

# 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*



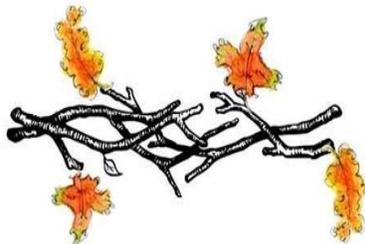
## October 2020



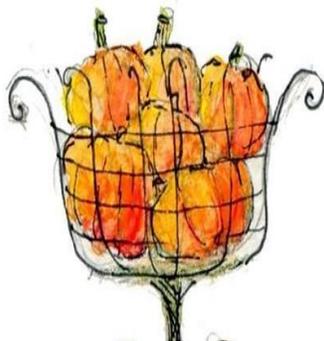
"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

**John 3:16 NRSV**

It's Harvest Time! The time of pumpkins, apple cider, warmth, soups, stews or casseroles, of donuts, popcorn and treats galore. It reminds us of all the wonderful things God has for us in store. Let us praise God with heart and voice, in our personal worship time of prayer and singing this perhaps unfamiliar hymn *Sing to the Lord of Harvest*.



I can smell AUTUMN dancing  
in the breeze.  
The sweet chill of PUMPKIN  
and  
crisp sunburnt LEAVES.



Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;  
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!  
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;  
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.

By him the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring,  
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.  
He filleth with his fullness all things with large increase;  
he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.

Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,  
the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save.  
Your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall,  
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.

To God the gracious Father, who made us "very good,"  
to Christ, who, when we wandered, restored us with his blood,  
and to the Holy Spirit, who doth upon us pour  
his blessed dews and sunshine, be praise forevermore.

[https://hymnary.org/text/sing\\_to\\_the\\_lord\\_of\\_harvest](https://hymnary.org/text/sing_to_the_lord_of_harvest)

May our community of faith sing for joy at the wonders God has done, is doing, and will continue to do for us. Welcome October. Welcome Fall. Thanks Be To God!



## THE BLADE

### First Presbyterian Church

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

[www.brookingspresbyterian.org](http://www.brookingspresbyterian.org)  
[presby@brookings.net](mailto: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 Spitzengerger

### Rev. Norlita Kaul

(248) 342-6190

[brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com](mailto:brookingsfpcpastor@gmail.com)

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

*\*Please note the new email address*

### Admin. Assistant

Rozanne McGrath  
[presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net)

### Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

For regular updates and  
photos, like us on  
Facebook



[www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings](http://www.facebook.com/fpcbroomings)

We are back in the church, however, there are some who do not feel comfortable attending considering the circumstances. 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.

**October 4:** Roger & Marvis Jenner, Bob & Jan Jones,  
Rev. Norlita Kaul & Dave Robinson

**October 11:** Marlys Kelsey, Dan & Michele Kemp, Don Kleinjan & Carol Glantz

**October 18:** Delores Koepsell, Andrew & Beth L'Amour,  
Ella Lane

**October 25:** Dennis & Vivian Langland, Pam Larson,  
Darwin & Jeanne Longeliere



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

# Session Meeting Updates

September 10, 2020

## Session Updates

1. Monthly check-in and agreed to continue worshipping face to face in the Sanctuary.
2. Received and considered revised proposal from the United Church of Christ, Brookings for shared ministry - conversation included change in responsibilities, change in salary, and distribution of salary expenses between the churches. Please contact a session member if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding sharing a minister with the UCC.
3. Discussed the called meeting of the Presbytery of South Dakota to consider a bid received for the sale of the Pioneer Camp Property during the Auction on Monday, October 5.

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 25 after the worship service to elect Elders/Deacons for the term beginning 2021. There will also be an update from Session re: church finances and shared pastor conversation with BCUCC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Flint  
Clerk to the Session



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.

**SHARE THE WARMTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** The truck is out at First Bank & Trust-Main branch to collect new and used winter clothing items from Sept. 2-Oct. 9. Please message us if you have a group that is willing to volunteer to sort and bag items before the event. Call Share the Warmth at 692-8863 or sign up at the volunteer link for this event at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044daaab29abfc1-share>. We anticipate helping over 1,500 people this year and we cannot do it without you! Thank you, Brookings Salvation Army



**60+ DINING VOLUNTEERS** First Presbyterian Church is scheduled to deliver meals for 60+ Dining from Tuesday, Oct. 12 through Friday, Oct. 23. There are 3 routes to fill. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Thompson at 697-3073. Thank you for your help!

## Revelings October 2020

### Community Is... Having A Common Goal

John 21:1-6

"<sup>1</sup> After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. <sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' <sup>6</sup> He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish." (NRSV, Oremus.org)



Having a common goal is important for the collective community gathered, day by day, week by week, month by month, year by year. Since the beginning of 2020, our common goals have been shaped/changed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic we've all been trying to live through. I think it's safe to say that our common goal as individuals, has been our need to stay safe, well, strong and as virus free as possible. That's been the hope for our Session as well, as our community of faith gathers in our building.

