

THE BLADE

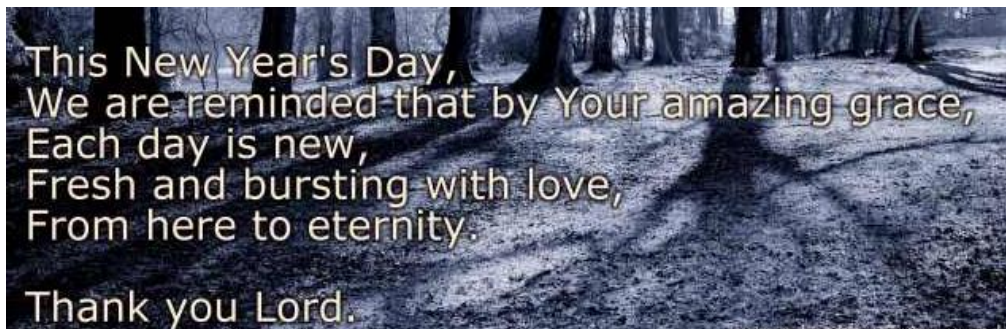
Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation, heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ



January 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 Simple Christmas Pageant memory 2021



JANUARY

THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

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

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

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”
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.

*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.

January 2: Linda B, Bob B, Teri B, Don B

January 9: Chad & Diane B & family Tate & Trent,
LaVonne B

January 16: Richard & Dolores C, Ginny C

January 23: Maxine D, Ann & Bill D, Mary E

January 30: Evelyn F, Bob & Pat F, Robby & Donna F

Session Update

Session met in the parlor on December 9, 2021. Here are some highlights:

1. Welcomed new Session members Dan Kemp and Ella Lane who begin in 2022, thanked Dolores Canaday and Martin Maca whose terms end at the end of this year.
2. Approved a motion from the Mission and Finance Committee to donate \$110 of the local Peacemaking fund to Bienvenidos a Brookings.
3. Voted to renew the Interim Pastor contract with Reverend Norlita Kaul for one more year with the same terms as previous years.
4. Committed to beginning the work of transition, discussed the role of the interim pastor in leading this work and discussed the plan going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Flint
Clerk of Session



There will be no Sunday School on Jan. 2, 2022

January 10th is the due date for Annual Report articles

January 17: Church office is closed in observance of Federal holiday



TREE OF WARMTH: Thank you for your donations to the Tree of Warmth. Your generosity will surely put a huge smile on a face. Again, thanks for making a difference.



The December meal at Summerhill was a success. The deacons took pleasure in helping Pastor with this get together. We enjoyed a noon lunch, singing, laughter, communion and fellowship. Hoping you found the perfect place for the beautiful poinsettias.

*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.



Thank you to my church family for your many kind words of comfort during the difficult time of Dad's passing.

Lee P

thank you

Thank you, Gayle, for shopping for toys for Project Joy.

Thank you to the Deacons for the beautiful poinsettias that were given to us.

Art & Marjorie P and Marlys K

News You Can Use

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, Jan. 11:

Mission/Finance via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM

Thursday, Jan. 13:

Session Meeting in **person** at 7:00 PM

Sunday, Jan. 30

Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

-SUNDAY 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School and 11:45 AM Youth Sunday School

-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

-MEN'S BROTHERHOOD on January 20 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

-SISTERHOOD on January 20 at 11:30 AM at Perkins.

FPC's Sisterhood has had two wonderful Thursday night gatherings in October and November 2021. In the winter months of January through April, there's going to be a time change for the gathering from evening time to a lunch gathering. Our next Sisterhood gathering will be Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022 at 11:30 AM at Perkins. Hope you'll be able to join us!

We're also collecting clean empty medication bottles (no labels) as in the example. These will be used to help in medication distribution overseas. This is a mission work that is currently being done through the Presbyterian Women of our Presbytery. Thanks for your help!



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD
January 2022
Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood scheduled for December 16 has been canceled. Plan on January 20, 2022 for the next meeting.

Scripture: Luke 1:14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth,

Rejoice!! The ultimate reason to rejoice is the birth of Christ. Hope for all of mankind is upon us!! Hallelujah!! But his birth, life and death must all be fulfilled until we get to that point where the reward, he is for our salvation, is upon us.

Like our own lives – we have to go through so much before we get to the point of realization of the rejoicing is fulfilled. Some experiences are long in suffering – illnesses, disabilities, and losses. Some are shorter. But we need to endure, to persevere, to persist. Some we can see an end, hopefully. Others? Who knows? I and many others would like these past two years to come to a conclusion, where we can get back to normal. But as our pastor said in March 2020, "This may be our new normal."

This Christmas season many would love to get things back like they were. But with the complexities of all of our lives with births, deaths, job changes, losses of so many kinds, disasters like in Kentucky and Missouri, and others too numerous to list – can our lives ever get back to "normal"? What is normal when life is so full of changes? Expected and unexpected?

The one thing we can hang on to that never changes no matter what we experience – God's love for us. Jesus coming to earth in the form of the innocent child. The child who grows up to be the ultimate sacrifice for us so we can achieve reconciliation with our God the father. Sin separates us but Jesus heals all our wounds. When Jesus came the new normal was and is salvation for all mankind. Thanks be to God!!



HY VEE

2022

Goal: \$150,000.00
Receipts: \$67,104.97
Needed to Date: \$82,895.03

Required for \$1,000 donation:
\$150,000.00

Remember to bring in your
Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

**Congratulations—
we have reached our goal of \$150,000.00 for 2021!
Thank you to everyone!**

Please contact the church office if you are willing to help enter the HyVee receipts--join the team! If you have a computer with internet access, we will help you set up your free google account (if needed) and train you on how to enter the HyVee receipts.

Many hands make light work, so let's work together!

