

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

May 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

Welcome May



It's Back!!!
Worship in the Park
Pioneer Park Bandshell
May 30, 2021 at 10:30 AM
Bring your own chair
(weather permitting)



THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006

(605) 692-2416

www.brookingspresbyterian.org

presby@brookings.net

Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com

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

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am – 2:30 pm

Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath

presby@brookings.net

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)*

For regular updates and photos, like us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

Please check the website www.brookingspresbyterian.org for the "Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter" and "Susan's Saga."

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.

May 2: Eugene & JoAnn G, Jon & Linda G & Grace

May 9: Dawn G, Scott & Jennifer H & family Saige, Skylar, & Ramsie

May 16: Dean & Sharon H, Nelda H

May 23: Dennis H & Carolyn C; MK H

May 30: Roger & Marvis J, Robert & Jan J

Session Meeting Update

To protect our worshipping community,
please continue to wear your mask until further notice.



Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk of Session



On the 15th of this month, our shared pastor arrangement with Brookings United Church of Christ will end. Let us continue to pray for their church as they continue their search for their next pastor.
We are the body of Christ together.

Wanted: PowerPoint Operator



People are needed to help run the PowerPoint on Sundays.

Job: Start the PowerPoint and Zoom on Sunday morning.
Change the slides as we go through the service.

Skill Set Needed: the ability to pay attention to the service.

Time Commitment: 1-2 Sundays per month

Reward: Appreciation

Contact: Church office to volunteer



The Church Office
will be **closed on Monday, May 31st**
observing Memorial Day



A warm welcome to Pam Larson for accepting the position of deacon. We look forward to working with her. Some of the deacons are using email to communicate with their church members. If you haven't had contact, please check your junk mail.

Food Pantry needs are never ending. 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 for your generosity!



**PCUSA PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING
for Children at Risk, Youth, Young Adults**
Donations will be accepted May 2nd through May 23rd.

News You Can Use

BROOKINGS NAT'L DAY OF PRAYER
theme: "Lord, pour out your love, life, and liberty"
2 Corinthians 3:17



3 Options for the Day

- 1. On Thursday, May 6th** our church is signed up to pray for our nation, state, community, leaders and the church **for 30 minutes at 12 Noon and 6:30 PM.** Please choose one of those times to personally participate. In so doing our church will join others for continuous prayer during the 24 hours period wherever you may be.
- 2.** Pastor Stephen Palo of Ascension Lutheran Church will be leading a workshop on prayer life from 12 noon until 1 PM at Ascension. He will be teaching about praying the scriptures and more.
- 3. Prayer Walk** begins at the City & Government Building at 5:30 PM. **Please join Rev. Kaul as you are able to participate.** Stops for prayer will be at the City & Government Building, at the Courthouse and Jail, and at the Children's Museum. **(Park in our lot and meet in front of the church office door outside at 5:20 PM)**



*For all the best wishes & cards received
for our 45th wedding anniversary
plus remembering me on
Administrative Assistant's Day.
What a wonderful group of people to work for!
Blessings to you all,
Rozanne M*



Congratulations to our 2021 Graduate!

Lynn Foster
Brookings High School

Lynn Geneva Foster will be graduating from Brookings High School on May 30, 2021. Lynn is the oldest daughter of Joel and Bonnie Foster. Lynn's post-Graduation plans are to attend Southwest Minnesota State (SMSU) in Marshall, MN double majoring in Agronomy and Natural Sciences / Conservation. We would like to invite our Church Family to attend an Open House Celebrating Lynn on Saturday, May 29 from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm at 3311 18th Street (watch for the signs, as this is not at our farm). If you are unable to attend and would like to send Lynn some well wishes, please send them to 3911 18th Street, Brookings, SD 57006.



2021 Synod School July 25-30

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 interested.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on **Sunday, May 30th** during Worship in the Park at the Pioneer Park Bandshell. We hope to celebrate communion in our sanctuary on Sunday, July 4th.



- **SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The last day will be on May 23rd resuming again in September.
- **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.
- **TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** meets at 9:30ish every Tuesday at Perkins. Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).
- **THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will begin meeting on Thursdays at 9:30am in the church basement starting **May 6th**. We are studying the book of Genesis. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757).

