

THE BLADE

February 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



LOVE GOD



LOVE ONE ANOTHER



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

FEBRUARY

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 – 12:00 Noon

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”

Office Closed

Monday, February 20th



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.

Feb. 5: Jon & Linda G & family Grace & Lottie, Scott & Jennifer S and family Skylar, Saige, Ramsie

Feb. 12: Dean & Sharon H, Nelda H, Dennis H & Carolyn C

Feb. 19: MK H, Roger & Marvis J, Bob & Jan J

Feb. 26: Dan & Michele K, Don K & Carol G, Delores K

Session Update January 2022

	Deacon of the Month	Elder of the Month
January	Ann Douglas	Terry Spitzenberger
February	Ann Douglas	Donna Flint
March	Lee Peterson	Dan Kemp

Joint Deacon/Session Meeting:

The Deacons have a plan for maintaining contact with each church member- you should hear from your assigned Deacon sometime in the next few weeks. If you have a pastoral need, your Deacon should be your first point of contact. If they are unavailable, next contact would be the Deacon of the Month or the Elder of the Month, whose names will be included in the Session update in each Blade. Please also feel free to contact the church office if needed- Rozanne can direct your need to the appropriate person.

Remember also, that each of us is a minister of Christ, so please keep everyone in your thoughts and prayers and stay connected with cards, phone calls, or visits.

If you desire communion served in your home, please contact your Deacon and they will make arrangements.

If you wish to add or remove your name from the prayer list posted in the bulletin, please contact Lee Peterson.

Session Meeting:

Session approved the 2023 budget. Details will be available at the February 12th congregational meeting. Please plan to attend!

The Building and Grounds committee report that they have met to set priorities for the upcoming year.

The Fellowship and Outreach and the Christian Education committees are planning Lenten Luncheons on February 26, March 12, and March 26 after worship.

The Worship Committee continues to fill our pulpit each week- if you have a suggestion or would like to help out for a week, please contact Ginny C.

(Note from Donna: It was during such a time as this that Robby and I first tried our hand at writing and delivering a sermon- we had no idea how to go about it, but the congregation was very supportive and we found a new passion that has redirected our lives- could this be your moment?)

The resignation of Elder Ella Lane was accepted with regret.

The Elders elected Dave Peterson to serve as church treasurer and Donna Flint to serve as clerk for 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk of Session

There will be a congregational meeting after worship on **February 12th** for the purpose of reviewing annual reports and 2023 budget, electing an elder and deacon to fill open positions, and to elect at-large members of the Nominating Committee



Years ago I read a book about habits, research showed that a person needs to do something 7 times in a row to become a habit, be it exercise or attending church, 7 days or 7 weeks. It only takes skipping that activity 3 times to get out of the habit. For some it has been three years out of the habit. Each of us can call someone we haven't seen in church for a while and invite them back.



As always, the Food Pantry is in continual need of packaged and canned foods. Donations to the Food Pantry can be made on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 4:30pm at their new location, 908 Hope Drive (just north of Brookings First Lutheran Church with ample parking space 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. (Official signage coming soon) **Monetary donations** can be placed in the offering plate with a notation on the check to go to the Food Pantry.



We will be having an **Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, Feb 22** at 6:30 PM at the sanctuary. If anyone is interested in providing special music, please contact Nancy O (605-204-0691).



and Outreach Committee

The Fellowship and Outreach Committee is pleased to announce that there will be three Lenten Potluck luncheons after worship this season. The first will be on Sunday, February 26, the first Sunday of Lent. The others will be every other week: Sunday March 12 (spring ahead that day as it's the beginning of daylight savings time!) and Sunday March 26. The next Sunday is Palm Sunday and then Easter is on April 9. The potlucks will be immediately after church. 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.

Fellowship is still trying to get a complete list of the Outstanding Senior Presbyterians at First Presbyterian Church. We have the awardees from 1988 through 2001 and 2009 to the present. If you have any information on who was recognized in 2002 – 2008 please let me know (Dan Kemp, (605) 691-4228 or dankemp@brookings.net). One place to find this information is in the church Annual Reports. If you have Annual Reports from these years, please let me know. We would also like to know when the Outstanding Senior Presbyterian Award began at First Presbyterian Church. Please contact Dan with any information along those lines. Thanks for your help.

Finally, Outreach would like to begin a service project with Habitat for Humanity to provide meals for workers at their job sites. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping to prepare and/or deliver such meals.

There are many dishes and other supplies that are no longer used in the kitchen. Please contact us if you would like any of the below.



News You Can Use

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Feb. 7: **Mission/Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM
Thursday, Feb. 9: **Session Meeting** in **person** at 7:00 PM
Sunday, **Feb. 19**: **Fellowship/Outreach** following worship service (*note date*)
Friday, Feb. 17: **Presbytery Meeting** via **Zoom** at 10:00 AM

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

-TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
-PIECES AND PRAYERS meet Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the church to quilt. All are welcome!
-THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY at 9:30 AM in the FPC Center Meeting Room
-SISTERHOOD on February 16 at 11:30 AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
-MEN'S BROTHERHOOD on February 16 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

SERVING IN FEBRUARY

Sunday Coffee Fellowship Roger Jenner

	Pulpit Supply	Liturgist
Feb. 5	Elizabeth F	Lee P
Feb. 12	Donna F	Robby F
Feb. 19	TBD	Judy S
Feb. 22	Donna & Robby (Ash Wednesday)	
Feb. 26	TBD	Terry S



Thanks everyone for prayers and concerns when I was in the hospital. I am home and doing fine.

