

THE BLADE



November 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.”

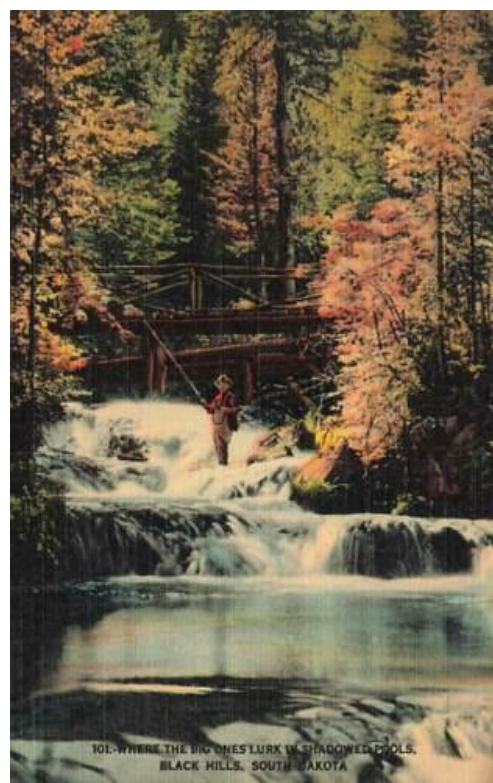
John 3:16 NRSV



**Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time, we will reap a harvest,
if we do not give up. (Gal. 6:9).**



**See I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not
perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness, and
streams in the wasteland. (Is. 43:19)**



*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*

November



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, Tuesday, 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

Please check the website

www.brookingspresbyterian.org for the "Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter"



**Daylight Savings
Time ends
Nov. 6 at 2:00 AM**



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 2022 is \$34.78 (same as last year). 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.

Nov. 6: Lynn & Diane R, Cliff R, Rick & Bonnie S

Nov. 13: Stanley & Julie S (Stanley, Dylan), Dick & Judy S

Nov. 20: Terry & Ann S, Janet T, Nancy T

Nov. 27: Arlyce T, Steve & Carrie VB, Art & Marjorie V



Session Update--October 16, 2022

Dear Friends,

We are sad to inform you that Reverend Norlita Kaul has submitted her resignation as interim pastor and session has accepted the resignation with regret. This was announced in the congregational meeting on October 16. Her last Sunday in the pulpit will be November 20. Rev. Kaul has accepted another call at a Presbyterian Church in New Jersey.

We hope you will spend some time considering and appreciating the positive impact Norlita has had on this church. Together, we have faced and overcome some very tough challenges over the last few years; at the same time Norlita faced her own personal challenges. We're certain she would appreciate your words of appreciation. More information will be forthcoming as we plan a celebration of Norlita's time with us and send her off to her next adventure with our gratitude.

As we begin the next chapter in the life of this church, we ask for your patience, support, participation, encouragement, and prayers. If you have a need, or know of someone with a need, please call on your deacon or contact an elder. We will share more information about the plans going forward as they become available.

Sincerely,

Donna Flint, Clerk of Session on behalf of Session



*Please join us for a farewell reception for Rev. Norlita Kaul
on Sunday, November 20, following worship.*

Dear Friends,

We wanted to briefly reassure you that we don't think the church is going to close its doors in the foreseeable future. Our membership has reduced in number to the point where we no longer really need a full-time pastor. If we move to a part-time pastor role, then the current level of giving should continue to support the church for the foreseeable future.

Yes, the building does have some large projects which might need to be completed in the next few years, but we have reserves that could cover most of the required repairs (though it would use most, if not all, of those reserves). However, without a full-time pastor salary and benefits, we should be able to gradually rebuild the reserves.

You may be surprised that about two thirds of Presbyterian churches have a membership of 100 or less and most of those have either a part-time pastor or no pastor at all. Yet, these churches remain open, and the members work together to not only survive, but to thrive. We hope this is reassuring-- we don't think our church is dying-- we think right now it is *evolving* (as all traditional churches around the world are doing). We hope that we will be able to steer it in a way that it can stay around for some time to come.

