

# THE BLADE

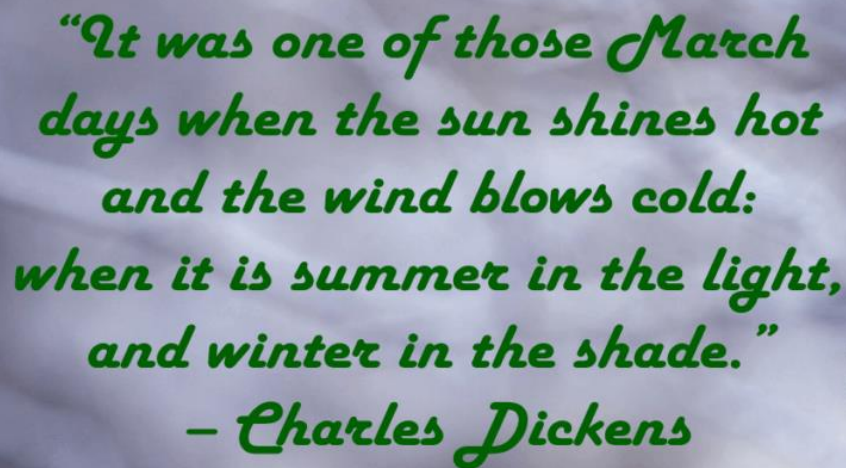
*Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation, heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ*



## March 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*



*"It was one of those March  
days when the sun shines hot  
and the wind blows cold:  
when it is summer in the light,  
and winter in the shade."  
— Charles Dickens*



MAY YOUR BLESSINGS OUTNUMBER  
THE SHAMROCKS THAT GROW,  
AND MAY TROUBLE AVOID YOU  
WHEREVER YOU GO.  
— IRISH BLESSING

# March

## THE BLADE

### First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006

(605) 692-2416

[www.brookingspresbyterian.org](http://www.brookingspresbyterian.org)

[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net)

### Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

[brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com)

In office at FPC 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

In office at BUUC 9:30 am-12:30 pm

Tuesday

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 2:30 pm

### Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath

[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net)

For regular updates and photos, like us on Facebook



[www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings)

Please check the website [www.brookingspresbyterian.org](http://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.

**March 7:** Teri B, Don & Jan B, Barb B, Carey B, Lisa B

**March 14:** Chad & Diane B & family Tate & Trent,  
LaVonne B

**March 21:** Richard & Dolores C, Ginny C, Susan D

**March 28:** Maxine D, Bill & Ann D

# Session Meeting Update

February 11, 2021

Session has made the following decisions regarding worship:

1. To resume in-person worship on the first Sunday of Lent (February 21, 2021).
2. Worship services will continue to be available on Zoom.
3. To suspend communion until late summer.

The session expressed their gratitude to Sue Young who has accepted the role of chairperson of the Endowment Committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Flint  
Clerk of Session

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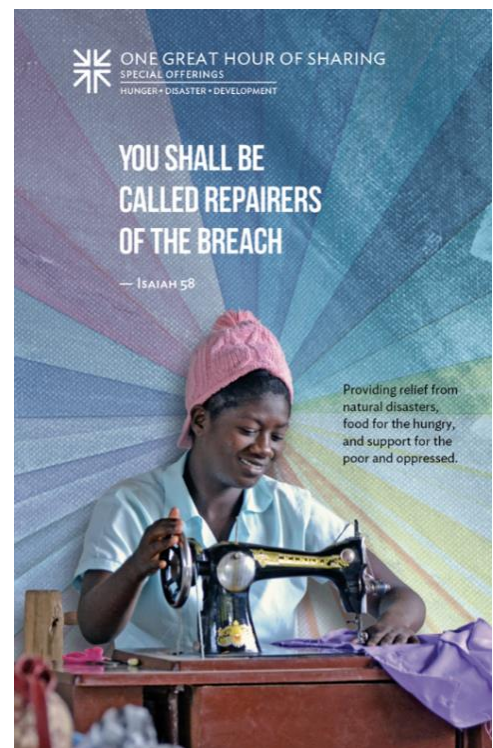
Thank you to those who are delivering meals for 60+ Dining  
March 15-26: Nelda, Dan, Mike, Robby, Ann, and Nancy.

