

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

July 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



We gather together again in our own building on July 5th!

As we plan for worshipping together again in our beautiful sanctuary, it is important to remember that COVID-19 is not gone. It is still dangerous and unpredictable. As we gather, please adhere to the safety guidelines outlined by the Session based on CDC and PCUSA guidelines. The guidelines are listed following the Session Meeting updates beginning on page 3.

Remember that even if you have no symptoms, it is possible to spread COVID-19 up to 14 days before symptoms appear. **If you do have symptoms, please stay home; keep yourself and your church family healthy.**

An audio recording of the service will be posted online at brookingspresbyterian.org as usual each week.

Come to worship with us on July 5th, 10:30 am, in the sanctuary!

We will attempt to have our worship service available concurrently via Zoom for those who prefer to worship at home.



JULY



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,
Susan Smith, Terry Spitzenberger

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190
pastorfpcbroomings@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/fpcbroomings



Things are changing in our church life. Church services were moved from Zoom to the park and most offerings were being delivered there instead of by mail. Going forward, we plan to be back in the church building and of course offerings can be made there.

However, if you cannot attend, feel free to use the mail service. We will process your offering with all others as we always have using the counting team to tabulate and then reviewed by a member of the recording team.

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.

July 5: Larry Anderson, Dave & Lucy Barkus, Linda Barnett

July 12: Bob Bartling, Travis Beller, Teri Bierstedt

July 19: Don & Jan Boe, Barbara Borstad, Carey Bretsch,
Lisa Bretsch

July 26: Chad & Diane Broksieck/family Tate & Trent,
Jan Broksieck, LaVonne Broksieck

Session Meeting Update

June 11, 2020

Session approved the recommendation from the Worship committee that worship be held at the Band Shell in Pioneer Park each Sunday in June. The cost to the church is \$16.50 per week. Assuming there is no spike in COVID-19 cases in our area, worship will return to the Sanctuary with special accommodations on July 5th.

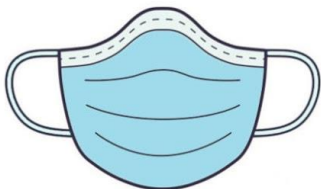
The Outreach committee is considering participating in a food distribution project through the Society of St. Andrew and funded by the USDA. Session has requested that the Outreach committee discuss this further and develop a careful plan for consideration, possibly in July.

Session approved Pastor Norlita's request for a continuing education day (June 28th). This time will be used for planning and recharging. During the pandemic quarantine time, Pastor Norlita has participated in several online continuing education experiences and this time lets her set aside time to think carefully about how these experiences can be implemented in her ministry.

Susan Smith was elected as commissioner to the Presbytery for the July 11th meeting. At this Presbytery meeting Ruling Elders Elizabeth Fox, Robby Flint, and Donna Flint will be commissioned as commissioned ruling elders to the Presbytery of South Dakota. According to the Book of Order, here are the functions of a Commissioned Ruling Elder:

"...the presbytery may authorize a ruling elder to be commissioned to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery...Presbytery, in its commission, may authorize the ruling elder to moderate the session of the congregation to which he or she is commissioned, to administer the sacraments, and to officiate at marriages where permitted by state law (G-2.1001)."

Session considered a letter received from the United Church of Christ of Brookings to begin a dialogue about the possibilities of sharing ministry between our two congregations. The understanding of session is that this is a request to share a pastor, but NOT to merge the two congregations. Session discussed this possibility and the motion to contact UCC to indicate our willingness to enter into this dialogue carried.



The following guidelines have been established by Session because we love you.

Social gathering:

An important part of the Christian community is time of social gatherings- a time when we can share our lives with those we have come to love and cherish.

When chatting with others please **wear your mask** and only gather outside- either before or after church. Remember that the CDC stresses that the wearing of a mask should **supplement social distancing (6-foot separation)**, not replace it.

Remember that wearing a mask is not for your own protection; it's for the protection of others. Wearing a mask is a way of demonstrating your **Christian love for others**.

If you use the public restroom, we ask that you **use the disinfectant wipes provided on the bathroom fixtures** before and after use. Please put used wipes in the trash can. Do not flush the wipes! There will be hand sanitizer available inside and outside the restroom. Please use this for your protection.

Though you may chat with others while remaining socially distant prior to the church service, we ask that **once the prelude begins, you sit quietly** and enjoy the music as it prepares you for worship. Please do not socialize once the music has begun- trying to speak over the music and through the mask raises the possibility of virus spread.

Similarly, after the worship service, please **do not socialize during the postlude**. When you are ready to leave, please leave quietly and if you wish to socialize, move outside.

Coming to worship:

As you enter the building **with your mask on**, please only use those parts of the church building that get you to the sanctuary. Both the basement and upstairs will be marked off to not be used.

As you enter the sanctuary, please **use the hand sanitizer** provided at the entry.

You may leave any **offering** in the containers provided at the door. There will not be a time to pass the plate.

There will be **no printed bulletins**, but all you need will be on the screen at the front of the sanctuary. The bulletins will also be available online if you wish to print or bring a device to use during the service.

