

# THE BLADE

## March & April 2024

“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*

### *Remember Me*



#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

with Communion  
March 28 at 5:30 PM  
in Sanctuary and via Zoom

### *The Resurrection*



#### **EASTER WORSHIP SERVICE**

March 31 at 8:30 AM and 10:00 AM  
in Sanctuary and via Zoom  
Easter breakfast between services

Friends,

During this Lenten season, we reflect on the purpose and actions of Lent. Lent is a time for renewal- for personal spiritual renewal and for our corporate renewal... renewal as a church... seeking to follow God’s call. In order to achieve this renewal, we are led to serious study of God’s word and to meditate on God’s Word as it is applied to each of our individual lives and to the life of this church. We are led to self-examination- personally and as a church.

With love, we continue to encourage you to then act on your self-examination- to find a meaningful way to share your gifts with this church community, whether they be monetary gifts, or your time, talents, enthusiasm, intellect, skills, or your good nature. All are needed and all are valued.

If you wish to study the book of Mark, here is a reading plan with links.

[Mark 1:1-20](#)  
[Mark 3:20-35](#)  
[Mark 6:1-29](#)  
[Mark 8:22-38](#)  
[Mark 11:1-33](#)  
[Mark 14:12-31](#)

[Mark 1:21-45](#)  
[Mark 4:1-20](#)  
[Mark 6:30-56](#)  
[Mark 9:1-32](#)  
[Mark 12:1-27](#)  
[Mark 14:32-72](#)

[Mark 2:1-17](#)  
[Mark 4:21-41](#)  
[Mark 7:1-23](#)  
[Mark 9:33-50](#)  
[Mark 12:28-44](#)  
[Mark 15:1-41](#)

[Mark 2:18-28](#)  
[Mark 5:1-20](#)  
[Mark 7:24-37](#)  
[Mark 10:1-31](#)  
[Mark 13:1-37](#)  
[Mark 15:42-47](#)

[Mark 3:1-19](#)  
[Mark 5:21-43](#)  
[Mark 8:1-21](#)  
[Mark 10:32-52](#)  
[Mark 14:1-11](#)  
[Mark 16:1-20](#)

*Counting  
our Blessings*

*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*



## 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)

### Pastors

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

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am -12 Noon

### Office Manager

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"



**SPRING**

**Daylight Savings Time**  
begins Sunday March 10 at 2:00AM



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 person for 2024 is \$40.00. 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 3:** Aaron & Tanya S & family Nara, Harry, Otto, & Lorcan; Richard & Judy S

**March 10:** Terry & Ann S, Janet T, Nancy T, Arlyce T

**March 17:** Steve & Carrie VB, Dee W, Skip W

**March 24:** Bruce & Lori W, Dorothy W, Alan & Sue Y

**March 31:** Bruce & Lucy B, Linda B, Don B

**April 7:** Chad & Diane B & family Tate & Trent, LaVonne B

**April 14:** Richard & Dolores C, Ginny C

**April 21:** Maxine D, Bill & Ann D, Mary E

**April 28:** Robert & Pat F, Robby & Donna F

## Session Update—January 11, 2024

	Elder of the Month	Deacon of the Month
March	Mike M	TBD
April	Dave P	TBD

Dan Kemp has been elected Clerk of Session. Please contact Dan with any questions or concerns for the Session. Dave Peterson has been reelected as Church Treasurer.

To help the church operate more efficiently the Session Committees have been reorganized. The new structure is below, with session liaison listed.

Building and Grounds (Mike McCann)  
Christian Education and Fellowship (Dan Kemp)  
Finance (Dave Peterson)  
Mission and Outreach (Nancy Thompson)  
Worship (Bruce Westergaard).

If you would like to help the church through one or more of these committees, please see the appropriate liaison.

Easter Sunday, March 31, activities will include a SonRise service at 8:30 AM in the sanctuary, followed by a breakfast downstairs and the regular Easter service at 10:00 AM. Please join us for any of these Easter celebrations.

An Embry Scholarship in the amount of \$1000 has been awarded to Paige Foster who is attending South Dakota State University. Embry Scholarships are available to First Presbyterian Church members who are attending South Dakota State University.

