

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



“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

SENIOR PRESBYTERIAN AWARD RECIPIENT

The First Presbyterian Church Senior Presbyterian award commemorates the hard work and dedication of a church member over 70 years of age. The award is given alternately to a man and women. This year’s award celebrates Roger Jenner’s contributions to the church family.

Roger moved to Brookings and joined the community of First Presbyterian Church in 1967. He spent 34 years working for the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Throughout his time at First Presbyterian Roger has been a committed member and constant support to the life of this faithful body. “I have held the office of trustee and several terms as elder,” Jenner said. He’s been a longtime member of the Fellowship Committee, keeping the current committee membership on task with what needs to be done throughout the year and maintaining a consistent kitchen cleaning schedule. Until recently he coordinated the schedule of ushers for the year. Roger is also a member of the Men’s Brotherhood.



He and his wife Marvis have been married for 56 years, and have two children, Thad and Tammy. They also have two granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

Please join me in congratulating Roger on this well-deserved honor!



THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-2416

www.brookingspresbyterian.org
presby@brookings.net

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday 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

As per Session decision, we will continue to worship using Zoom during the month of June on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Please look in your email on Friday afternoon for an invitation to join our Zoom worship gathering.

The Worship bulletin, music, and video sermon are available on our church's website www.brookingspresbyterian.org for use at home during this time of COVID-19.

An e-mail copy of the message is available by request from the church office.



We are dealing with difficult times that most of us have not experienced previously. As this is coming from me, you can expect I am talking about finances. We need to have an offering to continue to pay for the operations of our church. The ideas coming from the Mission/Finance Committee at this time are the following suggestions:

1. Mail your check to the church or to Dave Peterson at 2026 Kansas Drive, Brookings, SD
2. Contact Dave Peterson and make other arrangements
3. Arrange with your bank to establish an online deposit to the church.

Other ideas may be brought forth, if this lasts very long, but we love our church and the people in it and want to continue to celebrate our beliefs, which also include stewardship.

David Peterson, Treasurer

Session Meeting Update

5-21-20

Session met to continue devising a plan for reopening the church. The session is aware of the strong desire to join together as a community, to worship together, to reconnect, and to share each other's joys and burdens. However, there are heavy choices to make to ensure the safety of everyone who participates with us in this important Christian experience.

The plan is not fully formed yet, but here are some tentative plans so far. Session will be meeting again June 4th to continue plans for reopening.

1. We will open the church for worship no earlier than July 5, 2020. The building will remain closed for any church activity until that time.
2. Session expects all attendees to wear face masks, and if you are coughing or sneezing, please stay home.
3. We will only open portions of the church that are needed as part of the worship service- entryways and hallways to the sanctuary and the sanctuary itself will be open.
4. All materials (Bibles, Hymnbooks, etc) will be removed from the pews- and no bulletins will be distributed. Everything you need will be on the big screen. The bulletin will be available on the website for printing or if you would like to use a device to access it during the service.
5. Hand sanitizer will be available - we very strongly encourage everyone to use it as you enter the sanctuary.
6. Session expects all attendees to maintain safe 6 foot distances.
7. Pews will be roped off to help maintain safe distances- we request that each pew hold one household group only and that all household groups stay together to maximize available space.
8. There will be wipes and hand sanitizer available in the bathrooms- please use these before and after each use.
9. Because of added ability to transmit droplets while singing, there will be no congregational singing. We also will not pass a microphone or offering plate during this time.
10. There will be no formal coffee hour, but you are encouraged to socialize outside maintaining safe social distancing.

The first time you read this, you will very likely think- this is not the worship experience I am used to! That may be true, but it will be a true worship experience none the less. Christ said, "Wherever 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, there I am with them." It will be worship and after these months of being apart, it will be **wonderful worship**.

At the Session meeting on May 14th, the session accepted, with their thanks for the last year of excellent service, the resignation of Don Norton as choir director.

The treasurer reported that the church was awarded a Federal Paycheck Protection Plan grant which will help, but not alleviate, financial concerns over the next 2 months.

Please keep session and our congregation in your prayers as we continue to navigate this difficult time.

