

THE BLADE

November and December 2024

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but 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

SAVE THE DATES

NOVEMBER 3

During worship- Reformation Sunday Celebration- Festival of Banners
Congregational Meeting

2:00 PM- An Afternoon of Timeless Music- SDSU Music Students Concert

DECEMBER 1

During Worship - Hanging of the Greens

Following Worship - Advent Potluck

DECEMBER 8

Following Worship-Advent Spaghetti dinner- bring salad or desert

DECEMBER 15

2:00 PM-Advent Capelle Concert

DECEMBER 24

5:30 PM-Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 29

During Worship-Christmas Hymn Sing

The Church Office will be closed



November 11



November 28



December 24 through January 1



THE BLADE

First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
(605) 692-2416
www.brookingspresbyterian.org
presby@brookings.net

Pastors

Robby and Donna Flint
605-695-3735 (Robby)
605-695-6787 (Donna)
presbypastor@brookings.net

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9 am -12 Noon

Office Manager

Rozanne McGrath
presby@brookings.net

For regular updates and photos, like us on Facebook



www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings

Please check the website
<http://www.brookingspresbyterian.org/newsletter.html>
for the
"Prison Lighthouse Ministry Newsletter"



Daylight Savings Time ends
Sunday **Nov. 3** 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 2024 is \$40.00. 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. 3: Nelda H, Dennis H & Carolyn C, MK H

Nov. 10: Roger & Marvis J, Jan J, Dan & Michele K

Nov. 17: Don K & Carol G, Andrew & Beth L

Nov. 24: Ella L, Pam L, Jeanne & Darwin L

Dec. 1: Martin & Sally M, Jeannie & Tom M

Dec. 8: Maria M, Mike & Judy M, Rozanne M

Dec. 15: Daniel & Carolyn M & family Hannah, Allison, Emma; Marlys M

Dec. 22: Nancy & Bob O, Dave & Lee P

Dec. 29: Rose P, Joyce R, Lynn & Diane R, Liz R

Counting our Blessings

As we enter November, the month when we celebrate Thanksgiving, it's fitting to reflect on one of our favorite hymns, "Count Your Many Blessings." The words of the song encourage us to stop, take stock of our lives, and recognize the many ways God has blessed us. As the lyrics go, "Count your blessings, name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done."

Before the whirlwind of the holiday season truly begins, let's pause as a church community and give thanks. We have so much to be grateful for: the friendships we've formed, the opportunities God has given us to serve, and the shared joy of growing in faith together. These are blessings that shape us, enrich our lives, and remind us of God's presence in our lives.

But gratitude doesn't stop there—gratitude encourages us to take action. When we truly acknowledge God's generosity, we're called to share that abundance with others. This season of thanksgiving invites us to look beyond ourselves, opening our hearts and hands to those around us. As a church together, we have the privilege of reflecting God's love to the world.

But let's not limit our time of gratitude to this one season. As Paul reminds us in 1 Thessalonians, we are called to "rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances." Gratitude isn't just a once-a-year practice; it's a posture of the heart that transforms how we see the world every day.

As we move into the busy months ahead, may we remember to pause regularly, reflect deeply, and give thanks continually. Let our gratitude inspire us to live generously, love deeply, and serve faithfully, knowing that every good and perfect gift comes from the God who loves us beyond measure.

Yours,
Robby and Donna



Cookie Patrol



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Donations accepted
December 1-22, 2024

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!
Thank you for your participation in
the Christmas Joy Special Offering

Remind

Our church uses the Remind App for periodic communication with members. If you sign up for Remind, you receive periodic texts from us with pertinent church information (weather cancellations, special events, etc.). If you would like to join, send a text to 81010 and text this message: @gkc8gk

Session Update—

| | | |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Elder of the Month | Deacon of the Month |
| November | Joel F | Carol G |
| December | Nancy T | Carol G |

Session has agreed to rehire Robby and Donna Flint as pastors for the period of November 6, 224 through December 31, 2025, with a four percent raise. This will bring their contract time in line with the church's financial year.

