

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



July 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



Each year, two North American countries celebrate their national holidays this coming weekend. Canada Day is Thursday July 1 and U.S. Independence Day is Sunday July 4th.

Sorry, Britain, you're not invited to these parties.

In Canada, July 1 commemorates the 1867 formation of the Dominion of Canada, when the British colonies of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Canada united and became a “kingdom in its own right.” This was an important step toward the eventual passing of the 1982 Constitution Act, make Canada a fully-fledged nation independent from Britain.

The U.S. holiday was a large step toward independence from Britain. Pretty decisive, in fact. On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress at the Pennsylvania State House in the midst of the Revolutionary War. It wasn't until 1783 that the colonies won true independence from Britain, and arguably it took until the end of the War of 1812 before the two countries could be allies.

In non-COVID pandemic times, these national holidays are celebrated similarly: Parades, barbecues, carnivals, citizenship ceremonies, fairs and fireworks. One event particular to Canada Day? Moving. Quebec's Moving Day, when many rental leases expire, was moved to July 1 from May 1. Now, Québécois (people from Quebec) can move on a day without work, and their children can finish their school year before moving.

On the eve of the U.S. and Canadian national holidays, here's a look at other differences between the two nations:

(as of May 2017)	U.S.	Canada
Physical	50	10
National Animal	Bald Eagle	Beaver
Most taught second language	Spanish	French
Spelling	American (color)	British (colour)
Life expectancy	78.8 years	81.5 years
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	6.6%
Retirement Age	66	65

Let us remember to pray for both Canada and the United States of America to remain strong and free, to seek God's will for them always!



July



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



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 P - Treasurer



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)*

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."

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.

July 4: Martin & Sally M, Tom & Jeannie M

July 11: Maria M, Mike & Judy M, Rozanne M

July 18: Daniel & Carolyn M & family Allison, Emma, & Hannah; Marlys M

July 25: Trudy N, Don & Kay N, Nancy O, Martha & Nora O.

News You Can Use

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP: On Sunday **July 4 at 10:00 AM** before the worship service, please join us for a time of fellowship and ice cream sandwiches outside in front of the east door of FPC. See you there! Thank you, Men's Brotherhood, for assisting our Worship Committee celebrate this special day!



The Church Office
will be **closed on Monday, July 5th**
observing Independence Day

Volunteer staff will be manning the office July 6-8 9:00 AM to noon while Rozanne is on vacation (with daughter 1st time since Feb. 2020 and meeting grandpuppy)

The Family Back 2 School Project (Brookings) Store for the 2021-2022 school year will be Thursday August 12, 2021 from 11 AM to 8 PM. To help with this Outreach project, our church will begin collecting donated school supplies on July 11th.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, July 5	Worship Committee via Zoom at 7:00 PM
Tuesday, July 6	Mission/Finance via Zoom at 6:30 PM
Wednesday, July 7	Session Meeting via Zoom at 7:00 PM



UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

Nona Marshall
Alexandra (Alice) Semeniuk
Jan Boe
Lois Watson
Dave Robinson

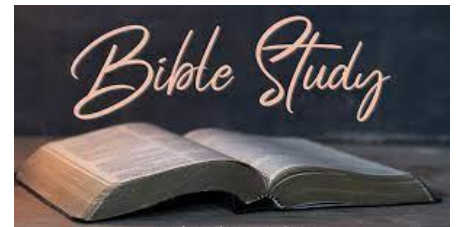
Monday, June 28, 2021 at 11:00 AM
Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Friday, July 16, 2021 at 10:30 AM
Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 10:00 AM
Saturday, August 21, 2021 at 10:30 AM

TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP meets at 9:30ish every Tuesday at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House. Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).



PIECES AND PRAYERS meet Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the church to quilt. All are welcome! Questions? Call Lee (692-7757)

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will begin meeting on Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the church center meeting room. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757).



COMMUNITY BAND CONCERTS are being held at the bandshell at Pioneer Park on Sunday nights at 7:30 PM. Bring your own chair. In case of rain, concerts start at 7:45 PM and are moved indoors to the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center.

July 4: "Made in America"

July 18: "Drive-in Favorites"

July 11-16 Compass
July 18-23 Pathfinder

Let us remember to pray for our campers (Lynn, Paige, Gayle F and Emma M) and their experience!



