

THE BLADE

*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.*

February 2020

*“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

2020 - A new year, a new decade New Session and Deacon members and Interim Pastor



Elders for 2020

Dolores Canaday, Susan Smith, Terry Spitzenberger, David Peterson, and Mike McCann. Missing: Martin Maca



Deacons for 2020

Jeanne Longieliere, Nancy Thompson, Dan Kemp, Bonnie Foster, and Kay Norton. Missing: Ann Douglas

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 - Friday 9 am – 2:30 pm

Session Members

Donna Flint (clerk), Dolores Canaday, Martin Maca, Mike McCann, David Peterson, Susan Smith, Terry Spitzenberger

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190
pastorfpcbrookings@outlook.com
In office 9 am-12:30 pm
Monday through Thursday

Admin. Assistant
Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates and photos, like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/fpcbrookings



Please check the website www.brookingspresbyterian.org for the “Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter” and “Susan’s Saga.”



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact **Jan Jones at 692-5325**, **Lee Peterson 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.

February 2: Don Hildebrandt, Scott & Jennifer Hinricher and family Saige, Skylar, & Ramsie

February 9: Dean & Sharon Hofland, Nelda Holden, Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague

February 16: MK Hugghins, Roger & Marvis Jenner, Bob & Jan Jones

February 24: Rev. Norlita Kaul & Dave Robinson, Marlys Kelsey, Dan & Michele Kemp

In Loving Memory

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Mary Fishback von Tol (sister of our member Bob Fishback) who passed away January 3, 2020.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Rachel Borstad Schoepf (daughter of our member Barb Borstad) whose memorial service was held in our sanctuary on Saturday January 18, 2020.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JANUARY MEETING

Elections:

- **Dave Peterson** was elected **Church Treasurer**
- **Donna Flint** was elected **Clerk to the Session**

Committee Assignments:

- Building and Grounds -- Terry Spitzenberger
- Christian Education -- Mike McCann
- Fellowship and Outreach -- Susan Smith
- Mission and Finance -- Dave Peterson
- Worship -- Dolores Canaday
- Personnel -- Susan Smith
- Church Use: -- Clerk, Pastor, Chair Building and Grounds, Church Secretary

Other News:

- Session approved pastor study leave for November 17-23 to attend CREDO conference
- Session approved administration of the Time and Talent Survey
- The Worship committee will begin organizing the ushers (moved from Fellowship and Outreach)- if you have any suggestions, please contact a member of that committee.
- Session voted (with regret) to approve the request to transfer membership of David and Louise Crain to Asbury Methodist Church in Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted
Donna Flint, Clerk to Session

Mission & Finance

* **2020 PER CAPITA** is \$34.75 per person. If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.

* **ANNUAL STATEMENTS** are in the narthex ready to be picked up.



Board of Deacons

Nancy Thompson, moderator
Ann Douglas, vice-moderator
Dan Kemp, treasurer

Bonnie Foster
Jeanne Longeliere
Kay Norton, secretary

Deacons Welcome New Year

The 2020 Board of Deacons is organized and ready to serve. Just let us know if we can help you AND please inform us of anyone in need ... meals, rides, prayers, visits, etc. Talk to your deacon (or any deacon) or call the church and Rozanne will contact us. Everyone in our church family is assigned a deacon—you should soon receive a note from your deacon. **A new procedure** implemented will be **notification by your deacon of a church cancellation**.

And remember, **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING SUNDAY** is **Sunday, February 2, 2020**. Our food collection for February is concentrating on donations of hearty canned soup (we accept any nonperishable foods). Blessings for 2020.



Revelings

I Corinthians 13 The Gift of Love



13 ¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ⁴ Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends.

February, the month of Valentine's Day and President's Day, on the secular calendar, these days are reminders to us of love in action. As we read the familiar love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13, we also find reminders to us of love in action. We are the living hands and feet of Jesus, practicing love in its vast and varied forms, as Christ's disciples each day. How do we share God's love as part of the calling upon our lives? How is God calling us to be faithful? How do we do this as we make our spiritual journey through our lives? God's love being so vast and beyond comprehension, yet so gentle, compassionate and merciful, is demonstrated to us daily. I pray that we all take comfort in this.