Session approved the Nominating Committee's recommendations of Dan Kemp and Bruce Westergaard for three-year terms as Elder and Sally Maca and Bonnie Salonen for three-year terms as Deacons. These positions will be elected at the Stated Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 3, 2024, after church. Nominations for these positions will be opened again at this meeting. This year's nominating committee consisted of Dan Kemp, Chair, Rick Salonen, Ella Lane,

Respectfully submitted,
 Dan Kemp, Clerk of Session
 First Presbyterian Church of Brookings, SD

Monthly Financial Report

| 2024 | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June |
|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Income | 7,068.50 | 22,322.15 | 10,168.37 | 12,403.15 | 13,605.80 | 6,708.98 |
| Expense | 9,030.41 | 8,599.47 | 10,129.31 | 11,113.10 | 9,353.05 | 7,325.29 |
| Difference | -1,961.91 | 13,722.68 | 39.06 | 1,290.05 | 4,252.75 | -616.31 |

| July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | To Date |
|-----------|----------|----------|------|------|------|------------|
| 10,298.00 | 9,454.10 | 9,841.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 101,870.12 |
| 9,412.08 | 7,507.43 | 8,771.50 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 81,241.64 |
| 885.92 | 1,946.67 | 1,069.57 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 20,628.48 |



Cookies and Communion
Summerhill



News You Can Use

UPCOMING NOVEMBER MEETINGS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, Nov. 3 | Mission/Outreach Mtg following worship, 11:15 AM |
| Tuesday, Nov. 5: | Finance via Zoom at 6:30 PM |
| Sunday, Nov. 10: | CE/Fellowship Meeting following worship, 11:15 AM |
| Thursday, Nov. 14: | Session Meeting at 7:00 PM at church |
| Sunday, Nov. 17: | Worship Meeting following worship, 11:15 AM |

UPCOMING DECEMBER MEETINGS

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Tuesday, Dec. 10: | Finance via Zoom at 6:30 PM |
| Thursday, Dec. 12: | Session Meeting at 7:00 PM at church |
| Sunday, Dec. 15: | Worship Meeting following worship service, 11:15 AM |

There will be no December meeting for **Mission/Outreach** or **Christian Ed/Fellowship**

STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** 9:30ish AM at First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- PIECES AND PRAYERS (FPC Quilting Group)** meets on Tuesdays, from 1:30 to 3:30 PM
- THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** meets at 9:30 AM in the Center Meeting Room.
- SISTERHOOD** meet on Thursday, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19 at 11:30 AM at the First Lutheran Mission Coffee House
- MEN'S BROTHERHOOD** on Thursday, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19 at 5:30 PM at the church lounge

SERVING IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER

Sunday Coffee Fellowship

November: Roger J

December: Chad B & Andrew L

Liturgists in November

Nov. 3: the Flints
Nov. 10: Carrie VB
Nov. 17: Fosters
Nov. 24: Rick S

Liturgists in December

Dec. 1: Nancy O
Dec. 8: Tanya S
Dec. 15: Dan K
Dec. 22: Nancy T
Dec. 24: Fosters
Dec. 29: Dolores C

Committee News for November and December

On Sunday afternoon, **Nov. 3 at 2:00** First Presbyterian Church will host a concert by SDSU Music Majors. These students are preparing for a competition and will be singing solo and in groups. Our grand piano will be moved to the front of the church to accommodate this concert. This is a wonderful chance to hear the best SDSU music students. There will be a free will offering for disaster relief and the students will decide on locations to send the money raised. CE/Fellowship will provide a time for refreshment and fellowship after the concert.



There will be two Advent dinners this season. The first will be a traditional potluck after church on Sunday, **Dec. 1**, the first day of Advent. Perhaps you can contribute to this potluck with your Thanksgiving leftovers (if you have any).

The second Advent dinner will be after church on Sunday, **Dec. 8**. This will be a spaghetti feed prepared by Men's Brotherhood. You are asked to bring a salad or dessert dish. The program for each will be signing Christmas cards and singing Christmas hymns.

The third Sunday in Advent, **Dec. 15**, will feature a concert by Advent Capella from Flandreau at 3:00 in the afternoon. CE/Fellowship will provide a time for refreshment and fellowship after the concert.



Thank you to Ella, Nancy O, Rick & Bonnie, and Martin & Sally for delivering 60+ Meals in September.

