

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.

March 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



Lenten Potluck Soup Lunches will be held after Sunday worship services on **March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 at 11:30 AM.** Please fill in the sign-up sheet on the Volunteer bulletin board if you will be bringing a pot of soup, bread, or a vegetable/ relish tray. Thank you!



Rev. Norlita Kaul is leading a Lenten Bible Study “Lent in Plain Sight” on **Wednesdays Feb. 19, March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1 and 8 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM,** before choir practice.



Brookings Church Women United will celebrate World Day of Prayer on March 6, 2020 at the United Church of Christ, 828 8th Street S., Brookings, SD at 2:00 PM. World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year. Join in the prayer service written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Zimbabwe and the USA Committee. The theme is “Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk.” All church men and women are invited to this World Day of Prayer. An offering will be taken to support the Church Women United programs. Lunch and fellowship will follow the program. United Church of Christ is handicapped accessible.

March

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 Spitzengerger

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



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to pray for you or a loved one, please contact **Jan Jones at 692-5325**, **Lee Peterson 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. The families and individuals are selected at random.

March 1: Don Kleinjan & Carol Glantz, Delores Koepsell, Andrew & Beth L'Amour

March 8: Ella Lane, Dennis & Vivian Langland, Gary & Pam Larson

March 15: Darwin & Jeanne Longieliere, Martin & Sally Maca, Tom & Jeanne Jones Manzer

March 22: Nona Marshall, Maria Mason, Mike & Judy McCann, Rozanne McGrath

March 29: Heidi & Aaron Miller, Daniel & Carolyn Moerke and family Hannah, Emma, & Allison, Marlys More

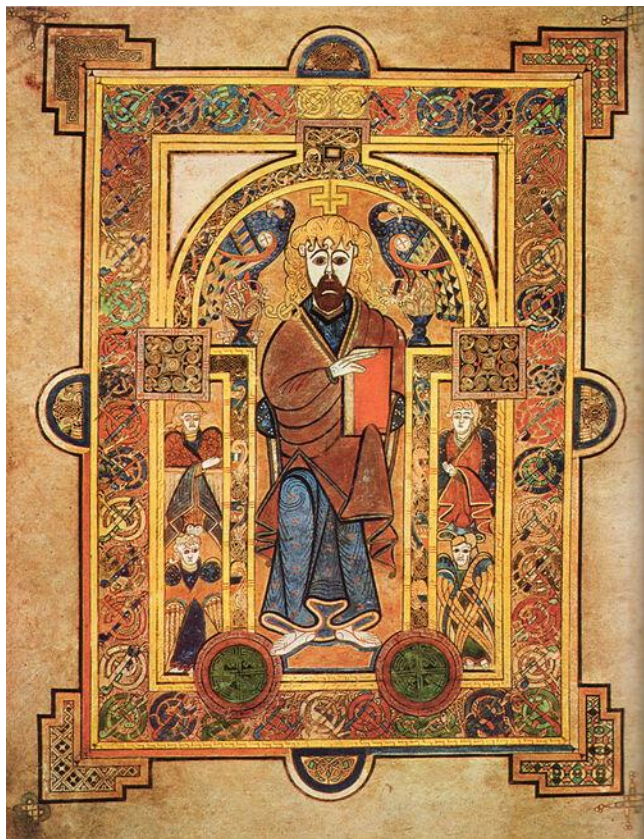
FINANCIAL UPDATE

	January	YTD
Income	\$15,483.37	\$15,483.37
Expense	\$16,904.38	\$16,904.38
(P/L)		(\$1,421.01)

This was not an average month since there was one large contribution and one large expense. For tax reasons, a Qualified Charitable Distribution can be made to a church which could mean all or most of a yearly contribution is made at one time. More than one of our church families donate in this manner.

Per Capita is \$34.75 per person. If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.

Revelings For March 2020



Christ Enthroned, from the Book of Kells
(9th Century Celtic Illuminated Gospel Book)

It is very fitting that in this month, we peer into our Celtic Heritage a wee bit by looking at the Hymn we love to sing, “Be Thou My Vision.” Recently, Peter Johnston shared this wonderful background about this hymn. I’m resharing it, as its back story is amazing. May God’s love continue to surround us today and always as our inheritance. Blessings during this month of our Lenten Journey and brief respite day on March 17. Let us never forget that we as Presbyterians have in our history, the Scotch-Irish that brought their own love of our Triune God to this country as they immigrated to the US, so long ago.

