

THE BLADE

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 2021

*“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 is patient,
love is kind. It does not
envy, it does not boast, it is not
proud. It is not self-seeking, it is
not easily angered, it keeps no record
of wrongs. Love does not delight in
evil but rejoices with the truth.
It always perseveres. And
now faith, hope and
love abide, but
the greatest
of these
is
love*

*SHARE
THE
LOVE*

FEBRUARY

THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

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

Session Members

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

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

In office at BUUC 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Tuesday

Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 2:30 pm

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”
and “Susan’s Saga.”



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.

* Just for your information, the per capita per person for 2021 is \$34.78. If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.

David Peterson, Treasurer



Our team of prayer volunteers are eager and ready to pray for you, a loved one, or any special request. Please contact **Jan Jones at 692-5325** and/or **Lee Peterson at 692-7757**. (*Concerns are confidentially held within our prayer team unless you request it be shared with others*)

Prayer Families

We encourage everyone in our community of faith and life together to pray for those listed below during daily prayer time.

February 7: Kelly & Tami Watson, Skip & Sharon Webster

February 14: Bruce & Lori Westergaard, Dorothy Williamson

February 21: Alan & Susan Young & family Adam & Katy, Dave & Lucy Barkus

February 28: Linda Barnett, Bob Barling, Teri Bierstedt

Session Meeting Update

January 21, 2021

- After membership rolls have been updated, the membership number moves to 129 active members as of December 31, 2020.
- Congratulations to Adam Young and Tate Broksieck, recipients of the First Presbyterian Church Embry Fund SDSU Scholarships for 2020-2021.
- The Congregational meeting originally scheduled for January 31st will be moved to a date to be determined (after we return to in-person worship services).
- The session elected Dave Peterson to serve as church treasurer and Donna Flint to serve as Clerk of Session.
- Committee assignments for 2021- we encourage anyone interested in joining a committee or who has questions for the committee to contact these committee chairs:
 - Building and Grounds- Terry Spitzenberger
 - Christian Education- Mike McCann
 - Fellowship and Outreach- Martin Maca
 - Mission and Finance- Dave Peterson
 - Worship- Dolores Canaday
 - Nominating- Terry Spitzenberger
 - Personnel- Donna Flint
- The Session approved the 2021 budget as presented by treasurer Dave Peterson- this will be available with other reports in the annual report available in February.

Respectfully

Donna Flint, Clerk of Session

Announcement:

The members of session and Reverend Kaul would like to give our heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of this congregation. In a time of pandemic and economic hardship, this congregation has maintained a level of giving that has allowed the church to continue God's work on behalf of the members and friends of the congregation as well as continue to provide monetary support to several local and international missions. God is at work here! Thank you.

Donna Flint

Clerk of Session



The annual congregational meeting normally held at the end of January of each year has been postponed until a future date has been determined and arranged by the Session. This decision was made due to the suspension of in-person worship during the months of January and February due to the increased concerns with our ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The annual report will be made available via e-mail before February 12th. If you would desire a hard copy, they will be available for pickup in the church office after that date. We appreciate your understanding surrounding this year's meeting and distribution of the report due to extenuating circumstances.



Ann Douglas, Moderator
Jean Longieliere, Vice-Moderator
Bonnie Foster, Secretary

Nancy Thompson
Lee Peterson

Deacons Welcome New Year

The 2021 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, 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

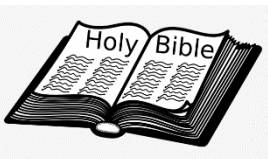
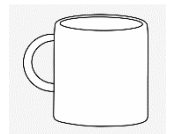
FLASH PRAYERS...try it!! During this month of February, let's spread love and good wishes through flash prayers. Read this excerpt from *THE POWER OF POSITIVE THINKING* by Norman Vincent Peale, and give it a try!