The Scottish Theologian, William Barclay, wrote in his "Daily Celebration" Devotional Readings for Every Day of The Year (p. 15, Word Press, Waco TX ,1971) the following:

"As we grow older, and as time grows ever shorter, there are certain things which we should remember. We should never leave things half-finished-in case they are never finished. We should carefully choose what we are going to do-for there is no longer time to do everything, and we should do the things which really matter. We should never come to the end of a day with a quarrel or a breach between us and any fellow-man-for it may be that the quarrel will never be mended and the breach will never be closed." LOVE NEVER ENDS.

Faithfully,

Rev Norlita

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE GUSTAVUS CHOIR from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN, will present a free concert at Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings on **Sunday, February 2**. The concert, under the direction of Brandon Dean, begins at 3:30 p.m. A freewill donation will be taken. The concert will feature classical and contemporary compositions, including a commissioned piece by Elaine Hagenberg.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD will be serving grilled cheese sandwiches and soup on **February 16th** after worship service. All are invited!

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY: We are embarking upon our congregation's continuing journey. It's a new day-a fresh start! EVERYONE HAS A SPECIAL GIFT/TALENT to help further God's work here at First Presbyterian Church. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY consider how you may, can, and will be able to assist us in this important work. Time and Talent surveys are included in this newsletter and available in the narthex. Please return yours by **February 16** to the church office. Thank you!



Time to start thinking about Summer Camp! This year's poster with the upcoming dates is on the bulletin board. More information will be coming in next month's Blade.

Prepare the way for the Lord!

As we begin our journey toward Easter, let's gather in **Fellowship Hall** for a potluck supper on **Ash Wednesday, February 26th at 5:45 PM**. Soup is being prepared so **bring salad or dessert to share**. And then at 7:00 pm, join us for worship with the imposition of ashes.



Starting on **Sundays March 1st-29th**, we will meet for a **potluck after Sunday worship**.

Welcome!



On January 19th, First Presbyterian Church welcomed their new interim pastor, Rev. Norlita Kaul, and her husband Dave Robinson.

NAME BADGES: Connecting faces to names is a great first step in getting to know someone. And while our congregation only has ONE new name to learn...Rev. Norlita...she has MANY of our names to learn! Please help by wearing your name badge at church so she can begin remembering which beautiful face belongs to your name!

CHURCH DIRECTORY: For 2020 we are creating a pictorial church directory. If you have previously sent a picture to the church office (or one is on file), thank you. If you have a specific picture to use, please e-mail it to the church office. If you prefer no picture in the church directory, please inform the office. Our goal and deadline for distribution is **March 1st**.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

February 2020

Andrew L'Amour



Scripture Reading: Matthew 12:18 Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

Quote: I think the first duty of society is justice. - Wendell Phillips

Men's Brotherhood Notes: At our December 2019 meeting Troy White, Troop 14 Scoutmaster, gave a talk about the Scout Program that the Men's Brotherhood sponsors. At our January 16, 2020 regular meeting we enjoyed a sumptuous repast followed by a presentation by Mike Gilmartin from the Teen Challenge regarding all the good work they are doing there. Next month's meeting will be held February 20.

Prayer Concerns: Pray that the spirit of justice be found in everything.

Action: When you see injustice, speak out. Work to change it.

Jesus calls us. "Follow me", He says. Where are we going? Eleven times Jesus says "Follow me." He says: I will make you fishers of men. Deny yourself, and take up your cross. Sell everything and give to the poor. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

In Matthew 22 Jesus said to do to others what they would do to you. To follow Jesus is to follow this command. Later in Matthew 25 in a parable of the sheep and goats, Jesus tells us the situations we may encounter when following Him: we will see those who are hungry, those who are thirsty, the stranger, those in need of clothes, those who are sick and need caring for, and those who are in prison and need visiting. We are expected to care for their immediate needs. But is that all there is? No.