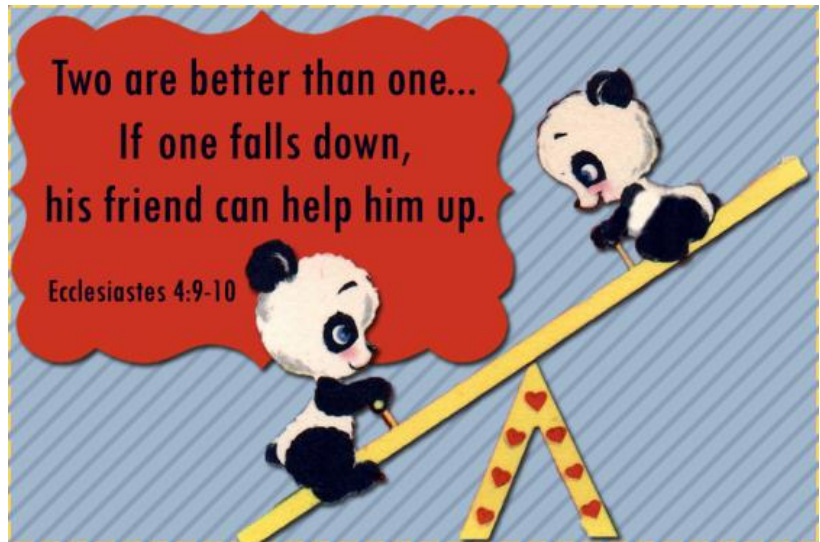
Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint,
Clerk to the Session

Revelings June 2020

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

The Value of a Friend

⁹Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹Again, if two lie together, they keep warm; but how can one keep warm alone? ¹²And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.



Luke 24:13-16, 28-31 The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

<http://bible.oremus.org/NRSV>

If we prayerfully consider these two scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments, we'll see the hidden wisdom that is present. We'll see this wisdom in the "hiddenness" of the presence of God with us, as a powerful strength, for the writer of the book of Ecclesiastes (attributed to King Solomon) and for Luke the Evangelist. We'll see a "hidden" reference to the Holy Trinity as present and active, in relationship with each other and humanity. There's always strength in numbers, so the saying goes.

I had the opportunity for the first time ever, to attend the Festival of Homiletics this year, as the conference was offered online. I had heard rave reviews about this conference by colleagues in years past as attendees. So when it was offered this way, I signed up immediately.

As part of this opportunity was daily worship at 11:00 a.m. One of the preachers was the Rev. Otis Moss III, Sr. Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ. His message on Luke 24 was "Living with Certainty in Times of Uncertainty." It was definitely soul food for we pastor types. Here's some of what I gleaned from it:

(He was) "preaching in an empty sanctuary, the houses built by people are hushed. The prayers and praise, the testimony of the saints, the songs along with the hidden spirit that we feel but can't see, were still present, but there is now a longing for them.

The world changed after the resurrection of Jesus. For the disciples, Jesus was now only a memory, no longer physically in the flesh. This was a change for the disciples. So this is a post resurrection moment for them on the Emmaus Road. They're living in a world of certainty, they didn't see this.

The power of mourning leads to the New Morning, the place where God fills us in the cracks. We need each other more right now. We're desperate for the spaces of being together, especially in the house of God.

So find a companion, the greatest blessing of all is to find someone to speak with during the times of uncertainty. We need a connection. We're on the Emmaus Road together. Jesus walked with the disciples, but they didn't recognize the presence of God in him. When the physical need is met, that's when they (and we too) see Jesus. Often this is when Jesus is with us and yet we don't see him.

Our frame is messed up. So often we can't see God's presence just outside of the frame. May you know that you have a partner just outside the frame."

The Holy Spirit has called us to become the people of God called First Presbyterian Church here in Brookings. We've not ceased to be the flock, scattered though we are at this time. Many people have been working behind the scenes, giving of their time and talents to insure that somehow, in some way, that we could still "worship" together, though being scattered. I give thanks to God for this gift of quiet, hidden, presence of God and relationship. The three fold cord has not been broken, it still is strong.

I am grateful and thankful for the wisdom of God's presence through our Session members, charged with the oversight of our church in all of its ways of being Christ's body. Theirs has been a heavy task prayerfully undertaken these last months.

I am grateful and thankful for the wisdom of God's presence through our Deacon members, charged with the care of our members through compassion, mercy and helping in ways that are too numerous to mention.

I am grateful and thankful for the presence of God in all of our members and friends, who are still doing what they can, wherever they are, to be the body of Christ.

We're walking this road together, and God's presence is still among us and with us. We may not be seeing it. Perhaps our frame is too limited. The call to us for these days of June as summer begins in earnest, is to expand our frame, our field of vision, to see the "hiddenness" of God who is present, walking alongside us, day by day.

Find a companion to walk the journey of these next days with you, to help you walk the road, to laugh, to cry, to mourn, to just be.....Joy comes in the morning....God be with you 'til we meet again. May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent one from the other. (Mizpah Benediction).

