

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

June 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



Advice from a **TREE.**

Stand tall and proud
Sink your roots into the earth
Be content with your natural beauty
Go out on a limb
Drink plenty of water
Think long term
Enjoy the view!





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, Wednesday, 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.

* 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)*

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.

June 6: Rev. Norlita K, Marlys K, Dan & Michele K

June 13: Don K & Carol G, Delores K

June 20: Andrew & Beth L, Ella L, Dennis & Vivian L

June 27: Pam L, Darwin & Jeanne L

Session Meeting Update

May 13, 2021

Dear Friends,

During the usual stated meeting, session decided to change the mask requirement for the church building to "masks are encouraged." This is in response to the CDC announcement last night that fully vaccinated people are at low risk of contracting and spreading COVID 19.

If you are not fully vaccinated and plan to attend worship services, we hope that you will consider continuing to wear a mask to protect the children and others who are not yet vaccinated.

Of course, whether you are vaccinated or not, you should feel free to wear a mask as long as you wish. Studies have shown that during this year of mask wearing, cases of flu, cold, strep throat have sharply decreased. Perhaps masks will become the norm!

Just as a basic precaution, the tape which blocks off some seating in the sanctuary will remain in place for the time being.

Thanks to you all for your patience as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel. This is not over, and the loss has been great, but we can continue to trust God to lead us through.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk of Session

Reminder: NO Session Meeting in June

Wanted: PowerPoint Operator



People are needed to help run the PowerPoint on Sundays.

Job: Start the PowerPoint and Zoom on Sunday morning.
Change the slides as we go through the service.

Skill Set Needed: the ability to pay attention to the service.

Time Commitment: 1-2 Sundays per month

Reward: Appreciation

Contact: Church office to volunteer

Please prayerfully consider helping us with this. It's not that difficult to do, we'll teach you how. Worship doesn't just happen—it is the work of God's people together.



Congratulations to our 2021 Graduates Skylar Hinricher and Lynn Foster!!!

The Deacons met "live" in the Church basement on May 17th for the first time in 2021. We were happy to welcome new Deacon Pam Larson to our group; we discussed old and new business over a sack lunch meeting.

Thanks much to our 60's Dining volunteers, (Nelda H, Ella L, Harold & Marge P and Emma M) for delivering meals the weeks of May 24-June 4! It is one Deacon's project we've been able to continue in spite of the pandemic.

The May 30th Worship Service was held at Pioneer Park, a sure sign that summer days are back (hopefully the weather cooperates!).

We wish you safe and healthy travel for the days ahead,

Sincerely, Your Deacons

Food Pantry needs are never ending. 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 for your generosity!

News You Can Use



Congratulations!

Honoring our graduates
in worship
On Sunday, May 16th

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- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** See you in September.
 - **TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** meets at 9:30ish every Tuesday at Perkins. Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).
 - **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will begin meeting on Thursdays at 9:30am in the church basement. We are studying the book of Genesis. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757).

Revelings for June 2021



*Twelve Mile Beach Campground, Pictured
Rocks National Lakeshore, Grand Marais, MI*

Psalm 1:1-3 (NRSV) Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper.

Growing up as a "city girl," there were trees in the various neighborhoods and parks in St. Louis. There were more trees though, on my grandparent's property, mostly Oaks and Walnut, in Southeast MO. I enjoyed the scenery and shade that the trees provided, seeing the wildlife (including snakes, yuk) in my youth.

It wasn't until Dave and I got together, that the lessons of the trees were to begin teaching me, what I needed to learn. I've mentioned in a prior sermon that Dave once said to me, "Shhh...Listen.. the trees are speaking." They have been, are speaking, do still speak, and will continue to speak to us, are we listening? Are we watching them in what they're saying and how they're saying it to us?

For this month and next (July), we'll be considering the message of the Tree, as God speaks to us through it.

Belden C. Lane, professor of Theological Studies at Saint Louis University (St. Louis MO) wrote for the Christian Century magazine an article, "Trees Communicate With One Another. I'm Trying To Listen." (July 25, 2019). Because the author of this article is at SLU in "the Lou," my hometown, my interest was automatically piqued.

Lane quotes author Richard Powers from his novel "The Overstory," "Trees have long been trying to reach us." Lane then states that he finds, "tree talk to be a foundational process in forest ecosystems... We are the ones who have lost our sense of connection to everything else." Lane again quotes Powers, "Trees used to talk to people all the time, sane people used to hear them."

Professor Lane finishes his article by writing, "A universal 'green language' has long been associated with the speech of trees and the birds who nest in them. We've learned to be suspicious of subjective human interactions with the natural world, no longer as a communion...Japanese scientists analyzing the physiological effects of trees on human beings note how time spent in a forest reduces the stress hormone cortisol, heart rate, and blood pressure. The truth is that none of us will survive today without acknowledging the wider community of which we're a part."