The deacons are collecting monetary donations through November 25, 2024 to provide a Thanksgiving meal through the **Feeding Brookings** program at Ascension Lutheran Church.

Donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation to go to 'Feeding Brookings.'

Project Joy will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2024. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation to go to 'Brookings Project Joy.' Please make the donation by December 1, 2024 so gifts may be purchased and delivered by December 4 by our secret Santas. The mission for Project Joy is to provide children and families living in Brookings County, who are in need, an opportunity to receive holiday gifts.

Thank you for your support for these worthy causes. If you have any questions about the programs, please contact any of the deacons.

MISSION AND OUTREACH



Special Offerings

The Presbyterian Church initiates four special offerings to be taken during the year: we have collected for One Great Hour of Sharing donating \$563.00, Pentecost donating \$485.00, and Peace and Global Witness donating \$195.00. Our next offering will be Christmas Joy which

runs from Dec. 1-22. Donations can be placed in the offering plate with a notation to go to 'Project Joy PC(USA)' on the memo line.

Cookie Patrol

We will continue to show our desire to be good neighbors by taking cookies to the jail for the staff to enjoy. Sign up on the bulletin board for the month convenient for you. You and Robby will deliver the cookies and visit a bit. 3-4 dozen does the trick...could be store-bought.

Carry In Donations

The carry-in donation for the month of November is collecting monetary donations for the Brookings Project Joy (more information in Deacon article). For the month of December, we are accepting any and all products of dental hygiene for the United Way. Just bring them to church and place them in the grocery cart. Thanks for your generosity!



We are heading into a busy time of year in our church life.

*On November 3, we will celebrate *Reformation Day* with a Festival of Banners service, highlighting symbols of our Protestant heritage.

* November 24 is *Christ the King Sunday*. Elizabeth Fox will be filling the pulpit that day.

* December 1 is the *First Sunday of Advent*. During the service we will begin lighting the Advent wreath, hang the greens, populate the Nativity Scene, and partake of communion. Everyone is invited to join us after the service to help with additional Christmas decorations.

* December 24, we will once again have a *candlelight service on Christmas Eve* beginning at 5:30 p.m.

* December 29 is a *Hymn Sing including Christmas Carols*. What a great way to close out the year!

Worship Committee



POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS: We are accepting monetary donations for poinsettias to grace and beautify our sanctuary. If you would prefer to purchase and bring your own poinsettias, we will be glad to display them also. Names of those honored or remembered will be included in the PowerPoint on Dec. 15 and 22. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office counter. Deadline will be **Dec. 12**. If you wish to take your poinsettia, we ask that you take it anytime after the Christmas Eve service but before January 4. Remaining plants will be discarded.

November and December 2024

Andrew L



Men's Brotherhood Notes: MB met on October 17. A fine meal was prepared by Mike and his Happy Cookers. Always something good to eat! The program was presented by our very own Susan Huggins. She always presents an interesting program on life in the Oaxaca region of Mexico.

Prayer/Action:

In looking back on my life, if I actually wrote it down into a book, you might not believe some of the things in the story. Some things I don't even believe. There were incidents in my life that when they happened, I would really pause and consider how lucky I was. Sometimes I really thought it was more than blind luck. More likely my guardian angel was working overtime. Perhaps many of us can look and consider certain incidents in our lives where but for the grace of God, divine intervention, things could have turned out differently, in a bad way.

How did I get here? How did any of us get to this place in our lives where we are a group of church people in a congregation where many of us came from different backgrounds and experiences. We are a potluck of people. Each of us bringing different gifts to the table which is set before our God. Do we believe that God has called us and brought us here? I do. I am not sure how my circuitous path allowed me to arrive here with all my emotional and physical baggage but here I am Lord. Do with me what you will.

These are histories I will be reflecting on as we enter into the winter holidays – Thanksgiving and Christmas. Things, not only those in our personal lives, but the things in our Church. I say things but I really mean the people and the talents they bring that make our church experience work. The various committees and the people serving that make everything work.

I will be giving thanks for every member of our congregation and what they have brought and are yet bringing to the table. And I will be appreciating the birth of our Jesus who is the Christ and all the power and glory He has given to His creation and to us individually. Calling us to join with Him and the Father to help spread the words of salvation. All thanks and praise to God the Father. Amen.

