

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



“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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

April 16, 2020 meeting (via Zoom)

Session approved for church treasurer, Dave Peterson, to apply for the Federal Paycheck Protection Program to support salaries for the Pastor and Church Secretary. If awarded, this loan in the amount of \$7,708.33 would be forgiven as long as employees of the church are kept on the payroll during the loan period. In addition, PCUSA has announced a three month waiver of fees to be paid to the Board of Pensions. These two programs will *help, but not totally remove* concerns about financial needs of the church during this Pandemic.

Session also approved that all activities taking place at the church would be suspended during the month of May. The decision regarding suspension of activities will be revisited at each monthly Session meeting- the next meeting will be May 14th.

We are all encouraged to stay connected by attending Sunday morning services, meetings, and Bible studies using Zoom. We also encourage you to stay connected with each other with phone calls, cards, texts, email, or drive-by's during this time. Support one another and continue staying safe and doing what you can to slow the spread of the virus. Finally, we pray for all those affected by COVID-19: those who are ill, those whose loved ones are ill or were taken by the virus, those who are feeling isolated, those who are essential personnel and risk themselves for our safety, those who, because of the shutdown, are unemployed or their businesses have been critically damaged and now have more worry than just staying healthy.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18: “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all your circumstances, for this [joy, prayer, and thanks] is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint,
Clerk to the Session



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 Spitzenberger

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

pastorfpcbrookings@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

As per Session decision, we will continue to worship using Zoom during the month of May on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Please look in your email on Friday afternoon for an invitation to join our Zoom worship gathering.

The Worship bulletin, music, and video sermon are available on our church's website www.brookingspresbyterian.org for use at home during this time of COVID-19.

An e-mail copy of the message is available by request from the church office.



We are dealing with difficult times that most of us have not experienced previously. As this is coming from me, you can expect I am talking about finances. We need to have an offering to continue to pay for the operations of our church. The ideas coming from the Mission/Finance Committee at this time have the following suggestions:

1. Mail your check to the church or to Dave Peterson at 2026 Kansas Drive, Brookings, SD.
2. Contact Dave Peterson and make other arrangements
3. Arrange with your bank to establish an online deposit to the church.

Other ideas may be brought forth, if this lasts very long, but we love our church and the people in it and want to continue to celebrate our beliefs, which also include stewardship.

David Peterson, Treasurer



Revelings

We come to another month of May, spring has finally come, soon to give way to summer's heat. It feels like a month of Sundays, since we've all been able to be together, worship together, enjoy a meal together at the Lord's Table and in Fellowship Hall. We all can truly identify with those words!

As we come to the month of May, we will still need to observe the practices that we've been abiding by since the middle of March. Our usual customs of celebrating Lord's Table, the women on Mother's Day, honoring our graduates, or the Holy Spirit's coming upon us as Christ's Church on Pentecost Sunday, will be observed in ways other than we're used to doing.

If we hearken back to the words of the prophet Isaiah that ring into our ears during Advent, we'll be encouraged, filled with hope rather than despair, as Isaiah heard God say, "see, I am about to do a new thing, can you not perceive it?"

Sometimes we come into "newness" and/or doing things in "new ways" or differently, kicking and screaming. At other times, we may be more open to this, as the Holy Spirit moves in/through our lives and we go with the flow.

As God has gifted us the concept of time to reflect, pray, study, read, clean out a basement or garage, or get the yard ready for outside enjoyment, the Holy Spirit has moved in us and through us. The Holy Spirit has nudged us forward and onward, bidding us to keep our hope alive in Jesus Christ's saving work on the cross and to keep it strong as we walk our journey of faith during this time of sheltering in place during this pandemic. We are the Christ's Church, wherever we may be today!

Yes we continue to miss the ways we're used to doing things. Yes we continue to miss not being able to be with people we love or like to be with the most, or can't give them a hug or two. Yes the song plays in the background, "this is the song that never ends, it goes on and on my friends." Right about now, as we move into and through the month of May, we're most likely to not be just whiny, but might even become downright frustrated. You're not alone!

God knows our needs and hearts, what we're feeling, or what we're forced to give up or do without. God also gives us a living hope daily. That's what we're looking to and for as we're working our way through the book of 1 Peter. If you've never really read through the books of 1 & 2 Peter in the Bible, (I had not, but the more I read, study and prepare for each Sunday, the more I learn!) I find myself saying to myself, "why haven't I done so?" As I do, I find myself relating to Peter in so many ways and on so many levels. His hope gives me further hope.

Peter who denied Jesus 3 times before Jesus' death and resurrection, truly becomes the rock for Christ's church as it becomes so on that Pentecost day. He's so outspoken, Peter. He's so human. He's so much like us in our own human condition, some way, somehow. I find him so relatable.

Peter gives me the courage to enter into the song of God's plan, in ways that I know I need. How about you?

May the month of May become "merry" somehow this year for every one of us. If we focus on God's love, a strong faith and lots of hope, in small ways it can and will be, instead of focusing on what we're having to give up that have been, are and will be precious to us.

May the fire of God's love in and through the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, burn ever brightly, wherever we are, even if still sheltering in place, sitting on our couch, sitting on our lawn chairs or patio sets. May the light of God's love, shine bright upon our pathway, today, tomorrow and always! Stay safe, well, strong and full of hope. You're loved and missed!

Faithfully,

Rev. Norlita



Our team of prayer volunteers are eager and ready to pray for you, a loved one, or any special request. Contact Jan Jones at 692-5325 and/or Lee Peterson at 692-7757. (Concerns are confidentially held within our prayer team unless it is to be shared by the requester.)