Dorothy Williamson Sr. Presbyterian Award



Dorothy moved to Brookings, SD in 1956. She became a member of First Presbyterian Church in 1957. Dorothy served as a Deacon, was a member of the Memorial Committee, and was a very active member of Presbyterian Women and the Martha Circle. Dorothy held the office of circle treasurer for many years and was on the PW Kitchen Committee also for many years. Dorothy was married to Warren for 56 years. She has a son, Tom, a daughter, Jeanne, and 3 grandchildren. Dorothy has been a very faithful member of First Presbyterian Church. This award will be presented at worship service on **July 18**.

Congratulations!

(Submitted by Roger Jenner & the Fellowship/Outreach Committee)



We are so thankful that our church has partnered with local organizations to do ministry together. A huge thanks to our congregation for your time and generous donations in making this a success. The Food Pantry continues to help those in need around and in our community. Donations can be delivered to the Food Pantry on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 9-4:30.

You can also leave those donations at the church and we will get them to that organization.

We know that summer is hot and you're not thinking about winter clothing! The Share the Warmth program would be grateful for your gently used winter clothing. We will be sharing more information with you this fall.

Again, thank you, and may we continue good works every single day.

Peace and blessings, The Deacons

SUSAN'S SAGA

The continuing relevance of God's Word for all of us today is found in the following verse:

"For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." Romans 15:4

This summary statement is an apt reminder that the record of Scripture is available for our benefit. We're not left alone to flounder around wondering where the guidelines are as to how to live amidst many competing voices, how to go about our daily activities, and what the will of God is. The Bible includes painful examples of what not to do and the searing consequences of disobedience, along with positive episodes of men and women who made good decisions in alignment with God's will. There is teaching and history and consolation, along with many other helpful passages to guide us. And the Word points toward hope, that there is more than just the current physical life.

This verse also serves as an impetus as to why Bible translation is so important. It is crucial to provide God's Word to other people groups who have no access to Scripture, so that they, too, may be able to tap into the many benefits of God's precious Word.

Susan Huggins

Scripture quote is taken from Romans 15:4, 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.*



BROTHERHOOD

July 2021

Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: We are finally going to resume Men's Brotherhood for 2021!! **July 15. 5:30 dinner.** Program to be announced.

February 20, 2020 was the last time Men's Brotherhood met. These were the notes: "On February 20 Our regular monthly meeting was held with Linda Barnett presenting the program. The Men also served a soup and sandwich lunch on February 16. A freewill offering was taken up."

We have talked about a "new norm" setting in throughout the entire church. What will change for us as Men's Brotherhood? Hopefully we will still fulfill our mission as spelled out in our annual report:

Men's Brotherhood provides a unique opportunity for the men of the church to carry out an important part of the mission of First Presbyterian Church - reaching out to the community and the world. In addition to providing a Christian fellowship opportunity to meet the special needs of men, Men's Brotherhood was involved in the following projects in (yyyy):

We can and will do as much as possible now that we are resuming our monthly meetings. It will take commitment by the men of our First Presbyterian Church to support our group, one another, the church congregation and the community through our activities.

What are individual needs of the men in our church? How can we best serve them? We tend to be an independent lot. How to help without being intrusive, respecting each other's space.

How can we as a group be in support of the church and its activities? What are the needs of the church? Several of us are already serving in different capacities. What are the unmet needs of the church? Can we will that help somehow in our capacity as Men's Brotherhood?

We live in a very active vibrant community. Yet there may be needs in our town that are not being met. Actively listening and observing what is happening is vital. This is not a "new norm". It is just picking up the pieces where we left off.

We have much work to do. May God be with us going forward as He has been in the past!



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

HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$68,508.83

Needed to Date: \$81,491.17

Remember to bring in
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Revelings for July 2021

Gospel Reading Luke 21:29-36

²⁹Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.



³⁴“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

Recently I read in the Christian Century, “To the Planter of Trees” written Sept. 15, 2015, by Rev. Beth Merrill Neel, a Presbyterian Pastor. Her reflection caused me to remember how beautiful the trees were that lined 6th St. here in Brookings, even as I came upon them for the first time in October 2019. It was exactly as Rev. Neel described it, as “an arcade of trees, even when the branches were bare, the trees form this graceful archway that we drive through.”

