

THE BLADE

October 2017

"The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than this."

Mark 12:31



Worship on the Farm & Sunday School Kick-Off

On the beautiful morning of Sunday, September 10, we gathered for worship and a celebration of the beginning of our Christian education year at the Fosters' farm. We reflected on the beauty of God's creation and the wonderful joy that we have as we dwell in the presence of God: "How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord Al-mighty!" (Psalm 84:1). Even though it was windy that day, it was still a beautiful day spent together.

Pastor Nina's message on loving our neighbors and praying for our enemies was very inspirational. During Children's Time, Donna Flint talked

discussed the similarities of football to Sunday School and Church. She then tossed the ball to Trent Broksieck, who officially "kicked off" the Sunday School year with a football kick-off.

We then enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal together, and some of us stuck around for a hayride.

Many thanks to the Fosters' and all who helped make this a wonderful day!



Remember to Bring in Your Hy-Vee Receipts

Grocery, gasoline, and prescription receipts count. Our church receives a \$1000 check from Hy-Vee for \$150,000 in receipts. Please make sure the receipts are from the Brookings Hy-Vee Store only.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE!

Goal: \$150,000

Received: \$97,305.62

Need: \$52,694.38

Summer Sunday Schedule

June - August

9:30am Worship Service
Nursery care is available on first floor during Sunday School and Sunday Worship

Regular Sunday Schedule

September - May

9:00am Sunday School
10:30am Worship Service
11:30am Fellowship Hour
Lord's Supper—First Sunday of each month

Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9:00am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Friday

9:00am - 12:00pm

OCTOBER

THE BLADE

Published Monthly
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First Presbyterian Church

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Newsletter Assembly

Volunteers led by Marlys Kelsey

Social Media

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Facebook

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Our vision is to see lives changed through joyful worship, supportive relationships, faith formation, and heartfelt service empowered by the mercy, grace, and love of Jesus Christ.

Prayer Families

Prayer is an important part of a Christian's life in the community of faith. As members of that community you are encouraged to pray for the people listed each week during your time of daily prayer. The families and individuals are selected at random.

October 1: Lindy & Alvera Wickstrom; Dorothy Williamson

October 8: Alan, Susan Young & family; Cliff & Beth Rindels

October 15: Larry Anderson; Dave & Lucy Barkus & family

October 22: Linda Barnett; Travis Beller

October 29: Roger & Teri Bierstedt & family; Don & Jan Boe



If you would like our team of prayer volunteers to be praying for you or a loved one, contact Jan Jones at 692-5325, bobjon@brookings.net, or any of the other prayer chain volunteers: Dolores Canaday, Lee Peterson, Harold & Marge Poppen, Linda Barnett, Ann Spitzenberger, Susan Smith, Judy Smith, Bonnie Foster, and Melanie Shepherd.



Outreach Committee will be continuing our Movie Night through the end of the year. The next movie will be **Sunday, October 8 @6pm**. The adults will be viewing *Hacksaw Ridge* & children will view *The Secret Life of Pets*. Bring your friends & a snack and enjoy time together!

Note from the pastor



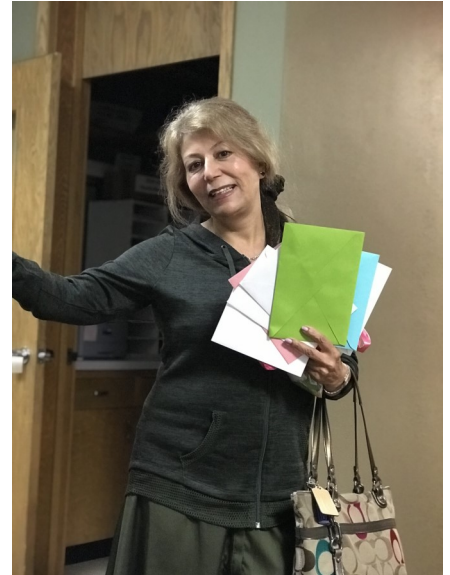
Dear Friends,

It is almost a month that I have been here among you at First Presbyterian Church in Brookings. There is much to learn, adapt, give and receive but I feel confident that God's blessings and grace is among and on us. As we move forward, I see many good things happening.

Let us move forward, keeping our great traditions alive and yet be open to the new leadings of God. I believe in this great congregation, community and above all in the "calling."

Let us work, worship, serve and have fun together!

Love your Pastor,
Nina



Circle of Care

"It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the ill, and anyone in distress." -Book of Order



The Board of Deacons fulfill these responsibilities through various acts and activities, some of which require congregational participation. We thank you all for your support and involvement, for the deacons are an extension of you, our church.

