

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

November 2020

“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



Thanksgiving Litany



For summer's passing and harvest home—**we thank you!**
For autumn's splendor and winter's chill—**we thank you!**
For seed that has fallen, the promise of spring—**we thank you!**

As a part of nature's wondrous cycle of new birth, growth, fruitfulness, and death we rejoice in the creation of new life.

For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge, for understanding and the wisdom of years. We are grateful for those who have gone before passing on to us our spiritual heritage—**we thank you!**

May our lives blossom as the apple tree in spring.
May we become fruitful in thought and deed.
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground linger beyond our time on this earth.

For fruitfulness—**we thank you!**
For a generous spirit—**we thank you!**
For wisdom and faith—**we thank you!**
For old age and new birth—**we thank you!**

For those who have gone before us, seeds planted in your rich pasture with the hope of life eternal: may their enduring spirit live on enriching and empowering our lives, their love linger, their presence be near until we meet once more—**we thank you!**

For your embracing love—Parental/Caregiving love—the love that sees our failings and forgives us; the love that sees our joys and embraces us; the love that knows no end or beginning, a love that could die for us—**we bless you.**

November



THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-2416

www.brookingspresbyterian.org
presby@brookings.net

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 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

brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com

In office 9:30 am-12:30 pm
Monday through Thursday

Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

For regular updates and
photos, like us on
Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings



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.

David Peterson, Treasurer



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.

November 1: Martin & Sally Maca, Tom & Jeannie Manzer

November 8: Nona Marshall, Maria Mason, Mike & Judy McCann

November 15: Rozanne McGrath, Heidi & Aaron Miller,

November 22: Daniel & Carolyn Moerke & family
Allison, Emma & Hannah; Marlys Moore

November 29: Trudy Nelson, Don & Kay Norton, Rollo Nussbaum



Daylight Saving
Time ends
on November 1
at 2:00 AM

Session Meeting Updates

October 22, 2020

1. Worship committee proposed and **Session approved** that **when weather prevents us from having worship services** in the church that **the service be cancelled** and notification made as usual through Remind and radio station announcements.
2. Session approved that due to the pandemic, we would not participate in Salvation Army Bell ringing this year.
3. Session is considering a proposal for shared ministry with United Church of Christ, Brookings with time and pastor salary to be shared: 62.5% for FPC, 37.5% for UCC. The Pastor salary would increase from \$46,000/year effective salary to \$51,000/year effective salary. Worship services would be held each Sunday by the pastor: 8:30 at UCC, 10:30 at FPC. Special services and pastor-led Bible studies would be held jointly, when possible and alternated between churches. Pastoral care would continue as normal and provided to members of both congregations. If approved, the plan would be to begin November 15, with the first service at UCC to be held November 29. A six-month trial period would follow, with all aspects of the call being reevaluated after Easter.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Flint
Clerk to the Session

P.S. from Rev. Kaul: There would also be **NO ZOOM WORSHIP if services are cancelled.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL – JOIN US SUNDAYS AT 9:15 AM



The Deacons thank each of you for your help in caring for our congregation and community by your donation of items, volunteering time, and offering prayers.

- * Thank you for the donations of warm outerwear to “Share the Warmth”
- * Thank you to Nelda Holden, Harold and Marge Poppen, Roger and Marvis Jenner, and Bill and Ann Douglas for driving and delivering “60 Plus Dining” meals.
- * Thank you for food pantry donations however the need is never ending. Food Pantry 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.

FEEDING BROOKINGS will once again be hosting a meal for Thanksgiving. First Presbyterian Church has been asked to donate 240 pkg. of Instant Mashed Potatoes. We will be accepting monetary donations for purchase of them through Sunday, Nov. 18th.

Thank you for your generosity!

PROJECT JOY information will be shared as soon as it arrives.



Revelings November 2020

Community Is... a Cloud of Witnesses.



Hebrews 12:1-3

The Example of Jesus

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart. (NRSV)

As we now move into November, the COVID-19 Virus Pandemic is still with us, expected to hit harder than before. Social distancing, mask wearing, and handwashing are still part of our daily routine, as we're strongly encouraged to continue these protocols as we now move into the winter months. Some of our flock who have ventured into our building to worship since July 1, perhaps are now choosing to remain home to stay safe and well. Some in our flock have chosen to continue to worship with us via Zoom online or using the service on our website each week as our pandemic continues. Hard copies of our worship service and sermon and our church newsletter are sent out to those without computers/internet. We miss you!

