

# THE BLADE

*March and April 2025*

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”

*John 3:16 NRSV*

*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*

## DATES TO REMEMBER



The meal begins at 5:30 PM

**\*March 12** (soup furnished by Men’s Brotherhood)

**\*March 26** (soup furnished by CE/Fellowship)

**\*April 9** (looking for volunteers to furnish soup)

*Remember Me*



**MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

with Communion/supper

April 17 at 5:30 PM

in Fellowship Hall in Basement

*The Resurrection*



**EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE**

April 20 at 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM

in Sanctuary and via Zoom

Easter breakfast between services



## THE BLADE

### First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue  
Brookings, SD 57006  
(605) 692-2416  
www.brookingspresbyterian.org  
presby@brookings.net

### Pastors

Robby and Donna Flint  
605-695-3735 (Robby)  
605-695-6787 (Donna)  
presbypastor@brookings.net

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am -12 Noon

### Office Manager

Rozanne McGrath  
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  
<http://www.brookingspresbyterian.org/newsletter.html>

for the  
"Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter"

**Remind**

Our church uses the Remind App for periodic communication with members. If you sign up for Remind, you receive periodic texts from us with pertinent church information (weather cancellations, special events, etc.).

If you would like to join, send a text to 81010 and text this message: @gkc8gk



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.

\*For your information, the per capita per member for 2025 is \$43.04. If you have not done so, we would appreciate your donation.



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 2:** Ann & Bill D, Mary E, Bob & Pat F

**March 9:** Joel & Bonnie F & family Lynn, Paige, Gayle; Neal & Julie F

**March 16:** Elizabeth F, Betty G, JoAnn G

**March 23:** Ian & Abby G & Violet; Jon & Linda & family Grace & Lottie

**March 30:** Scott & Jennifer H & family Skylar, Saige, Ramsie; Dean & Sharon H

**April 6:** Nelda H, Dennis H & Carolyn C, MK H

**April 13:** Roger & Marvis J, Jan J, Dan & Michele K

**April 20:** Don K & Carol G, Andrew & Beth L

**April 27:** Ella L, Pam L, Jeanne & Darwin L

# Counting our Blessings

## Preparing for Lent: A Season of Reflection and Renewal

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. But before we enter this solemn season, there is a long-standing tradition observed the day before—Fat Tuesday, also known as Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. While many associate this day with Mardi Gras celebrations, it originally

served a practical purpose: using up perishable items, such as eggs, flour, and milk before the fasting season of Lent. Though flipping pancakes may seem light-hearted, it symbolizes the shift from feasting to fasting, from indulgence to introspection.

Lent, derived from an Old English word meaning "spring," has been a season of preparation for Easter since at least the 4th century. Pope Gregory (590–604) established a fasting period before Easter, to begin on Wednesday 46 days before Easter with a ceremony of ash. The fasting period excludes Sundays, which remained celebration days. Over time, Lenten practices of fasting evolved. The well-known Catholic "fish on Friday" tradition began in the United States in 1966.

Though Protestants initially rejected Lent as "too Catholic," many now embrace it as a time of fasting, prayer, and acts of charity, seeking a closer walk with God. More than just "giving something up," Lent invites us to turn our hearts toward Christ through reflection, repentance, and renewal.

How will you observe Lent this year? Will you fast from distractions? Take on a new spiritual practice—prayer, service, or Scripture reading? However you journey through this season, may it draw you closer to Christ, who leads us toward new life.

Sharing the journey,  
Robby and Donna

This QR code will take you to a Lent reading plan provided on the Bible Gateway Website



Yours,  
Robby and Donna

Community Lent Services will take place each Wednesday at 11:30 am at First Lutheran Church, beginning on March 12. Lunch will be served (\$10/person) and proceeds support the work of the Brookings Ministerial Association. Our church will work with the LDS church to serve on March 19<sup>th</sup>- if you are willing to help serve, see Robby or Donna.

