

THE BLADE

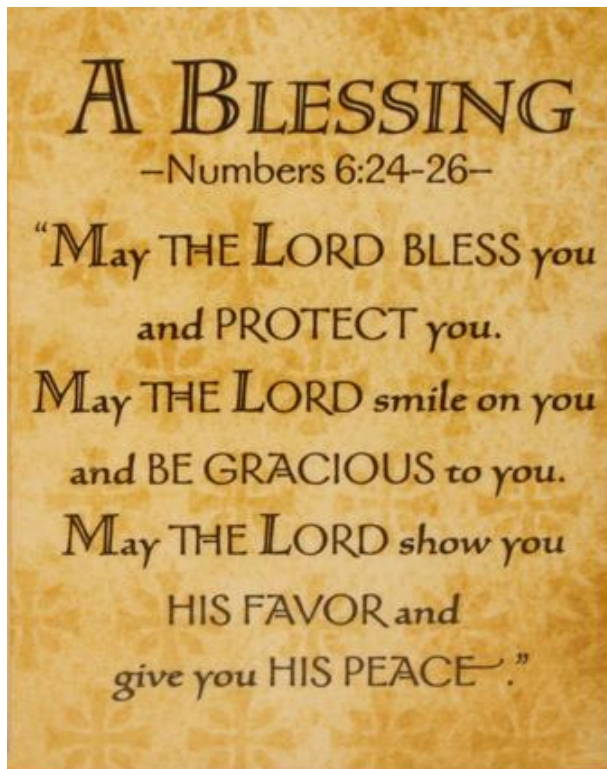


May 2022



“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



*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
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

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

The Church Office
will be **closed**
on **Monday, May 30th**



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 2022 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.

May 1: Dave & Lee P, John P, Harold & Marjorie P

May 8: Rose P, Lynn & Diane R, Cliff R

May 15: Rick & Bonnie S, Stanley & Julie S & family
Stanley & Dylan

May 22: Judy S, Richard & Judy S, Susan S

May 29: Terry & Ann S, Bart S, Janet T, Nancy T

Session Update from April 20, 2022

Worship committee reported on many changes based on requests made during town hall:

- Bibles replaced in pews
- Services held to one hour
- Joys will be presented during announcements at the end of the service
- Greeters returning to main entrance
- Children's sermon return when children in worship
- More inclusion of traditional hymns

It was decided not to update the phone system at this time.

Session set a date for the next **Congregational Town Hall Meeting- May 15** after worship, a meal will be **provided by the Session, consisting of pizza, salad, and desserts**. A freewill offering will also be accepted.

The letter that was emailed to the congregation with a report on the first Town Hall meeting will also be available in paper copies in the Narthex.

Updates on four focus items:

- Strengthen connections between congregation members and engage members in ministering to each other
 - Planning for a pastor's table event upcoming
- Investigate opportunities for fellowship
 - Connection between worship and fellowship committee to connect fellowship opportunities with special Sundays
- Investigate opportunities to serve others outside our church
 - Discussing a summer outreach project
- Think carefully about level of giving versus amount of spending and the implications for our future.
 - More discussion at next Town Hall

The session continues to discuss the Sailboat church and other topics related to thinking about how God is calling this church - what is needed by our congregation, and what our role is in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk of Session

PCUSA PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING
for Children at Risk, Youth, Young Adults
Donations will be accepted May 1st through June 5th





Worship Committee

Pastor Norlita's sermon series is called "Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God." We are going to do an activity along with the sermons. The old cross will be left up in the back of the sanctuary and used as the "**Tree of Good/Surprise Deeds.**" Everyone is encouraged to write these down as they do them. Leaves will be available to write the deeds on and then place on the cross. We hope to see the tree covered in many leaves of deeds. The good/surprise deeds can be as small as smiling at a stranger or great as delivering meals. You do not need to put your name on if you so wish. Let's show the world and each other what an amazing congregation we are.

Day of Pentecost is on **June 5, 2022**. We are encouraging everyone to **wear red** on June 5th in recognition of Pentecost.



Food Pantry needs are never ending. Monetary gifts for the Food Pantry can be sent to the church office and donations of non-perishable items can be dropped off at the Food Pantry at 217 4th St. between 9:30 and 5 MWF. Thank you for your generosity!

Congratulations to our 2022 High School Graduates!
You are invited!



Hannah Schuurman's Open House at 301 Elk St, Elkton, SD on May 14th

Everyone is welcome to join **Emma Moerke** in celebrating her graduation from Brookings High School on Sunday, May 29, 4:00-8:00 PM, 1720 Edgebrook Circle.

Aaron Miller's Open House on May 29, 4:00-6:00 PM at 3345 Aspen Ave, Brookings, SD.



Sympathy to family and friends of Gene Goodale who passed away on March 22, 2022. Celebration of Life Service will be held on **Monday, May 23** at the First Presbyterian Church. Lunch will follow at the McCrory Gardens Visitor Center.