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita

MESSAGES for JUNE

Sunday June 7: "Go and Do" Matt. 28:16-20, Gen. 1:1-2:4a, Ps. 8, 2 Cor. 13:11-13

Sunday June 14: "Collaboration as Activity" Matt. 9:35-10:23, Gen. 18:1-15, 21:1-7, Ps. 100, Romans 5:1-8

Sunday June 21: "Speak the Word Bravely" Matt. 10:24-39. Gen. 21:8-21, Ps. 86:1-10, 16-17, Romans 6:1-11

Sunday June 28: "TBD" Matt.10:40-42, Gen. 2:1-14, Ps. 13, Romans 6:12-24



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.

June 7: Stephen & Carrie Van Buren, Art & Marjorie VanderWaal, Dee Watson

June 14: Kelly & Tami Watson, Skip & Sharon Webster

June 21: Bruce & Lori Westergaard, Alvera Wickstrom, Dorothy Williamson

June 28: Richard & Donna Wilson, Alan & Susan Young and family Adam & Katy



For the month of June, please deliver any donations of non-perishable foods directly to the Food Pantry which is open Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Food can also be left in the blue donation box in the front or at the back door—their address is 217-4th Street. Thank you!

Devotion from “Jesus Calling”

by Sarah Young

“Bask in the luxury of being fully understood and unconditionally loved. Dare to see yourself as I see you: radiant in My righteousness, cleansed by My blood. I view you as I created you to be, the one you will be in actuality when heaven becomes your home. It is My Life within you that is changing you from glory to glory. Rejoice in this mysterious mystery! Thank Me continually for the amazing gift of My Spirit within you.

Try to depend on the help of the Spirit as you go through this day of life. Pause briefly from time to time so you can consult with this Holy One inside you. He will not force you to do His bidding, but He will guide you as you give Him space in your life. Walk along this wondrous way of collaboration with My Spirit.”

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

June 2020



Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Quote: Power is the ability to do good things for others. – Brooke Astor

Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood was canceled for May. An announcement will be made for future events.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for those who are feeling isolated and lonely.

Action: Call or write to those who feel isolated during this time of the pandemic.

One of the places I frequent in town is Richard Johnston's Brookings Books and Comics. Well I used to frequent. He has restricted hours now due to the COVID-19. Plus, my children have pretty much put me on ice, restricted activity, for now. Richard has tons of previously owned books and may have just the one you are looking for. He also is up to his eyeballs in comics of all kinds, graphic novels, anime and other stuff I don't even know the names of them. And lots of superhero stories.

Growing up I read Superman, Batman, Hulk, Flash and all of the other superheroes. There are so many new ones now I can't keep up with their names, new heroes with new superpowers. Do you ever wish you had a superpower to fight evil? Well we do have a superpower. It is the Holy Spirit. God has poured out His Spirit upon us and we have been endowed with a superpower. Ever since that Pentecost Day we have the power to go to God and ask for the strength, or power, or Holy Spirit to fight evil doing good deeds for our fellow citizens of earth. So put your power to use by reaching out to the community - church members, friends and family during these difficult times. It is so important that we stay connected as much as we can.

UPCOMING EVENTS



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!

June 2020

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BIRTHDAY: Nicole Barkus	2	3	4 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom	5 BIRTHDAY: Dave Robinson	6 BIRTHDAY: Rev. Norlita Kaul Alan Young
7 10:30 Worship via Zoom ANNIVERSARY: Dan & Michele Kemp BIRTHDAY: Dolores Canaday	8	9	10 BIRTHDAY: Rebecca Maca	11 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Tate Broksieck	12	13
14 Flag Day 10:30 Worship via Zoom	15 BLADE ARTICLES DUE 	16 ANNIVERSARIES: Harold & Marjorie Poppen Arend & Susan Schuurman	17	18 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Bonnie Salonen	19 BIRTHDAY: Lynn Foster Nelda Holden	20 BIRTHDAY: Dave Barkus
21 Father's Day 10:30 Worship via Zoom 	22 ANNIVERSARY: Alan & Susan Young	23	24 ANNIVERSARY: Dennis & Vivian Langland	25 9:00 Bible Study via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Lucy Barkus	26 ANNIVERSARY: Richard & Dolores Canaday BIRTHDAY: Dylan Scubelek	27
28 10:30 Worship via Zoom	29 BIRTHDAY: Judy McCann	30 ANNIVERSARY: Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague				

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 - Friday

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.