\*Thank you for Food Pantry donations, however the need is never ending. Food Pantry 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 to the Deacons for the soup, birthday card and flowers!**

**Art V**



**One Great Hour of Sharing  
from  
February 17 to April 4**

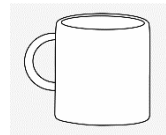
# News You Can Use

Holy Communion in Sunday Worship Services is suspended until late summer per Session decision at their Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> meeting due to the ongoing pandemic.



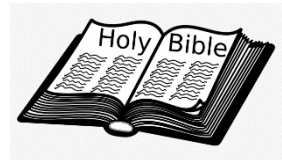
Time to start thinking about Summer Camp! Registration and information for Camp Rimrock can be found at this website: <http://www.pioneerrimrock.camp/> (preferred way). There are also registration forms on the counter in the church office.

**TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** meets at Perkins at 9:30ish every Tuesday. Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).



**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY (HABAKKUK)** via Zoom on Wednesdays through March 31 at 6:30 PM.

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** is meeting via Zoom on Thursdays at 9:30am. We are studying the book of Genesis. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757).



**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.



## Revelings for March 2021

### Community Is.... about managing conflict

#### Matthew 18:15-20

<sup>15</sup> 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.'



Bret Lamsma's series on community has been thought-provoking for us as we've been looking at his devotional insights over these last months.

Years ago, I would do anything to avoid a conflict, much less try to manage one, in my personal life, in my family, or in the various church/social groups I was a part of. While in seminary I came to understand more about myself personally, what being a healthy disciple of Jesus was all about, especially as a leader of any group/organization. During this time, I began to understand that conflict wasn't a negative thing, but rather was and could indeed be a positive thing.

It is during the times of conflict that we're broken open, the Holy Spirit stirs us to grow, in and through the situation at hand. So in the areas of what we would consider conflict in our lives and/or organizations, seeking God's Holy Wisdom and allowing the Holy Spirit to work in and through us, we should intentionally work together collaboratively.

We should be prayerfully working in ways so that compromise isn't an us against them, or person against person thing, but rather it willingly gives for the common good to be achieved. (I Cor. 13 comes to mind.)

Healthy relationships should not have passive aggressive type behaviors, nor name-calling or shouting matches, nor secret-keeping (unless it's a celebratory/good reason), as part of what makes up or is part of a relationship. Jesus taught much about this we read in the Gospels.

Sadly, many people will think of the aforementioned and automatically deem conflict as negative. Healthy relationships are about honestly sharing our thoughts, opinions, and/or feelings openly with others, even if we're in disagreement. The old saying, "it's ok to agree to disagree" is spot on. Part of our spiritual discipline and renewal for Lent could be to begin to practice this even in small ways in our lives. Is it easy, no, but better for us in the long run, yes.

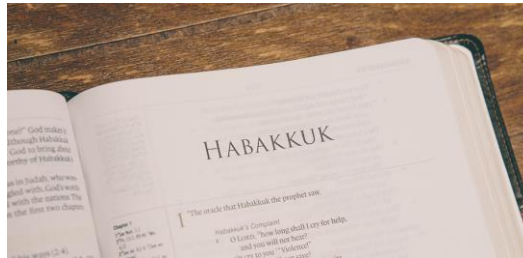
Here's what Lamsma wrote about these verses in Matt. 18:15-20: "Our text from Matthew 18 has been a foundational principle for dealing with conflict. If you have a problem with someone, go and talk to them about it first before including other people. It seems pretty basic. But is also a foundational principle in community. Making a public complaint or using gossip or backstabbing will

bring about mistrust and break community. On the other hand, directly addressing issues in a spirit of Godly wisdom and love is a positive way of dealing with conflict. Conflicts will arise. Managing them indirectly and in a timely way is an important part of community. Is there anyone with whom you need to discuss a conflict? Dealing with that has the potential to make your community even stronger." Prayer: God, help us deal with conflicts wisely, and bring us into stronger relationships as a result. Amen.