Why are they hungry, why are they thirsty, why are they strangers, or sick or in prison? To seek out and to work to change where needed the reasons behind these things, to reduce these incidents and the suffering that goes with them – this is justice; rooting out injustice which is the cause of much of this. Replace injustice with justice and righteousness.

Jesus expects us to give up everything in order to follow Him, proclaiming justice to all the land. Are we willing to go that far? What sacrifices are we willing to make? How far can we go? See Luke 14:25-33 regarding counting the cost.

So where are we going when we follow Jesus? We are following Him to a life where we want to understand the will of God as best as we can. And a life where we are to seek justice for our neighbors. It may not be a smooth road, or an easy road. But if we are following Jesus then we know He is with us.



Troop 14 Scouts will be meeting on the first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

HY VEE

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

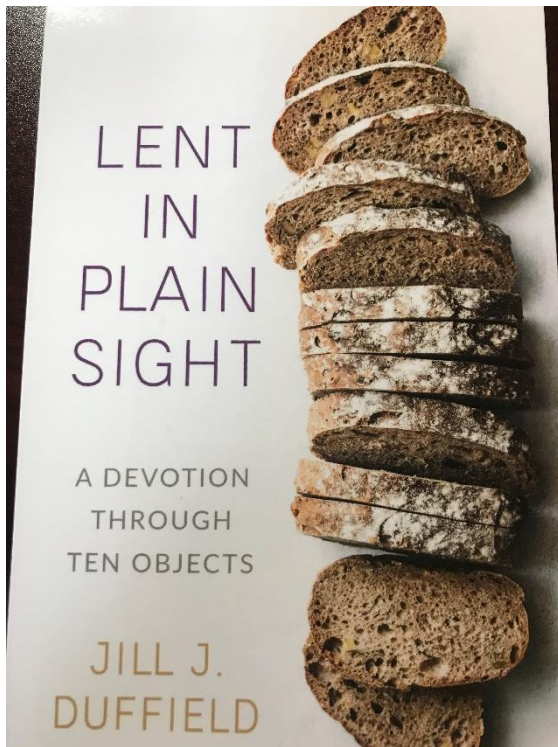
Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$69,434.66

Needed to Date: \$80,565.34

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Lenten Bible Study



Beginning Wednesday Feb. 19th our Lenten Book/Bible Study will begin. (It's one week before Ash Wednesday, but there's a need to begin it early due to the number of lessons we'll cover). I'm excited to help lead our congregation through the new publication "Lent In Plain Sight": A Devotion Through Ten Objects by Jill J. Duffield. Here's what Westminster John Knox Press posted on their website about this study:

Description

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. In this devotional for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

Reviews

"In this thoughtful new book, ten objects, common in our life and in the life of Jesus, mark a way of prayer through Lent: dust, coins, oil, thorns, and even towels. Duffield invites us to reflect on love, redemption, and God's promise in these simple, ordinary things, reminding us of the simple, ordinary, yet extraordinary reality of the gospel in our everyday lives."

—Heidi Haverkamp, author of *Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels*

"Lenten journeys are not meant to be solitary excursions into self but a long walk with good companions along the way of the cross. Like prayer itself, the journey is hard, and we need help to sustain us along the way. Jill Duffield is one such good companion and faithful guide whose prayers and devotions, centered on the commonplace, draw the reader more deeply into the uncommon grace of Lent's mysterious gifts. Read this book, and you will find the gospel in ordinary bread that becomes, for the pilgrim, the bread of life."

—Thomas Currie III, professor emeritus of theology, Union Presbyterian Seminary, and author of *The Joy of Ministry*

Each week we'll focus on the scriptures, brief devotionals, 3 questions for Reflection and prayers, in the book for each week, discussing how/why we found it meaningful. So our schedule will look like this:

Wed. Feb. 19- 6:00 pm Week One-Dust.....bring a brown bag dinner (we'll decide whether/not to continue brown bag in successive weeks.

