), Lewis, Walmart, Children's Museum of SD, SDSU

Wellness Center or Brookings equalization office. Monetary donations can be put in the offering plate with a notation to go to Project Joy. Please make the donation by **December 3, 2023**. 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. Thank you for your support to this worthy cause. If you have any questions about the programs, please contact any of the deacons.

Thank you for the monetary donations so First Presbyterian could supply over 150 boxes of instant mashed potatoes for the **FEEDING BROOKINGS Thanksgiving Meal**.

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 their new location, 908 Hope Drive located off of Harvey Dunn St. The Brookings County Food Pantry entrance is the left (front) side of the building with a west facing door. **Monetary donations** can be placed in the offering plate with a notation on the check to go to the Food Pantry.



and Outreach Committee

ADVENT POTLUCK will be held next Sunday, **Dec. 3** (which is the 1st Sunday of Advent) following worship service and also on **Dec. 17**. Please bring a dish to share if you are able, but please plan to attend in any case as there is always plenty of food. The Christian Education Committee will provide a short program after the meals.



Worship Committee

Choir: We want to thank musicians who have joined the choir and are providing special music for church services. Choir will be singing next on **Dec. 24** and practice will be on that date at 9:45 AM before church service begins. Please contact Nancy O (605-204-0691) if you have any questions.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: We are accepting monetary donations for poinsettias to grace and beautify our sanctuary. 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 in the PowerPoint on Dec. 17 and 24. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office counter.



-The Worship Committee is looking for **GREETERS** to welcome attendees at the north door of the sanctuary each Sunday. Greeters should arrive no later than 10:15 to hand out bulletins, welcome attendees, and ask visitors to fill out the pew inserts. If you are interested in doing this, please contact Ginny or a member of the Worship Committee.



**Welcome to Liz R and
Ian and Abby G and their daughter Violet
who joined October 8, 2023.**



Troop 50724 December 2023

Christine L'Amour

First of all thank you to all who supported our recent fund-raiser. We felt it was very successful. Proceeds from the campaign will be used to help the girls get their badges, new vests, and a future trip to the Butterfly House. The girls have been busy learning interpersonal skills from working together as a group. They have also been focusing on learning analytical skills. Again, thank you so much for all of your support. The girls are really developing some important life skills.

December 2023

Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met November 16 for dinner. We had very good attendance for our meeting. Donna and Robby Flint presented the program: Looking forward with our church – where do we want to go. If you are looking for a nice, balanced delicious meal just let Mike know you are coming!

Seasonal thoughts: I was shocked!! I just saw the headline and my jaw nearly hit the floor. What!?!? Uh.....what could I say or think.

"Evangelicals Are Now Rejecting 'Liberal' Teachings of Jesus". I could not believe this. The article and other similar ones on the same topic quoted an Evangelical Pastor, Russell Moore, former top official for the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) who is now the editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*, that (some) conservative Christians are now rejecting the teachings of Jesus as "liberal talking points." They are calling the admonitions of Christ in the Sermon on the Mount and presumably in Matthew 25:31-46 too "woke".

We know there is a definite split politically in our country over conservative and liberal talking points. Is there a growing split in Christianity over the teachings of Christ and what they mean to Christians? One might have hoped that regardless of political leanings we could all come to some unity over the Christian faith, the bible and especially the teachings of Jesus. I pray that this is a small share of the over all people of Faith.

We are now in the season of Christmas, the celebration of our Lord and Savior's birth. Hopefully we can find some unity in this celebration regardless of our "worldly" political leanings. Our God gave of himself to become human, to teach us how to grow in love for one another – our fellow human beings. Love is the gift which keeps on giving. You can't run out of love for our fellow humans. Love is not a grandiosity self-centered thing. True Christian love should be shared without judgment or any expectation of return. Let us celebrate unity as Christians this Christmas season! Merry Christmas!!

Just realized the
last day of 2023
will be 123123.



HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal:	\$200,000.00
Receipts:	\$164,730.05
Needed to Date:	\$35,269.95

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


Remember to bring in your
Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Email a copy of the receipt
from on-line orders to
presby@brookings.net;
Rozanne will forward it.



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 10:30 Worship/ Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:30 Advent Potluck	4	5 9:30 Coffee Group 6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom	6 BIRTHDAY: Dean H	7 9:30 Bible Study	8	9 BIRTHDAY: LaVonne B
10 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:30 Fellowship/ Outreach Meeting after worship	11	12 9:30 Coffee Group	13 Blade articles due (Jan. & Feb. issue)	14 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting at FPC	15	16
17 9:30 Worship Committee Mtg 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:30 Advent Potluck BIRTHDAY: Carrie VB	18	19 9:30 Coffee Group	20 ANNIVERSARY: Steve & Carrie VB	21 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood at FPC	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 9:45 Choir Practice 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom BIRTHDAY: Rozanne M	25 Christmas Day  Office Closed	26 9:30 Coffee Group ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Pat F	27	28 NO Bible Study ANNIVERSARY: Neal & Julie F	29 BIRTHDAY: Sally M	30
31 New Year's Eve 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom						

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 – 12:00 Noon

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

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