Respectfully submitted,

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

## Beginning Sunday March 3, 2024



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Donations are being accepted  
February 14 to March 31.  
Please use special envelopes or  
indicate on your check memo  
'One Great Hour'



# News You Can Use



## UPCOMING MARCH MEETINGS

- Tuesday, March 5: **Mission/Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM
- Sunday, March 10: **Christian Ed/Fellowship Meeting** following worship
- Thursday, March 14: **Session Meeting** at church, 7:00 PM
- Sunday, March 17: **Worship Committee Meeting** following worship

## UPCOMING APRIL MEETINGS

- Tuesday, April 9: **Mission/Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM
- Thursday, April 11: **Session Meeting** at 7:00 PM
- Sunday, April 14: **Christian Ed/Fellowship Meeting** following worship service
- Sunday, April 21: **Worship Committee Meeting** following worship service

## STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS** will meet on Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the FPC Quilting Room
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 AM in the FPC Center Meeting Room
- SISTERHOOD** meet on Thursday, March 21 & April 18 at 11:30 AM at the First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Thursday, March 21 & April 18 at 5:30 PM at the church lounge

## SERVING IN MARCH & APRIL

**Sunday Coffee Fellowship** March: Bonnie F April: Tanya S

### Liturgists in March

- March 3: Tanya S
- March 10: Dan K
- March 17: Nancy T
- March 24: Lee P
- March 31: Dolores C

### Liturgists in April

- April 7: Rick S
- April 14: Nancy O
- April 21: Mike M
- April 28: Judy S

**Church Office Closed  
Easter Monday, April 1**



*Thank you so much for the recent donation of fabric - Pieces and Prayers greatly appreciates it.*



Winter is not over yet.....in the event of another snowstorm, emails are sent announcing that church was cancelled. Please check your spam or junk folder. If the church or pastor emails are going to junk, click on the email, then click "not junk" or "not spam" on the top of the page. Closures will also be listed on the "close line" on KELO TV, Facebook, and the website. If you wish to receive a text, please give Donna your cell phone number and we will add you to the Remind Service. The deacons reach out through phone calls to those who don't have email. If in doubt, call someone.

In March, non-perishable food and hygiene items will be collected for the Brookings Abuse Center. We will be collecting at FPC for the Food Pantry in April.

Food prices continue to rise, and more people are needing help to feed their family. Donations to the Food Pantry can be made on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10am to 5pm at their location, 908 Hope Drive located off of Harvey Dunn St. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation on the check to go to the Food Pantry.

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## Christian Ed and



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER will be held on **March 6 and March 20** at **5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall. The Flints and the Christian Ed/Fellowship Committee will be supplying the meals—come and enjoy! A short program by Christian Ed will follow the meal.

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## Worship Committee



**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. If you would prefer to order and have someone else deliver, please contact Eileen at Flowers on Main (605-692-6466). Names of those honored or remembered will be included as always in the Easter PowerPoint. Please sign-up (sheet on the office counter) by **Thursday March 21**.

**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!

**History Fact:** The cross at the altar was built by Mel Thorne from wood that came from Bob Foster's old barn.



Registration has opened at Camp Rimrock, in western South Dakota!

<https://www.rimrock.camp/index.php/camps/>

- Summer Camp (all summer- finishing kindergarten through finishing 12th grade-transportation provided),
- Family Camp (July 11-14)
- Men's Retreat (April 26-28)
- Women's Retreat (September 20-22)
- Pastor's (and CRE) Retreat (July 15-28)

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! 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!



**2024 Synod School**  
July 21-26  
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.



## 2024 Camp Programs

<b>YOUTH RALLY</b>	April 5th-7th	
<b>MEN'S RETREAT</b>	April 26th-28th	
<b>WORK WEEKEND 1</b>	May 3rd-5th	
<b>WORK WEEKEND 2</b>	May 17th-19th	
<b>SEEKERS</b> <small>(finishing grades 3-5)</small>	June 9th-14th	
<b>PATHFINDER</b> <small>(finishing grades 6-8)</small>	June 16th-21st	
<b>COMPASS</b> <small>(finishing grades 9-12)</small>	June 23rd-29th	
<b>YOU AND ME</b> <small>(finishing grades K-2 + an adult)</small>	July 6th-9th	
<b>FAMILY CAMP</b>	July 11th-14th	
<b>PASTOR'S RETREAT</b>	July 15th-18th	
<b>BACKPACKING CAMP</b> <small>(finishing grades 8-12)</small>	July 21st-27th	
<b>WOMEN'S RETREAT</b>	Sept. 20th-22nd	
<b>REGIONAL YOUTH RETREAT</b>	Oct. 11th-13th	

## March and April 2024

Andrew L

Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood met on February 15th. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal prepared by Mike and his kitchen crew. Sheriff Marty Stanwick, our Brookings County sheriff, gave the program.