News You Can Use

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, May 10: **Mission/Finance** via **Zoom** at 6:30 PM
Thursday, May 12: **Session Meeting** in **person** at 7:00 PM
TBD **Fellowship/Outreach**
TBD **Worship Committee**

SERVING THIS MONTH, MAY 2022

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Roger J
Communion Servers: Elder: Dave P Deacon: Lee P
Communion Usher: Ella L

	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
May 1:	Rick S		Bonnie F
May 8:	Lee P	Canadays	Sue Y
May 15:	Terry S		Kennedy N
May 22:	Dolores C	Nancy T	Bonnie F
May 29:	Dan K		----

***The last day of Sunday School will be on May 22rd
and resumes again in September.***

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- SUNDAY** 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School and 11:45 AM Youth Sunday School
- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS** meet Tuesdays at 1:30 PM at the church to quilt. All are welcome!
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at 9:30 AM in the FPC Center Meeting Room
- SISTERHOOD** on May 19 at 11:30 AM at First Lutheran's Mission Coffee House
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on May 19 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

2022 Synod School July 24-29

Registration is open

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.



Revelings for May 2022



Origins of May Day

Did you know that May Day has its roots in astronomy? Traditionally, it was the halfway point between the spring equinox and the summer solstice! In ancient times, this was one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, which mark the midway points between the (four) solstices and equinoxes of the year.

As with many early holidays, May Day was rooted in agriculture. Springtime festivities filled with song and dance celebrated the sown fields starting to sprout. Cattle were driven to pasture, special bonfires were lit, and doors of houses as well as livestock were decorated with yellow May flowers. In the Middle Ages, the Gaelic people celebrated the festival of Beltane. Beltane means "Day of Fire." People created large bonfires and danced at night to celebrate.

May Day has a long history and tradition in England, some of which eventually came to America. Children would dance around the Maypole holding onto colorful ribbons. People would "bring in the May" by gathering wildflowers and green branches, weaving of floral hoops and hair garlands, and crowning a May king and queen. Such rites originally may have been intended to ensure fertility for crops and, by extension, for livestock and humans, but in most cases this significance was gradually lost, so that the practices survived largely as popular festivities.

Originally, the Maypole was a living tree chosen from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility.

For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If a young woman and man paired by sundown, their courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and, possibly, marry 6 weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the "June wedding" became a tradition.

In the Middle Ages, all villages had Maypoles. Towns would compete to see who had the tallest or best Maypole. Over time, this Old English festival incorporated dance performances, plays, and literature. People would crown a "May Queen" for the day's festivities.

The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance, and the springtime holiday never became an important part of American culture as it was in many European countries.

Interestingly, from the late 19th century through the 1950s, the Maypole dance and festivities became a rite of spring at some U.S. colleges. Seen as a wholesome tradition, this celebration often included class plays, Scottish dancing, Morris dancing, a cappella concerts, and cultural dancing and music displays.

Ever heard of the May baskets? People would leave a paper basket or cone containing spring flowers and sweets on each other's doorsteps, usually anonymously.

This tradition was popular through the 19th and 20th centuries, especially with children or sweethearts. The custom was to knock on the door, yell "May basket!" and then run. If the recipient caught the giver, he or she was entitled to a kiss.

Louisa May Alcott wrote about May Basket Day in the late 1800s. In the 1920s, some bold schoolchildren hung a May basket on the White House door for First Lady Grace Coolidge.

The May Day basket is still a cherished tradition for some Americans, although it's not well known today. (<https://www.almanac.com>)

The Old Testament (Hebrew) Scripture Blessing also comes to mind: Numbers 6:24-26 (NRSV)

²⁴ The Lord bless you and keep you;

²⁵ the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

²⁶ the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

This is the prayer I have for each and every one of us as we move through this new month, as the seasons have been changing, and new life is springing forth. We have much to be thankful and grateful to God for in our lives. "May" we always take time to find the surprises of God in our world around us daily. "May" we always take time to take time to thank God for all which we are given daily. "May" we always take time to find a Bible Passage to read and reflect upon, so that the Holy Spirit can enlighten and enrich our hearts and minds while nurturing our soul. "May" we be thankful to others that share their lives with us in many ways. "May" we be grateful for the lives of many who will be remembered on Memorial Day. "May" we say a prayer for our graduates and teachers, as they complete another school year. "May" we say a prayer for others' needs, especially for safe travels as summertime approaches.

Blessings to everyone for this month of "May-ing". Soli Deo Gloria, Rev. Norlita

Sunday May 15, 2022 Congregational Town Hall Meeting After Worship

Please Sign up to attend. The Session is providing Pizza, Salad, Desserts. Those attending **please review your 'Praying through Lent' Devotional Booklet and bring a brief list of some thoughts/ideas that your prayer time revealed** that you're willing to share, especially about our church. We'll review together what the last Town Hall meeting discussion/questions time brought forth. We'll also discuss some other important realities to openly discuss. Thank you for your prayers, thoughts, and support.