Yours in Christ,

Donna Flint

Dan Kemp

Ella Lane

Mike McCann

Dave Peterson

Terry Spitzenberger



Monthly Financial Report							
2022	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	To Date
<u>Income</u>	10,809.10	20,706.79	14,882.60	8,442.89	12,928.35	13,307.38	81,077.11
<u>Expense</u>	13,991.56	12,687.94	13,746.67	15,397.83	12,148.82	12,196.48	80,169.30
<u>Difference</u>	-3,182.46	8,018.85	1,135.93	-6,954.94	779.53	1,110.90	907.81
		adj 125					

Monthly Financial Report							
2022	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	To Date
<u>Income</u>	10,450.17	10,926.73	7,708.69				110,162.70
<u>Expense</u>	10,437.47	11,327.89	10,723.52				112,658.18
<u>Difference</u>	12.70	-401.16	-3,014.83				-2,495.48



Christmas is coming!
 First Presbyterian Church will be participating in the Christmas Feeding Brookings by donating 200 cans of fruit. For ease of collection, we are asking for donations of money instead of the actual cans of fruit. Please make your donation by Monday, **December 12**; the deacons will then purchase and deliver the fruit for the giveaway on December 22. May your Christmas be blessed.

60 Plus Dining: First Presbyterian Church delivered meals September 12-25. This commitment really crept up on us but our fantastic congregation certainly rose to the occasion on short notice. Much thanks to these volunteers: Nelda Holden, Ella Lane, Dean & Sharon Hofland, Nancy Thompson, Julie Scubelek, and Bonnie Salonen.

News You Can Use

UPCOMING NOVEMBER MEETINGS

Sunday, Nov. 6:	Worship Committee Meeting following worship
Tuesday, Nov. 8:	Mission/Finance via Zoom at 6:30 PM
Thursday, Nov. 10:	Session Meeting in person at 7:00 PM
Sunday, Nov. 13:	Fellowship/Outreach Meeting following worship

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS** on 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 Thursday, Nov. 17 at 11:30 AM at the **Senior Activity Center**
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Thursday, Nov. 17 at 5:30 PM at the church basement

SERVING IN NOVEMBER

NOVEMBER

Sunday Coffee Fellowship: Sue Y
Communion Servers:
Elder: Dave P Deacon: Bonnie F.
Communion Usher: _____

NOVEMBER LITURGISTS

Nov. 6: Robby F
Nov. 13: Nancy T
Nov. 20: Dan K
Nov. 27: Mike M

Volunteers are needed to be a Greeter on Sunday Morning!

VETERANS DAY



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



**Church Office will be closed
Thursday Nov. 24 for Thanksgiving**



October 2, 2022
Stephen VB and Nancy O
(pictured also are spouses Carrie and Bob)

WORLD COMMUNION DAY BREADS

- Baguette – France
- Norwegian Flat Bread
- Milk & Honey – Ethiopia
- Irish Brown Bread
- Challah – Jewish
- Sour Dough – Germany
- Unleavened Bread as mentioned in the Bible



We will be honoring our veterans during worship on Sunday, **November 13th**.
We encourage our veterans to attend and be thanked for your service to our country.

Revelings (The Final Edition)

New Beginnings, Small Seeds, Hidden Plantings, Discovering the Right Questions

As we come to the time of saying goodbye, it has been an honor to serve alongside the members/friends of FPC Brookings for these last 3 years. No doubt there's been much that we've gone through together as Interim Pastor and People, but God always sees what lies ahead in our lives/journeying. As I was thinking about the future, not only for myself, but for all of you, my flock, I was able to draw upon sources that often provide me spiritual nourishment, encouragement and comfort. In this vain I share the following in Thanksgiving for you and for God's love lived out through you.