Revelings for May 2021

Welcome May. Welcome warmer weather. Welcome to gardening time, of planting, waiting, hoping, pruning. Welcome to the time of weeds. It is said that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I'd like to call our attention to the humble Thistle. Here's two verses that speak of this plant which God created.

Genesis 3:18

“Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;

Matthew 7:16

You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?



By these writings we can see that the Thistle plant was indeed part of the Mediterranean landscape well over 2,000 years ago. I loved the latter metaphor, in Matt.7:16, figs from thistles. They do serve a purpose which is why God created the plant. It can be a resting place for a butterfly or provide nectar for bees which will in turn create honey for humans to enjoy.

Here's some further tidbits I found online about the Thistle Plant:

The thistle is thus an ancient Celtic symbol symbolizing the wounding or provocation of a thistle yields punishment, as well as of nobility of character as well as of birth. The thistle has been the national emblem of Scotland since the thirteenth century. <https://www.documentsanddesigns.com>

Badge of James VI & I. Thistle dimidiated with a Tudor rose.

The thistle has been the national emblem of Scotland since the reign of King Alexander III (1249–1286). It is found in many Scottish symbols and was used on silver coins issued by King James III in 1474, the first coins to feature a thistle. In 1536, the bawbee, a sixpence in the pound Scots, was issued for the first time under King James V; it showed a crowned thistle. Thistles continued to appear regularly on Scottish and later British coinage until 2008, when a 5p coin design showing "The Badge of Scotland, a thistle royally crowned" ceased to be minted, though it remains in circulation. The Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle, the highest and oldest chivalric order of Scotland, has thistles on its insignia and a chapel in St Giles's Kirk, Edinburgh, dubbed the Thistle Chapel. The thistle is the main charge of the regimental badge of the Scots Guards, the oldest regiment in the British Army. (Wikipedia)

SYMBOL THISTLE – PAIN, PROTECTION, PRIDE

Pain, protection and pride – pretty much sum up the different representations of the thistle. A friend told me about this and I became interpellated. This plant has a long history as a symbol but became as such pretty much forgotten lately. A good enough reason to resurrect this symbol with going a bit into details.

Being a tough plant, the thistle grows everywhere other plants usually don't. It stands for surviving where others won't and often this is surviving harsh conditions. The edible thistle –tasting somewhat like celery and also known as a dish of the poor – became thus a symbol of poverty and pain. From the bible to US Statesmen, the symbol of the thistle is therefore most often used to connote

something miserable and painful. Either it is suggested to weed thistles to plant beautiful flowers as in eradicating the miserable or one wishes thistles may fall upon someone to cause pain.

In the same time the thistle is a symbol for protection because of its prickly-edged leaves. Already the Greeks thought that a thistle would protect against demons and the Germanic people made a connection between the thistle and their god Donar who was supposed to protect everyone who carries a thistle with her/him. But the symbol of protection only came in full effect centuries later when the Scots started to use this plant as their national symbol around 1200 after Christ. The legend behind the protection of the Scots through the thistle takes place during the Nordic evasion of Great Britain at that time. An invading Viking army was trying to sneak up at night upon a Scots army encampment – during this, a barefoot enemy stepped upon a thistle, which caused him to cry out loud of pain and thus alerted the Scots. “In gratitude, the plant became known as the Guardian Thistle and was adopted as the symbol of Scotland”, is stated on the Scottish tourism page.

(<https://harshforms.com/>)

Many are troublesome weeds, including some invasive species .Typical adverse effects are competition with crops and interference with grazing in pastures, where dense growths of spiny vegetation suppress forage plants and repel grazing animals from eating either the thistle plants or neighboring forage. Some species, although not intensely poisonous, do affect the health of animals that swallow more than small amounts of the material. (Wikipedia)

I'm sure there's quite a few farm stories about the Thistle Plant in the fields, affecting livestock, etc. A few of these plants came up in the flower beds last year, pretty to look at, a dickens to remove them.