“Many unique methods of prayer have come to my attention, but one of the most effective is that advocated by Frank Laubach in his excellent book, *PRAYER, THE MIGHTIEST POWER IN THE WORLD*. I regard this as one of the most practical books on prayer, for it outlines fresh prayer techniques that work. Dr. Laubach believes that actual power is generated by prayer. One of his methods is to walk down the street and “shoot” prayers at people. He calls this type of praying “flash prayers.” He bombards passers-by with prayers, sending out thoughts of good will and love. He says that people passing him on the street as he “shoots” prayers at them often turnaround and look at him and smile. They feel the emanation of a power like electrical energy.”

*Thank you for Food Pantry donations, however the need is never ending. Food Pantry donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off at our church or the Food Pantry at 217 4th St. between 9:30 and 5 MWF.

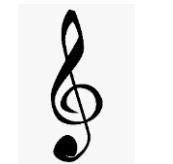
News You Can Use

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP will be meeting in **February**. Let's meet beginning Feb. 9th at Perkins at 9:30ish. Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).



THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is meeting **via Zoom** on Thursdays at 9:30am. We are studying the book of Genesis. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757).

SPECIAL MUSIC We continue to enjoy special music during our worship service. Please contact Donna (flintd99@gmail) or Ginny (conger.ginny@gmail.com) if you are willing to provide other special music.





Thank you to Arlyce Thorne for donation of office supplies—we sure appreciate your generosity!

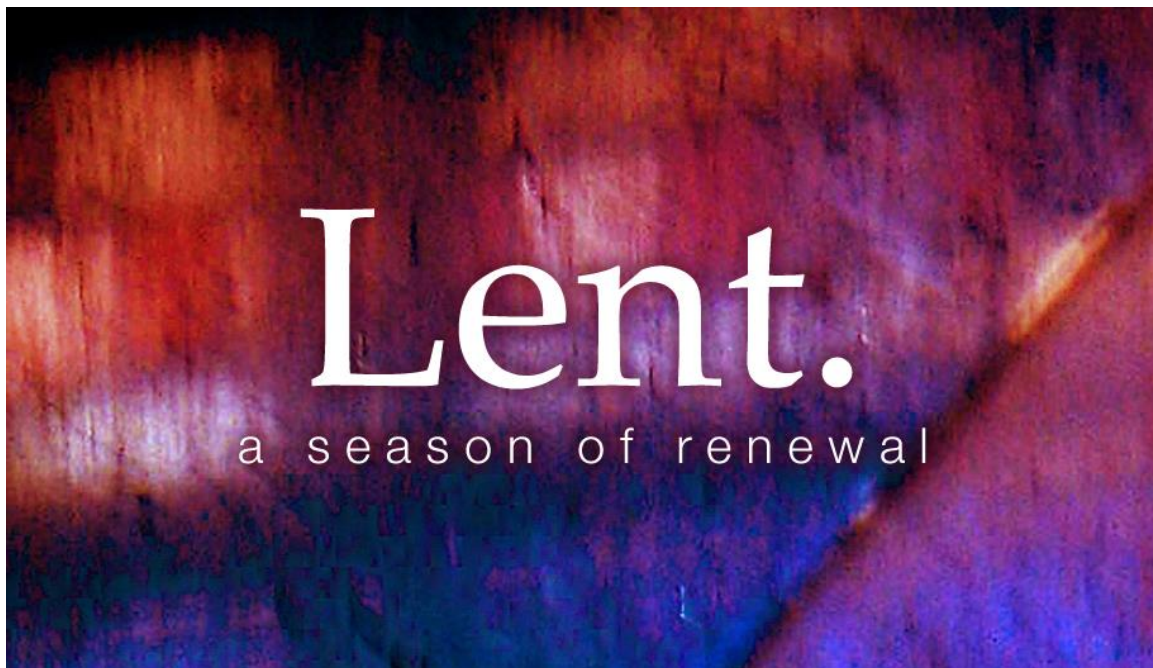
Thank you, Sue Young for volunteering to be the Endowment Treasurer and thank you to Donna Wilson for her years of service in this position, on behalf of our church.



For the joy of new life, Lennon Rose, born the week of Dec 20th, 2020, great-granddaughter to Jeanne and Darwin Longieliere.

Happy Groundhog Day February 2nd

The Church Office will be closed Feb. 15



ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 17TH

Imposition of Ashes for those that desire to participate, this will be **available at church** in our **sanctuary from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.** Rev. Kaul will be available for this and any prayers that you might desire at that time.