From the Celtic Prayer Book II, "Farther Up and Farther In" from the Northumbria Community, UK:



New beginnings need small seeds and hidden planting safe in the fragile holy ground of family life. Conciliation sought, more misunderstanding. Companions few, small victories won, but consolations sweet. These are the days for noticing the small things, establishing trust, and saying things that need no words. The soil can determine the yield. And this ground has known many things; deep in its soil is a hunger its people must feel. Hunger and richness and deepness will bring an amazing yield.

And putting right the past? How will that happen? Walk with forgiveness and blessing from this place: be met with suspicion and or hesitant trust. Fear is fierce and destructive, but love springs the cage. So love we must, do all we can, give God what lies beyond our reach. Love, trust, believe in small things first. Learn well what you would teach.

Big heart, Open arms, everyone welcome, the fireside recalls a thousand welcomes, Cead Mile Failte, if you but whisper it, I'll pray it. All places have memory, but some have more memory than others. There is a certain quality to the light (of the fireside, a painted sky on a prairie evening at dusk, bouncing off the trees in summer and autumn, or the waters of nearby lakes, Oakwood, Campbell, Poinsett). A color on the water, beauty to take your breath away, always there, always new (The Black Hills, The Badlands). The sense of continuity is so strong: our turn to work, to ache, to sleep, a hidden stillness pervasive.

All of the above surround you every day, in our environs, in our community, in our own FPC faith community. Deep is the soil and roots of this church in Brookings, a specific voice, a Presbyterian voice. May it continue to be the sense of continuity so strong as it has since it began in the later 1880's.

And now from the Center for Action and Contemplation, Richard Rohr's Meditation, "Discovering the Right Questions." I think this will be so helpful for all of us as individuals and especially as Christ's Church going forward into the uncharted waters of the next steps we make in life.

“Discovering the Right Questions, this counterintuitive wisdom, this principle keeps us on the path of ongoing discernment, which is a gift of the Holy Spirit.“ In I Cor. 12:10 is found concerning spiritual gifts, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.” The key concept here is the contrast between the words “discovering and having.” A discerning/inquiring spirit within makes us discoverers in touch with our hidden and deeper truth. An “I have the answers” spirit makes us into protectors of cliches. Answers are wonderful when true, they keep us on the human and spiritual path. Answers that are not wonderful become something of ego's possession, falsely self-assured, arrogantly and closed down individuals.”

We are not our own, in life and in death, we belong to God. We must remember the sovereignty of God in our lives as Presbyterians. It leaves then no room for working together as/in community for what Rohr describes as aforementioned.

In Isaiah 55:8-9 we read:

“8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.
9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

God is sovereign, God alone is Lord of the conscience. These are 2 tenets we hang our hats on in the Reformed Theological Tradition, and we must not forget this. We are free to discover and ask questions in our lives.

Rohr goes on to write, “The depth and mystery of God leaves all of us as perpetual searches and seekers, always novices and beginners. It is the narrow (sometimes dark) way of faith. Luke 11:9, “So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.” There is something inherently valuable about an attitude of spiritual curiosity and persistent “knocking.” “The long journey of transformation leads us to ask new questions about our own goodness and where goodness really lies: to recognize our own complicity within our world (evil). Those led by the Spirit into ever deeper seeing, hearing and surrendering, spiritual seekers/questioners, as such we will fall into the hands of the living God.”

In Matthew 7:14, we can read, “For the gate is narrow and the road is hard that leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Indeed, to truly seek God, has more to do with how we live our lives, inviting the new possibilities with which new beginnings enter in and take root within our lives. “May we always be humbly in seeking God, always be a humble student.” These are Rohr's lasting admonitions as God's people individually and as God's people in/of community, aka “Christ's church” locally.

