

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 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

A New Year With The Lord

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware

For He will make a way for us
As we put our trust in Him
And He will guide our every step
By His presence we have within

What God has placed within our hearts,
We find we'll be able to do
If we look for the opportunities,
We'll see the door to go through

We mustn't let anything hold us back,
But rise up and take our place
And be all that God wants us to be
With a fresh touch of His grace.

Image © Karen Arnold www.publicdomainpictures.net
Poem © M.S.Lowndes www.heavensinspirations.com

JANUARY

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 – 2:30 pm

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

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings



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.

David Peterson, Treasurer



Our team of prayer volunteers are eager and ready to pray for you, a loved one, or any special request. Contact Jan Jones at 692-5325 and/or Lee Peterson at 692-7757.

(Concerns are confidentially held within our prayer team unless it is to be shared by the requester.)

Prayer Families

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

January 3: Nick, Suh & Finlay Ruskin; Rick & Bonnie Salonen

January 10: Stanley & Julie Scubelek Dylan & Stanley; Judy Sebring, Richard & Judy Smith

January 17: Susan Smith, Terry & Ann Spitzenberger, Bart Sweebe

January 24: Janet TeBeest, Nancy Thompson, Arlyce Thorne

January 31: Stephen & Carrie Van Buren. Art & Mariorie VanderWaal, Dee Watson

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Called Session Meeting Update

December 30, 2020

Session met in a special called meeting on December 30th and decided that for the next two months (**January and February**), the **worship services will be held exclusively on Zoom**. With COVID reaching a member of our congregation, and the new, more spreadable version of the virus now in the US, session felt it was prudent to move to Zoom.

With special thanks to Dave Peterson, Bruce Westergaard, Dave Robinson, and Elizabeth Fox who have been working together over the last few weeks to make Zoom available- we will continue to work to improve the Zoom experience over the next few weeks. If you have requests or suggestions, please share that with us and we will see if we can help!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk to the Session

Session Meeting Update

December 10, 2020

- The request for shared ministry with Brookings United Church of Christ has been approved by Presbytery. We will have a 6-month trial run, to be re-evaluated after Easter, 2021.
- Church Rolls have been updated. The current membership as of the end of 2020 is 128 members.
- Session accepted with regret the resignation from the Board of Deacons and the Christian Education committee by Kay Norton.
- Session scheduled the ordination and installation of Elders and Deacons for Sunday January 17th, pending availability of those being installed.
- Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for after worship on January 31, 2021.
- All groups are requested to submit their annual reports to Rozanne by January 8th to allow time for compiling and printing.
- Session thanked Susan Smith for her six years (and many more previous terms) of service to this church as she rolls off Session at the end of 2020. We wish her the best in her new home in Sioux Falls.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk to the Session

Youth Sunday School will resume when services are once again in the sanctuary.
Adult Bible Study will not be meeting until further notice.

Revelings January 2021



Happy New Year! Welcome 2021!

We welcome and open the door to this New Year in our Lord. We welcome the promise that it holds for us, the changes on the horizons as each day, week, and month unfolds. Let's face it, we're ready for it. Let's name it and claim it as part of our spiritual work. 2020 was not a kind year. To put it bluntly, we felt at many a time that we might've been living in an earthly, fleshly floor what we might envision Hades to be like. And this is quite ok. In fact, God wants us to name it and claim it. God wants us to get and be real in and with our lives, with all that happens within it. So we're ready for the new things of God to not be just a promise, but promise coming to fruition and fullness for us.

There were good things that happened in 2020 and we shouldn't overlook them. We came together as Pastor and people, in January at FPC and by mid-November at BUCC. Meeting everyone, getting to know as many folks within our congregations during the year made trying during the pandemic was truly a blessing. Being offered the opportunity to walk the journey with our church families has been a blessing. Already we've laughed, cried, shared sorrows and joys. God continues to work through us, in us, and blesses us.

Each congregation has been its own community of faith and will continue to be so. Yet, as we came together by November, a new community has also been created. As FPC and BUCC work together, as we will in worship, fellowship (when it's safe to do so), work alongside and with each other, we'll also be engaging in some much-needed mission work, here in Brookings. We are a people of much hope and vision. Community as God has created it to be is for each of us individually and collectively as the body of Christ. And as Matthew's Gospel "encourages us to do unto others, as you would have them do to you," (7:12) this calls us to love. It calls us to serve, to practice righteousness living in all its forms, all the while, we follow the star in our lives, Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord.