How do we apply this as a metaphor then to our spiritual lives and walk? Is this plant a weed or a flower? Are we spiny, thorny, hard on the outside and also spiritually on the inside? Whether flower or weed, it's all about perception. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Let us be the beautiful image that God created us to be. Let us grow in love. Welcome May.

Soli Deo Gloria

Rev. Norlita

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES IN MAY will include the following:

Sunday May 9 - **Honoring the women** of our church

Sunday May 16 - **Honoring our HS Graduate-Lynn Foster**

Sunday May 23 - **Pentecost Sunday** will be celebrated in the sanctuary -**everyone wear red.**

Sunday May 30 (Memorial Day Weekend) **Trinity Sunday - Worship in the Park**, weather permitting.



“Who kept the faith and fought the fight; The glory theirs, the duty ours.”
- Wallace Bruce

BROTHERHOOD

May 2021

Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: We will soon be announcing the resumption of Men's Brotherhood activities. We will be announcing details in church.

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

I'm sorry! Have you ever said it? I'm sure we have all said it at one time or another. Maybe we are finding our seat in a crowded theater and we step on someone's toes accidentally. I'm sorry! Or we bump into someone at the grocery store with our cart. Oops! I'm sorry. But maybe we have done something more serious like insulting someone with a personally disparaging remark. Oops. I'm sorry. This may not be enough to soothe injured feelings and possibly a broken relationship.

In the heat of arguments or heated discussions things can be said without thinking. Our inner fight or flight urge sometimes take over. Ugh. Sometimes we recover quickly and apologize right away, and other times the recovery takes longer and we may not even realize we have said or done something offensive until it is pointed out to us. Maybe it was something we didn't do. Or say.

So how do we recover? How do we mend a broken heart or feelings? Once we realize we have done something offensive we need to admit it and go to the party offended and 'fess up. Any apology needs to be sincere, and express how we understand that what we did was not right. So we need to really examine what we said or did, or didn't say or do and resolve to not say or do that again.

As Christians we need to keep in mind the commands to love God and to love our neighbor. If we are seriously trying to make amends for any offense it is important to keep these commands in the process when we are sincerely apologizing. God loves us and wants us to love Him. He loves our neighbors and wants us to love them too. It is simple yet not always easy. Active love and caring for others will hopefully help us avoid this pitfall of being in a position to having to say I'm sorry.



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.

May 2021

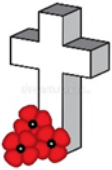
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 BUCC 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Bonnie Foster	3 BIRTHDAY: John Peterson	4 9:30 Coffee Group	5	6 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom Brookings Nat'l World Day of Prayer	7	8 BIRTHDAY: Kay Norton
9 Mother's Day 8:30 BUCC 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom Honoring Women in Worship	10 Nat'l Women's Health Week	11 9:30 Coffee Group 6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom BIRTHDAY: Bruce Westergaard	12	13 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom 7:00 Session Meeting via Zoom	14 BIRTHDAY: Trent Broksieck	15 BIRTHDAY: Skylar Hinricher
16 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom Honoring our High School Graduate	17 BLADE Articles Due BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Moerke	18 30 Coffee Group	19	20 9:30 Bible Study-Zoom ANNIVERSARY: Scott & Jennifer Hinricher	21	22
23 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service in sanctuary and via Zoom Please wear red to worship BIRTHDAY: Cliff Rindels 	24	25 9:30 Coffee Group	26	27 9:30 Bible Study- Zoom BIRTHDAYS: Saige Hinricher/Adam Young ANNIVERSARY: Dean & Sharon Hofland	28	29 ANNIVERSARY: Dave & Lucy Barkus Bruce & Lori Westergaard BIRTHDAY: Carolyn Clague
30 10:30 Worship Service with Communion In Pioneer Park Bandshell 	31 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Lori Westergaard					

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Memorial Day

Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:15 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

Pastor's Office Hours

At FPC

Mon, Wed, Thurs

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Appointments also available

as need/desired

Church Office Hours

Monday -Thursday

9:00 am – 2:30 am

Pastor's Sabbath

Friday and Saturday

(in emergencies, please call/text

Pastor's cell #)

Our newsletter is available electronically by email.

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