As you seat yourself, please sit only in the designated areas with household groups sitting together and separate from other groups, using the CDC social distancing guidelines. **Pews will be marked** so you will be able to identify appropriate places to sit.

During worship:

Please **keep your mask on** during the entire service.

Because **music** has historically been important to members of this church, we will continue to enjoy music- including a prelude, one hymn, special music, and a postlude. Please enjoy and participate in this as you can while still wearing your mask.

On **Communion Sunday**, Communion will be served at the front of the sanctuary by Pastor Norlita and one elder. You will walk to the front to receive bread and the cup. Please maintain 6-foot distance from others around you as you wait for your turn and return to your seat.

There will **not be a time of sharing the microphone** for announcements or for sharing of joys and concerns. *Please send any announcements, joys, and concerns to Pastor Norlita either through email or phone call prior to Sunday morning.*

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint,
Clerk to the Session



CHURCH HOURS TO CHANGE

During this pandemic time, Rozanne has split her time between the church office and home, keeping her hours between 25 and 40 hours per two-week period. This has been a cost savings to our church. Rozanne wants to continue splitting time between the church office and home now that we are preparing to return to the sanctuary for worship. The Personnel Committee and the Session have approved this request. The schedule will always be adjusted depending upon church needs. **Starting Monday, July 6th**, Rozanne's office hours will be:

- Monday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- ❖ Tuesday – Working from home (Rev. Kaul or volunteer will be available)
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Friday off – **Church Office Closed**

Rozanne will be taking July 2 & 3 off in conjunction with the 4th of July observance. We thank Rozanne for her continued productivity and assistance in our ministry, and for her overall positive attitude and generous spirit.

Susan Smith, Personnel Committee Chair



NEWS AND PRAYER REQUEST FROM THE PCUSA

It is a time of turmoil in our society. Senseless shootings, millions living in poverty, and desperate souls are being turned away at our country's borders. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been called to be the hands and feet of Christ. The 224th General Assembly (2020) of the PC(USA) has been an important one for our denomination.

The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), asks every congregation and every member to join other church leaders as we pray each day for these elected to serve. We also pray for our Commissioners whose work will continue until the next General Assembly is held.

We now pray for Elona Street-Stewart, executive of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies (<https://www.lakesandprairies.org/>), and the Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church (<https://www.fcphuntsville.org/>) in Huntsville, Alabama, who were overwhelmingly elected to be co-moderators of the 224th General Assembly Saturday. Immediately after their election, the two were installed as co-moderators by the co-moderators of the 223rd General Assembly.

Asked how Presbyterians can be a prayer for their new leaders, Bentley identified three prayer requests: for stamina, perseverance and patients. "We are going to pack a lot into the next two years," he said. "We are excited about it, but we know it will be taxing."

Keep the prayer wheel turning ...

FOR THOSE WHO MOURN

It is with much sadness in heart, to let everyone know that the following have passed on to their great reward in the Church triumphant.



- Gary Larson on Friday, June 26, 2020 while in hospice. Memorial Service information TBD.
- Loren Boy (Bonnie's dad) on Friday, June 26, 2020 while in hospice. Private service held.
- Alice Semeniuk on May 9, 2020 in Madison, WI. Graveside Service will be on July 24, 2020 4:00 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery, Brookings.
- Lois Watson on Monday, March 18, 2020 at home. Memorial Service information TBD.

*Let us give thanks for their lives
and surround their families with the love of Christ that FPC shares for all.*



Love. Grow. Serve.

Revelings July 2020

Community Is.....

This month begins a series of reflections on the various aspects of a Community of Faith, for my Revelings articles. The genesis for this comes from a similar series that was a part of the Today Devotional Series, todaydevotional.com. During these next months it is my deepest hope that our own Community of Faith, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) will continue to Love, Grow and Serve, just as it has since its inception.

'Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (The Servant Song)' #727 in the PCUSA Hymnal Glory To God, the verses therein speak well of what being in community is and will be. The text reads:

vs. 1 & 6: Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

vs. 2: We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road. We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

vs. 3: I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

vs. 4: I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you. I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

vs. 5: When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Bret Lamsma wrote about Community Is... Ever Changing, using I Cor. 9:22 as text. "I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."

Lamsma admits that "this explanation by Paul...confused me." I have to admit that when I first encountered this scripture, I wasn't so much confused, but overwhelmed. How can a human being become all things? It sounded like only mythical characters with superpowers could do this. Then the question entered the picture, "how was Jesus able to do this?" Reflective prayer time entered into the picture. It's taken more than a decade on this one and still, I'm not done. I've resigned myself to realize that I won't be done in the human lifetime, and I'm ok with it.

Lamsma went on to write, "It seems like he (Paul) was not being authentic by changing the way he acted in order to influence people for the gospel. The longer I live in community and the more life circumstances I go

through, the more I think I understand... I look at this message in light of **community and everything it can be**. What I need from community today is different from what I needed 10 or 20 years ago. When...in high school...I needed my community to listen to me rage against God and love me anyway. When my children were younger, my wife and I needed people to watch them for us and to listen to us when we wondered how to parent them. Today our needs are different. The same could be said of everyone...a year from now or even a month from now, they might describe community differently...With the grace of Jesus Christ, be all things to all people. For those who are hurting...come and cry alongside. For those rejoicing...celebrate. It can offer so much because it is so deep. It is ever changing to reflect who God is in the ever-changing world around us. Whatever you are in need of today, the community of God's people is there to be Christ for you."