May we give our lives in every aspect, to our loving God as part of our season of renewal during this year's season of Lent. Stay safe, strong, and well.

Faithfully,  
Rev. Norlita

Wednesdays  
March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31



from 6:30-7:30 PM

Lenten Bible Study on Habakkuk  
via Zoom -- Meeting ID: 886 0749 0278 and Passcode: 024200.  
Please join us.

Our 2021 Lent Devotionals ("Praying with the Scriptures during Lent") from the Presbyterian Outlook are available via e-mail from the church office. If you have not received yours and would like it sent to you in an e-mail, please contact the church office.

Father Larry Ort at St. Paul's Episcopal Church is offering a book study via Zoom starting Tuesday, March 9 from 7:00-8:30 PM. The book is "Morality: Restoring the Common Good in Divided Times": by Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks. Contact their church office at 605-692-2617 if interested.



<sup>1</sup>"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>"In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>"If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup>"And you know the way where I am going." John 14:1-3 (NIV)

Our thought, hearts, and prayers go out to Roger and Marvis J. and family in the passing of his sister, Thelma on Feb. 23 in Arizona. And also we pray for Pat F's family at her brother, Michael's passing January 13 after a long cancer battle. (We mistakenly overlooked sharing about Michael in our February Blade. To Pat's family we are sorry for this oversight.) Let us continue to lift these families in prayer.

## MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

March 2021

Andrew L'Amour



**Men's Brotherhood Notes:** All Men's Brotherhood activities are suspended until further notice.

Cont'd from last month:

Recalling the Cosmic Comic, Swami Beyondananda's saying "We are not here to earn God's love, we are here to spend it."

So we are not here on a mission to earn God's love. It is a gift freely given because he loves us. What did we do before Christ died for us to "earn" God's love? Nothing. What can we do to "earn" God's love now? Nothing. But to demonstrate that we acknowledge His love for us, we heed His command to "Love one another, as I have loved you". "As I have loved you...", this means we are to love one another without their needing to "earn" our love. We are to love one another unconditionally. They don't need to do anything to "earn" our love. Love is a gift freely given by God to all of us – *all of us*. Without condition.

We don't have to worry about what we need to do to keep God's love coming to us. We don't need to find good works to do so God will pay us in His love. We know we have His love. But knowing this, then our responsibility in this relationship is to "spend" that love, to heap it on our neighbor in all situations. The good works part in all this is where we find good works as a means to spend God's love. It is like we inherited a pile of money and our mission in life is to give it all away not bury it. (Matthew 25:14-30) The difference here is the pile of money is finite. God's love is infinite. You can never give it all away. Glory be to God!!

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**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 SDSU in the Fall 2021 are eligible to apply. Applications may be submitted on-line here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2PWP3SJ> and are due by **March 31st**.



**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: \$40,305.54

Needed to Date: \$109,694.46

Remember to bring in  
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

# SUSAN'S SAGA

In spite of the pandemic, progress on the translation of God's Word into the Mixtec language is continuing. Because the translation team can no longer safely meet face to face, we have had to rely more heavily on technology. We are using WhatsApp on our cell phones to be in communication. Three of us have computers, and two of the team have tablets, where we can see the updated translation in Mixtec. We use the internet so that we can each read what changes are being made, although we are in five different locations. Then we discuss the wording on our cell phones. Even though the internet and/or cell phone coverage frequently cuts out for one or more parties, we are still able to continue the translation project. We certainly would not have dreamed a year ago that this would be the way we would be working.

By God's grace, we were able to revise about 30% of the New Testament in Mixtec this past year. The revision process continues, as we hone and refine the revision to be both accurate to the original Greek text, and clear in Mixtec—an ongoing challenge, as the languages are so different.