## Session Update—

	Elder of the Month	Deacon of the Month
March	Dan K	Ella L
April	Bruce W	Carrie VB

Session is pleased to announce that they have retained the services of Rozanne McGrath as office manager for another year with a 4% raise. If you happen to see Rozanne, please thank her for all she does for our church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Kemp, Clerk of Session  
First Presbyterian Church of Brookings, SD



Donations are being  
accepted  
**March 5 – April 20**  
Please use special envelopes  
or indicate on your check  
memo 'One Great Hour'

The Church Office  
will be closed  
April 21



# News You Can Use

## UPCOMING MARCH MEETINGS

Sunday, March 2: **Mission/Outreach Mtg** following worship, 11:15 AM  
Sunday, March 9: **CE/Fellowship Meeting** following worship, 11:15 AM  
Sunday, March 9: **Worship Meeting** following worship, 11:15 AM  
Tuesday, March 11: **Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM  
Thursday, March 13: **Session Meeting** at 7:00 PM at church

## UPCOMING APRIL MEETINGS

Sunday, April 6: **Mission/Outreach Mtg** following worship, 11:15 AM  
Tuesday, April 8: **Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM  
Thursday, April 10: **Session Meeting** at 7:00 PM at church  
Sunday, April 13: **CE/Fellowship Meeting** following worship, 11:15 AM  
Sunday, April 13: **Worship Meeting** following worship service, 11:15 AM

## STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS (FPC Quilting Group)** meets Tues. starting Jan. 9, 1:30 to 3:30 PM
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** meets at 9:30 AM in the Center Meeting Room.
- SISTERHOOD** meet on Thursdays, March 20 & April 17 at 11:30 AM at the First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Thursday, March 20 and **April 24** (*note date change*) at 5:30 PM at the church lounge

### SERVING IN MARCH AND APRIL

#### Sunday Coffee Fellowship

**March:** Dan K/Tanya S

**April:** Sue Y

#### Liturgists in March

March 2: Fosters  
March 9: Dan K  
March 16: Nancy T  
March 23: Rick S  
March 30: Carrie VB

#### Liturgists in April

April 6: Mike M  
April 13: Tanya S  
April 20: Linda B  
April 27: Fosters

## Committee News for March and April

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5 and continues through Maundy Thursday, April 17. Easter is April 20. Fellowship will sponsor Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday March 12 with Men's Brotherhood making the soup, March 26 with CE&F making soup, and April 9 when we are looking for a group to make soup. If you are interested, please let Dan Kemp know. We will also have a meal in association with the Maundy Thursday service on April 17 and on Easter Sunday an egg bake in conjunction with a Son-rise service.



### 60s Plus Dining Volunteers Needed! Can You Help?

The Board of Deacons is responsible for recruiting volunteers to deliver 60s Plus Dining meals. Last year we delivered meals for two weeks in March/April, June, and September. We will have the same schedule this year. Our first assignment is for the week of **March 24-28 and March 31-April 4** and we are delivering to Routes 2, 3, and 5. Take the opportunity to meet new friends and carry the church's mission out into the community.

Drivers and Helpers are needed to deliver on three routes; each route typically has 8-10 delivery stops. Volunteers pick up the meals and delivery instructions at the Senior Activity Center; the door is in the alley between the Public Library and the Activity Center. At 11 am, you load them into your vehicle then set off delivering the meals. The amount of time you wish to spend delivering is up to you. You may drop off and go to the next address or spend a little time with the people you are bringing meals to.

This community mission provides an opportunity to meet and chat with people you may have never met or otherwise run across in the community. Since many people on your delivery list are elderly or have mobility issues, your brief visit and meal delivery gives them a lifeline to the outside world. They appreciate friendly smiles and cheerful greetings. This past year, while I delivered meals, I made friends with a pleasant, wheelchair bound young man with two adorable little dogs, met and chatted with a retired minister who moved from the southwest (I think it was NM) shared his meal grace with him before he went to his apartment to eat, and had the privilege of comforting a gentleman whose wife doesn't recognize him any longer due to dementia.

In the next week or so, 60's Plus Dining should be sending me the delivery schedule. If you would like to help deliver meals, please contact Carrie Van Buren to sign up. You can either talk to me before or after church or give me a call, 605-592-6975. Thank you in advance for caring for our community!



**One Great Hour of Sharing**, a **PC(USA) Special Offering**, will be collected from March 5 - April 20. 32% of the funds collected go to PDA (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance) which works alongside communities, both national and international, as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. PDA only goes where requested by Presbyterians and has been active in parts of South Dakota responding to floods and tornados. 36% go to PHP (Presbyterian Hunger Program) which takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. 32% go to SDOP (Self-Development of People) which invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. It helps give communities an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges. They try to teach them to fish rather than giving them fish.