Dorothy W

*Congratulations, Mike and Judy M,
on your 50th Wedding Anniversary!*



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

February 2023

Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met on January 19. We had the usual fine meal prepared and as always good fellowship. Susan Huggins gave the presentation on the history of the Summer Institute of Linguistics and Wycliffe Bible Translations. It was an extremely interesting program. All men are welcome to attend the monthly meeting and meal. Serving time is 5:30. Please come and bring a guest. Let Mike or Andrew know ahead of time to be sure we have a place set for you but ALL men are encouraged and welcomed.

If anyone knows me they know I talk. And talk. And talk. And I can go on for likely way longer than most would want to or can endure. I try to be cognizant of it because I realize that most of the time I have nothing of value to add to any discussion. Nothing of value except what I perceive in my own mind. However I do love people and so talking for me is a way of connecting to others.

In recent years because my circle of friends and acquaintances has shrunk, plus my mobility and circulating in our society has been reduced due to some physical limitations, I find fewer opportunities to share my lack of deeply profound wisdom with folks. However this is not keeping me quiet. On the contrary now everyone I see is fair game for conversation. It doesn't matter if I have never seen them before nor likely I will see them again.

I especially love to wander the aisles at our local grocery store chatting it up with whomever – other customers or store clerks. Even one store clerk gives me a big hug when she sees me. Another one we trade “dad” jokes when we see each other. Several I visit with because I wear a rotation of baseball caps from different teams and we chat up baseball. Sometimes people initiate the conversation with me because of they are familiar with the team logo on my cap.

I know some of this seems trivial but in Matthew 22:37-39 Jesus says to love God with all our might and to love others as ourselves. God made everyone and loves everyone. No exceptions. So we should love everyone. So when I see someone to chat with, I treat them as I would anyone I loved because I do love them as commanded. And I try to always treat people in a friendly manner because that is how I would want to be treated. As a friend. So as Lent is coming up this is a pro-active thing for me to do – to try to meet and/or greet at least one new person every day. I hope you join me in this.

HYVEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$200,000.00
Receipts: \$83,643.58
Needed to Date: \$116,356.20

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

Remember to bring in your
Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Please ordering on-line, please
send a copy of the receipt by
email to presby@brookings.net-



Along with HyVee receipts, we are also collecting clean empty medication bottles (no labels) as in the example. These will be used to help in medication distribution overseas. Thanks for your donations!



Troop 50724

Christine L'Amour

Troop 50724's Daisies are still working on their petal badges. So far, they have earned the Honest & Fair, Friendly & Helpful, and Considerate & Caring petal badges. These badges correspond to the tenets of the Girl Scout Law which helps the girls develop good character. In addition to these badges, they have also earned the Money Explorer badge. For a service activity, the Daisies are collecting items to donate to the Brookings Regional Humane Society (BRHS), such as bleach, paper towels, laundry detergent, and cat litter.

The cookie program is ramping up! On-line sales start **February 10** and in-person sales start **February 17**. Proceeds from cookie sales come back to our troop for the girls to use for education and service activities in our community. Additionally, the GS cookie program helps girls develop entrepreneurial skills and financial literacy. If you would like to purchase cookies from our Troop 50724 or if you would like to give items for the BRHS, please reach out to Christine L'Amour at 605-695-6541.



Susan's Saga



A couple of concepts from a passage of Scripture from II Corinthians have relevant insights.

One concept has to do with giving being a chain. Those who are giving donate to Paul, who is an intermediary for taking the gifts to the recipients. Those receiving, in turn, give thanksgiving to God. And there is a

reverberation effect as the praise and thanksgiving are reflected back to the original donors, giving them reason to glorify God. It is not only cyclical, as believers give and receive and give again, but also there is a crescendo of thanksgiving to God by all parties: givers, receivers, and intermediaries.

A second thought from this passage is that seed is often a metaphor for God's Word. In the Gospels, Jesus frequently refers to God's Word as being like seed that is sown, with the potential for growth and harvest. Bible translation is directly involved in making that precious seed available to people groups who do not yet have access to God's Word in their heart language.

So these verses are meaningful on several fronts, and it provides an apt opportunity to express gratitude to those who are part of this ongoing chain of providing the seed of Scripture to this group of Mixtec people.

"Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." II Corinthians 9: 10-11

May you be blessed as you provide the blessing of God's Word to others.

Susan Huggins




Scripture quotation is taken from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION.

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.



February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 9:30 Bible Study BIRTHDAYS: Judy S & Robin E ANNIVERSARY: Mike & Judy M	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
5 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom	6	7 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers Mission/Finance Mtg 6:30 PM via Zoom	8 BIRTHDAYS: Betty G Pam L	9 9:30 Bible Study Session Meeting at FPC 7:00 PM	10	11
12 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Congregational Meeting following worship	13	14 9:30 Coffee Group BLADE Articles Due 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	15 BLADE Articles Due	16 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood	17 10:00 AM Presbytery Meeting via Zoom	18 BIRTHDAY: Elizabeth F
19 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom	20 OFFICE CLOSED 	21 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	22 Ash Wednesday  6:30 Worship Service at Sanctuary BIRTHDAY: Robert F	23 9:30 Bible Study	24 BIRTHDAY: Bob J	25
26 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:30 Lenten Potluck BIRTHDAY: Terry S	27	28	 Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins			

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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.