Still we are the body of Christ, we are connected one to another, wherever we may be, at any given moment.

Continuing on in our series of Community Is, we find comfort in the reflection offered by Bret Lamsma who writes about a woman reflecting upon her time spent with her dad as he read a devotional each day. He wrote, "Now that she lives far away from her parents, she appreciates knowing that her dad is still reading from the same ongoing devotional series every day. _____ takes comfort in the strong faith in God that connects her with her family members far away. She felt the same way when her daughter left for college a few years ago. Friends and family told her daughter that they were praying for her, and she felt and missed the community connections she had developed over the years. In both situations, community was strengthened by a faith connection that crossed time and distance.

Christian community is so much bigger than the people who are geographically close to us. It is also about believers across the country and the world, and from earlier generations. The cloud of witnesses connects us together in one, great community."

As the Holiday Season begins this month, we're being encouraged by health officials to consider how we celebrate these times in our lives. It may be challenging for us to consider the logistics of all of it, where being with friends and family are concerned. Some of us may be sacrificing these precious times with those whom we hold dear, by not being physically present, to keep everyone safe. These days will be tough ones. Others have lost loved ones to physical death this past year, and these days will be tough ones.

Yet these verse in Hebrews 12 and Lamsma's reflection remind us that no matter where we are, we are connected one to another. We are connected to and with our Triune God who loves us so completely, that we're given the much-needed hope to keep going day by day, step by step. The Promised Land is on the horizon, and earth's troublings are but momentary and temporal. We're reminded to keep our eyes fixed upon Jesus, the author and perfecter of our Christian faith and walk.

So as the apostle Paul wrote, we remember, "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of Christ Jesus, in you." No doubt this year it is quite the sacrifice to say thanks to God, to try to celebrate our holiday season as best we can, missing friends and loved ones (your pastor & Dave too) in the process. Yet we know that we're surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, living and not, and we're connected as the family of God, because of God's great love for us and our savior's gift of death on the cross, for those who believe.

Because of our connections, we can be thankful, and celebrate quietly, in new ways, being a part of the family of God. On Nov. 1, All Saints Day (Sunday) we'll light a candle for those saints (living/not) that are dear to us, as part of our Lord's Supper sharing in worship. On Nov. 8, we'll honor our Veterans and those actively serving in our armed forces, to let them know we're thankful/grateful for their great gift of service on our behalf. On Nov. 15, we'll celebrate Thanksgiving in our worship, the human connections and love that wedding celebrations create. On Nov. 22, we'll celebrate Christ as Our King in our lives and the connection we have with him, as part of the last Sunday in the Christian Year A in our lectionary readings.

In all these ways we'll continue to celebrate our connections to each other, with each other, and to our God. We are not alone. "We are not our own, in life and in death we belong to God." (Calvin). Stay safe, stay well, stay positive, stay connected with others. If you're unable to attend worship physically, please stay connected with us via Zoom (my thanks to those who have worked out the bugs concerning the sound etc.) or by using the worship put up on our website. Send a card, a text, an email or make a phone call. Pray much and often. Stay connected.

Community is... the great Cloud of Witnesses!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. Norlita



MESSAGES for NOVEMBER **Sermon Series "Faithful Servanthood"**

Sunday November 1: "The Humble Servant" Rev. 7:9-17; Matt. 23:1-12

Sunday November 8: "Using Our Talents Wisely" Ps. 90:1-12; 1 Thess. 5:1-11; Matt. 25:14-20

Sunday November 15: "Wedding Woes" Josh. 24:1-3, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7; 1 Thess. 4:13-18;
Matt. 25:1-13

Sunday November 22: "The King's Servant" Ps. 100; Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

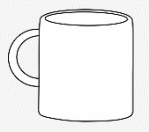
GIVING THANKS SUNDAY in NOVEMBER



For the **November 15 worship service**, Rev. Norlita would appreciate wedding pictures from the congregation for the PowerPoint. **Please submit by Nov. 11.** All pictures will be scanned and returned safely.

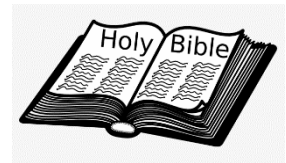
News You Can Use

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 will meet in the church basement at "9:30ish". BYOB (bring your own beverage). Questions? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will meet on Thursdays at 9:30am in the church basement. Bring a beverage of choice, and BYOB Bring your own Bible....and Prayer Notebook. We'll be studying the book of Genesis. Questions? Call Lee (692-7757). Come Join Us, all are welcome!