The founders of **Operation Education Nairobi** (OEN) were at our potluck in February. Julie and Katie told about scholarships given to students in Nairobi, Kenya, where the cost of education prohibits many from attending school. Donations and sponsorship result in much more than just increased school attendance. With continuous, local support provided by the Kenyan OEN team, the overall health and wellbeing of students improves. Their stress dramatically decreases as their family's financial burden is lifted, and their academic performance therefore improves. Students feel a sense of purpose, stability, and safety at school and know they'll receive at least one nutritious meal each day. First Presbyterian donates **\$200 to this group from our 3% mission giving** in 2025 and we collected \$976 for them at the potluck on February 16. As an aside – Julie is Richard and Dolores Canaday's daughter.

**Margo's Place** (the domestic abuse shelter in Brookings) will receive our **Carry-In donations** for March. Their goal is to empower survivors of intimate partner violence through 24-hour emergency shelter, medical response, crisis intervention, personal and legal advocacy, peer support, education, and referral services. Some of the things they would appreciate are: diapers, toilet paper, paper towels, copy paper, hygiene kits or products, batteries, BATA bus tokens, tin foil, plastic wrap, and not expired non-perishable food items. Look for list on grocery cart.

The mission team says **thank you** for your generosity! God bless you.

### Betty Berg Memorial

**Bread for the World** is a nonpartisan organization that advocates to strengthen and improve U.S. and International assistance for nutrition programs to end hunger. Bread for the World has impacted 320 million Americans and more than 7 billion people around the world. This was Betty Berg's favorite organization to support. In our church budget there were monies designated to Betty Berg and Bread for the World totaling \$260. We felt it was appropriate to send it on to Bread for the World as a memorial to Betty Berg.

**Lilies and Spring Flowers for Easter**—We are accepting monetary donations for lilies and spring flowers to grace and beautify our sanctuary. If you would prefer to purchase and bring your own, we will gladly display them on Easter. Names of those honored or remembered will be included as always in the Easter PowerPoint. Please fill out the sign-up sheet on the office counter by **Tuesday April 15**.

## Worship Committee



**Special Music for Palm Sunday and Easter:** If you are available and would like to sing with a group or provide instrumental music for Palm Sunday and/or Easter, please contact Nancy O. at 605-204-0691. All singers and visitors are welcome!



Registration has opened at Camp Rimrock, in western South Dakota! <https://www.rimrock.camp/index.php/camps/>  
The fund manager prefers to write checks directly to Camp Rimrock, *so if you plan to participate, please work with us before sending in your check!*

Please check the poster on the bulletin board for the dates of all the summer camps for finishing kindergarten through finishing 12<sup>th</sup> grade with transportation provided. Our students have attended Rimrock for years and always give GREAT reviews! There is also a beautiful new Peace Lodge at Camp Rimrock where some of the retreats will be hosted. If you have questions about summer camp, please talk with Bonnie or one of the Foster kids and they can tell you more about it.

Our church is fortunate that many years ago, the Embry family established an endowment for this church; the interest can be used to help fund camps (along with other specific educational opportunities). This is money with very specific spending requirements, so it is not always used up each year. We strongly encourage anyone wishing to participate in any of these Rimrock opportunities to check with Donna to see if this is one way we can use that money!



### 2025 Synod School

July 20-25

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 interest.

## HY VEE

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

**Goal:** \$200,000.00  
**Receipts:** \$57,220.20  
**Needed to Date:** \$142,779.80

**Required for \$1,000 donation:**  
\$200,000.00

Remember to bring in your  
Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Email a copy of the receipt  
from on-line orders to  
[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net);  
Rozanne will forward it.



## March and April 2025

Andrew L



**Men's Brotherhood Notes:** Men's Brotherhood met on January 16th. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Mike and his kitchen crew. Susan Huggins presented the program about her ministry with Wycliffe bible translations. In February we met and the program was Feeding Brookings. See you there!!

Last year I gave a sermon with the title "Spring Training". I am not sure where I got the inspiration for that title and linked it to Lent. I still think it is a fitting link, especially for any of us who were in athletics, or even if you have ever gone through any kind of therapy. Exercising the muscles, the mind, how to respond to different situations to maximize your productive effort, and especially when you are in situations where you might need to draw upon your memory of how to respond to different circumstances.