In March of this year the author and television personality David Brooks will be in Sioux Falls at Augustana University to present a lecture. He has written several books so I picked one up at our library. The title is *The Road To Character*. This one I am reading; it's a keeper – off to a flying start!

We are in the season of Lent. These 40 days prior to Christ's Passion Week and a time of repentance, fasting and prayer in preparation. This is a time when we should be examining ourselves and looking at those areas in our lives we need to repent of – bad habits, bad attitudes, bad whatever. Fasting and prayer to get closer to God and seeking his help through the Holy Spirit to overcome these habits in our lives that do not look like the Christian we want to create in ourselves.

When we are engaged in repentance, fasting and prayer we are on the road to building solid Christian character. This activity is not limited to the period of Lent. We should be doing this always as a Christian. But it is something we are reminded of its importance during this time of Lent.

Paul's final instructions in 1 Thessalonians 5 includes praying always. Fasting and prayer often go together. Fasting does not necessarily always means refraining from food. It could be any activity if that time is then spent in prayer. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 Godly sorrowful repentance leads to salvation. These activities are solid building blocks for good Christian character.



### Girl Scout Troop #57024

Troop 50724 is now selling Girl Scout cookies! We will be using the funds to work on earning badges and taking excursions. So far this troop year, the girls have earned a game-making badge and a first aid badge. They got to tour the ER at the Brookings Hospital and they picked pumpkins in the fall. The next badges they are working on are the making friends and bug badges; we will be using the funds from cookies sales to go on a trip to the Butterfly House in Sioux Falls and make insect houses to promote healthy ecosystems in our backyards. As the girls get older, we will continue going on excursions to learn about the world around them and work on developing their leadership skills. We have also added a few new girls to the troop this year so they are making new friends and fun memories.

The girls and co-troop leaders Katie and Christine.  
Thank you for supporting our troop!

## **HYVEE**

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!**

**Goal:** \$200,000.00  
**Received:** \$183,236.82  
**Needed to Date:** \$ 16,763.18

**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;  
Rozanne will forward it.



## Susan's Saga

Lent: A season for contemplation of the mystery of the culmination of the Incarnation in the death and resurrection of Jesus. The period in the church calendar which is known as Lent is the time leading up to Holy Week. It is typically a subdued time of somber reflection, a season to scale back and think more about spiritual matters.

As we draw closer to Holy Week, it is fitting to delve into the deep meaning of what transpired. The physical torment, rejection, psychological abuse, suffering, and execution which Jesus underwent are unbearable to contemplate. The betrayal, arrest, mock trial, sentencing, and flogging culminating in the crucifixion represent gross injustice and flagrant travesty of what is right and good. The whole sequence of events is outrageous and causes indignation. What happened is unpleasant, ugly, unfair, and utterly distasteful. It would seem tempting to sugarcoat it, to try to explain it away, or to block it out rather than to face the uncomfortable scenes of Good Friday.

However, a deeper look is in order. The whole reason for the crucifixion is atonement for sin. In order to understand the awfulness of sin, it is necessary to first look at the absolute holiness of God. God is totally good and perfect, preeminent Truth and Wisdom, the Sovereign Creator, and the rightful Lord of the universe.

We are created in God's image, to be good and truthful. None-the-less, humankind deviated from God's perfect and righteous plan, thinking that somehow we can do better than God. Selfishness, resistance to God, self-absorption, pride, hypocrisy, deception, war, greed, and outright rebellion are only a few of the ways in which we violate God's perfect standard. If we doubt our sinfulness, all we need to do is look at the news and see evidence of all the violence, anguish, and grief that assail us daily. Both history and current events confront us with the enormity of how far short we fall of the beautiful purpose God intends for us. Our shortcomings seen against God's perfect goodness are outrageous, offensive, ugly, awful, repugnant, and utterly distasteful. These adjectives are the same description of what happened to Jesus.