POINTSETTIAS FOR ADVENT/CHRISTMAS – Due to Covid guidelines we continue to observe, we are looking ahead to what our Advent/Christmas worship will look like. Therefore, the Worship Committee is shifting to the purchasing of quality silk poinsettia plants. The tradition remains for you and your family to participate by donating monies toward this endeavor. Names of those honored and remembered will be included as always. These poinsettias will grace our sanctuary and bless our worship throughout the season. Any questions, please contact Dolores (692-20370).



To my Church Family: I am so appreciative of your acts of kindness expressed during my recent surgery and recovery. It is through your love and the love of God that my surgery was successful and my recovery is quick and positive. May God bless our Church.

Nancy Thompson

We appreciate each one who takes the time to stand with us in prayer. I arrived in Mexico on 12 October 1984, 36 years ago. I had no idea what all a translation program would entail, nor what other additional adventures would be in store. Although I didn't start a language program until 1986, it has been an amazing journey with a variety of experiences, all directed toward promoting and encouraging the endangered indigenous languages

of Mexico, and especially Scripture use of this variety of Mixtec.

Susan Huggins, Wycliffe Bible Translator translating for two variants of Mixtec in Oaxaca, Mexico

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour
November 2020



Men's Brotherhood Notes: No scheduled events at this time. We hope to resume some activities as soon as permissible and prudent. Stay tuned!

Scripture Reading: Psalm 69:30 I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving.

Action: Express our thanks to one another for what they mean to us in our lives.

Giving thanks. What is there to be thankful for these days, especially during these days of a pandemic and other calamities? We may be separated from loved ones – children, parents, grandparents, friends, lovers, and others. We are fearful of losing these people and may never see alive again to say good-bye and tell them that they are loved. We hear these stories in the news everyday – the numbers just keep going up. Tragedy upon tragedy.

We may have all heard the expression in song "Count your blessings name them one by one." by Johnson Oatman Jr and Edwin Excell. A good philosophy which is not intended to diminish the trials we are enduring. Rather it is intended to lift our spirit and give us strength so we can go on.

Everyone has trials and tribulations. God gives us hope through His Son Jesus and the sacrifice He made so we can be reconciled to God. That is our hope, that in all suffering, with or without a pandemic, we must hold fast to the truth that God loves us, His love endures forever and it is the ultimate blessing, and we need to hold tight to that.

So this year as our Thanksgiving groups or families meet, we can be thankful for those who are gathered together and hopefully all are well. We may have material blessings to be grateful for. But the ultimate is again the love that God has for us, His forgiveness and reconciliation to Him. "Count your many blessings, angels will attend, help and comfort give you to your journey's end."



HY VEE

Remember to save
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$134,041.22

Needed to Date: \$15,958.78

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

The Scouts Troop 14
will not be meeting until
safety guidelines are decided upon.








Please donate a can of Lysol or Microban disinfectant to the church—
it will be so helpful for our expenses this year. Thank you!



November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>All Saints Day</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary	2 BIRTHDAY: Donna Flint Janet TeBeest	3 Election Day <i>Prayerfully cast your vote!</i> 	4	5 9:30 Bible Study BIRTHDAY; Rosa Glaus	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7
8 <i>Honoring Veterans</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary	9 BIRTHDAY: Martin Maca	10 9:30 am Coffee Group	11 Veteran's Day  OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Doha Rottluff	12 9:30 Bible Study Session Meeting via Zoom 7:00 PM	13	14
15 <i>Thanksgiving Sunday</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary BIRTHDAY; Diane Broksieck	16 <u>BLADE Articles Due</u> Committee Meetings via Zoom 6PM. <u>Building & Grounds</u> 7PM <u>Worship</u>	17 9:30 am Coffee Group	18 BIRTHDAY: Judy Sebring	19 9:30 Bible Study	20 BIRTHDAY: Robby Flint	21 BIRTHDAY: Anna Pickford
22 <i>Christ the King</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary	23	24 9:30 am Coffee Group	25	26  THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	27 	28
29 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary BIRTHDAY: Don Norton	30	1 9:30 am Coffee Group	2	3 9:30 Bible Study	 FALL BACK	Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 1 at 2:00 AM

The Blade

First Presbyterian Church
405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006-2018

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 - Thursday

9:00 am – 2:30 am

**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.**