We are blessed! Rev. Norlita

BEHIND THE HYMN: BE THOU MY VISION

Peter Johnston

January 25, 2020

An ancient Celtic Hymn, “Be Thou My Vision.” It’s a powerful and profound hymn, on account of both its tune and its text. The tune, called “Slane,” is a traditional Irish ballad melody, first transcribed in the early 20th century but likely much older. The text is a translation of a medieval text attributed to St Fallan, a 6th century Celtic monk, poet, and follower of St Columba (his feast day is January 29th). The text

and the tune were combined in the Irish Church Hymnal in 1919, and it has spread round the world since.

St. Fallan went blind in the middle of his life, and the opening verse of the hymn poignantly draws upon his experience:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.

Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Though Fallan must have suffered much from his loss of sight, the effect of this forced darkness was to drive him back to God, his “best thought,” and, whether “by day or night,” his only remaining “light.” When we sing the hymn, we might try closing our eyes; perhaps by sharing just a taste of Fallan’s experience we will experience more deeply his reliance upon God.

The second verse expands on the discussion of God’s identity and his presence:

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;

Thou my great Father, I Thy true son; Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

The focus seems to be the unity between God and us, between the Father and his son. In fact, there’s some half-hidden Trinitarian theology going on here, since “Word” is a designation of Jesus, and one who is “dwelling” in us is the Holy Spirit. So after the first verse, which calls out to God, this second verse draws us into the relational dynamic of Trinitarian love and indwelling.

There is a middle verse, not normally sung, which provides a lovely request of God to be a defensive and offensive support, evocative of Ephesians 6:10-20:

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight, Be thou my armor, and be thou my might

Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r, Raise thou me heav’nward, o pow’r of my pow’r.

The third verse (fourth when the middle verse is sung) introduces the idea of God as an “inheritance” and a “treasure”:

Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise, Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Because God is already present, we who sing realize we are rich! With the riches of God already in hand, we need no longer be anxious for the “riches” of the world, nor for the vanity of “man’s empty praise.”

The final verse draws out the implications of all that has come before, and ends with a restatement of the opening theme:

High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Because the “High King of Heaven” is a treasure that we already have, our “victory” is already won. The only lasting thing that we lack is to finally “reach Heaven’s joys.” The reference to “bright heaven’s Sun” puts us in mind of the eternal “Son,” and “heart of my own heart” recalls the Spirit. Finally, as this song-and-trinitarian-dance comes to its ending, there is a return to the theme of Vision. When we come off the spiritual high of transporting moments of worship, still we look to God to rule and lead us in our everyday walk of faith.

<http://trinitylafayette.com/blog/2020/1/25/behind-the-hymn-be-thou-my-vision>



Board of Deacons for 2020: Nancy Thompson, moderator (605-697-3073), Ann Douglas, vice moderator (605-592-9199), Kay Norton, secretary (309-259-0048), Dan Kemp, treasurer (605-692-7886), Bonnie Foster (6605-690-6479), and Jeanne Longieliere (605-692-6837).

Thank you for all the SOUPER donations for February. The need for nonperishable foods in never ending. Please continue to give.

Helen Peterson is going to be celebrating her 96th Birthday on March 16. March 17th would be her 75th wedding anniversary. Bob passed away in 2018. Please remember her with a card—her address is:

Helen Peterson
The Neighborhoods Pine # 8
2421 Yorkshire Drive
Brookings, SD 57006

On February 20, 2020, a Celebration of Life Service was held for Henrietta Gohring.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY SESSION MEETING

Session approved the recommendation to establish a Security and Safety Task Force. Nick Ruskin has agreed to head up the task force, which will work to establish policies, procedures and necessary equipment to ensure the safety of our staff and all those attending church events.

Information about church cancelation: The decision to cancel Sunday School and/or Worship Services will happen on Sunday morning, unless current conditions on Saturday are so severe it is clear it will not be possible to hold services on Sunday. When the decision is made, **the information is posted on the church website, the church Facebook page, and Brookings radio** is notified. In addition, **if you are signed up for the texting service** (remind.com), **you will receive a text** about the closure. If you would like to join the texting service, please provide your phone number to Donna Flint or the church office. **For those who are not on the texting service, the Deacons have plans to make phone calls. If you do not have an assigned Deacon or want to ensure you receive a call, please contact your deacon, or Nancy Thompson, moderator.**

Members of session and the church office eagerly await the results of your **time and talent survey**- if you haven't completed that yet, **please complete and submit** as soon as possible. We look forward to helping you become a vital part of your church!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint,
Clerk to the Session

UPCOMING EVENTS

Youth Rally is coming! Bonnie Foster will be leading a group of students, 8th – 12th grade to Youth Rally on April 3-5. Sign up by **March 15th**. Registration forms are in the church office. Each student will pay \$25 towards the trip and the Embry Fund will cover the balance.