In light of our gross failings, individually and collectively, what can be done? A figure of an abysmal chasm separating us from God's lofty presence may help us understand. No amount of good deeds, noble intentions, or merit that we shovel in can possibly fill the profundity of that gap. We can't build a ladder long enough or strong enough or high enough to attain to God's perfect goodness.

However, God loves us so much that provision was made—through the cross of Calvary. The sacrificial death of Jesus was necessary for the sake of justice. The outrageous ugliness of our sin, individual and collective, is matched and exceeded by the outrageously awful truth of Jesus' sacrificial offering for us. There is a parallel between the staggering horror of our offenses against God, and the divine solution of the terrible consequences of our sin which Jesus bore on the cross. "For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ."

A divine transaction took place with another dramatic parallel. When Jesus died, "And behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." As a result, "...we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus. By his death, Jesus opened a new and life-giving way through the curtain into the Most Holy Place."

In a very real sense, Holy Week is all year, not just a few weeks in the church calendar. Every day, we need to live with the awareness of the standard of God's absolute goodness, how far short we fall of that standard, and our daily need for repentance and forgiveness. The shed blood of Jesus is absolutely necessary to accomplish what we cannot do on our own.

These marvelous truths of God's amazing provision for our shortcomings need to be proclaimed in every language through Bible translation.

Susan Huggins

*Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, Matthew 27: 51 and the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 10: 19, 20.*

*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.*





# March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Daylight Savings Time begins March 10</b> Don't forget to set your clocks ahead!					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 <i>Service Time Change</i> <b>10:00 Worship and Communion</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom	4  Bob Bartling Celebration of Life 2:00	5 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b> <b>Mission/Finance Mtg</b> 6:30 PM via Zoom	6 5:30 <b>Lenten Soup Supper</b>  BIRTHDAY: JoAnn G	7 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>Session Meeting</b> at FPC 7:00 PM	8	9  <i>Daylight Savings Time begins March 10 at 2AM</i>
10 <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i> <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom <b>Christian Ed/Fellowship</b> following worship	11	12 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>	13	14 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>	15  BIRTHDAY: Don K	16
17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> <b>10:00 Worship</b> in Sanctuary/Zoom <b>Worship Mtg</b> following worship  BIRTHDAY: Hannah M	18  	19 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>	20  5:30 <b>Lenten Soup Supper</b>	21 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>11:30 AM Sisterhood</b> <b>5:30 Men's Brotherhood</b>  BIRTHDAY: David P	22	23
24 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom  BIRTHDAY: Ian G. Sharon H	25  	26 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>	27	28 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>6:30PM Service with Communion</b>	29 <i>Good Friday</i>  	30  BIRTHDAY: Delores K
31 <i>Easter</i> <b>8:30 SonRise Service</b> <b>9:15 Easter Breakfast</b> <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom						
<i>He is risen! Alleluia!</i>						



# April 2024



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Easter Monday</i> <b>Church Office closed</b>	2 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>  BIRTHDAY: Gayle F	3   BIRTHDAY: Don B	4 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  BIRTHDAY: Roger J	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6   BIRTHDAY: Andrew L
7 <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom	8   BIRTHDAY: Jennifer H	9 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>  <b>Mission/Finance Mtg</b> 6:30 PM via Zoom	10	11 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>Session Meeting at FPC</b> 7:00 PM  BIRTHDAY: Lee P	12	13   BIRTHDAY: Ann S
14 <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom <b>Christian Ed/Fellowship Mtg</b> following worship  BIRTHDAY: Dee W	15 <b>BLADE Articles due</b>	16 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>	17   ANNIVERSARY: Robert & Rozanne M	18 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>  <b>11:30 AM Sisterhood</b> <b>5:30 Men's Brotherhood</b>	19	20   ANNIVERSARY: Lynn & Diane R
21 <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom <b>Worship Mtg</b> following worship	22	23 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>	24	25 9:30 <b>Bible Study</b>	26   BIRTHDAY: Richard S	27
28 <b>10:00 Worship</b> in our Sanctuary/Zoom	29	30 9:30 <b>Coffee Group</b> 1:30 <b>Pieces and Prayers</b>  BIRTHDAY: Jeanne L				

# The Blade

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.