The Gospel Reading above, found in Luke 21:29-36 mentioned knowing that summer is near, as you see things take place, heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not. There's the reminder to also be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down. Such an inspiration and reminder not only for the changing seasons and the beauty in the trees found therein, but also to remember God's steadfast love and word will not change nor pass away. The “arcade of trees” on 6th St. was so much this very thing.

Many in our congregation remember their beauty, and were saddened as I was, to see them come out due to the widening of 6th St. last summer 2020 during the pandemic. Our beloved “arcade of trees” was no more, it's charming beauty, only a memory. It could also serve as a reminder of how fragile our lives are physically, mentally, psychologically, and spiritually. As easily as the trees were taken down, so too can precious loved ones be taken from us. There was no way that we could've known that this summer, one year later, would be filled with many memorial services for loved ones from our congregation.



As we walk upon the beautiful flowerbeds that surround our church, we are reminded of the



labor, the planting of them as “an act of hope, that someone else will take up the care of the tree, that in the future when the planter is gone, someone will look at the tree and offer thanks,” as Rev. Neel also wrote. We should offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for those loved ones in our congregation that have left us, for their work, their love, their labor, their prayers, their joys, their sorrows, the sharing of their lives with us. We should offer up a prayer of thanksgiving not only for them, but also to Jesus who sustained them and us, to God whose word is unchanging and will not pass away. It is our reminder to not let our hearts be weighed down.

The trees, the flowers, the crops growing, the fish jumping in the lakes, the sunshine, the critters that scamper, slither and fly, the sunshine on long days, summer's heat to help make things grow, even the summer rains and storms that come, all these remind us of how our living and loving God is at work in our lives. This reminds us to labor always for God's kingdom on earth to be the reflection of heaven.

As Rev. Neel stated in her article, we must concur; “To the planter of trees, our oaks, the trees that line the avenues: thank you. Thank you for your foresight. Thank you for your dream. Thank you for your part in creating something beautiful that maybe you never say. Thank you for the trees.” Let this remind us too, that we're to be about being co-creators with our living God, to create beauty in our world, to create love, laughter, joy, and goodness. These will help to sustain us as we encounter the moments when sadness and sorrow enter into our lives, just as suddenly as a tree that's taken down. As we study God's Word for our lives, our faith life will also be strengthened, our roots of our trees will receive the much-needed living water to help us grow.



To the planter of trees, to the creator of trees and all that there is, be our thanks and praise. Have a safe and purpose filled summer. God is at work and joy will come in the morning. Blessings to everyone! See you in church!

Faithfully,
Rev. Norlita

SUMMER WORSHIP SERMON SERIES




- Series #1 “*God at Work*”—see God’s radical grace at work in unexpected ways
July 4: “God Unites”
- Series #2 “*No Longer Strangers*”—Keys to living as community of faith
July 11: “The Family”
July 18: “Rest While Building”
July 25: “God’s Powerful Love”





July 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>This is the day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad.</i> Psalm 118:24</p>	<p>Volunteer staff will be manning the office July 6-8 9:00 AM to noon while Rozanne is on vacation (with daughter 1st time since Feb. 2020 and meeting grandpuppy). Prayers for safe travels appreciated.</p> 			<p>1 <i>Canada Day</i>  2 BIRTHDAY Richard Canaday ANNIVERSARY Rick & Bonnie Salonen</p>	3	
<p>4 <i>Independence Day</i> 10:00 Fellowship Ice Cream 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom</p> 	<p>5 7:00 Worship Committee via Zoom</p>	<p>6 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers 6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>7 <u>NOTE Date/Time Change</u> 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom BIRTHDAY Kelly Watson</p>	<p>8 9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Alexandra (Alice) Semeniuk Service Visitation 9:15 AM Service 10:00 AM in our sanctuary</p>
<p>11 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom BIRTHDAY Skip Webster ANNIVERSARY Nick & Suh Ruskin</p>	<p>12 BIRTHDAY Dan Kemp</p>	<p>13 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 BLADE Articles Due 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood ANNIVERSARY Don & Kay Norton</p>	<p>16 Jan Boe Service Visitation 9:45 AM Service 10:30 AM in our sanctuary BIRTHDAY Marge VanderWaal</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 Sr. Presbyterian Award Day (Dorothy Williamson) 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom BIRTHDAY Marvis Jenner</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAY Tai Glaus</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>230</p>	<p>24 BIRTHDAY Sue Young</p>
<p>25 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom ANNIVERSARY Terry & Ann Spitzenberger</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>30</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

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.