

THE BLADE

March 2019

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 3:16 NIV



March 6, 2017 at 6:30 PM

Join us for a quiet, prayerful service
and the imposition of ashes.



Bring a pot of soup, bread, or a vegetable/
relish tray and join us for our Lenten
Potluck Soup Lunches which will be held
after worship services at 11:30 AM on
March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7.



The Church Women United will be celebrating The World Day of Prayer on March 1, 2019 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 6th Street & 8th Avenue, Brookings, SD. Join in the prayer service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Slovenia and the World Day of Prayer International Committee at 2:00 PM. The theme of this gathering is "Come—Everything is Ready." World Day of Prayer is a world-wide ecumenical movement led by Christian women who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year. All church men and women are invited to this World Day of Prayer.

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

11:30 am Fellowship Hour

Lord's Supper—First Sunday
of each month

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

9:30 am Nursery Care is available
on first floor during
Sunday Worship

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

9:00 – 11:30 am

12:00 – 2:30 pm

March

THE BLADE

Published Monthly
(June/July & December/January
combined)

First Presbyterian Church
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Newsletter Assembly
Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates
and photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

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.

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. The families and individuals are selected at random.

March 3: Richard & Dolores Canaday, Ginny Conger

March 10: David & Louise Crain, Arvid Dills, Susan Dobesh

March 17: Maxine Dornbush, Bill & Ann Douglas

March 24: John & Robin Eich, Samuel Eich, Priscilla Eitel

March 31: Evelyn Fee, Robert Fishback, Robby & Donna Flint



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact any of the prayer chain volunteers: Linda Barnett, Dolores Canaday, Ann Douglas, Robby & Donna Flint, Bonnie Foster, Bob & Jan Jones, Ella Lane, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Judy Smith, Susan Smith, Nancy Thompson, and Richard Wilson.



**Daylight Savings Time
begins March 10**

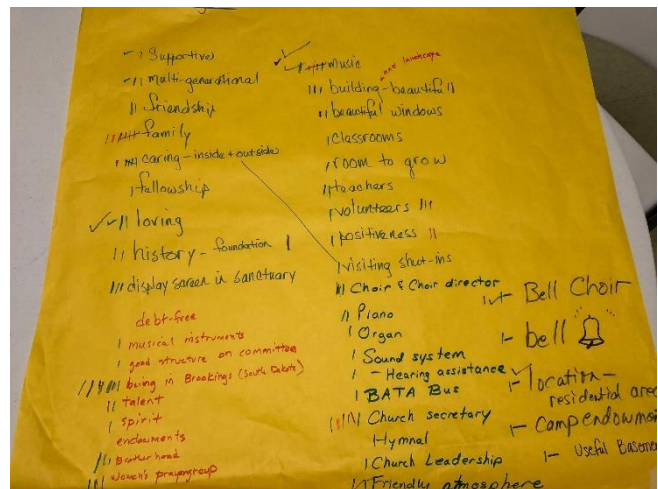
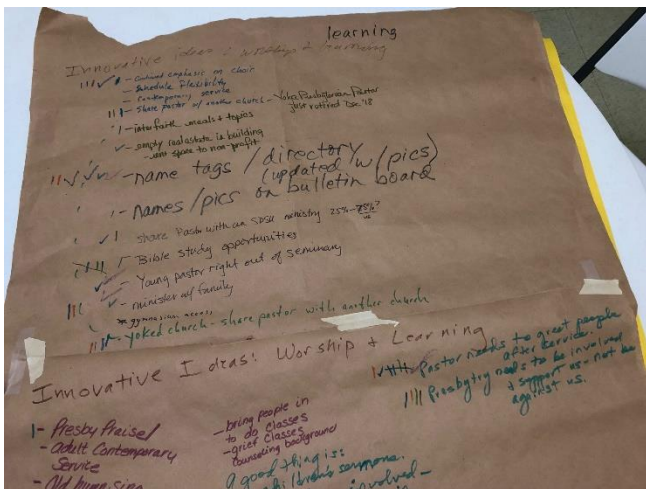
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

VISION MEETING



Thanks to all the members of our congregation who participated in our recent Vision meeting. How inspiring it was to see such a LONG list of “Strengths,” along with a healthy recognition of the “Challenges” we face. Even more exciting was the number of “Innovative ideas” you all shared about how to help the church grow, both in numbers and in our worship and learning habits. God is working in our church- we may have a few bumps along the way- but God is working in us and using us to further His work in our world. This is evident as we see the list of “Future Hopes” you all compiled- these dreams reflect our hope to make a positive difference in God’s world.