HY VEE

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$200,000.00
Receipts: \$14,876.50
Needed to Date: \$185,123.50

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

Remember to bring in your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Email a copy of the receipt from on-line orders to presby@brookings.net; Rozanne will forward it.



Troop 50724 Christine L'Amour

Scouting at First Presbyterian has started this fall. This year we're continuing to work on various badges chosen by the girls and we're hoping to get together with a Daisy troop (K-1st grade) to do some activities. We took a trip to the Sertoma Butterfly House & Aquarium last weekend, finally completing our Bug Badge. The girls had so much fun seeing the butterflies. We sold nuts for our fall product sale. If you have any questions, call me. Christine L'Amour 605 695-6541.



**THANK
YOU
TEACHER!**



Thank you to all who helped
with the service project Sept. 29



Bridge near Beresford to be Dedicated to Fallen Hero








U.S. Army First Lieutenant Josef L. Thorne, son and stepson of long-time members Mel and Arlyce Thorne will be honored on November 11, 2024 as a bridge (SD 46 bridge over the Vermillion River, about 8 miles west of Beresford) is being named to honor the sacrifice he made for this country on April 19, 1965 when he was killed in action in Vietnam. The ceremony will be Monday, November 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the Beresford High School Gym (301 W. Maple St). Live stream is at [Watchdogs.Live](https://www.watchdogs.live).



November 2024





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|
|  | Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday Nov. 3 at 2:00 AM | | | | 1 OFFICE CLOSED | 2 BIRTHDAYS: Donna F Janet T |
| 3 10:00 Worship/ Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom Congregational Mtg Mission/Outreach Mtg following *SDSU Student Musician Concert at FPC, 2 PM | 4  | 5 9:30 Coffee Group 6:30 Mission/Finance Mtg via Zoom | 6 | 7 9:30 Bible Study | 8 | 9 BIRTHDAY: Martin M |
| 10 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:30 Fellowship/Outreach Meeting after worship | 11 Veterans Day  OFFICE CLOSED | 12 9:30 Coffee Group | 13 | 14 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting at FPC | 15 BIRTHDAY: Diane B | 16 |
| 17 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Worship Committee Mtg after worship | 18 | 19 9:30 Coffee Group | 20 BIRTHDAY: Robby F | 21 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood at FPC | 22 | 23  |
| 24 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom | 25 | 26 9:30 Coffee Group | 27 | 28 Thanksgiving Day  OFFICE CLOSED | 29 | 30 |



December 2024



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1 10:00 Worship/ Communion in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:15 Advent Potluck | 2 | 3 9:30 Coffee Group | 4 | 5 9:30 Bible Study | 6 OFFICE CLOSED BIRTHDAY: Dean H | 7 |
| 8 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom 11:15 Advent Potluck | 9 BIRTHDAY: LaVonne B | 10 9:30 Coffee Group | 11 | 12 Blade articles due (Jan. & Feb. issue) 9:30 Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting at FPC | 13 | 14 |
| 15 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom Worship Committee Mtg at 11:15 3PM Advent Capelle Concert | 16 | 17 9:30 Coffee Group BIRTHDAY: Carrie VB | 18 | 19 9:30 Bible Study 11:30 AM Sisterhood at Mission Coffee House 5:30 Men's Brotherhood at FPC | 20 ANNIVERSARY: Steve & Carrie VB | 21 |
| 22 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom | 23 | 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 9:30 Coffee Group 5:30 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service BIRTHDAY: Rozanne M | 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>  | 26 NO Bible Study ANNIVERSARY: Bob & Pat F | 27 | 28 ANNIVERSARY: Neal & Julie F |
| 29 Hymn Sing 10:00 Worship in our Sanctuary/Zoom BIRTHDAY: Sally M | 30 BIRTHDAY: Nancy T | 31 9:30 Coffee Group | |  <p>December 24 through January 1</p> | | |

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

Thank
You
God

Return Service Requested

Regular Sunday Schedule
10:00 am Worship Service

Church Office Hours
Monday -Thursday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Our newsletter is also available electronically by email.
Please contact the church office at presby@brookings.net or 605-692-2416, to notify us.