For Bret Lamsma's devotional (todaydevotional.com) he drew upon the verses in Matt.7:1-12 and wrote:

Ask, Search, Knock

⁷ 'Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there, anyone, among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

The Golden Rule

¹² 'In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. (NRSV-Oremus.org)

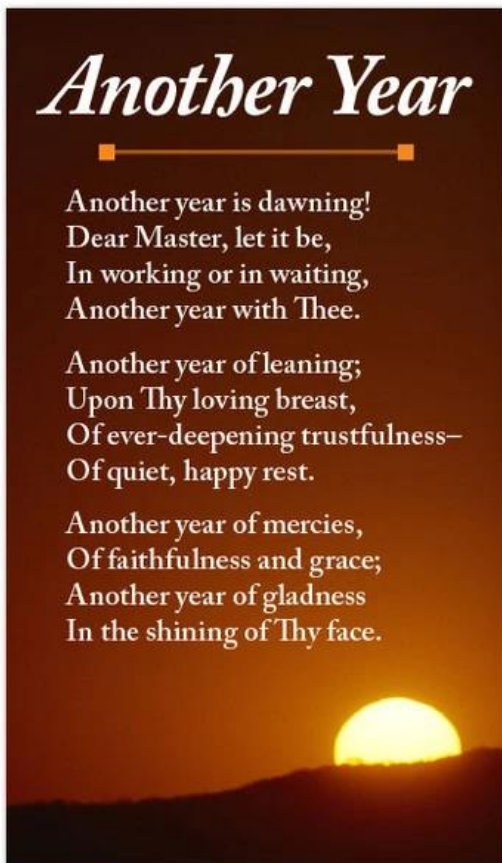
"Jesus points out in the gospel of Mathew that even a good earthly father gives his children what they need... we are called to share God's love with everyone we meet. We are called to invite others into community with us and with God...Christian community is never full and is never closed. It is always open and expanding to share God's love with others...Ask God to have someone show up in your life to offer all of these things to you, in Jesus' name."

Let us each continue to ask God to show up in our lives, in new, challenging, hopeful, and exciting ways each day. Let us open this door to new possibilities with intentionality, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance as our community, our communities of faith moving forward, full of and with much hope in 2021. Shine brightly for all the world to see!

Prayer-- Move us O God to seek community in all its positive forms and gather around each one of us, a community to belong to, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Soli Deo Gloria! (To God Be The Glory)

Faithfully,
Rev. Norlita



thank you

Dear FPC Family,

Thank you so much for sharing your hearts, minds, spirits and prayers with us during these last weeks. Dave and I are so very grateful for the cards, the phone calls and other various ways of showing how much you care. You are a blessing and treasure to and for us. The journey continues now into the unknown as the treatments begin. We go forward in and with much faith, one day at a time, one step at a time, remembering,

"For Nothing Is Impossible With God."

Faithfully,
Rev. Norlita and Dave

DATES TO REMEMBER

- **January 8:** Annual reports should be submitted to the church office
- **January 15:** Blade articles are due
- **January 17:** Session & Deacons will be installed via Zoom
- **Annual Congregational Meeting** to be announced

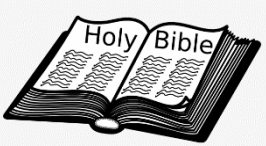
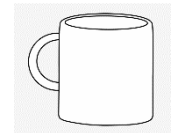


PW MINI-RETREAT

The Presbyterian Women of South Dakota (PW) will be having a Mini-Retreat via Zoom on Saturday, January 16, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon. It will be about the Marian Medical Mission. Rev. Kristi Holler will be giving the meditation ("Think on these things" – Philippians 4:8,9). If interested, please send you name, church, and email address of the computer you'll be using to Mary Jenner: djenner@pie.midco.net. A day or two before the meeting, you'll receive an email zoom invitation

News You Can Use

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP will **not** be meeting in **January**. 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](mailto:flintd99@gmail.com)) or Ginny (conger.ginny@gmail.com) if you are willing to provide other special music.





*"Rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted in prayer"
Romans 12:12.*

Have great hope for 2021. Hold onto that hope for a new, exciting, and healthy year ahead. We are so glad our church has been able to find its way to survive and to be of service to its people. The Deacons are organized for this new year and have plans to celebrate and serve you. We welcome Lee Peterson to the Deacon board and bid a fond farewell to Dan Kemp and Kay Norton. During January, you should hear from "your deacon", keeping in mind to feel comfortable contacting any deacon with a question, prayer concern, or just a visit. Thank you to all who generously supported Thanksgiving and Christmas Feeding Brookings. Through your efforts, many in our community were able to cook a special meal.