We've spent much time together over these last three years with two questions, “How is God calling us to be faithful?” and “Where are you leading us, O God?” If we continue to pray these questions as individuals and as Christ's body “the church,” we'll enter into continuing to ask questions, to seek God, to be humble in our questions and questionings. Yet all the while as we do, we fall into the unconditional and loving arms of a generous, caring and loving God, who is always and every day, making all things new. Transformation and Transfiguration then as Christ's disciples are a way of life. May we ever embrace this as our spiritual discipline, wherever we may be.

Blessings, Grace and Peace be yours. Practice Thanksgiving and Thanksliving every day. And “May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent, one from the other.”

Soli Deo Gloria,
Rev. Norlita J. Kaul
Interim Pastor

November 2022

Andrew L'Amour

Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met on November 20. A fine meal was prepared by Mike and his Happy Cookers. Always something good to eat! The program was presented by the Habitat For Humanity Restore. Interesting program and a very much needed program in our community.



Prayer/Action: Well we now know what we need to do. With Pastor Norlita's announcement that she is leaving, if we aren't already, we need to step up to the plate and give it the extra oomph. That extra oomph means support for those who are doing all they can to make church work for all of us.

I have been watching the baseball playoffs this year. There have been many upsets, teams winning when the other team was the favorite. Teams rallying in the bottom of the ninth or other late innings to come from behind to win. I love baseball. Great sport.

Baseball and other sports can teach a lot of valuable life lessons that can be applied in every part of life – work, play and other times too. Some of these lessons we can take for granted if we aren't paying attention.

One of those lessons is that we need to be ready when the time comes to dig deep and give it our best shot. I have seen players who were on the bench – reserve players, who come in during critical parts of the game with the hope and expectation that the skills they possess will come through for the team and bring victory. And they do it!!

I have seen teams give it their best shot when they are behind and it is down to their last out, their last strike, coming through and achieving victory. The point being that one never quits, one never gives up. It isn't over until it is over.

The other lesson to learn is teamwork. We are a team ready and willing to be supportive and help in any part of the line-up where there is a need.

We have a great Congregation. Small but then so is a stick of dynamite compared to the difference it can make. We have a lot of talent in our group. We are going into a new chapter in our church where those talents may be tested. So we go in with the enthusiasm and resourcefulness necessary to be successful.



HYVEE RECEIPTS

Thank you to everyone for turning in HyVee receipts. We are doing really well. We have received \$1000 from HyVee and just received a 2nd \$1000 recently. HyVee has raised the total money needed to be collected from \$150,000 to \$200,000 starting this August. HyVee has also stopped printing out receipts when grocery orders are done **on-line**. You will receive a receipt online. If you can send a copy of the receipt by email to Rozanne at presby@brookings.net, she will pass it on to me for totaling. Thank you, Ella L.

HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$200,000.00
Received: \$45,188.70
Needed to Date: \$154,811.30






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

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.



November 2022



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	2 DIST 5 ORAL INTERP CONTEST 8:00 AM-6:00 PM BIRTHDAY: Donna F Janet T	3 9:30 Bible Study	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5
6 <i>All Saints Day</i> 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom Worship Committee Mtg following worship	7 	8 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers 6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom	9 BIRTHDAY: Martin M	10 9:30 Bible Study Session Meeting at FPC 7:00 PM	11 <i>Veteran's Day</i> 	12
13 <i>Honoring Veterans</i> 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Fellowship/Outreach Mtg following worship	14	15 <i>BLADE Articles Due</i> 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers BIRTHDAY: Diane B	16	17 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 Sisterhood at Senior Activity Center 5:30 Men's Brotherhood	18	19
20 <i>Christ the King Sunday</i> 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom <i>Rev. Kaul's last Sunday</i> Reception following worship BIRTHDAY: Robby F	21 	22 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	23	24 <i>Thanksgiving</i>  Office closed	25	26
27 1 st Sunday in Advent 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom	28	29 9:30 Coffee Group 1:30 Pieces and Prayers	30	31	 Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 6 at 2:00 AM	

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018



Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule

10:30 am Worship Service

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.