Going forward, we are working to compile these lists into a form that can be useful for Session, Deacons, committees, and our future Pastor Nominating Committee as we move to the next phase of this congregation’s life. Please continue to keep the church and its leaders, along with all the members, in your prayers. Please also ask God to give you guidance- how can you help your church- what can you do, who can you be- that would be a blessing to your church family?



SESSION MEMBERS

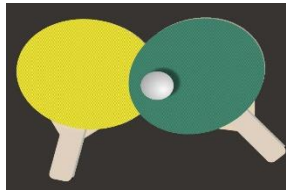
Donna Flint, Clerk of Session
 Dolores Canaday, Rick Salonen, Susan Smith,
 Terry Spitzenberger, Susan Young

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS



Youth Rally is coming! Bonnie Foster will be leading a group of students, 8th – 12th grade to Youth Rally on March 29-31. Sign up by **March 2nd**- registration forms are in the church office. Each student will pay \$25 towards the trip and the Embry Fund will cover the balance. This year's theme is "Life" and the group will be collecting pocket change for donation to a charity to be chosen at Youth Rally. More information is here: <http://presbyteryofsd.org/ministries/youth-rally/>

Time to start thinking about Summer Camp! Brochures for Camp Rimrock can be found in the church office and at this website: <http://www.pioneerrimrock.camp/> The Embry Fund will help pay for one camp per student (each student pays \$25/camp).



We will be having a Youth Event on Sunday, March 17th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM at Don and Kay Norton's. Their address is 1801 7th Avenue South, Brookings. We will have ping pong, games, and a meal. Please RSVP by contacting Bonnie Foster at 605-690-6479 so we can plan food.



**SOUTH DAKOTA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

The Christian Education Committee is accepting applications for the Embry Fund SDSU scholarship. Members of the church who are planning to attend SDSU in the Fall 2019 are eligible to apply. Applications can be picked up in the church office and are due March 31st.

The Boy Scouts Troop 14 is meeting now on Thursday evenings throughout the school year at 7:00 PM. Our Scoutmaster of the past 20+ years stepped down in January, and our new Scoutmaster is Troy White. Welcome Troy and thank you Joe Tschetter for your past leadership of the Scouts!



MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

March 2019



Scripture Reading: Luke 6:19 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Quote: Good company in a journey makes the way seem shorter. – Izaak Walton

Men's Brotherhood Notes: On February 21 we held our regular meeting. Bart Sweebe from the Brookings Sheriff's Office came and presented the program. The Men also served a soup and sandwich lunch on February 17. A freewill offering went to the building fund. **Coming up:** March 21 is the next scheduled meeting. Please join us.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for our church that we increase the bonds of friendship and relationships among the congregation and everyone in the community.

Action: Work to build the bonds of friendship. Get to know one another.

I love to read but don't always make the commitment to do it. I am trying to change that. The kind of books I usually prefer to read are non-fiction histories, mysteries, and novels that involve building or strengthening relationships – how people figure out getting along with each other and themselves. Anne Tyler is one of my most favorite authors.

I am getting a new favorite author, Swedish author Fredrik Backman. His book *A Man called Ove* could have been written about me in some part. It's about an old curmudgeon fellow and his neighbors. Because I found this an excellent read, I thought I would see how any other story of his held up. I next chose his *And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer*. Wow, I was not disappointed!

This little book, and it is a little book, is a beautiful read and I would recommend it for any one of any age but the story is mostly centered around a grandfather and his grandson. Their dialogue is very interesting and very moving. There was one part of the story that struck me especially. The boy was telling his grandpa about a school assignment. The teacher asked him to write an essay on the meaning of life. The grandpa asked him "What did you write?" The boy answered, "Company". The grandpa thought and said it was the best answer he'd ever heard. The boy said the teacher said he had to write a longer answer. "So what did you do" his grandpa asked. "I wrote: Company. And ice cream." The grandpa thought for a bit then said, "What kind of ice cream?" The boy and the grandpa understood each other.

That is the meaning of life. Company. It is all in one word but what a word. It has several meanings but the one that fits best here is fellowship. Jesus said that there are but two commands: love God and love one another. What better way to demonstrate love for God and for one another than to seek fellowship. Fellowship with God: walking, talking, studying, praying, meditating. Fellowship with one another: sharing activities, interests, walking, talking, and just hanging out. Being there to support each other in times of trouble. We need to understand how much we need one another.

Jesus came to teach us how to live with one another, to love one another, to be there for people who are ill or infirm. Folks who are in jail, those who are suffering from all kinds of distress, these are folks we are to love and serve. We need to arrive at understanding each other.