*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.



The below is from Susan and Inga's recent email telling of their work.



– Inga attended a virtual linguistics conference this week. One of the papers was on politeness in Japanese. Interestingly, Mixtec has a lot of similar features, although not as complicated as Japanese. For example, in Mixtec God, parents, and older relatives are all addressed with the 'polite' pronoun set. We goofed in our early days of learning Mixtec when we didn't use these pronouns when talking to an elderly man. Mirsa was horrified, as being disrespectful is unacceptable in Mixtec culture. Another paper was on how emotions are shown in speech. In English, we can use intonation to convey meaning such as surprise or disbelief. In Mixtec (and other tone languages), there are 'particles' or brief words with this function. It is an ongoing process to get these included in the translation. Mixtec isn't the only language to use particles. Prayer would be appreciated as we incorporate some of these insights to make a more vibrant and accurate translation.

Praise & Thanksgiving:

- In spite of the pandemic, the team has been able to revise about 30% of the New Testament draft in Nuxaá Mixtec in 2020!
- We are very thankful that by the end of the year, in spite of the pandemic, the Nuxaá translation team was up to four Mixtec co-translators! Each has an important contribution in the revision process.

We appreciate each one who takes the time to lift this project up in prayer.

Sue Huggins & **Inga McKendry**

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.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour
January 2021



Men's Brotherhood Notes: No scheduled events at this time. We hope to resume some activities as soon as permissible and prudent. Stay tuned!

Scripture: Mathew 12:21 "In his name the nations will put their hope."

When the Magi first saw the star in the sky that pointed them to the child Messiah, I wonder what leap of hope stirred in their hearts?

We have heard the story of the light at the end of the tunnel. The imagery is of total blackness but with a faint light shining in the darkness. Is it something we are approaching? Or is it something coming towards us? Either way, is it for good or for bad?

When Jesus was born into the world, the world was definitely in darkness. The Roman Empire was just starting to come into its glory. The Empire was securing its hold on the known world. A stranglehold was descending on the people captured and controlled from Rome. Anything that happened in the world was only allowed by Roman rule.

Thus was the situation in Judea: The rule of the people by the religious leaders, who were basically the rulers of all that happened, was pretty much dictated by Rome. The Pharisees and Sadducees were collaborating with Rome. There were rumblings of dissent but nothing to inspire real hope. Then, a star appeared in the sky that the Magi realized was a sign. A sign of the Messiah. Hope stirred in their hearts. They began their journey to Bethlehem, following the star. They honored and worshiped the child Jesus, our Messiah.

As we now know the story, do we have stirred in our hearts the Hope that is in the Star? The world is still in darkness. The Light of the Star, our Hope, has come, and is still coming. Some have seen and accepted the Star. Others have yet to learn of it. The Light of the Star is still trying to permeate the darkness of our world. We still cling to the Hope that is in the Star, that there is a better world to come. We must continue to cling to that Hope.



Please donate a can of Lysol or Microban disinfectant to the church—
it will be so helpful for our expenses this year. Thank you!

HY VEE

Remember to save
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$134,041.22

Needed to Date: \$15,958.78

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

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





January 2021



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>Happy New Year</i> OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 10:30 Worship and Communion via Zoom	4 BIRTHDAY Marlys Moore	5 BIRTHDAY Lisa Bretsch	6	7 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom	8 Annual Report Articles Due	9
10 10:30 Worship via Zoom BIRTHDAY Neal Foster	11 BIRTHDAY Joel Foster	12	13 BIRTHDAY Daniel Moerke	14 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom Session Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM BIRTHDAY Vivian Langland	15 BLADE Articles Due BIRTHDAY Katy Young	16 PW Mini-Retreat via Zoom 10 a.m. to 12 Noon BIRTHDAY Julie Scubelek
17 10:30 Worship via Zoom Installation of Elders/Deacons	18 <i>Martin Luther King Jr Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED	19	20 BIRTHDAY Malia Glaus	21 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom	22	23
24 10:30 Worship via Zoom	25 BIRTHDAY Brock Peterson Art VanderWaal	26	27	28 9:30 Bible Study via Zoom	29 ↓	30
31 10:30 Worship 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

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 #)

If you are interested in receiving the newsletter by email instead of by post mail,
contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 692-2416.