Our journey continues, **Where is God Leading Us?**

Easter Series: Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God

<u>Date</u>	<u>Message Title</u>	<u>Scripture</u>
5/01	'An Unlikely Friendship'	Acts 9:1-20
5/08	'An Astonishing Imitation'	Acts 9:36-43
5/15	'An Unexpected Change of Menu'	Acts 16:9-15
5/22	'An Amazing Detour'	Acts 16:9-15
5/29	'An Ironic Escape'	Acts 16:16-34

BROTHERHOOD
May 2022
Andrew L'Amour



Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met Thursday April 21 at 5:30.

A delicious meal was prepared by Mike and his fellow chefs. Dave Biteler from the county jail gave the program on the progress of the County Jail expansion. He said they have a deadline in mid-June the contractor is aiming for so hopefully the light at the end of the tunnel is approaching fast. About 11 men showed up and we have room for more so come on down. There will be a warm meal for you and good Christian fellowship.

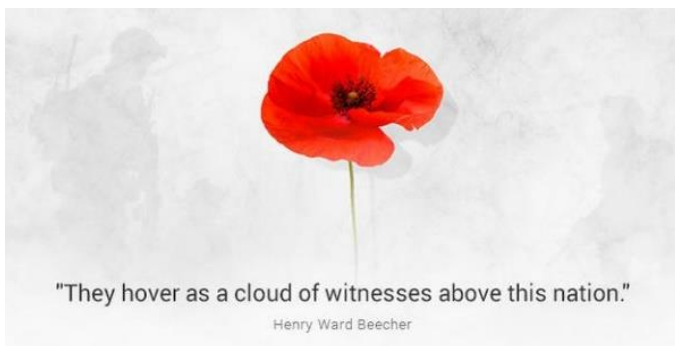
The events of Easter week, with its ups and downs: the exultation of Christ's triumph ride into the city, the Last Supper, the crucifixion on Good Friday and then the glorious resurrection left me nearly exhausted. But there is work to be done now. It is time to get busy about the Lord's business - God's business. What is God's business?

Jesus came to proclaim the two laws we are to observe: to love God with our whole being, and to love our fellow human being as much as we love ourselves.

Staying close to the revelation that God shared about himself through bible reading, prayer and meditation is an important part of God's business. We have to keep strong in the faith so we can be ready with an answer when anyone asks us of the hope we have. 1 Peter 3:15

Loving our fellow man requires that we pay close attention to the needs of others in their daily lives. There is much injustice in the world and working to overcome it requires that we do whatever part we can. Whether it be food insecurity, homelessness, or the suffering of those who may be incarcerated and their families. There is domestic violence in our communities with children included as victims also.

I heard someone once lamenting that they were praying and waiting for God to fix some problem. They were told that God made us with hands, hearts and brains so we could do the work that this man was expecting God to do miraculously. With that as a lesson then I suppose that we should not wait for an answered prayer because if we know about it, the prayer will be answered by God through us as his instrument if it is something we can take care of. God uses many hands to take care of prayers. The miraculous part was completed when he made us. There is work to do now!! Blessings!



HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000.00
Receipts: \$134,226.07
Needed to Date: \$15,773.93

Required for \$1,000 donation:
\$150,000.00

Remember to bring in your
Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.



We are collecting clean empty medication bottles (no labels) as in the example. If you place the bottle in the freezer for about 20 minutes, the label comes off easily. These will be used to help in medication distribution overseas. This is a mission work that is currently being done through the Presbyterian Women of our Presbytery. Thanks for your help!



May 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship/Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Youth Sunday School	2 BIRTHDAY: Bonnie F	3 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAY: John P	4	5 9:30 Bible Study	6	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> <i>Honoring Women in Worship</i> 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Youth Sunday School	9	10 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers 6:30 M/F Meeting via Zoom	11 BIRTHDAY: Bruce W	12 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting at church	13	14 BIRTHDAY: Trent B
15 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom followed by Town Hall Mtg/meal provided 11:45 Youth Sunday School BIRTHDAY: Skylar H	16 BLADE Articles Due	17 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAY: Carolyn M	18	19 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood ANNIVERSARY: Scott & Jennifer H	20	21
22 9:15 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:45 Youth Sunday School	23 Gene Goodale Celebration of Life Service at church, 11 AM BIRTHDAY: Cliff R	24 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers	25	26 9:30 Bible Study	27 BIRTHDAYS: Saige H/Adam Y ANNIVERSARY: Dean & Sharon H	28
29 Honoring Graduates 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom ANNIVERSARY: Dave & Lucy B Bruce & Lori W BIRTHDAY: Carolyn C 	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> OFFICE CLOSED 	31 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces & Prayers BIRTHDAY: Lori W				

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First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:15 am Adult Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service
11:45 am Youth Sunday School

Pastor's Office Hours

At FPC

Mon, Tues, 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.