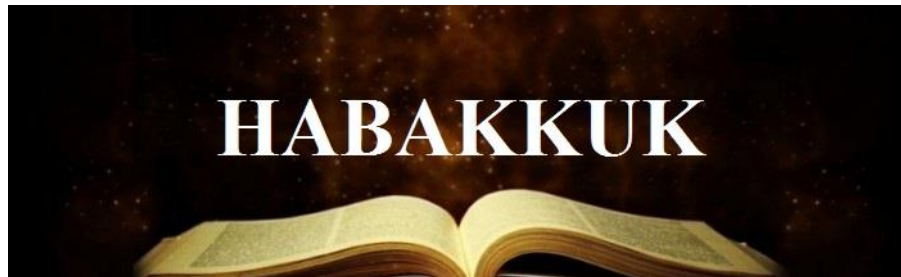


7:00 p.m.

Zoom invitation will be arriving 2/15/21

Meeting ID: 735 531 7601 Passcode: worship

LENT 2021 ZOOM BIBLE STUDY



A Brief Study of a Minor Prophet in the Old Testament

When: Wednesday Evenings @ 6:30pm Beginning February 24th

Where: In the comfort of your own home, via Zoom

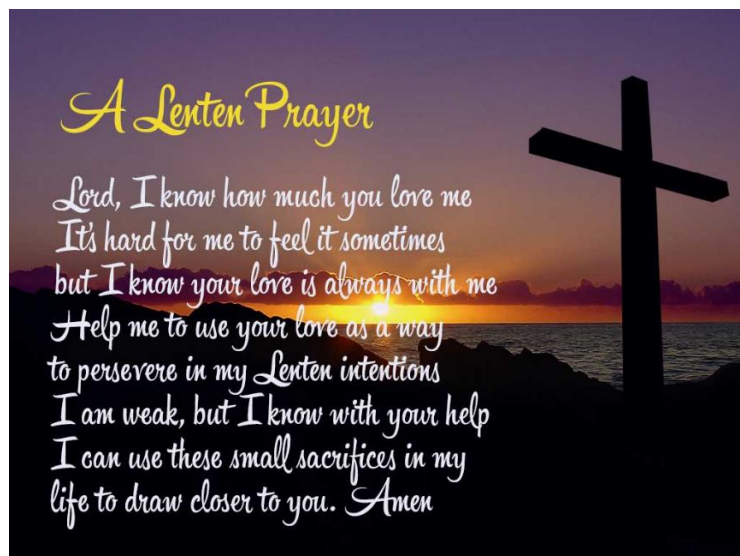
Who: Anyone who wishes to join in the conversation!

Why: To get better acquainted with the words of this Minor Prophet, why it was written and what we can glean and learn from its 3 chapters.

Zoom invitation will be arriving 2/22/21

Meeting ID: 886 0749 0278 Passcode: 024200

This study will be led by Rev. Kaul. No book other than your bible is needed. We look forward to our journey together thisnt. We hope you'll join us!



REVELINGS

Community Is... Doing Difficult Things

Mark 6:7-13

⁷He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; ⁹but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. ¹⁰He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. ¹¹If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. ¹³They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.



As we read these words they speak to the power of God at work in and through the members of the faith community at Jesus' behest. It's hard to walk our journey of faith alone. We need companions and that's what Jesus is trying to get across to us.

We've been exploring what it means to be and part of the family of God, in our specific faith communities. This month we turn to doing difficult things and Bret Lamsma's reflection upon this. He wrote:

Learning is in doing things together. And many of those things can be difficult. Our goal is to learn how to love people the way Jesus called us to, so we take every opportunity we can to practice love... It means sharing God's love with people in our church community in out-of-the box ways.

When Jesus sent out his disciples, I think he had some of the same thoughts in mind. He sent them out together to do difficult things. He sent them out to preach and to heal. I'm sure they were apprehensive at first. But when they came back, they had amazing stories to tell of God's power displayed in their world.

Community does that together. It goes and does difficult things together, all the time witnessing the amazing work of God in the world around us.