Recently you helped with transportation, 60-plus dining, food pantry, and Share the Warmth. In addition to these, the deacons have been busy with visitations, contacts (email and phoning), card ministry, providing meals, and homebound communion. We welcome you input in keeping us informed of the needs of our congregation.

"Through love serve one another..."-Galatians 5:13
Nancy Thompson-Deacon

Putting Out the Welcome Mat

A devotional I found online discussed the transience of modern society particularly in the author, Hariette Peterson's, military community, where families moved in and out every few years.



Our college town is similar to that type of community, I think. Faculty and staff move into town and move out of town every year – some stay for a while, others stay for decades. What makes people feel at home here? I think it's finding a connection. I hope those connections can be made in the pews of our church.

As Christians, Peterson wrote in her devotion, it is our responsibility to continually open our arms to new folks – to allow others into our lives. This is not always easy to do, it certainly isn't for me. But what blessings we receive in making new friends.

At the beginning of the school year Andrew L'Amour and I manned a First Presbyterian Church booth at the Community Fall Festival. We were armed with FPC cookbooks and reusable grocery bags. As each person passed, Andrew called out a greeting and urged students and adults alike to take a cookbook or bag. The cookbooks were a big hit. Students expressed disbelief that we were giving away these books FOR FREE! We likely could have given away three more boxes. It was fairly obvious that these students enjoyed interacting with Andrew. He greeted each one with a kind word and a smile. He opened his arms to those students and made a connection.

I couldn't help but wonder if those cookbooks reminded students of warm meals around family dining tables and provided a sense of security in an uncertain time.

I've noticed some new faces in church over the past few weeks and I've also noticed FPC members greeting those new people. I hope we made them feel at home. A place where you've felt warmly received is hopefully a place you want to return.

Paul urged the Corinthians to not become too comfortable with their own friends that they had no room for more.

"We are not withholding our affection from you, but you are withholding yours from us. As a fair exchange – I speak as to my children – open wide your hearts also." 2 Cor. 6:12, 13

Susan Smith
Outreach Team Moderator

MEN'S BROTHERHOOD

Andrew L'Amour

October 2017

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:6-8 So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.



Quote: "The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another." – Thomas Merton

Men's Brotherhood Notes: Men's Brotherhood met September 21. Our new Pastor Nina gave the program. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 19. Invite someone to join us. We always have a great meal and great fellowship.

Prayer Concerns: Pray that we maintain and strengthen strong Christian bonds with all.

Action: Find and support activities that reach out to and serve our community.

Love: I try to ride my bicycle about 2 ½ miles every day when the weather permits. I mostly ride my bike in the street but there are a few places like along 17th Ave and also on Medary where the shoulder is just too narrow and the cars are too many. Occasionally when I am on the sidewalk there is a pedestrian coming towards me. Pedestrians always have the right of way so I try to move over to give them room. When I come upon one who is going the same way I am, I always let them know which side I am passing them, usually the left side. In passing pedestrians either way it often requires leaving the sidewalk, going onto the boulevard and having a rather bumpy ride for a moment or two.

Recently when I was passing a pedestrian going the same direction I was, I yelled out "On your left!" as I was going to pass. The person on foot usually acknowledges my call but this one didn't. Then I noticed he had ear phones and probably could not hear me. He was plugged in to something more important I suppose and when I passed him he was startled. I apologized but I doubt he heard that either. He was distracted to a potential danger - I could have hit him.

He was not connected to his environment even though he was out in it. I think we have all seen where folks more and more get so attached to their cell phones, MP3 players or similar devices that they lose consciousness of their surroundings. I am not immune from this, as it happens to me too. But it is important to pay attention. We all have to be more careful.

This leads to my point. Are we always connected to our Christian environment, meaning, are we always paying attention to what we as Christians need to be doing? Do we go along plugged into our society so much with its many distractions that we lose sight of what we as Christians need to be observing and doing? Are we so wrapped up in the doings of entertainment celebrities – film and music, sports, politics, that we lose sight of the needs of the least among us? Are we keeping things in proper balance? Are we staying on track?

In Matthew 25 at the judgment day there were some who obviously were not plugged in to the message Christ had given them: to care for the needy, the sick, the stranger, and those in prison. They were too engaged in the many distractions of their world. Christ was in their presence and they were not aware of the need to pay attention and to act on that message. It is one thing to know the word of God, it is another to put that knowledge to action. Christ is in our presence even now. Are we paying attention?

Christian Education Committee Update

The Middle School, led by Susan Smith and the High School, led by Chad and Diane Broksieck are using the PresbyYouth curriculum. They will begin with the Exodus story and how this set up the vision of a new king, the Messiah. This will provide opportunities for students to think about the tensions between “religious” and “political” worldviews and how this affects their own lives.