Our commitment continues to be to see God's Word made available to this people group in their heart language.

## 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.*

### A HYMN FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



1. Dark - ness in morn - ing, sun - light in eve - ning:  
2. What is an hour \_\_\_\_\_ less of your sleep - ing?  
3. Don't miss the sing - ing, don't miss the pray - ing,

It's Day - light Sav - ing Time of the year. \_\_\_\_\_  
Can it com - pare to wor - ship - ing God? \_\_\_\_\_  
Don't miss the read - ing of scrip - ture texts. \_\_\_\_\_

Set your a - larm clock one hour \_\_\_\_\_ lat - er,  
If you come in part way through the ser - mon,  
Don't let the time change keep you from ris - ing,

Or you'll be tar - dy when you ap - pear. \_\_\_\_\_  
Peo - ple might think you're just a bit odd. \_\_\_\_\_  
Or in - ter - fere with your faith - ful - ness. \_\_\_\_\_



Daylight Savings  
Time begins  
**March 14**  
Don't forget to set  
your clocks ahead!

Music: *Bunessan*. Traditional Gaelic

Words: 2013 Mary Rose Jensen





Permission is granted for any use as long as the author's name remains attached.





# March 2021



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday                   | Saturday                 |
|---|---|--|---|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Holy Communion in Sunday Worship Services is suspended until late summer per Session decision at their Feb. 11 meeting.  | 1   | 2<br>9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins                                  | 3<br>6:30 Lent Bible Study via Zoom   | 4<br>9:30 Bible Study-Zoom   | 5                        | 6<br>BIRTHDAY: JoAnn G   |
| 7 <b>9:15 Sunday School</b><br><b>10:30 Worship Service</b><br>in sanctuary and via Zoom<br><br>BIRTHDAY: Teri B  | 8   | 9<br>9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins<br><br>6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom | 10<br>6:30 Lent Bible Study via Zoom  | 11<br>9:30 Bible Study-Zoom<br><br>7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom   | 12                       | 13                       |
| 14 <b>9:15 Sunday School</b><br><b>10:30 Worship Service</b><br>in sanctuary and via Zoom<br><br><i>Daylight Savings Time begins</i>  | 15 <b>BLADE Articles Due</b><br><br>BIRTHDAY: Don K  | 16<br>9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins                                 | 17<br>6:30 Lent Bible Study via Zoom<br><br>BIRTHDAY: Hannah M<br> | 18<br>9:30 Bible Study-Zoom  | 19<br>BIRTHDAY: Harold P | 20                       |
| 21 <b>9:15 Sunday School</b><br><b>10:30 Worship Service</b><br>in sanctuary and via Zoom<br><br>BIRTHDAY: David P  | 22  | 23<br>9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins                                 | 24<br>6:30 Lent Bible Study via Zoom<br><br>BIRTHDAY: Sharon H  | 25<br>9:30 Bible Study-Zoom  | 26                       | 27<br>BIRTHDAY: Evelyn F |
| 28 <b>9:15 Sunday School</b><br><b>10:30 Worship Service</b><br>in sanctuary and via Zoom   | 29  | 30<br>9:30 Coffee Group at Perkins<br><br>BIRTHDAY: Delores K      | 31<br>6:30 Lent Bible Study via Zoom  |  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Daylight Savings Time begins March 14</b><br/> <b>Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!</b></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

Lord's Supper—

First Sunday of each month

**Pastor's Office Hours**

**At FPC**

**Mon, Wed, Thurs**

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

**At BUCC**

**Tues 9:30 am – 12:30 pm**

Appointments also available

as need/desired

**Pastor's Sabbath**

**Friday and Saturday**

(in emergencies, please call/text

Pastor's cell #)

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday -Thursday**

9:00 am – 2:30 am

**Our newsletter is available electronically by email.**

**Please contact the church office at [presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net) or 605-692-2416, to notify us.**