"Everything to build our stamina so that when that moment came when we had to push hard to the finish line, we had resolve, and reserve, to complete the run." This was how I put the need for training in that sermon.

So what things do we do when we are in Lenten Spring Training? Fasting, prayer, study, and meditation. These are things we should be focusing on all the time but it is a particular time to focus on the singular event of Christ's life, His sacrifice for having the audacity to speak truth to power. Whether it was calling out the religious authorities who paid more attention to physical sacrifices such as doves and sheep in atonement for sin, or to the general injustice in the land.

His spiritual focus on loving God over all things and loving our fellow human as we love ourselves. That second item alone is a good focal point to for meditation. His sacrificing His very life for us should give us pause when we consider any good work we consider doing. How would we feel if we were in the situation that any recipient of our good deeds is experiencing? Being generous is no sin and one should never need to repent of being so.

Believing in God and accepting Jesus as our savior is good but one needs to grow beyond this starting point and learn how we can demonstrate our love for God and our fellow human. Read the words of Jesus. Pray about how to observe His teaching. Mediate on them to deeply infuse them into our very psyche.






**Troop 50724 Christine L'Amour**







'Tis the season! Our Girl Scouts are selling cookies for their troop again this year! The troop uses the funds received from cookie sales to earn badges. Each Girl Scout badge is designed to encourage girls to think critically about how they can be their best selves through learning about specific topics and serving the community. In the badge-earning process, the girls develop and strengthen various soft skills, like working with others and public speaking. They also develop other skills such as managing inventory and handling money. They have so much fun at meetings, making friends and memories. The troop got to go to the Butterfly House last fall.

# March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Daylight Savings Time Begins March 9th</i>					OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS	1
2 10:00 Worship/ Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom Mission/Outreach Mtg after worship 11:15	3	4 9:30 Coffee Group	5 Ash Wednesday  5:30 Ash Wednesday Service	6 9:30 Bible Study  BIRTHDAY: JoAnn G	7	8  <i>Daylight Savings Time begins March 9 at 2AM</i>
9 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom CE/Fellowship Mtg after worship 11:15	10	11 9:30 Coffee Group  6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom	12  5:30 Lenten Soup Supper	13 9:30 Bible Study  7:00 Session Meeting at FPC	14	15  BIRTHDAY: DON K
16 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Worship Committee Mtg After worship 11:15	17  BIRTHDAY: Hannah M	18 9:30 Coffee Group	19	20 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood at FPC	21  BIRTHDAY: Dave P	22
23 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom  BIRTHDAY: Tanya S	24  BIRTHDAYS: Abby G Sharon H	25 9:30 Coffee Group	26  5:30 Lenten Soup Supper	27 9:30 Bible Study	28	29
30 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom	31			 Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins		

# April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAYS BIRTHDAY: Roger J	5
6 10:00 Worship/ Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom Mission/Outreach Mtg after worship 11:15 BIRTHDAY: Andrew L	7	8 9:30 Coffee Group  Finance – 6:30 PM Zoom BIRTHDAY: Jennifer H	9  5:30 Lenten Soup Supper	10 9:30 Bible Study  7:00 Session Meeting at FPC	11  BIRTHDAY: Lee P	12
13 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom CE/Fellowship Mtg & Worship Mtg at 11:15 BIRTHDAY: Ann S	14  BIRTHDAY: Dee W	15 9:30 Coffee Group  Blade articles due (May & June issue)	16  17 <sup>th</sup> Continued ANNIVERSARY: Robert & Rozanne M	17 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House  5:30PM Service with Communion	18 Good Friday  	19
20 <i>Easter</i> 8:30 SonRise Service 9:15 Easter Breakfast 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom ANNIVERSARY: Lynn & Diane R	21 OFFICE CLOSED  	22 9:30 Coffee Group	23	24 9:30 Bible Study  <i>Note date change</i> 5:30 PM Men's Brotherhood	25	26  BIRTHDAY: Richard S
27 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom	28	29 9:30 Coffee Group	30  BIRTHDAY: Jeanne L	<i>He is risen! Alleluia!</i>		

First Presbyterian Church  
405 7th Avenue  
Brookings, SD 57006-2018



**Return Service Requested**

**Regular Sunday Schedule**  
10:00 am Worship Service

**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday -Thursday**  
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Our newsletter is also available electronically by email.  
Please contact the church office at [presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net) or 605-692-2416, to notify us.