More information is here: <http://presbyteryofsd.org/ministries/youth-rally/>



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

Embry Fund SDSU Scholarship: The Christian Education Committee is accepting applications for the Embry Fund SDSU Scholarship. Members of the church who are planning to attend or are attending SDSU in the Fall 2020 are eligible to apply. Applications can be picked up in the church office and are due **March 31st**.



Ecumenical Wednesday Lenten Lunch & Worship will be held at the First Lutheran Activity Center **March 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1st**. A meal (\$6.50 per person) will be served from 11:30 AM – 12:10PM. The Ecumenical Service begins around 12:10 PM. The lunch proceeds will benefit the Brookings Area Ministerial Association.



Welcome to our new women's group called

"Sisterhood"

We will meet

Thursday, March 19, 5:30 PM

Cubby's

307 Main Avenue

Open to women of all ages/children welcomed



Troop 14 Scouts will be meeting on the first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

HY VEE

Remember to bring in 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!

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

March 2020

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 13:5 (NIV) Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test?



Quote: All of us must come to an honest, open self-examination, an awareness within as to who and what we want to be. -- M. Russell Ballard

Men's Brotherhood 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. Coming up: March 19 is the next scheduled meeting. Please join us.

Prayer Concerns: Pray that during this season of Lent we, collectively and individually, come to a greater understanding of where we are on our spiritual journey.

Action: Put into practice that love Christ has shared with us in the Sermon on the Mount.

For many years, while observing a different religious Christian practice from Presbyterianism, I followed, at this time of year, a devotion to prepare myself to be worthy of taking our annual communion or Lord's Supper. It was taken only once in a year's time. To feel worthy, we were expected to look closely within ourselves to see what sins we might yet have that we needed to overcome. If we had wronged anyone we were to go to that person and ask forgiveness.

There are several references to sin being like a yeast that puffs up the dough. Yeast can be a symbol of what is wrong with a prideful attitude. Our sins can puff us up to thinking we are something special. We were counseled to look within ourselves for sins and change our behavior to one of more humility and love and service for one another. It was a time for reconciliation to God and to our fellow humans.

This should be and hopefully will be for most Christians not a once in a lifetime, nor once a year activity but an on-going practice. Much prayer and fasting should go into this to draw ourselves closer to God. We should ask in prayer for Him to help us see within ourselves where we can learn and practice better ways to serve each other. Is there something more we can do to show our love for others? To love God.

As we draw closer to God we are led by the fruits of the Spirit. These fruits should be our mirror as we look at our lives in the reflection of Gal 5:22-23. Are we patient? Are we tolerant? Do we have peace in our hearts? Love? Do these fruits reflect our behaviors? If we are failing at any place, this is the season of the year to uncover those failings, pray and fast about them and work to overcome any shortcoming we find.

Christ loves us so much. We look towards Easter, where He demonstrated that love by laying down His life for us. We were called to Him, to be a part of His kingdom. We are thankful and desire to live our lives as a tribute to this love. We are asked to love Him and then to demonstrate that love to one another by becoming a servant to all. Lent can be that time when we closely look at just how we are doing.



Daylight Savings Time begins March 8
Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!

Sunday Sermon Series in March

'A PRAYERFUL LIFE'

- March 1, 2020** "The Temptations"
Matthew 4:1-11
- March 8, 2020** "You Have Heard It Said"
Matthew 5:38-48
- March 15, 2020** "Secrets, Reward and Prayer"
Matthew 6:1-18
- March 22, 2020** "Prayer, A Conversation"
Matthew 6:5-15
- March 29, 2020** "The Lord's Prayer"
Matthew 6:9-13
-



Susan's Saga

International Mother Language Day, as declared by UNESCO, is celebrated on February 21st. Its purpose is to highlight linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

No matter what language we speak, it's important to realize that there are other languages spoken around the globe, maybe in our own neighborhood and town and state. Each language is valuable, because it represents a unique and complex way of encoding how the world is perceived and conceptualized.

"Each language matters, because all people matter" affirms Dr. Michel Kenmogne, the Executive Director of SIL, the field organization with which I colabor.

The International Mother Language Day presents an excellent reminder of the value of each language, whether we speak one or many languages.

It is also an opportunity to express my appreciation for the ongoing participation of the church in the endeavor to promote a couple of variants of the Mixtec language in southern Mexico, through linguistics, literacy, and Bible translation.

Susan Huggins

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.

PRISON LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRY NEWSLETTER February 2020



"So then neither he who plants is anything nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase." I Cor. 3:7

It is great to see seeds of the gospel that have been planted and are growing and maturing! It is awesome that God's kingdom is everlasting. We are His vessels to spread His Word. *Psalm 145:13* says, "Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations." Only living for Christ and spreading the gospel will have eternal results!