Revelings for January 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

We begin a New Year in the service to our Lord and God's Kingdom here on earth. We continue our journeying together as Interim Pastor and Congregation, all people of God. As I begin my 3rd year with you, our work together will include some conversations, frank discussions, and honest assessments. Surrounding it all we'll need to bathe ourselves in God's Word and Prayer to help us discern the answer to our question, "Where is God leading us?"

In this spirit I found an article below from 2018 that perhaps will be helpful for all of us to utilize in our personal discernment and discipleship building that we'll need to be in our toolbox on our journey. There's also a 5 Day Bible Study Reading Plan included to be helpful. Please take time to read through the article below, spend some time in prayerful discernment in answering the questions found within it.

Our Session Members have been given the book "Sailboat Church" by the Rev. Joan Gray, to read and discuss, to help us as "church" to delve deeper into questions and conversations for this year's meetings. This is to help us also with our question of "Where is God leading us?"

I am excited at the new thing that God is doing as we embark on this part of FPC's journey of discovery. Yes, it is hard work, but it's so rewarding. Hence the need for Study of God's Word and Prayer being a part of every person's life that is involved in our congregation.

Blessings to everyone for a safe, productive, good and healthy 2022. Be Well!

In Christ's Love and Service,

Rev. Norlita

Epiphany Series: A Light to the Nations

- Jan. 2 "Outsiders Becoming Insiders" (Christ's love and light draws the whole world in) Matthew 2:1-12
- Jan. 9 "Saved to Serve the Whole World" (A Baptism empowers mission) Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- Jan. 16 "The Illumination of New Wine" (At Cana, Jesus began his work of illuminating the dark places) John 2:1-11
- Jan. 23 "A Mission to Light Your Way" (We define Jesus' mission and our own) Luke 4:14-21
- Jan. 30: "Home Town Boy" (Jesus' good news isn't a threat, it's an invitation) Luke 4:21-30

SUSAN'S SAGA



The arrival of the holiday season includes the tasty prospect of many traditional foods, for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. These traditions vary quite a lot from family to family, and especially between cultures.

In Mexico, the festivities begin with All Saints Day. Among the traditional foods are *enfrijoladas*, which are corn tortillas immersed in a thin sauce of pureed black beans flavored with avocado leaf, then folded over and served with string cheese. (These have become one of my favorites!)

The holiday season lasts into January. On Epiphany the arrival of the Kings or Magi is commemorated with wreaths of sweet bread, decorated with colorful dried fruits, to be shared with the extended family. There are little plastic figures embedded in the dough. Whoever gets one is supposed to treat everyone else to tamales on Candlemass, which is February 2nd. That is the traditional date when the Baby Jesus was taken to the temple, 40 days after His birth.

I am currently taking a class on Cross-cultural Self-awareness. One of the topics is food, meals, and associated practices. It is amazing how widely customs can vary between cultures. What is deemed acceptable and normal in one culture, can seem awkward, quite weird or downright disgusting to people from another culture. For example, in some cultures it is essential to serve the seniors first out of respect and the children last. In others, it is offensive for women to eat with the men. In some places, food is never served family-style, but someone dishes out the food for each person. In yet others, everyone eats from a common platter. Yet food is really basic for everyone and can be an effective way of relating cross-culturally. We need to learn to accept others and be willing to get out of our own comfort zone so that we can have fellowship around a meal.

It was certainly a live topic in the first century. The Apostle Paul writes extensively about food issues, in Romans 14:14-23, I Corinthians Chapter 8, and touched on again in Galatians 2:12. A good summary is found in I Corinthians 9:22: "...I try to find common ground with everyone, doing everything I can to save some."

Paul was willing to lay aside the strict Jewish customs he grew up with so that his ministry could extend to others. He came to realize that making God's message of salvation known to others was more important than feeling comfortable.

Through the centuries fellowship surrounding food has been foundational for establishing bonds cross-culturally. There is something about sharing a meal and conversation which promotes relationship. I have found that among the Mixtecs it is really important to eat with them and enjoy their food. They are pleased when I appreciate what they have prepared, as it indicates that I value their culture and identity as a people.

During this holiday season and year-round may we be sensitive to people of other cultures, including their ways of eating. Brookings is becoming more multi-cultural, with students at SDSU hailing from many places around the globe. If one looks around, there may be opportunities to reach out to those who are far from home during the holidays

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote is taken from the New American Standard Bible. *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*



January 2022



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	5Fri	Sat
			1		OFFICE CLOSED	1
2 NO Sunday School 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom	3	4 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers BIRTHDAY: Marlys M	5 BIRTHDAY: Lisa B	6 9:30 Bible Study	7	8
9 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Sunday School	10 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE BIRTHDAY: Neil F	11 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers 6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Joel F	12	13 9:30 Bible Study Session Meeting at FPC 7:00 PM BIRTHDAY: Daniel M	14 BIRTHDAY: Vivian L	15 BIRTHDAY: Katy Y
16 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Sunday School ORDINATION/INSTALLATION OF ELDERS/DEACONS BIRTHDAY: Julie S	17 OFFICE CLOSED HOLIDAY	18 BLADE Articles Due 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	19	20 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Perkins 5:30 Men's Brotherhood BIRTHDAY: Malia G	21	22
23 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Sunday School	24 BIRTHDAY:	25 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers BIRTHDAY: Brock P Art V	26	27 9:30 Bible Study	28	29
30 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Sunday School ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MTG	31					

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First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:15 am Adult Bible Study
10:30 am Worship Service
11:45 am Sunday School

Pastor's Office Hours

At FPC

Mon, Tues, Thurs

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Appointments also available
as need/desired

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday

9:00 am – 2:30 am

Pastor's Sabbath

Friday and Saturday

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

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

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