For me, the idea of community was also about servanthood, which is why, upon reading Lamsma's thoughts, the aforementioned hymn came to mind. Our community of faith is so blessed to have many loving and caring people within it. Our Deacons and Session members, along with the various committee members/friends work collaboratively to help us all to continue to love, to serve and to grow.

Many of our members/friends could identify with Lamsma's thoughts as I did, for community does change as we change, as we love, serve and hopefully grow, day by day, week by week, month by month and year by year. The Kingdom Of God is not static, it is ever evolving, ever creating/generating and re-creating/re-generating. We are the church formed, ever reforming. It's our reformed theological tradition's way of saying, as Lamsma titled his thoughts, "Community Is...Ever Changing."

During this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are being asked to do things in new ways, ever-changing ways, even in our usual and customary ways of living our lives, including how/when and where we worship our dynamic Triune God. Let us as the FPC Community of Faith answer God's calling to "Love, Serve, Grow", ever evolving, ever reforming, for the Glory of God. Let us continue to pray for all humankind during these days of uncertainty.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Rev. Norlita

P.S. Let us always remember that our freedoms are not free—they were bought with a price.
"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." *John 15:13 NIV*

MESSAGES for JULY

Sunday July 5: "Come and Rest, Dear Servant" Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Romans 7:15-25a;
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday July 12: "Sowing Seeds" Genesis 25:19-34, Romans 8:1-11, Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday July 19: "Wheat and Weeds" Isaiah 44:6-8; Romans 8:12-15; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Sunday July 26: "Mustard Seeds & Yeast" 1 Kings 3:5-12; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52



Donations of non-perishable foods for the Food Pantry may be delivered to First Presbyterian Church or may be delivered directly to the Food Pantry which is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Food can also be left there in the blue donation box in the front or at the back door—their address is 217-4th Street. Thank you for your generosity!

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour
July 2020



Scripture Reading: 'But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!' Amos 5:24

Quote: "There may be times when we are powerless to prevent injustice, but there must never be a time when we fail to protest." — Elie Wiesel

Men's Brotherhood Notes: We regret that Men's Brotherhood is on hold until further notice. We all miss each other and hope to be able to gather together soon.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for those who are victims of injustice.

Action: Be willing to speak up when you see, hear, or read about injustice.

Things to think about these days:

Benjamin Franklin. "Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are."

Theodore Roosevelt. "Justice consists not in being neutral between right and wrong, but finding out the right and upholding it, wherever found, against the wrong."

James A. Baldwin. "Not everything that is faced can be changed. But nothing can be changed until it is faced."

Martin Luther King, Jr. "True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice."

Things to read:

Michael Eric Dyson's *Tears We Cannot Stop, What Truth Sounds Like*

Ira Berlin *The Long Emancipation*

Edward E. Baptist *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism*

James Baldwin *The Fire Next time*

Directory Updates

Phone Number Cliff Rindels = 605- 691-1595

New Addresses

Nancy Thompson
1339 Trail Ridge Circle
Brookings, SD 57006

Bob Jones
Estelline Nursing & Care Center
205 Fjerstad Ave N
Estelline, SD 57234

July 4

Independence Day



The Scouts Troop 14 will not be meeting until after school starts again in the fall.

HY VEE

Remember to save
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!

July 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>♥ Please pray for Pam Larson on July 14th as that would have been Gary & Pam's wedding anniversary</p>			<p>1 BIRTHDAY: Richard Canaday ANNIVERSARY: Rick & Bonnie Salonen</p>	<p>2 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Noah Schuurman</p>	<p>3 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>4 <i>Independence Day</i> </p>
<p>5 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary begins</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 BIRTHDAY: Kelly Watson</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom Session Meeting via Zoom 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 BIRTHDAY: Skip Webster ANNIVERSARY: Nick & Suh Ruskin</p>
<p>12 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary BIRTHDAY: Dan Kemp Alvera Wickstrom</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 BLADE ARTICLES DUE ANNIVERSARY: Don & Kay Norton</p>	<p>16 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Marjorie VanderWaal</p>	<p>17 BIRTHDAY: Dick Wilson</p>	<p>18 BIRTHDAY: Marvis Jenner Gary Larson's Memorial Service TBD</p>
<p>19 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary</p>	<p>20 BIRTHDAY: Tia Glaus</p>	<p>21 BIRTHDAY: Sam Eich</p>	<p>22 BIRTHDAY: Hannah Schuurman</p>	<p>23 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>24 BIRTHDAY: Susan Young Alice Semeniuk's Memorial 4 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery</p>	<p>25 ANNIVERSARY: Terry & Ann Spitzenberger</p>
<p>26 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom</p>	<p>31 BIRTHDAY: Sharon Webster</p>	

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 - Thursday

9:00 am – 11:30 am
12:00 pm – 2:30 pm

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.