And then there is ice cream! At Men's Brotherhood each month we serve a great meal. And the dessert is almost always ice cream. Great company. With ice cream. What kind? Join us and find out.

HY VEE

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

**Received Goal \$150,000.00
to Date: \$66,281.68
Needed to Date: \$83,718.32**



The Great Divorce by iconic Christian theologian C.S. Lewis is a must read (or, for some of us, RE-read) for anyone who enjoys exploring the concepts of heaven and hell through an allegorical eye.

First published in 1946, this short work takes the reader on “a fantastic bus ride from hell to heaven – a round trip for some but not for others,” according to the book’s cover. Unexpectedly finding himself in a strange, gloomy town at an eerie bus stop, the narrator encounters a cast of unusual characters, some ghost-like and some solid and known as “bright persons,” each with a particular story and a once-in-a-lifetime

decision to make.

In the Preface, Lewis acknowledges that *Divorce* is in part responsive to the work by “genius” William Blake *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*, written in the late 1700s. And in the 150 years between the works – and ever since – our attempts at defining Heaven and Hell have continued to spark debate, speculation, and wonder. Lewis offers no concrete answers, but instead challenges us to ponder just what makes someone fit for either destination:

“...I think earth, if chosen instead of Heaven, will turn out to have been, all along, only a region in Hell; and earth, if put second to Heaven, to have been from the beginning a part of Heaven itself....”

(Preface, *The Great Divorce*).

This volume is on loan to our Church Library from my own collection, in hopes many members of our congregation will enjoy it, either for the first time or again!

-Kay Norton



Being a Deacon is a wonderful call to service. Deacons are the “servants” or “caregivers” of the congregation. In this congregation, people have all kinds of needs - they are recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, or otherwise in a time where they welcome the ministry of care from our congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring. Serving as a Deacon of the First Presbyterian Church is a privilege and a blessing. It is also an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. As a deacon, we have the opportunity to know other church members in a deeper way, serving alongside them and growing in ones understanding of the burdens people carry and how the church can help.

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (The PC(USA) Book of Order)

Current Deacons for First Presbyterian Church are Ella Lane (605-695-0342), Bonnie Foster (605-690-6479), Nancy Thompson (605-697-3073), Ann Foster-Douglas (605-592-9199), Jeanne Longieliere (605-692-6837) and Dan Kemp (605-692-7886).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our Organist, MK Huggins

An open house will be held to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mildred K. Huggins. The event will be Sunday, March 31st from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Community Life Center at the First United Methodist Church. Lunch will be served. For those who cannot attend, greetings may be sent to 1034 6th Ave., Brookings, SD 57006. Let your presence be your gift.

MARCH

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Sound System:
Dave Peterson

Ushers:

Rick & Bonnie Salonen
Don & Kay Norton
Diane Broksieck

Leaders of Children's Time

March 3: Donna Flint
March 10: Joel Foster
March 17: Bonnie Foster
March 24: Gary Larson
March 31: Carrie Van Buren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> St. Paul's Episcopal Church 2:00 PM	2
3 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Communion 11:30 Fellowship/Coffee 6:00 Bell Choir practice	4 7:00 Building & Grounds BIRTHDAY: Sam Artz	5 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Mission & Finance	6 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	7 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 Deacons 6:30 CE Committee 7:00 Boy Scouts Mtg	8	9 9:30 Prayer Quilt Sew Day
10 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten Potluck Soup Lunch 11:30 Worship Committee 6:00 Bell Choir practice	11	12 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	13 7:00 Choir	14 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session 7:00 Boy Scouts Mtg	15 BIRTHDAY: Henrietta Gohring	16 BIRTHDAY: Helen Peterson
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten Potluck Soup Lunch Youth Event at the Nortons, 4:30-6:30 6:00 Bell Choir practice BIRTHDAY: Hannah Moerke	18	19 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Harold Poppen ANNIVERSARY: Carey & Lisa Bretsch	20 7:00 Choir BIRTHDAY: David Crain	21 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood 7:00 Boy Scouts Mtg BIRTHDAY: David Peterson	22	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship-Service 11:30 Lenten Potluck Soup Lunch 6:00 Bell Choir practice BIRTHDAY: Sharon Hofland	25	26 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Amir Rottluff	27 7:00 Choir	28 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scouts Mtg	29 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Children's Museum) <i>Youth Rally 3/29 to 3/31 in Pierre</i>	30 BIRTHDAY: Delores Koepsell
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten Potluck Soup Lunch 6:00 Bell Choir			 Daylight Savings Time begins March 10 Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!			

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First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested



**THE BLADE
IS AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

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.