Prayer Families

We encourage everyone in our community of faith and life together to pray for those listed below during daily prayer time.

May 3: Nick & Suh Ruskin & son Finlay, Rick & Bonnie Salonen, Aaron & Christine Scheer

May 10: Arend & Susan Schuurman & family Hannah, Matthew Samuel, Rebekah, Noah, Abigail;
Stanley & Julie Scubelek & sons Dylan & Stanley

May 17: Judy Sebring, Larry & Melanie Shepherd & Abigail, Richard & Judy Smith

May 24: Susan Smith, Terry & Ann Spitzenberger, Bart & Andrew Sweebe

May 31: Janet TeBeest, Nancy Thompson, Arlyce Thorne

UPCOMING EVENTS

- On **Saturday, May 2nd**, Pastor Dorthy Tufte of ULC is putting together a drive-by called "**Cruising for the Classics**" for all nursing homes and assisted livings in town from 12-2pm that day. We will start lining up at 12 at Pioneer Park and will be leaving at 1pm to cruise by ULC, Stoneybrook and Edgewood. Hope to see you there!

- Remember Dee Watson with a “Thinking of You” card as Lois’ birthday would have been on Saturday, May 2nd. His address is: 2019 Arbor Ridge, Brookings, SD 57006.
- Friends and family of Arvid Dills are invited to celebrate his 90th birthday on May 2nd by sending cards and best wishes to him at 1050 S Arizona Blvd, Coolidge, AZ 85128



A Message from Jon Stauff, SDSU Office of International Affairs (OIA):

My name is Jon Stauff, and I lead the SDSU Office of International Affairs (OIA). We have approximately 700 international students and scholars at SDSU – by far the largest group of such people in the state – and we have traditionally enjoyed their contributions to life in our community. While a number of our international students have been able to return home to their families, there is a significant group of students who weren't able to do so once it was announced that the SDSU Spring 2020 semester would be completed online. ...More than 80 students have already reached out to the OIA to declare their need in upcoming months, and we expect others will in the coming months.

We would like to make the following suggestions:

1. Please consider making a donation to the SDSU Foundation to provide financial support for international students on campus. Go to the Foundation website at <https://www.sdstatefoundation.org/give-now>, in the text box in #2, type "International Student Support." A box to check should appear. Those funds will be administered by the OIA. (Donations to the general student emergency fund may be made at <https://rabbitraisers.org/p/StudentEmergencyFund/>.)
2. Please make a donation to our student pantry: Jack's Cupboard, located in the Student Union (SDSU.MultiC@sdstate.edu). Donations of nonperishable food items are accepted on location when open, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00pm and at the University Police Station (24/7).

Thank you for your attention and, we hope, your support of our international students during this extraordinary time. If you are aware of other international students or scholars in need of any type of support, please do not hesitate to contact OIA at 605-688-4122 to report the need. We are here to help them.

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

May 2020



Scripture Reading: 1 Corinthians 13: 6-7 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Quote: "There are many things that can only be seen through eyes that have cried." - Archbishop Oscar Romero

Men's Brotherhood Notes: April and May Meetings Canceled.

Prayer Concerns: Pray for the safety and well-being of all during these times.

Action: Stay friendly to everyone you see. The store clerk, the carry-out person, the neighbor walking past your house. Be sure to tip any vendor as generously as you can.

Love. This word has a particularly important meaning to us these days. The difficulty we face with the deaths of so many worldwide and here at home. People we don't even know but the impending danger that might yet strike close to us. Maybe by the time you read this it will have reached some one of us personally. I pray not.

Not only the personal effect of this disease on one's health, but the way it is disrupting our lives in ways unimagined. The social isolation, the need to keep six feet apart from any other person, wearing masks when in public to not only prevent getting it, but giving it to someone. The loss of jobs and disrupted food supplies, and more hardships. These things few could have predicted would ever happen to our nation. We think these things only happen in other far off places.

I marvel yet at how many people are still so supportive of one another during this crisis. We are all in this together. If you are feeling lonely, it is likely the person you see on the street or at the store has that same feeling. Whether it is loneliness, anger, fear, or discouragement, we can make a difference in another person's life if we can reach out and offer help. Our calling is one of love. To love. To give. To serve. We can be a blessing to someone even if just a phone call, a card or a smile to a stranger. When we can do more as Christians, we must do more. It is our calling! We can be the blessing and hope that this world so needs now when we love one another.



The Scouts Troop 14 will not be meeting during the month of May.

HY VEE

Remember to save
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!

May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 BIRTHDAY: Samuel Schuurman	2 "Cruising for the Classics" BIRTHDAY: Bonnie Foster Arvid Dills
3 10:30 Zoom Worship Meeting BIRTHDAY: Diane Anderson John Peterson	4	5	6 BIRTHDAY: Yossry Rottluff	7	8	9
10 10:30 Zoom Worship Meeting 	11 BIRTHDAY: Bruce Westergaard	12	13	14 BIRTHDAY: Trent Broksieck	15 Blade Articles Due BIRTHDAY: Skylar Hinricher	16
17 10:30 Zoom Worship Service BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Moerke	18	19	20 ANNIVERSARY: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher	21	22	23 BIRTHDAY: Cliff Rindels
24 10:30 Zoom Worship-Service	25 <i>Memorial Day</i>  OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 BIRTHDAYS: Saige Hinricher Adam Young ANNIVERSARY: Dean & Sharon Hofland	28 9	29 ANNIVERSARY: Dave & Lucy Barkus Bruce & Lori Westergaard	30
31 10:30 Zoom Worship Service BIRTHDAY: Lori Westergaard 						

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First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Memorial Day
25th May

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

**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.**