There's no doubt that we've been working through a difficult time as our pandemic continues to wage war in its many facets which has done since it began in Jan. 2020. Our patience has been worn thin and through at times. We question, "where are you God? Why can't this all just be over?" Then we're reminded, as disciples we're called to do difficult things as individuals and together as a community of faith.

May we continue to walk this journey and road that our God requires of us, even as it's most difficult. Let us do this together, two by two. Let us go into the world's darkness and be the light Christ calls us to be, even if it's difficult. Jesus as our companion, teacher and friend, walks alongside us, each step of the way.

Prayer: Father, send us into the world together, in your name, to love people and to witness your power at work through changing lives, one person at a time. In Christ's name and for his sake, Amen.



Thank you to our church family for all your prayers, thoughts, kind words, gifts and cards that have been received after my husband Dave's passing recently. There was much comfort in this outpouring of Christian love. Thank you for being Christ's love in action. This means more than words can ever express.

Rev. Norlita and family

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

February 2021

Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: All Men's Brotherhood activities are suspended until further notice.

I have always tried to be in tune with things that I find humorous. Recently my brother-in-law sent me a link to a comic who is billed as the Cosmic Comic. He also calls himself the biggest name in comedy, because there are 12 letters in his last name. He calls himself Swami Beyondananda. His real name is Steve Bhaerman. I had never heard of him before; I am not certain many folks have. A lot of his comedy is political satire and new age humor. Play on words and puns are the norm.

My bro-in-law was pretty exuberant that I listen to him so he sent me a link to an "interview" he gave. One of the Swami's sayings is: "It's time to take humor seriously, and seriousness humorously."

But there was one thing he said which caused me to take particular note, this was "We are not here to earn God's love, we are here to spend it." I think we have all heard this sentiment so many times "God gives us His love unconditionally" but hearing it spoken in this combination of words struck me as particularly noteworthy. God loves us. Romans 5:8 "While we were yet sinners Christ died for us." God loves us. And we don't have to do anything for it. Happy are we when we realize this. So we do not have to earn God's love. It is a gift. There for the receiving! More next month...



Embry Fund SDSU Scholarship: The Christian Education Committee is accepting applications for the Embry Fund SDSU Scholarship. Members of the church who are planning to attend SDSU in the Fall 2021 are eligible to apply. Applications may be submitted on-line here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PWP3SJ> and are due **March 31st**.



The Scouts Troop 14 will not be meeting until safety guidelines are decided upon.

HY VEE

We've reached our \$150,000.00 goal and have received a \$1,000 check from HyVee.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal \$150,000.00




Received to Date: \$6,352.99

Needed to Date: \$143,647.01

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 Worship Committee via Zoom	2 BIRTHDAY: Judy Smith, Robin Eich ANNIVERSARY: Mike & Judy McCann	3	4 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom	5	6
7 10:30 Worship Service/Communion via Zoom	8 BIRTHDAYS: Betty Gehring Pam Larson	9 9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins 6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom	10 BIRTHDAY: Carey Bretsch	11 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom	12 BIRTHDAY: Carol Ann Glaus	13
14 <i>Transfiguration Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship Service via Zoom VALENTINE'S DAY Remember to share the love!	15  OFFICE CLOSED BLADE ARTICLES DUE	16 9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins	17  Imposition of Ashes 10AM to 2PM-Sanctuary Ash Wednesday Worship via Zoom – 7 PM	18 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom BIRTHDAY: Elizabeth Fox	19	20
21 1 st Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship Service via Zoom	22 BIRTHDAY: Robert Fishback	23 9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins	24 6:30 Lenten Bible Study-Zoom BIRTHDAY: Bob Jones	25 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom	26 BIRTHDAY: Terry Spitzenberger	27
28 2 nd Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship Service via Zoom						

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

Lord's Supper—

First Sunday of each month

Pastor's Office Hours

At FPC

Mon, Wed, Thurs

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

At BUCC

Tues 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Appointments also available
as need/desired

Pastor's Sabbath

Friday and Saturday

(in emergencies, please call/text

Pastor's cell #)

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday

9:00 am – 2:30 am

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

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