The Kindergarten through Fifth grade in CrossTraining will begin the school year by learning more about the story of Jacob and Esau. They will learn about God’s plan in Jacob’s life and in our own lives. They’ll talk about how our encounters with God are surprising, not always easy, but always blessed. They will experience this story through videos, cooking, art, magic, and drama. If you’d like to lead a workshop or help with a workshop, please contact Donna Flint- activities this year include art, cooking, crafts, games, videos, music, drama, planting, prayer and worship, creative thinking, storytelling, sculpture, and photography.

The adult class continues its Bible study using the Present Word curriculum- this fall, they will be discussing the Covenant with God- beginning with Noah and continuing with Abram, Phinehas, and Ezekiel.

There truly is a learning opportunity for all ages- come join a class! If Sunday mornings are difficult for you, consider joining the Thursday morning Bible Study that begins at 9:30 each Thursday, or “The Jesus I Never Knew” (Philip Yancey) study which meets the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of each month at 6:00 pm. Both Adult groups meet in the center meeting room.

The CE committee also sponsors a game night the first Sunday of each month at 6:00 pm in the basement. Come join others of all ages in fellowship- this is a great opportunity to learn a new game, share your favorite game, and most importantly, socialize with others in our congregation.

Seeking: Librarian (volunteer opportunity), Youth Director (paid position), VBS director for summer 2018 (volunteer opportunity).

Thanks,
Donna Flint



Missions Moment

If you would like to read the full article of either of these, please visit our website at:
www.brookingspresbyterian.org

“This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope. Through the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.” Lam. 3:21-23

Prison Ministry Newsletter – October 2017

I am glad the Lord’s mercies are new every morning, because every new day is a time to start over! The Lord is patient with each one of us. I can be impatient with God and wonder why he does not answer certain prayer requests. Yet I know God is patient with me, because He compares His people to sheep in Psalm 100:3: “We are His, we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.” From my understanding, working with sheep takes a lot of patience. II Peter 3:9 says, “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.” I am thankful for the Lord’s patience! I know some of the men in prison are thankful for that as well....



October Volunteers: Richard & Dolores Canaday
Dennis Hopfinger & Carolyn Clague
Gary & Pam Larson

Sound: Bruce Westergaard

Counters: John MaComb
Nelda Holden
Marvis Jenner

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Regular Worship Greeter: Maria Mason (North Entrance) 6:00 Game Night	2 7:00 Scouts ANNIVERSARY: David & Lee Peterson	3 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 1:00 Outreach 6:30 Mission Finance BIRTHDAY: Chad Broksieck	4 10:30 Transition Team	5 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:30 Committees	6 BIRTHDAY: Jan Jones ANNIVERSARY: Roger & Marvis Jenner	7
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Regular Worship Greeter: John Greseth (North Entrance) 6:00 Movie Night: <i>Hacksaw Ridge</i> (Adults) <i>The Secret Life of Pets</i> (Children) BIRTHDAYS: Elijah Manzer; Aaron Miller	9 OFFICE CLOSED NATIVE AMERICAN DAY 7:00 Scouts	10 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) 6:30 Trustees	11 10:30 Transition Team	12 9:30 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Session BIRTHDAY: Rozella	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Regular Worship Greeter: Neal Foster (North Entrance) 6:00 Evening Bible Study ANNIVERSARY: Kelly & Tami Watson	16 7:00 Scouts	17 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House) ANNIVERSARY: Lindy & Alvera Wickstrom	18 10:30 Transition Team	19 9:30 Women's Bible Study 6:00 Men's Brotherhood BIRTHDAY: Donna Wilson	20	21 BIRTHDAY: Michele Kemp; Maria Mason
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Regular Worship Greeter: Dick & Donna Wilson (North Entrance) 6:00 Evening Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Kathy McCann	23 7:00 Scouts	24 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)	25 10:30 Transition Team	26 9:30 Women's Bible Study BIRTHDAY: Mike McCann; Tami Watson	27 11:30 Lunch Bunch (The Pheasant)	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Regular Worship Greeter: Don Kleinjan & Carol Glantz (North Entrance) 6:00 Evening Bible Study	30 7:00 Scouts BIRTHDAY: Maxine Dornbush; Rick Salonen	31 9:30 Coffee Group (Mission Coffee House)				

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First Presbyterian Church

405 7th Avenue

Brookings, SD 57006-2018

Return Service Requested



**THE
BLADE
IS
AVAILABLE
ELECTRONICALLY!**

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.