I guess I'm going to plan to spend more time among the trees this summer and thereafter, to listen to God speak to me and the world through them. One of my most favorite memories now is the one-week camping trip during the summer 13 years ago with Dave, among the trees on the shoreline of Lake Superior. Above is a picture found online of Twelve Mile Beach Campground in the Upper Peninsula of MI (the UP). It's where we camped then. Such serenity, peace, and God's love had been experienced and felt there. It was sabbath rest at its best.

So how will you spend your summer? Perhaps it will include time spent with God among the trees. Wherever and however you spend it, have a safe, wonderful, and peaceful/peace-filled summer. See you in church!

Faithfully, Rev. Norlita



Summer Sermon Series #1

“*God at Work*”—see God’s radical grace at work in unexpected ways.
Begins June 13th.

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 14



June 20

(Our men will be honored in worship!)



2021 Synod School July 25-30 Registration opens April 1

Looking for an enriching experience for the summer? Consider attending Synod School on the campus of Buena Vista University in beautiful Storm Lake, IA. Spend a week with other Presbyterians and choose from a wide variety of classes and worship experiences. The Embry Fund is available to assist with the cost—contact Donna Flint if you are interested.

- **SPECIAL MUSIC** We continue to enjoy special music during our worship service. Please contact Donna (flintd99@gmail) or Ginny (conger.ginny@gmail.com) if you are willing to provide other special music.
- **REV. KAUL WILL BE ON VACATION May 31 to June 11th** (finally!) to be with her family in St. Louis first time since Christmas 2019.



Oops, we forgot and we're sorry! We neglected to mention the Annual Queen's Birthday Celebration on Monday, May 24th, as it is celebrated in the UK, Canada and other commonwealth countries. Hope the day was delightful!



BROTHERHOOD

June 2021
Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood meetings will begin again this month on **June 17th at 5:30 PM**. Our meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday in the month. Stay tuned for more details.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for the safety and well-being of all during these times.

A year ago Rev. Norlita mentioned during church that we were facing a "new normal" as a result of the COVID pandemic. What is a "new normal"? According to the Oxford Lexico it means "A previously unfamiliar or atypical situation that has become standard, usual, or expected".

Individually we face new normals frequently. A move to a new community, or a new home in a community. Death of a spouse. Divorce. A new debilitating illness or injury. Loss of a job. Even a graduation becomes a new normal for both the graduate and the family of the graduate. Individually it happens often. What is really new is when it happens to our culture or society or even the world.

When Christ came to earth as Jesus, He lived, preached the gospel of love and then was crucified for doing so, His resurrection actually became the new normal for our entire human family. Suddenly an entirely new message, a new normal, was proclaimed to all about how to live with one another in peace. Unfortunately, we have not reached herd immunity from pride, covetousness, lust, anger, gluttony, envy, and sloth – the seven deadly sins.

Our work for achieving the new normal of Christ must continue and now more so than ever. We need a epidemic of love and caring for each other and our planet if we are going to avoid the results of our sins. Matthew 28:19 – 20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Reminder: We will meet on Thursday June 17th at 5:30 PM in the Lounge.



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.

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>Rev. Norlita Kaul will be on vacation May 31 through June 11 visiting family in St. Louis (first time since 2019)</i></p>		<p>1 9:30 Coffee Group</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Nicole Barkus</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 9:30 Bible Study</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 10:30 Worship Service Elizabeth Fox, CRE, presiding in sanctuary and via Zoom</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Rev. Norlita Kaul Alan Young</p>	<p>7</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Dan & Michele Kemp</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Dolores Canaday</p>	<p>8 9:30 Coffee Group</p> <p>6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Rebecca Maca</p>	<p>11</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Tate Broksieck</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom</p>	<p>14 <i>Flag Day</i></p> 	<p>15 BLADE Articles Due 9:30 Coffee Group</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Harold & Marjorie Poppen</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>5:30 Men's Brotherhood in the church lounge</p>	<p>18</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Bonnie Salonen</p>	<p>19</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Lynn Foster Nelda Holden</p>
<p>20 <i>Father's Day</i> 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Dave Barkus</p> 	<p>21</p>	<p>22 30 Coffee Group</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Alan & Sue Young</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:30 Bible Study</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Dennis & Vivian Langland</p>	<p>25</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Lucy Barkus</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Richard & Dolores Canaday</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Dylan Scubelek</p>
<p>27 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30 Coffee Group</p> <p>BIRTHDAY: Judy McCann</p>	<p>30</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY: Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague</p>			

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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 Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Pastor's Office Hours

At FPC

Mon, Wed, 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.