Wed. Feb. 26-NO STUDY-ASH WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

Wed. March 4-6:00 pm Week Two-Bread

Wed. March 11-6:00 pm Week Three-The Cross

Wed. March 18-6:00 pm Week Four-Coins

Wed. March 25-6:00 pm Week Five-Shoes

Wed. April 1-6:00 pm Week Six-Oil

Wed. April 8-6:00 pm Holy Week-Coats, Towels Thorns & Stones-FINAL SESSION

Books have been ordered and will be available for pick up Sunday February 16th. May this be a meaningful time of journey through the Season of Lent in the life of our church!

Faithfully,
Rev. Norlita

2020 TIME AND TALENTS

With God's help, I will be willing to serve or participate in the following capacity(s):

SUNDAY WORSHIP

- Greeter
- Usher
- Scripture Reader
- Leader of Young at Heart
- Sound Tech
- Share pictures for PowerPoint
- Water plants in sanctuary
- Assist in hanging banners
- Treats for Coffee Fellowship
- Rides to church
- Photographer for special events
- Elevator operator for special events
- Helping serve for special events
- Helping with funerals
- Moving furniture/chairs

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/VISITATION

- Assist at Harvest Table
- Donate to Food Pantry
- Donate to Share the Warmth, Christmas Joy
- Ring Salvation Army bells
- Meal preparation
- Visit shut-ins
- Run errands
- Caregiver respite
- 60+ Dining drivers

ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEER IDEAS

GROUPS

- Attend Adult Sunday School
- Sunday School teacher or helper
- VBS teacher or helper
- Youth activities chaperone
- Prayer Chain
- Attend Thursday Bible Study
- Assist in leading Thursday Bible Study
- Quilting group
- Men's Brotherhood
- Tuesday Coffee Group
- Lunch Bunch
- Choir/special music
- Bell Choir
- Fellowship/Outreach Committee
- Christian Education Committee
- Worship Committee
- Building & Grounds Committee
- Session Member
- Deacon Member

BUILDING/MAINTENANCE/OFFICE

- Mowing/fertilizing lawn
- Spraying for weeds
- Care/waterer of outside potted plants
- Landscaping
- Hauling to landfill
- Library organizer
- Historian/historians needed
- Organizing/clutter control
- Assist creating bulletin boards
- Articles for the Blade
- Fold Blade

Name _____

Telephone _____

E-mail: _____



**FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS
2020**

SOUND
Ginny Conger

USHERS

Dave Peterson, Janet TeBeest,
John Peterson, Emma Moerke,
Nick Ruskin

**LEADERS OF
YOUNG AT HEART**

Feb. 2: Jan Jones
Feb. 9: Bonnie Foster
Feb. 16: Kay Norton
Feb. 23: Donna Flint

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Souper Bowl of Caring 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Communion 11:30 Fellowship Hour Homebound Communion BIRTHDAY: Judy Smith, Robin Eich ANNIVERSARY: Mike & Judy McCann	3 7:00 Building & Grounds Mtg	4 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers 6:30 Mission & Finance Mtg	5 7:00 Choir Practice	6 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 Deacons 7:00 Scouts Meeting	7	8 9:30 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAYS: Betty Gehring Pam Larson
9 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour	10 BIRTHDAYS Larry Anderson Carey Bretsch	11 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers	12 7:00 Choir Practice	13 9:30 Bible Study	14 VALENTINE'S DAY BLADE ARTICLES DUE	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Men's Brotherhood Brunch for the Congregation	17 PRESIDENT'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	18 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAY: Elizabeth Fox	19 6:00 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Choir Practice	20 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood 7:00 Scouts Meeting	21	22 BIRTHDAY: Robert Fishback
23 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Fellowship Hour	24 BIRTHDAY: Bob Jones	25 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers	26 ASH WEDNESDAY 5:45 Potluck Supper 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	27 9:30 Bible Study	28 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Mission Coffee House)	

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Lord's Supper—
First Sunday of each month

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Appointments also available
at times as needed/desired

Pastor's Sabbath

Friday and Saturday

(in emergencies,
please call/text pastor's cell #)

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 am – 11:30 am
12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

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