Some of the men I work with in Jameson Annex get transferred to another prison. When their points drop because of their good behavior, they go to a lower security prison, like Springfield prison. Last week I had the privilege of speaking at the Springfield prison. Twenty-eight men graduated from a twelve-week discipleship course. I had worked with some of these men and helped disciple them. It was a joy to see how these men continue to work on knowing Christ and have a desire to make Him known to others. They are reaching out to other men to take this course so they come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior too. They are being obedient to Jesus' command in Matthew 28:18-20.

A man who has been in prison several times before said to me, "I know God's hand is on me,

because before I was arrested this time, I was headed to another state where my family lives. I was going there to take care of some business with someone who had done wrong to my brother. I ended up being arrested before I could accomplish this. This gave me time to think about what I was planning to do. When I was at my lowest in jail, I heard Jesus say, 'Follow Me'. I have been into His Word ever since and the Lord is speaking to me through it. I am thankful that I am in prison and have time to get my mind clear! I know I need to change my life and live for Him." The Lord had His hand on this man and saved him from many more years in prison!

On Saturday, January 25th, there was a men's summit at Central Church in Sioux Falls. This is a yearly men's gathering that I have found to be effective for men to grow in Christ. It was great to be present with more than 1000 men, desiring to grow in Christ! I had the opportunity to take three men who I worked with in prison and are now out. One speaker talked about the importance of integrity in a man's life. Another talked about how to be a good father, and the importance of being plugged into the Word daily. All three of the men told me they appreciated the opportunity and learned from it!

Thank you for your prayers and financial support, through which lives are being changed for eternity!

In Christ

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Harlan Moss".

Please designate my name in the memo section of your check. Send them to: Prison Lighthouse Fellowship (PLF) or South Dakota Prison Chaplains Association (SDPCA), 601 W 57th Street Sioux Falls, SD 57108 Your gifts are appreciated and tax deductible. My phone: 605-940-4220, Email: harlan@convergeheartland.org. To listen to inmate testimonies: <https://converge.org/heartland/91v1nq-campaign/sd-prison-chaplains-harlan-moss>

MARCH



MARCH VOLUNTEERS

2020


Sound System:
Dave Peterson

Ushers:

Terry Spitzenberger
Diane Broksieck
Rick & Bonnie Salonen

Leaders of Young at Heart

March 1: Rev. Norlita Kaul
March 8: Joel Foster
March 15: Lee Peterson
March 22: Kay Norton
March 29: Donna Flint

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service/Communion 11:30 Lenten <u>Potluck Soup Lunch</u> Homebound Communion 6:00 Bell Choir practice	2 6:30 Fellowship/Outreach 7:00 Building & Grounds	3 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day 6:30 Mission & Finance	4 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Week 2 – Bread 7:00 Choir BIRTHDAY: Sam Artz	5 9:30 Bible Study 5:15 Deacons Meeting 6:00 Worship Committee 7:00 Scout Meeting	6 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> United Church of Christ at 2:00 PM	7  BIRTHDAY: Teri Bierstedt
8 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten <u>Potluck Soup Lunch</u> 11:30 CE Committee Meeting 6:00 Bell Choir practice <i>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins</i>	9 	10 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day	11 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Week 3 - Cross 7:00 Choir	12 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting	13	14 9:30 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day
15 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten <u>Potluck Soup Lunch</u> 6:00 Bell Choir practice	16 BIRTHDAY: Helen Peterson	17 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day <i>Helen Peterson 75th</i> <i>Wedding Anniversary</i> BIRTHDAY: Hannah Moerke	18 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Week 4 -Coins 7:00 Choir	19 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 Men's Brotherhood 5:30 Sisterhood at Cubby's 7:00 Scout Meeting BIRTHDAY: Harold Poppen	20	21 BIRTHDAY: David Peterson
22 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service 11:30 Lenten <u>Potluck Soup Lunch</u> 6:00 Bell Choir practice	23	24 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day BIRTHDAY: Sharon Hofland	25 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Week 5 - Shoes 7:00 Choir	26 9:30 Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Amir Rottluff	27 11:30 Lunch Bunch (Mission Coffee House) BIRTHDAY: Evelyn Fee	28
29 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship-Service 11:30 Lenten <u>Potluck Soup Lunch</u> 6:00 Bell Choir practice	30 BIRTHDAY: Delores Koepsell	31 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Pieces & Prayers Sew Day	1 April Fool's Day 6:00 Lenten Bible Study Week 6 - Oil 7:00 Choir	2	3	4
			DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME begins March 8 Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!			

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

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

Please contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 605-692-2416, to notify us.