Our Session has been engaging in the conversations with the Council of the Brookings United Church of Christ over the last months, after receiving a letter/request from BUCC, to consider if our church, FPC would be interested in/considering sharing a pastor. Both the Council of BUCC and our Session have a common goal separately, which is to try to meet the needs of their members in the areas of Worship, Preaching, Fellowship, Pastoral Care. Both churches are grappling with the costs to maintain their buildings, to continue to provide pastoral leadership, to continue to provide for leadership in other areas of being church with volunteers and paid staff.

As the BUCC request came to our Session for consideration, a time of prayerful discernment concerning this came to be. Is the Holy Spirit nudging us to begin to think creatively, in new ways for helping to fund pastoral leadership? Is the Holy Spirit nudging us to begin to think creatively, in new ways for joint mission opportunities within our wider community of Brookings in which we're located? Is the Holy Spirit nudging us to continue offering simultaneous online worship via Zoom for those who cannot be physically present in our sanctuary at this time, going on into the remainder of this year and into 2021?

These questions and more come in this time of discernment and during a Pandemic. I myself as pastor during this "interim" call, am drawn to my initial question of January this year, "how is God calling us to be faithful?" as part of this discernment time. I've also at times of prayer, found myself saying, "Holy Spirit what are you up to right now in all of this and during a pandemic! Now is the time you've chosen for us to be creative in so many ways, including the possibility of a shared pastorate scenario?"

Yet this also reminds us of God's desire for common goals to be held in, with and for the benefit/sustenance of our community of faith. It's as Bret Lamsma's devotional was written about these verses in John 21 as he describes: "All of this took place because of God's blessing. Like the disciples of Jesus, Ed's community was fishing in one spot, hoping for one thing, and yet the Lord had even greater plans. The whole community moved together toward this goal and it took all of them to pull this off. Even more so, it took God's blessing to make it happen. A community with a goal that is blessed by God, can do amazing things. Together they can reach neighborhoods, serve unserved groups, and bless countless people. What it takes is a vision of something greater-possibly even something that they could never imagine on their own. Of course, it also takes the God who is bigger than we could ever imagine."

Lamsma's devotional was a reflection of the work that Ed's faith community was able to achieve in helping to build a new facility in Kenya. It's the work of both faith communities of FPC and BUCC to help to continue to build and sustain the Kingdom of God in our buildings and wider community of Brookings, yet at the same time hold in community a common goal. That common goal has its answer to Question 1 of the Westminster Catechism many of us have learned at some time, "What is the chief purpose of humanity?" Answer- "to glorify God and enjoy God forever." Whether as separate faith communities or as communities of faith as part of Christ's Church Universal on earth, that is our call and purpose, to glorify God, in and with our lives.

Please know that while both congregations might share a pastor, they would remain separate congregations. Both congregations could/should hold some joint events of worship/fellowship/mission opportunities, when it's safe to do so in the future, should the possibility become a reality. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is nudging us so as to experience the end result that we read about in John 21:1-6, so many fish, so many that we'll need a bigger net. Perhaps the bigger net is two churches sharing a pastor? God's ways and will are always astounding, gracious and generous. All we need do is to be prayerful and open to whatever new and creative ways we're to serve God in the Kingdom of God, awaiting the Holy Spirit's wisdom to show us the way and illumine our path. Whatever this will look like or where it will take us, let us trust God in the process and rely on God's sure provisions, each and every day. Thank you for your continued support and prayers of our work together here at FPC, it means more than you can know.

"Father, guide us and work with us as we work together with you to change the world in Christ's name and for his sake, Amen."

Soli Deo Gloria, Rev. Norlita



**PASTOR KAUL'S VACATION** begins on Monday Sept 28 through Sunday Oct 18. Pastor will be back in the church office on Monday Oct 19. If any spiritual care needs arise, please contact a Session member.

## **MESSAGES for OCTOBER & NOVEMBER**

Sunday October 4: Elizabeth Fox, presiding

Sunday October 11: Robby Flint, presiding

Sunday October 18: Donna Flint, presiding

### **Sermon Series "Faithful Servanthood" begins Oct. 25th**

Sunday October 25: Reformation Sunday "Being a Faithful Steward" Deut. 34:1-12;  
Ps. 90:1-6, 8-17; Rom. 3:19-28; Matt. 22:34-46

Sunday November 1: "The Humble Servant" Jer. 31:31-34; 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



## *Celebrate Our Heritage*



### **OCTOBER 25 IS REFORMATION SUNDAY**

On the last Sunday in October, Presbyterians celebrate the Reformed tradition that grounds our faith. The Reformation Movement resulted in the establishment of Protestantism. On October 25, we want to recognize First Presbyterian Church, Brookings and its long 138-year history. So, to help us do that, we would like you to share pictures for the PowerPoint and/or some memories or experiences of your life in FPC, Brookings for the November Blade. Let us make this a fun time!

- ❖ Deadline for the Blade is October 15
- ❖ Deadline for the PowerPoint is October 21

Pictures and memories may be left at the church office or sent via email [presby@brookings.net](mailto:presby@brookings.net), scanned and returned safely.

# News You Can Use

**SPECIAL MUSIC** over the next few months, we will be setting up small groups- mostly groups with one person on each part (to ensure singers can be carefully spaced in the choir loft) using music from the choir anthem library. If you would like to be part of a small group, please email Donna Flint (flintd99@gmail.com) and indicate the part you sing (Soprano, Alto, Tenor or Bass). For Sundays when a small group is not available, we will schedule other special music. Please contact Donna or Ginny Conger (conger.ginny@gmail.com) if you are willing to provide other special music.



**TUESDAY MORNING COFFEE GROUP** will meet at Hillcrest Park Shelter at "9:30ish". Use the parking lot off 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street between the school and pool. BYOB (bring your own beverage). Questions about the weather? Call Nancy (697-3073) or Dolores (695-3723).

**THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** will meet on Thursdays at 9:30am at Hillcrest Park Shelter between the School and Tennis Courts. Bring a lawn chair, beverage of choice, and BYOB Bring your own Bible...and Prayer Notebook. We'll be studying the book of Second Peter. Questions about the weather? Call Lee (692-7757). Come Join Us, all are welcome!



on October 4, 2020.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- ❖ October 5 Called Meeting for accepting or rejecting the bid for the Pioneer Camp Property via Zoom
- ❖ October 16 Presbytery Stated Meeting (TBD)
- ❖ October 22 Session Meeting at 7:00 PM (via Zoom)
- ❖ October 25 Congregational Meeting after worship service (in sanctuary, Zoom will remain on for the meeting also)

## 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 November 11. All pictures will be scanned and returned safely.



## MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

October 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!

**Prayer concern:** Be mindful of those who are facing trials of health, poverty, and loneliness.

**Action:** Visit with those who are facing difficulties, or health concerns. So that they may find hope in their trials and know folks are concerned and care.

Continued from last month:

Because I trusted in God and in his Word when I went into surgery, I was not afraid. I don't think I was anxious at all either because I had confidence in the medical staff as instruments of God's healing and protection. I know that there are always the possibilities that something could go wrong but even then I know that God will not forsake me. The ultimate spiritual goal I have in mind is more important than the short-term temporal goal of this human life. Oh I am not ready to leave it or abandon the will to live but we do not know the hour or day that our lives may end. So "trust in God and His plan for us", this is what I try to cling to.

Romans 5 also talks about the glory in our sufferings. V. 3 "we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope."

Therefore, praying and meditating on our hope in the glory of God should be a regular activity in our spiritual life. This will help us develop the spiritual character God wishes for us. Thanks be to God!



### **HY VEE**

Remember to save  
your Brookings Hy-Vee receipts.

Goal \$150,000.00

Received to Date: \$100,446.30

Needed to Date: \$49,553.70

**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!



# October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Daylight Savings Time ends Nov. 1 at 2:00 AM				1 9:30 Bible Study	2 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>  ANNIVERSARY: David & Lee Peterson	3  BIRTHDAY: Chad Broksieck
4 <i>World Communion Sunday</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship and Communion in our Sanctuary <i>Elizabeth Fox</i> , presiding	5  <b>Called Meeting</b> via Zoom	6 9:30 am <b>Coffee Group</b>  BIRTHDAY: Jan Jones ANNIVERSARY: Roger & Marvis Jenner	7	8 9:30 Bible Study  BIRTHDAY: Aaron Miller	9	10
11 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary <i>Robby Flint</i> , presiding	12  BIRTHDAY: Rozella Potthast	13 9:30 am <b>Coffee Group</b>	14	15 <b>BLADE ARTICLES DUE</b> 9:30 Bible Study  ANNIVERSARY: Kelly & Tami Watson	16  <b>Presbytery Stated Meeting (TBD)</b>	17
18 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary <i>Donna Flint</i> , presiding	19 <b>Committee Meetings</b> via Zoom 6-7 p.m. <u>Building &amp; Grounds</u> 7-8 p.m. <u>Worship</u> BIRTHDAY: Donna Wilson	20 9:30 am <b>Coffee Group</b>	21  BIRTHDAYS: Michele Kemp Maria Mason	22 9:30 Bible Study  <b>Session Meeting</b> via Zoom 7:00 PM	23	24
25 <i>Reformation Sunday</i> 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship in our Sanctuary <b>Congregational Meeting</b> after worship/also on Zoom	26  BIRTHDAYS: Mike McCann Tami Watson	27 9:30 am <b>Coffee Group</b>	28	29 9:30 Bible Study	30  BIRTHDAYS: Maxine Dornbush Rick Salonen	31 <b>Reformation Day</b>

**Rev. Norlita Kaul will be on vacation September 28 through October 18, returning to the office October 19**

# 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](mailto:presby@brookings.net) or 692-2416.**